



01 September 2023

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Development Committee to be held The Chamber, Dungannon and by virtual means Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon, BT71 6DT on Wednesday, 05 April 2023 at 19:00 to transact the business noted below.

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

Yours faithfully

Adrian McCreesh
Chief Executive

AGENDA

OPEN BUSINESS

1. Notice of Recording
This meeting will be webcast for live and subsequent broadcast on the Council's You Tube site [Live Broadcast Link](#)
2. Apologies
3. 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.
4. Chair's Business
5. Deputation - Life After Support Group

Matters for Decision

- | | | |
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| 6. | Update on Age Friendly & Mid Ulster Loneliness Network | 3 - 6 |
| 7. | Development Report | 7 - 92 |
| 8. | Economic Development - OBFD | 93 - 124 |
| 9. | Granville Industrial Estate (Dungannon) Report | 125 - 128 |

Matters for Information

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| 10 | Minutes of Development Committee held on 16 March 2023 | 129 - 148 |
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11	Corporate Events 2023	149 - 154
12	Economic Development - OBF	155 - 206

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

13. Economic Development - CBFD

Matters for Information

14. Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 16 March 2023

Report on	Update on Age Friendly and Mid Ulster Loneliness Network
Date of Meeting	5 th April 2023
Reporting Officer	Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing
Contact Officer	Raisa Donnelly, Age Friendly Coordinator

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To update members of the ongoing work around Age Friendly Communities and advise on a request for funding towards Mid Ulster Loneliness Network.
2.0	Background
2.1	Previously in January 2023, Members were provided with an update on the work on an Age Friendly initiative that has been progressing through the existing Community Planning partnerships structures, with Mid Ulster Council being the lead partner. The Ageing Well Initiative seeks to ensure that the Mid Ulster District Council area is an area that supports older people. Mid Ulster District Council has received funding from the Public Health Agency for the development of an Age Friendly Alliance, an Age Friendly charter, an Age Friendly Strategy and an Action Plan. This work is being developed by the Age Friendly co-ordinator and the draft Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plan is currently out for public consultation. (minute reference: D014/23).
2.2	The Council's Age Friendly Coordinator is involved with a number of partners and networks that helps Council drive the Age Friendly agenda including Mid Ulster Loneliness Network. As Members would be aware from previous reports, the Mid Ulster Loneliness Network has been formed through collaboration between Northern and Southern Trusts, Mid Ulster District Council and the Agewell Partnership.
2.3	Loneliness and Isolation have been major issues in society and can lead to poor mental health. Traditional perceptions view loneliness and isolation affecting those in later life, however loneliness can also affect anyone from teenagers, new parents, carers, recently bereaved, to students and those with disabilities. During the Covid 19 pandemic, the restrictions have exacerbated this issue for many and the issue of loneliness has been again highlighted in the Age Friendly Survey 2022.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Mid Ulster Loneliness Network works with statutory, voluntary, and community sectors to raise awareness of loneliness, share best practice and learning on ways to address and prevent loneliness and so promote positive mental wellbeing throughout our Council area. By working in partnership with local communities, the aim is to reach into communities to identify, support, and help those who may be suffering from isolation and loneliness.
3.3	

<p>3.4</p> <p>3.5</p>	<p>As part of this work there have been numerous activities, small grants programmes and initiatives including the chatty benches and chatty cafes developed and delivered to date which Council have contributed to. In September 2021, Members at the Environment Committee approved in principle the potential for recurring funding towards the Loneliness Network to allow for future planning and preparations (minute reference: E196/21).</p> <p>The Mid Ulster Loneliness Network is aiming to secure funding to develop the network. The Northern Health and Social care Trust and the Southern Health and Social care Trust each have advised of a funding contribution in the region of £3,000. Mid Ulster Council have been asked if they wish to again contribute £3,000 for the forthcoming year. It is anticipated that the funding would be used to fund communications/PR of the network including the development of a website and a show case event to mark the networks 2nd birthday and at the same event launch the 1st Mid Ulster Age friendly strategy and action plan.</p> <p>The website and the show case event will continue to help Council drive the Age Friendly agenda forward and progress towards a society for ALL generations to age well within Mid Ulster as well as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness about loneliness and social isolation. • Keep connected. • Help reduce the stigma and risk of loneliness by talking and discussing loneliness openly. • Share information about relevant opportunities for people to engage. • Provide key information, advice, support, and encouragement to colleagues within the voluntary, community and statutory sectors. • Promote key initiatives within Mid Ulster including Chatty Benches, Chatty Cafes.
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Other Considerations</p>
<p>4.1</p>	<p><u>Financial & Human Resources Implications</u></p> <p>Financial: A request of £3,000 has been made for Mid Ulster Loneliness Network to further develop and promote the work of the network. This can be accommodated as part of current allowances within existing revenue budgets.</p> <p>Human: Existing staff resources sufficient to coordinate support. No additional staffing resource required.</p> <p>Risk Management: Considered in line with relevant Council policies and procedures.</p>
<p>4.2</p>	<p>Screening & Impact Assessments</p>
	<p>Equality & Good Relations Implications: None anticipated at this juncture.</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications: None anticipated at this juncture.</p>
<p>5.0</p>	<p>Recommendation(s)</p>
<p>5.1</p>	<p>To note the contents of this report and consider giving approval to the request for a contribution of £3,000 towards the Loneliness Network in order to further promote and develop the network as supported by the other key partners of the Mid Ulster Loneliness Network including NHSCT and SHSCT.</p>

6.0	Documents Attached & References
	N/A

Report on	Development Report
Date of Meeting	5 th April 2023
Reporting Officer	Claire Linney, Assistant Director of Development
Contact Officers	Philip Clarke - Community Services Manager, Oliver Morgan-Good Relations & Peace Manager, Michael McCrory - PCSP Manager, Catherine Fox Arts Development Manager, Brian McCormick Seamus Heaney Homeplace Manager

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

1	Purpose of Report
1.1	<p>The purpose of this report is to update members and seek approval for the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development Update
2	Key Issues
2.1	<p>Development Update</p> <p><u>Community Support</u> Council officers are currently assessing the community grants in line with criteria.</p> <p><u>Social Inclusion</u> Work is ongoing on promotion of housing and a housing conference is planned for June (through partnership working with the Community Planning Housing Forum), details to be shared with members shortly.</p> <p>Engagement and support for the delivery of the anti-poverty plan is ongoing, this is currently being aligned to the community wealth building.</p> <p><u>Good Relations</u> The Good Relations Plan 2023 – 2024 continues to be reviewed by the NI Executive for approval. Officers are working to finalise the current plan of expenditure, monitoring and claims.</p> <p><u>Peace</u> The new Peace Plus Local Action Plan is currently in development. The timeline for submission of the plan is Autumn 2023.</p> <p><u>PCSP</u></p>

	<p>Please see a draft copy of the annual PCSP plan for information. Note this has been approved by the Partnership, however it still has to be finalised by DOJ and NIPB, Appendix 1.</p> <p>Please see attached a copy of the last minutes for information in Appendix 2.</p> <p><u>Burnavon Arts Centre</u> The new Spring programme for Burnavon is being delivered at present, with positive numbers across performances and activities.</p> <p><u>Seamus Heaney Homeplace</u> The new Spring programme for Seamus Heaney Homeplace is being delivered at present, with positive numbers across performances, programmes, exhibition and education programme.</p> <p><u>Hill of The O'Neill and Ranfurly House</u> Events are being planned and delivered at Hill of The O'Neill and Ranfurly House.</p> <p>An update report on performance at the venues will be provided to members.</p>
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: NA
	Human: NA
	Risk Management: NA
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: NA
	Rural Needs Implications: NA
5	Recommendations
5.1	Members are recommended to; (i) Note the Development Update
6	List of Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1 PCSP Annual Plan (draft)</p> <p>Appendix 2 PCSP Minutes</p>

Action Plan 2023-24



Policing & Community
Safety Partnership

making Mid Ulster safer

Michael McCrory

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Introduction

Background

Mid Ulster Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) is a statutory body established under the Justice Act Northern Ireland 2011.

The aim of the PCSP is to help make the Mid Ulster community safer by focusing on the policing and community safety issues that matter most. The Partnership is funded by the Department of Justice (DoJ) and the Northern Ireland Policing Board (NIPB) through the Joint Committee.

To help make our community safer Mid Ulster PCSP will:

- Consult and engage with the local community on the issues of concern in relation to policing and community safety. The Policing Committee has a responsibility to provide views to the relevant district commander and the Policing Board on policing matters.
- Identify and prioritise the particular issues of concern and prepare plans for how these can be tackled.
- Monitor – a Policing Committee comprising the political and independent members will monitor the performance of the police and work to gain the co-operation of the public with the police in preventing crime.
- Deliver a reduction in crime and enhance community safety in their district, directly through their own actions, through the work of their delivery groups or through support for the work of others.

The PCSP consists of Councillors, Independent Members, bodies designated by the NI Assembly, and locally designated bodies. The PCSP will consult, develop and agree local action plans that will be delivered through partnership working and based on local needs.

The Policing Committee is formed from the Councillors and Independent members sitting on the PCSP. The purpose of the Policing Committee is to provide views on policing in their area, monitoring the performance of the Police against the local Policing Plan and ensure the Police deliver against local

priorities and take forward work to gain the co-operation of the public with the police in preventing crime and enhancing community safety within the district. This will complement the work of the wider PCSP that will take forward initiatives to improve community safety in the local area.

Strategic Plan

Mid Ulster PCSP was requested by the Joint Committee (Department of Justice and NI Policing Board) to develop a strategic assessment and action plan for 2022-25.

The Joint Committee has agreed three Strategic Priorities for PCSPs.

Strategic Priority 1 – To ensure effective delivery in response to local need, and improve the visibility and recognition of the work of the PCSP through effective consultation, communication and engagement

through:

- *carrying out meaningful engagement in the district with the local community, relevant statutory partners / agencies, businesses and the community & voluntary sector in the development and implementation of PCSP Action Plans;*
- *ensuring ongoing two-way engagement in the district with the local community, relevant statutory partners / agencies, businesses and the community & voluntary sector to provide a problem-solving forum to identify effective solutions to local issues, ensuring sufficient flexibility to address issues as they emerge, and seeking relevant expertise from the designated organisations as appropriate;*
- *using a range of platforms, including multi-media, to communicate and promote the work of the PCSP; and*
- *increasing awareness of the work of the PCSP.*

Strategic Priority 2 - To improve community safety by prioritising and addressing local community safety issues, tackling crime and anti-social behaviour

through

- utilising the partnership created by the statutory, elected and independent/ community membership of the PCSP to initiate and lead work to improve community safety and tackle ASB locally;
- working in partnership to develop outcome and locality focused interventions to address the most pressing crime types and behaviours impacting local community safety, as evidenced by local need, with appropriate targets and indicators so that impacts can be measured;
- drawing on best practice, promote early intervention and collaborating effectively to improve PCSP-supported projects and programmes that address the underlying causes of ASB, crime and the fear of crime in the community, including, where appropriate, a focus on changing behaviours;
- enhancing safety and feelings of safety, in particular for those who might be more vulnerable;
- engaging with partners in the district, to horizon scan in order to respond to and re-direct resources to respond to emerging local community safety issues;
- having cognisance of the Community Safety Framework in developing local plans, and providing a feedback loop to the Community Safety Board on local issues in order to inform community safety policy development – and vice versa; and
- providing comprehensive community input into decision making processes about tackling actual and perceived anti-social behaviour and giving feedback to the community on the effectiveness of interventions on meeting outcomes.

Strategic Priority 3 – To support confidence in policing, including through collaborative problem solving with communities

through

- ensuring local accountability through the Policing Committee's role in monitoring police performance;
- identifying priorities from the PCSP Plan for consideration in the development of the local Policing Plan which are consistent with the Northern Ireland Policing Plan;
- providing views to the District Commander through the Policing Committee and supporting the PSNI to engage with the community to identify and address local problems;
- delivering initiatives that link to identified local problems that impact confidence in policing;
- carrying out meaningful local events aimed at increasing PSNI engagement with local communities to build and strengthen public confidence in policing;
- delivering PCSP initiatives in the hardest to reach communities;
- providing a platform for the PCSP and PSNI to engage with young people, including on the themes of upholding the rule of law, and of ways of increasing confidence in policing; and
- building community confidence in the rule of law by helping mitigate the harm caused to people and communities by paramilitarism, criminality and organised crime consistent with wider Programme for Government objectives and through use of co-design principles, where appropriate.

1.1 The Strategic Priorities may however be reviewed at any time by Joint Committee to ensure that they are fit for purpose in relation to the effectiveness of PCSPs.

1.2 In addressing the three Strategic Priorities, PCSPs are required to take account of a number of developments, including:

(a) The Community Safety Framework

The purpose of the Community Safety Framework is to ensure effective connectivity between the community safety work of the responsible agencies and provide an operational roadmap on how to collectively deliver the safer community objectives set out in the PfG and Community Plans, whilst providing the mechanism to respond proactively and reactively to operational need.

The Framework can be viewed at:

<https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/community-safety-framework>

(b) The Northern Ireland Policing Plan 2020-2025 and Annual Performance Plan 2020/2021

The Northern Ireland Policing Plan 2020-2025 and the Annual Performance Plan 2020/2021 were developed using the principles of Outcomes Based Accountability (OBA). They outline Outcomes, Indicators and Measures which clearly demonstrate improvement in police performance, in line with the draft Programme for Government (PfG).

The Policing Plan contains three outcomes for policing over the next five years:

- We have a safe community;
- We have confidence in policing; and
- We have engaged and supportive communities.

These outcomes are underpinned by 9 indicators, which will quantify the achievement of the outcome, and 11 measures which will be used to evaluate how well PSNI are performing in 2020/21. The indicators and measures are outlined in detail in the Annual Performance Plan for 2020/21.

The Northern Ireland Policing Plan and current Annual Performance Plan can be viewed at:

https://www.nipolicingboard.org.uk/sites/nipb/files/publications/policing-plan-2020-25-and-annual-performace-plan202122_0.pdf

(c) Criminal Justice Inspection NI report “[Working together for Safer Communities: A review of Policing and Community Safety Partnerships in Northern Ireland](#)”.

In August 2019 the Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland (CJINI) published its findings¹ for its most recent PCSP inspection.

The positive contribution made by Police and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs) to improving community safety and engagement with the police, has been highlighted in a new report.

However, the Deputy Chief Inspector said PCSPs had the capacity to develop further and CJI has made seven recommendations to enhance their profile, governance and operational arrangements.

(d) Public Satisfaction with PCSPs

The Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey was cancelled indefinitely from 2018. To gauge public satisfaction with PCSPs, consider conducting local PCSP

¹ <http://www.cjini.org/getattachment/010eb06d-a1b7-46b9-85cd-50af58cb6f98/Policing-and-Community-Safety-Partnerships.aspx>

Community Surveys or refer to the Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey at www.ark.ac.uk/nilt/

The Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey (NISCS), previously known as the Northern Ireland Crime Survey, may also be used. This is a representative, continuous, personal interview survey of the experiences and perceptions of crime of approximately 4,000 adults living in private households throughout Northern Ireland.

All the published findings for Perceptions of Crime can be accessed at: [Perceptions of Crime Publications | Department of Justice \(justice-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

The **Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey** can be accessed from: <http://nics.intranet.nigov.net/nics/news/experience-crime-findings-201920-northern-ireland-safe-community-survey>

(e) Together: Building a United Community

The Northern Ireland Executive's Good Relations Strategy, Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC), which was launched by the First Minister and Deputy First Minister in May 2013, has four key priorities:

- Our Children and Young People;
- Our Shared Community;
- Our Safe Community; and
- Our Cultural Expression.

<https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/topics/good-relations-and-social-change/together-building-united-community-tbuc>

(f) Tackling Paramilitary Activity, Criminality, and Organised Crime Programme

The Executive is currently implementing Phase two of the Tackling Paramilitary Activity, Criminality, and Organised Crime Programme. The Programme is aiming to build safer communities resilient to paramilitarism, criminality, and coercive control. This includes work to keep people safe from the harm caused by paramilitary groups and work to build resilience among individuals and communities.

Information about the Phase 2 can be accessed from:

<https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/articles/executive-programme-tackling-paramilitary-activity-and-organised-crime> and [View the Action Plan and interim review for phase one of the Programme](#)

(g) Community Planning

The Criminal Justice Inspection NI report “PCSPs, A review of governance, delivery and outcomes” recommended that the Community Plan should be the focal point for delivery of the long-term aims of the PCSP and that the action plans of the PCSPs should feed into the Community Plan.

As part of the community planning process, each council area has provided an assurance that PCSPs will be considered as the key delivery mechanism for community safety actions within community plans. Accordingly, actions within the PCSP action plans should align with community safety actions within the community plan.

Mid Ulster Area Profile

The estimated population of Mid Ulster Local Government District at 30 June 2020 was 148,953, of which 74,851 (50.3%) were male and 74,102 (49.7%) were female. This was made up of:

- 34,800 children aged 0-15 years;
- 45,952 people aged 16-39 years;
- 46,209 people aged 40-64 years; and
- 21,992 people 65 years and older.

Between 2010 and 2020 the population of Mid Ulster Local Government District increased by 11,732 people or 8.5%. The population of Mid Ulster LGD is projected to increase to 159,208 by mid 2030.

Employment Rate

In 2018, 16-64 (working age) employment rate in Mid Ulster Local Government District was 74.2%. The overall 16-64 employment rate for Northern Ireland was 70.0%.

Economic Activity

In 2018, it was estimated that 76.5% of those aged 16-64 living in Mid Ulster Local Government District were economically active (either employed or unemployed) and 23.5% were economically inactive (people who are neither in employment nor unemployed). This group includes, for example, all those who were looking after a home or retired, long term sick or disabled.

This compares with 72.8% economically active and 27.2% economically inactive for Northern Ireland.

Qualification Level

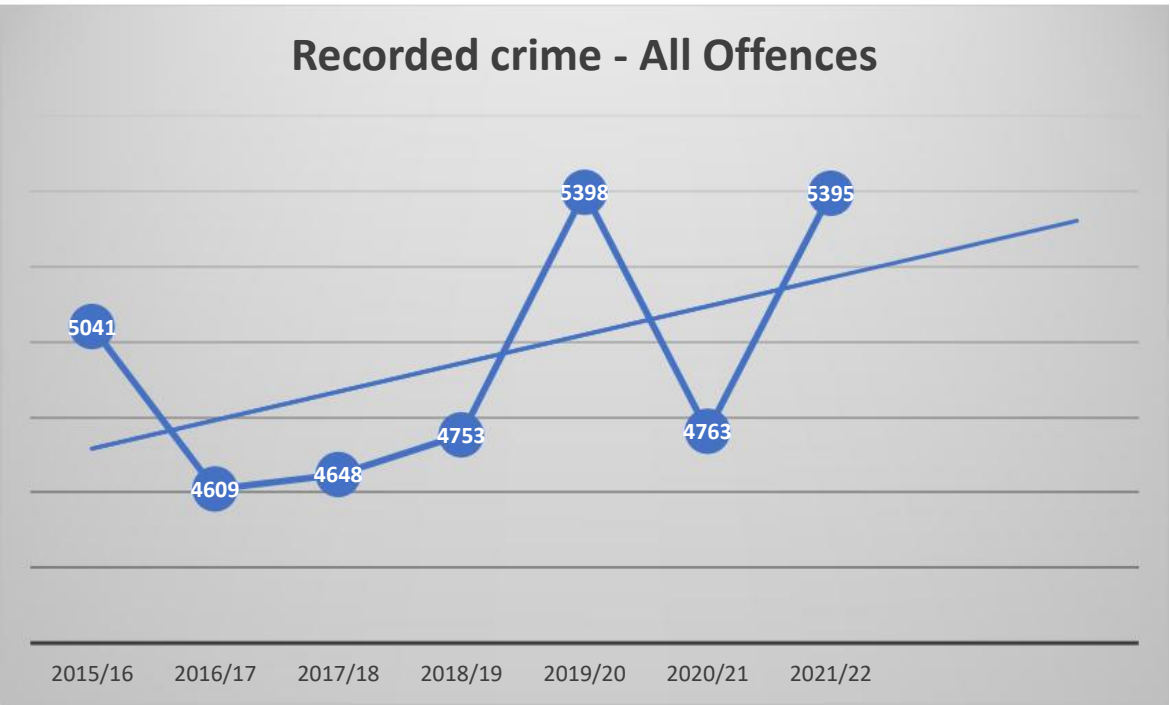
In 2018, of those persons aged 16-64 in Mid Ulster Local Government District, 33.9% were qualified to Degree level or above (NI Average: 34.9%), whilst 19.4% had 'no qualifications' (NI Average: 14.7%).

Statistics

Official PSNI recorded statistics were obtained from NISRA. These statistics are presented in graphs. Each graph has a line that outlines the overall trend and future forecast for each crime type/incident.

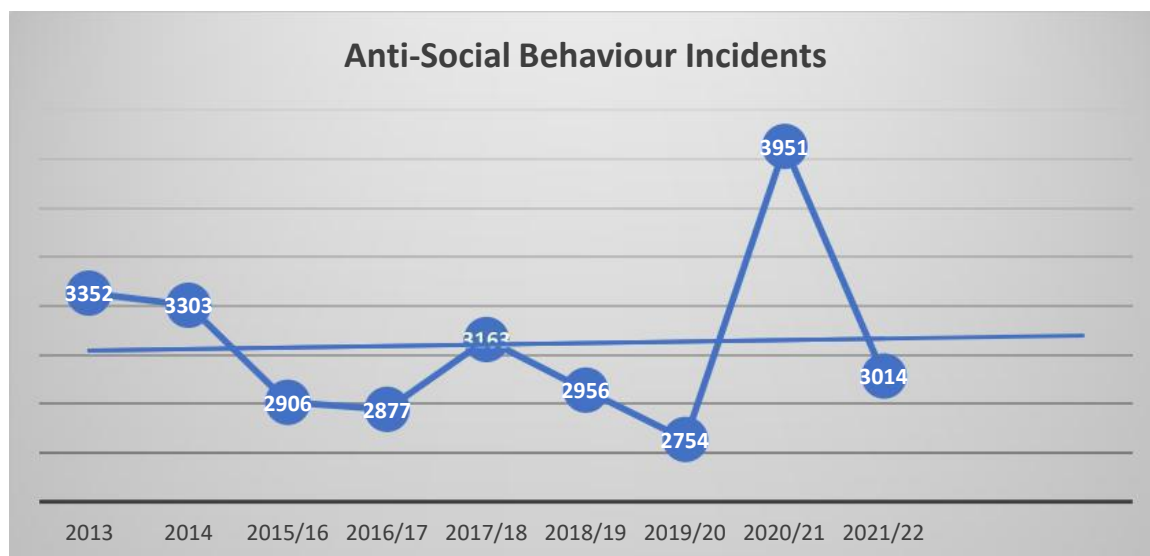
Recorded Crime

Since 2015/16 there was a lower level of recorded crime across the Mid Ulster district. In 2019/20 the figure has risen but subsequently fallen in 2020/21 and then increased again in 2021/22. This has pushed up the trend forecast.



Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) Statistics

From 2015 incidents of ASB reduced across the Mid Ulster district. However the figures spiked in 2020/21, this was due to the inclusion of Covid offences. For 2021/22 the figures are reduced and the trend line is flat.



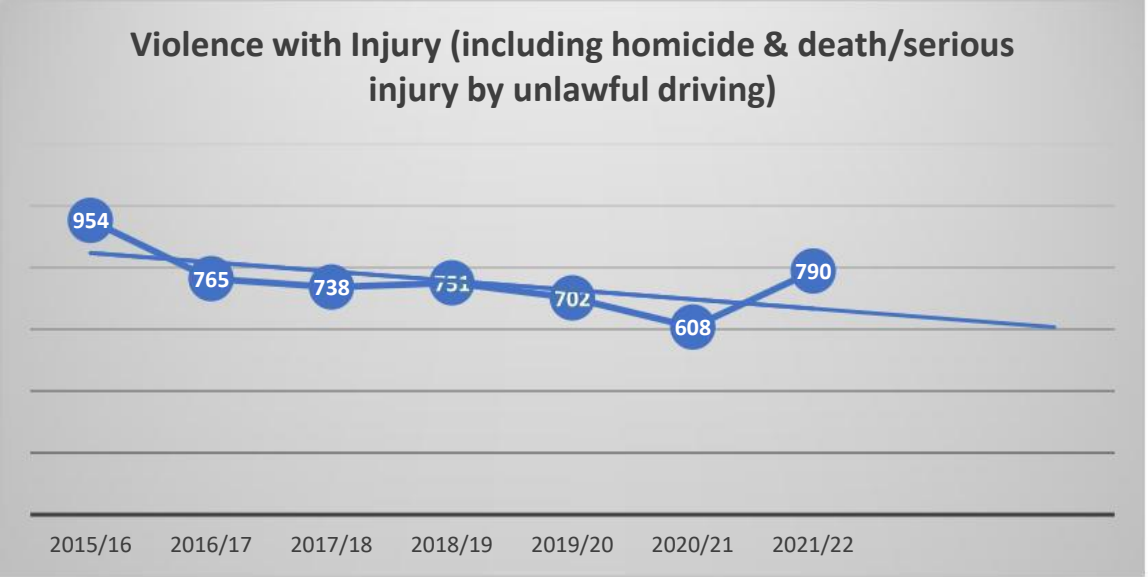
Youth Justice Agency

The statistics for the numbers of young people involved with the Youth Justice Services shows a steady level since 2015/16. The trend forecast is that figures will continue to remain steady.



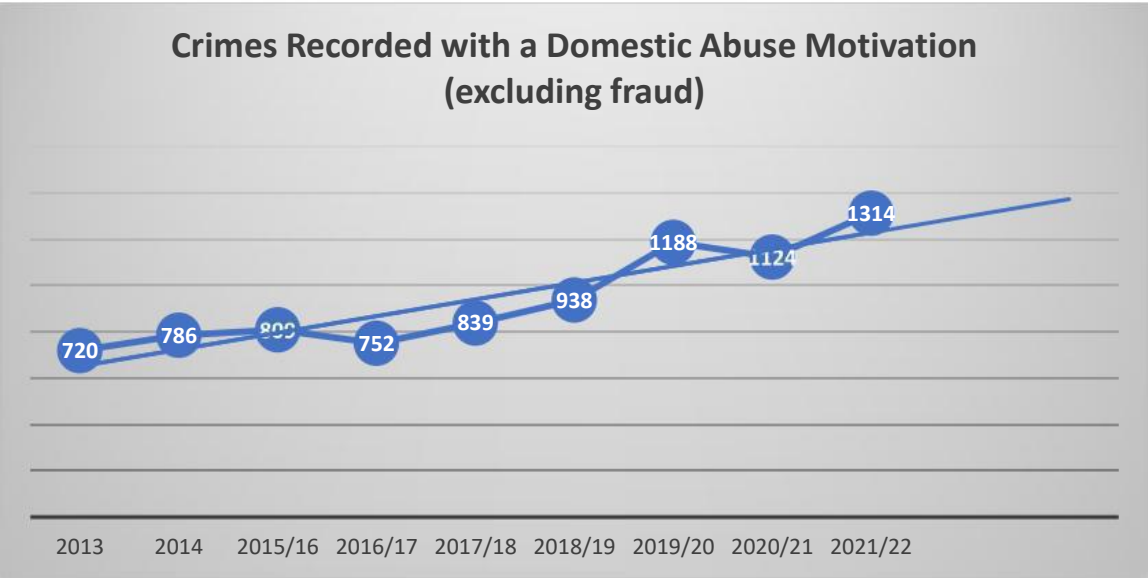
Violence with Injury

Overall, Violence with injury (including homicide) is reducing in the district. The trend forecast is that figures will continue to reduce.



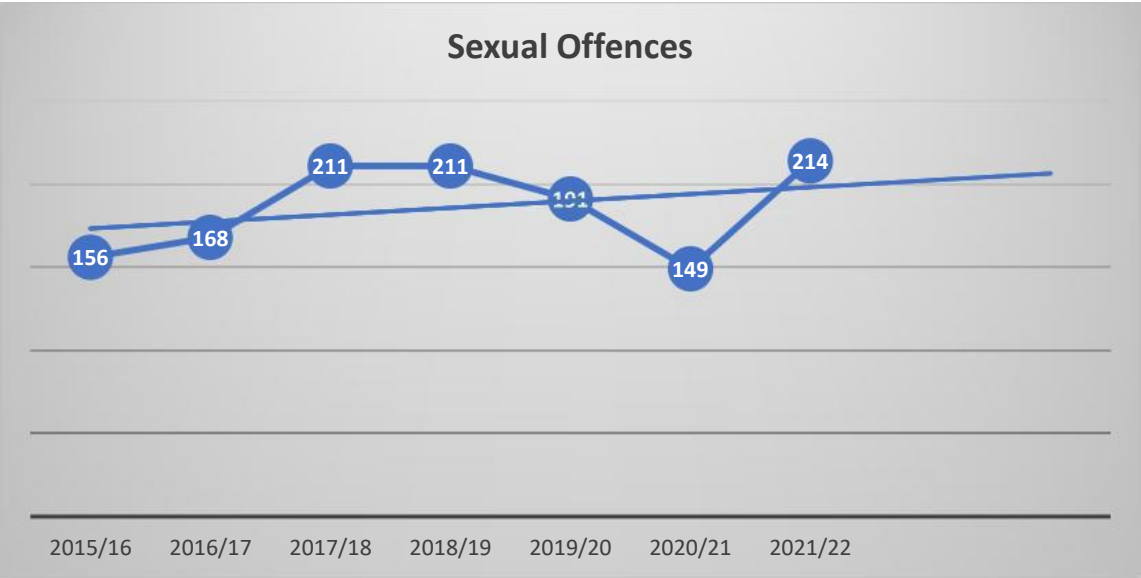
Domestic Abuse

Since 2015/16 reported crimes with a Domestic Abuse motivation (excluding fraud) have increased in the district. The trend forecast is that figures will continue to increase.



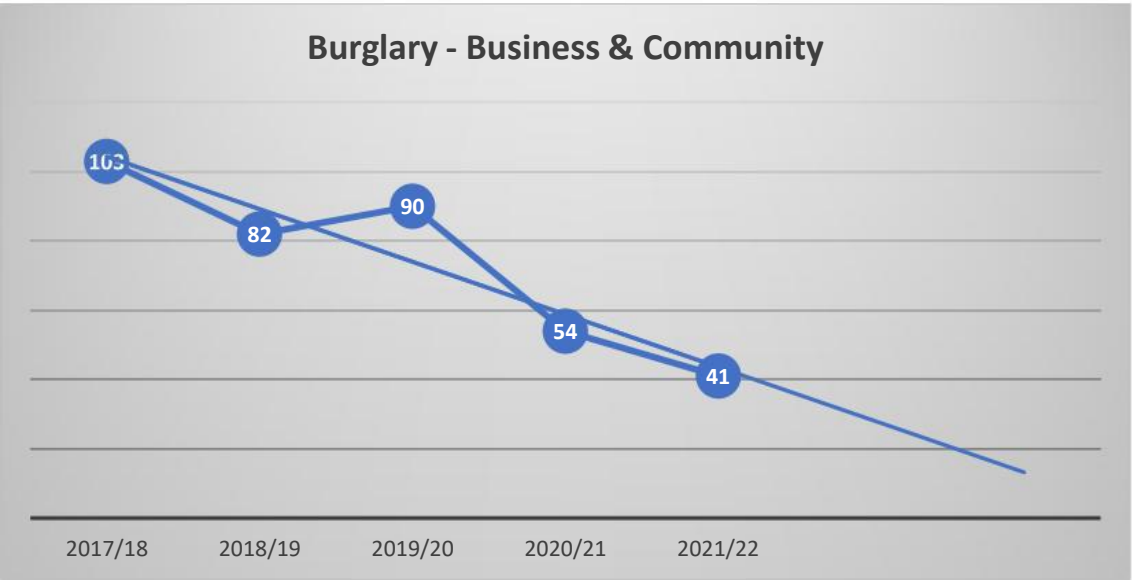
Sexual Offences

The trend for Sexual Offences is slightly increasing as offences have increased in 2021/22



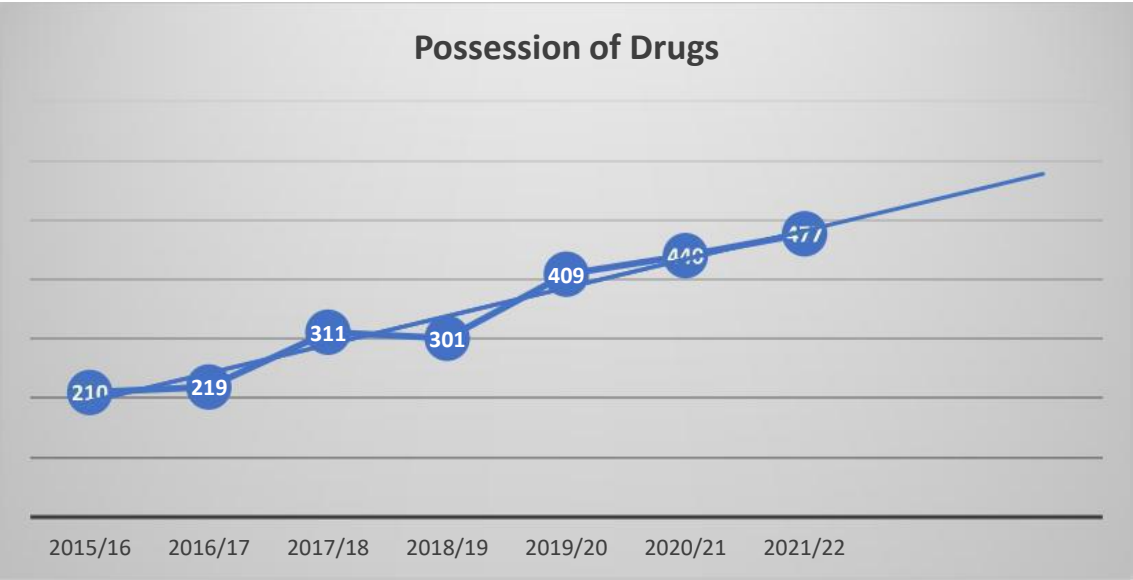
Domestic Burglary

Overall, Burglary for Business % Community has decreased in the district. The trend forecast is downward. Please note that the method of recording Burglaries changed in 2017/18.



Drugs

Possession of Drugs has increased from 2015/16. The trend forecast is that figures will continue to increase.



Trafficking of drugs has increased slightly in the Mid Ulster area since 2015/16. The trend forecast is upwards.



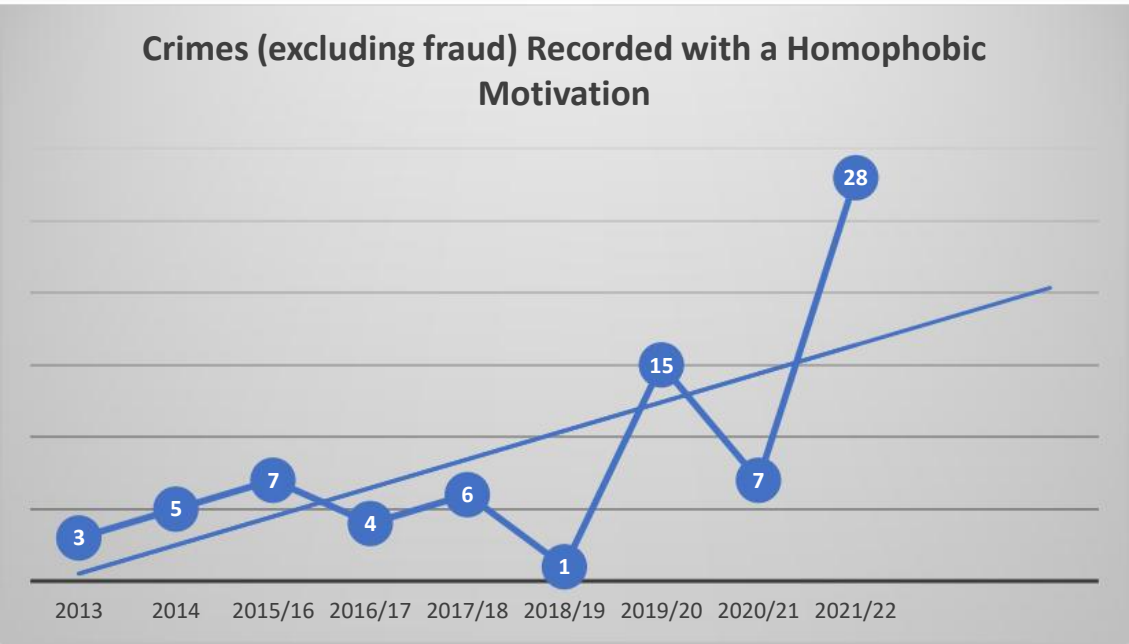
Criminal Damage

Criminal Damage has reduced since 2015/16 across the Mid Ulster area. The trend forecast is that figures will continue to reduce.

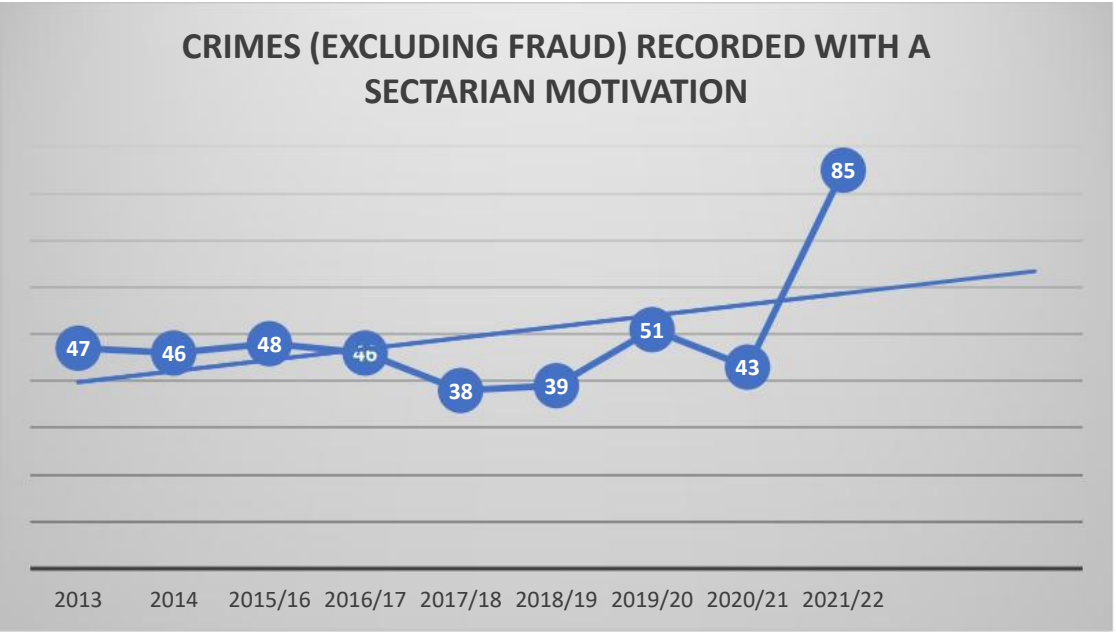


Hate Crime

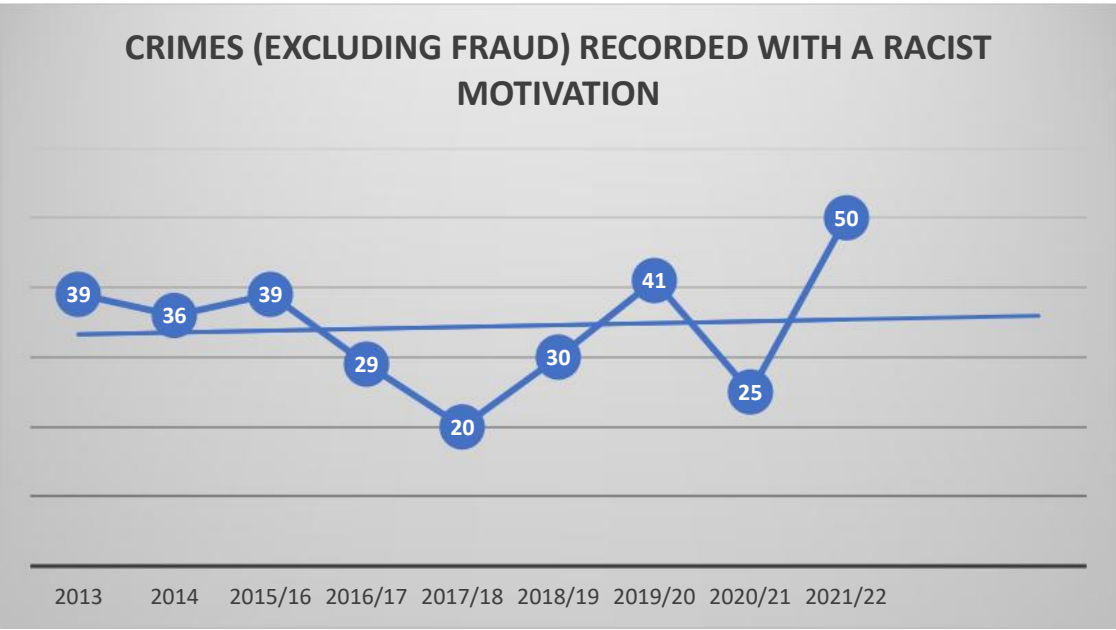
Recorded Hate Crime with Homophobic motivation has increased in 2021/22. The trend forecast is up.



Recorded Hate Crime with a Sectarian motivation has increased in 2021/22. The trend forecast has increased slightly.

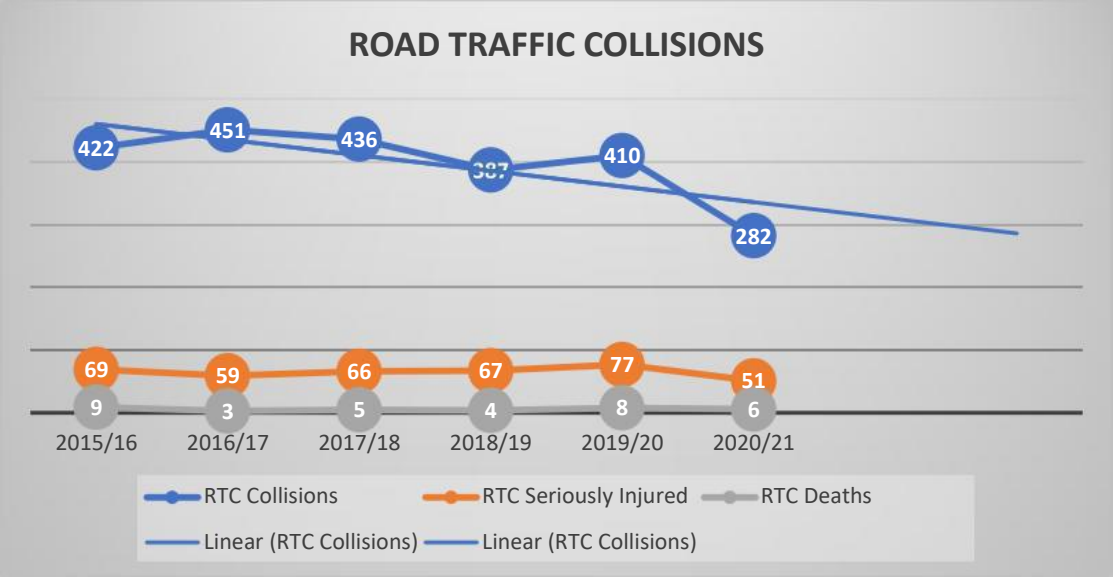


Recorded Hate Crime with a Racist motivation has varied from 2015/16. The current trend forecast is flat.



Road Traffic Collisions

Road traffic collisions has reduced slightly in previous years, with a slightly downward trend line.



Community Audit

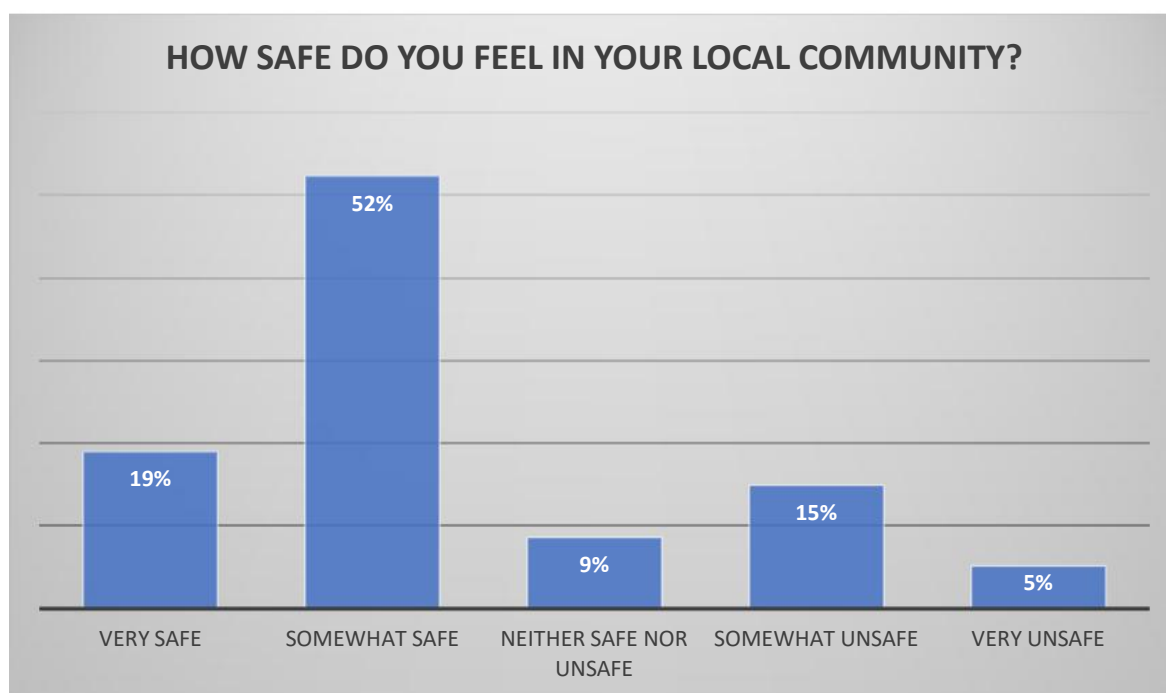
To assist PCSP members three specific community consultation surveys were undertaken in November and December 2021; a general community survey, youth survey, and an older persons survey.

Community Survey

This survey was promoted through social media utilising all PCSP members accounts and also the text alert system. 176 people responded to this survey.

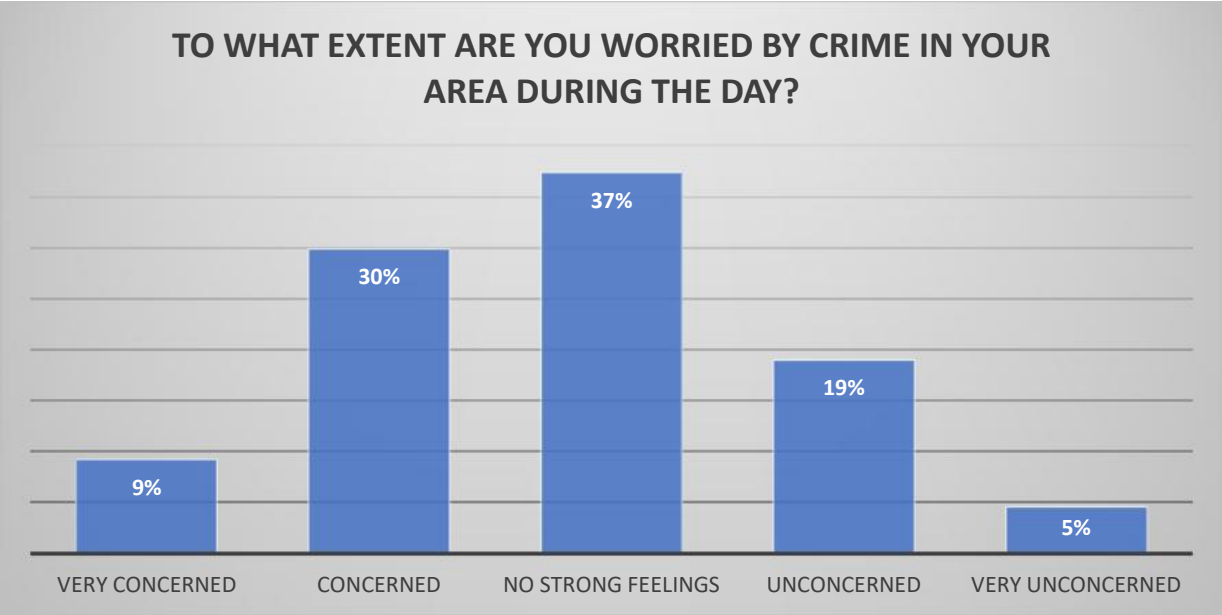
Safety

71% stated that they feel safe or very safe in their community. 20% stated that they felt unsafe or very unsafe

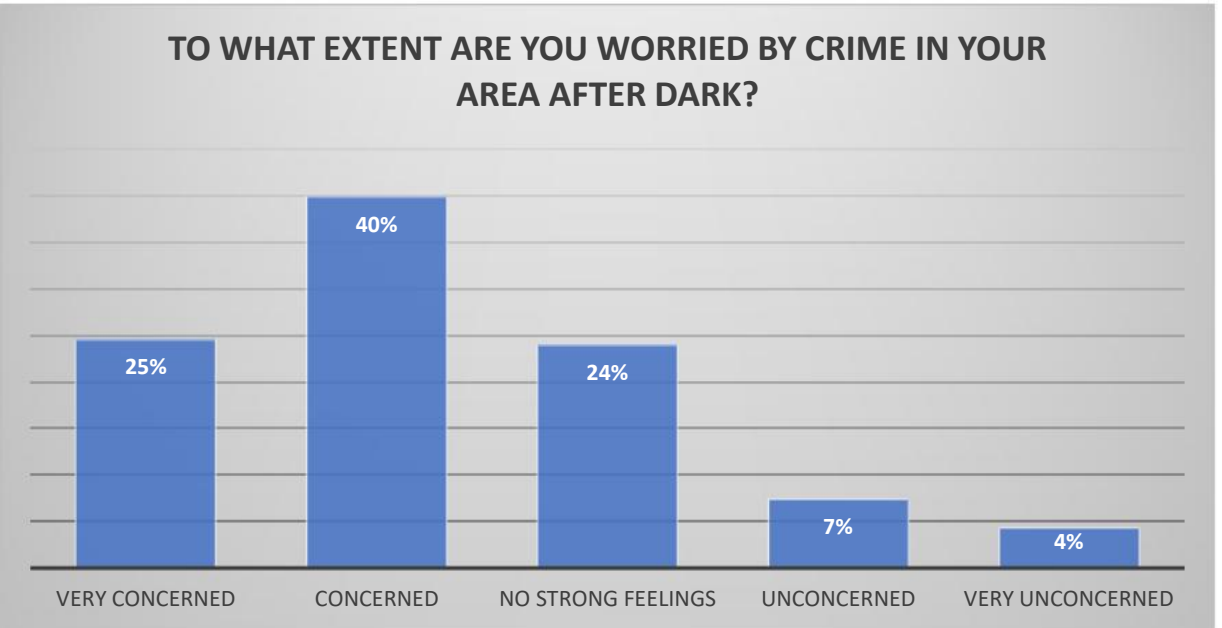


Fear of Crime

39% of respondents stated that they concerned or very concerned by crime in their area during the day



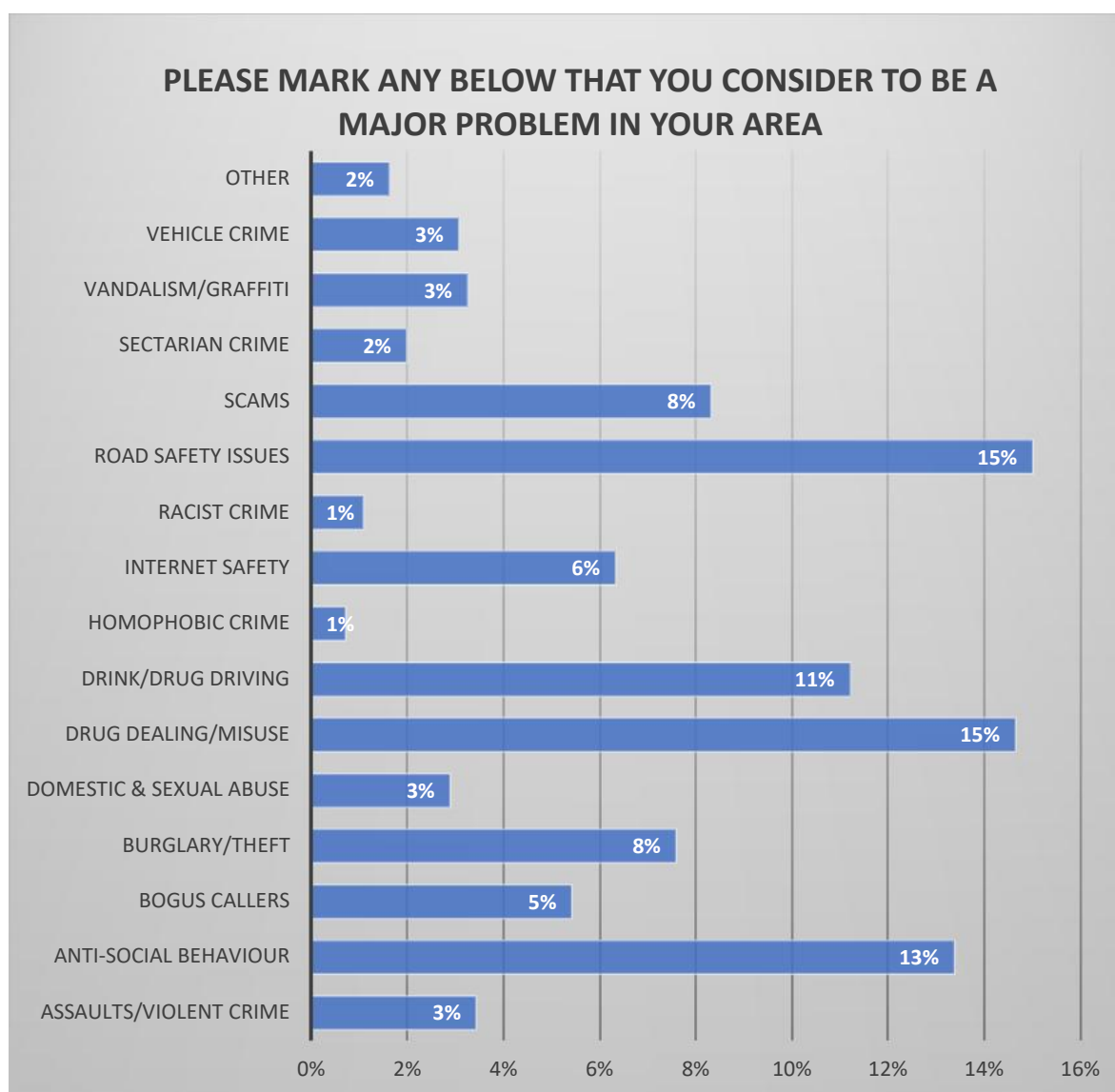
65% of respondents stated that they concerned or very concerned by crime in their area at night.



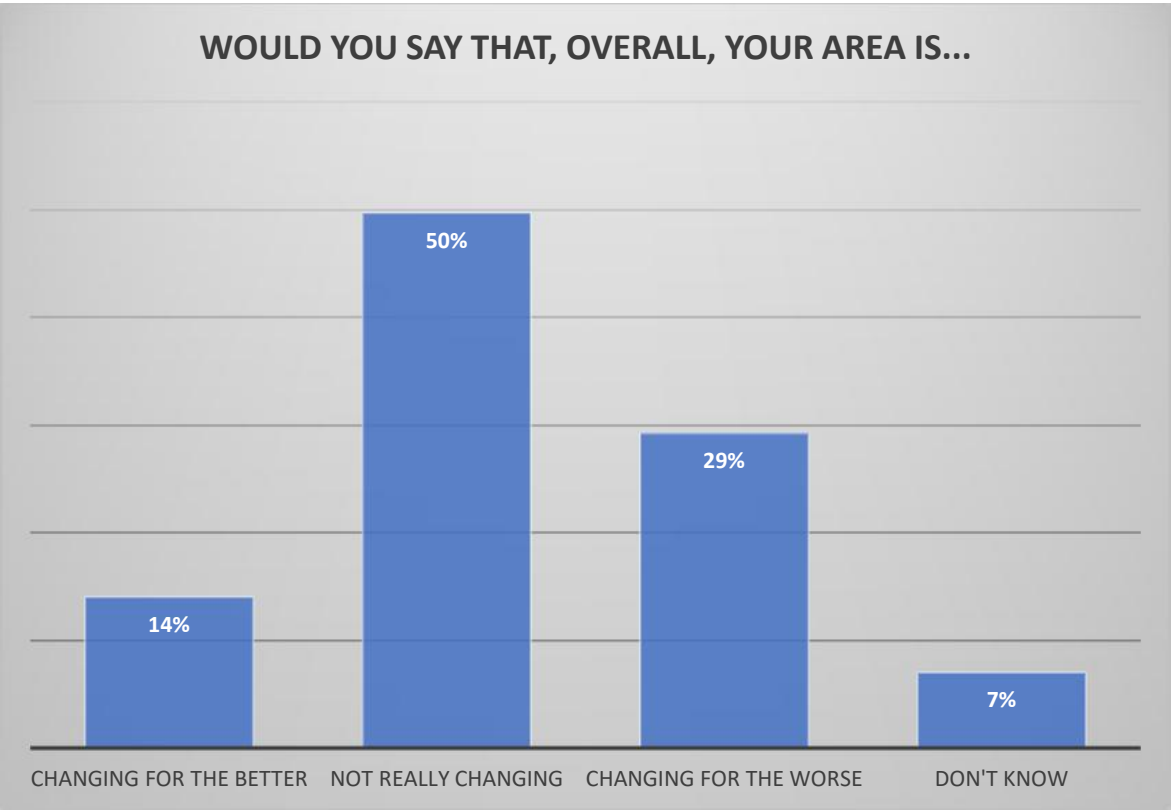
Perceptions of Crime

Respondents stated they considered the following to be major problems in their area.

1. Road Safety Issues	15%
2. Drug Dealing/Misuse	15%
2. Anti-social Behaviour	13%
4. Drink/Drug Driving	11%
5. Scams	8%
6. Burglary/Theft	8%



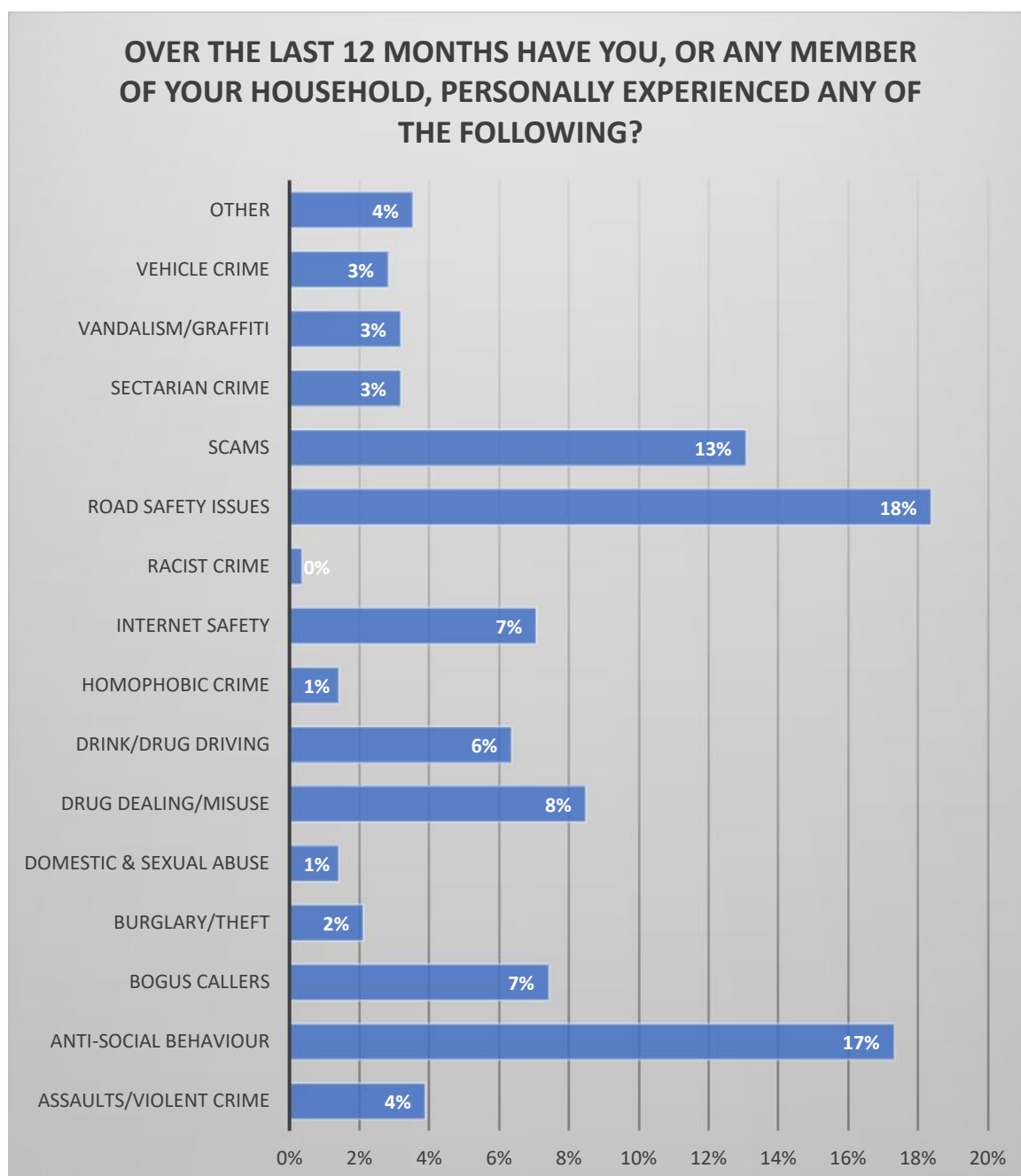
64% of respondents stated their area was changing for the better or not really changing. 29% stated that their area was changing for the worse



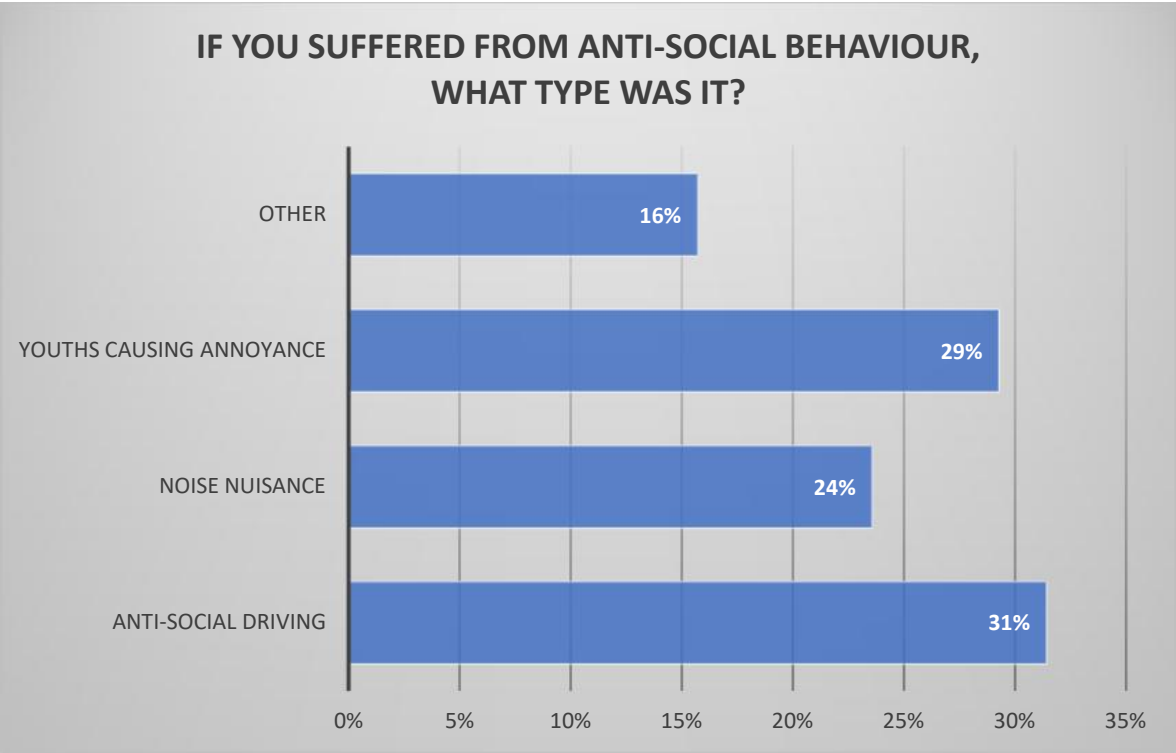
Experience of Crime

Respondents stated that, over the preceding 12 months, they or a member of their household personally experienced the following:

1. Road Safety Issues 18%
2. Anti-social Behaviour 17%
3. Scams 13%

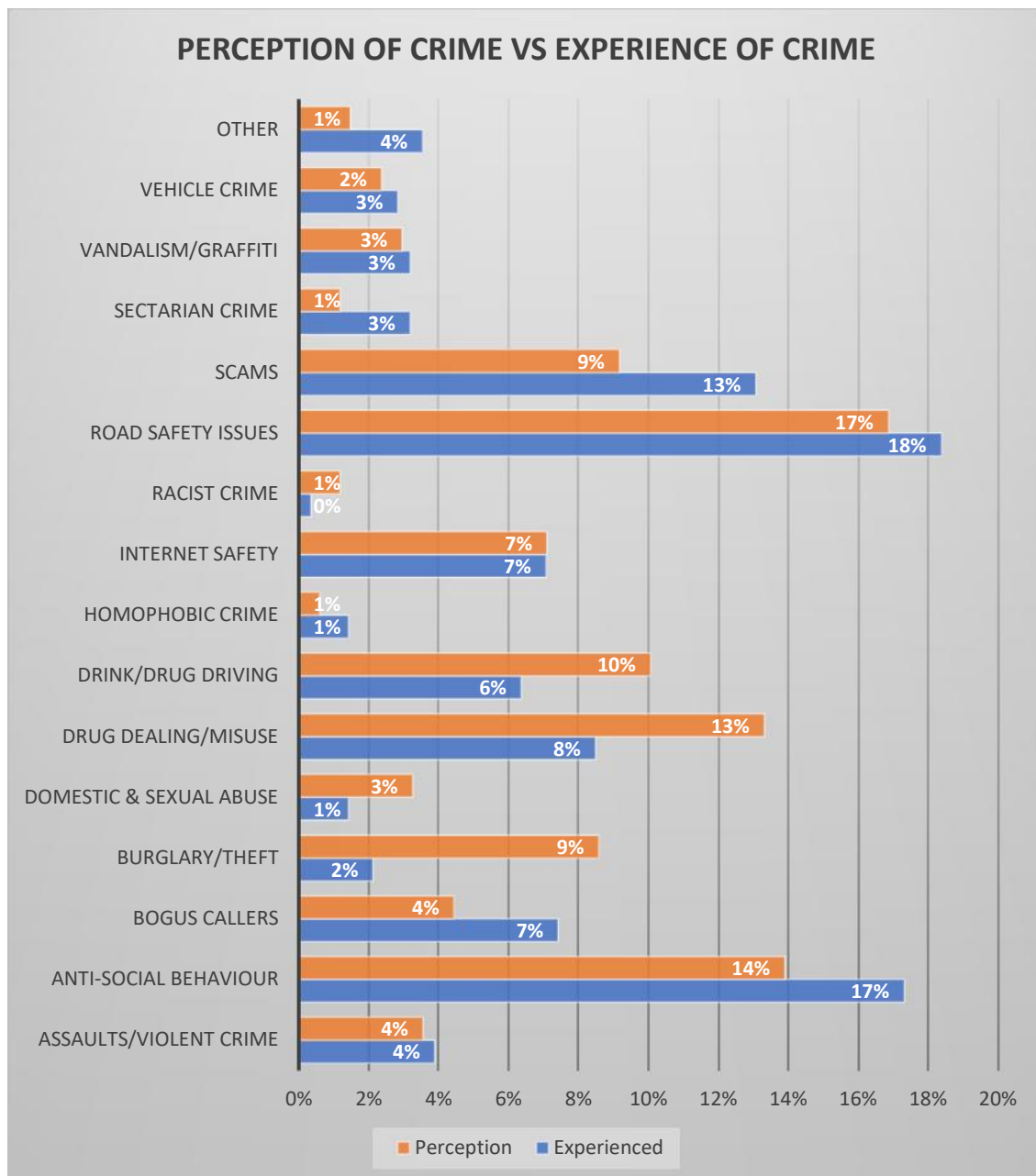


For those who suffered from anti-social behaviour:



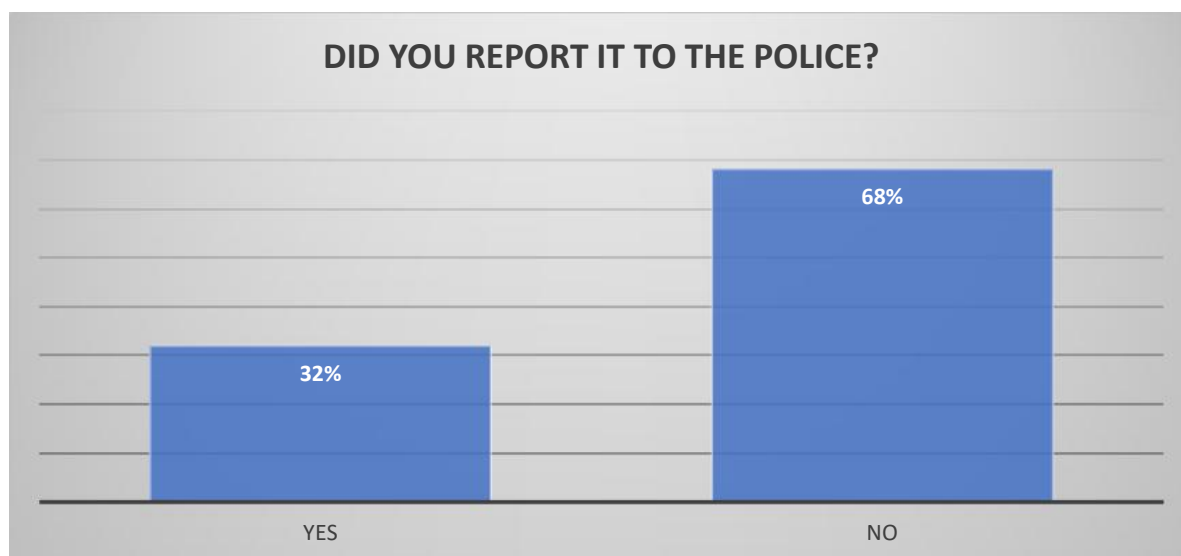
Comparing perception of crime and actual crime experienced we find the following:

- Perception of scams as a problem is low compared with actual experience.
- Drug related offences have a higher perception than experience.
- Burglary has a higher perception than experience.

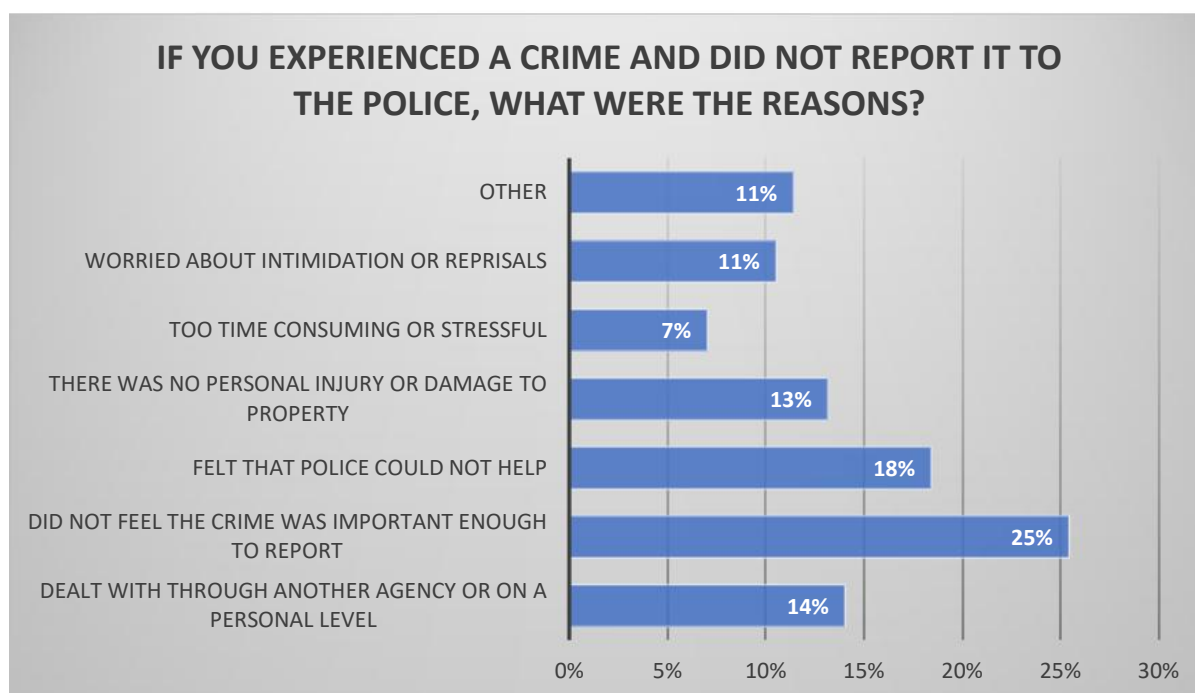


Reporting of Crime

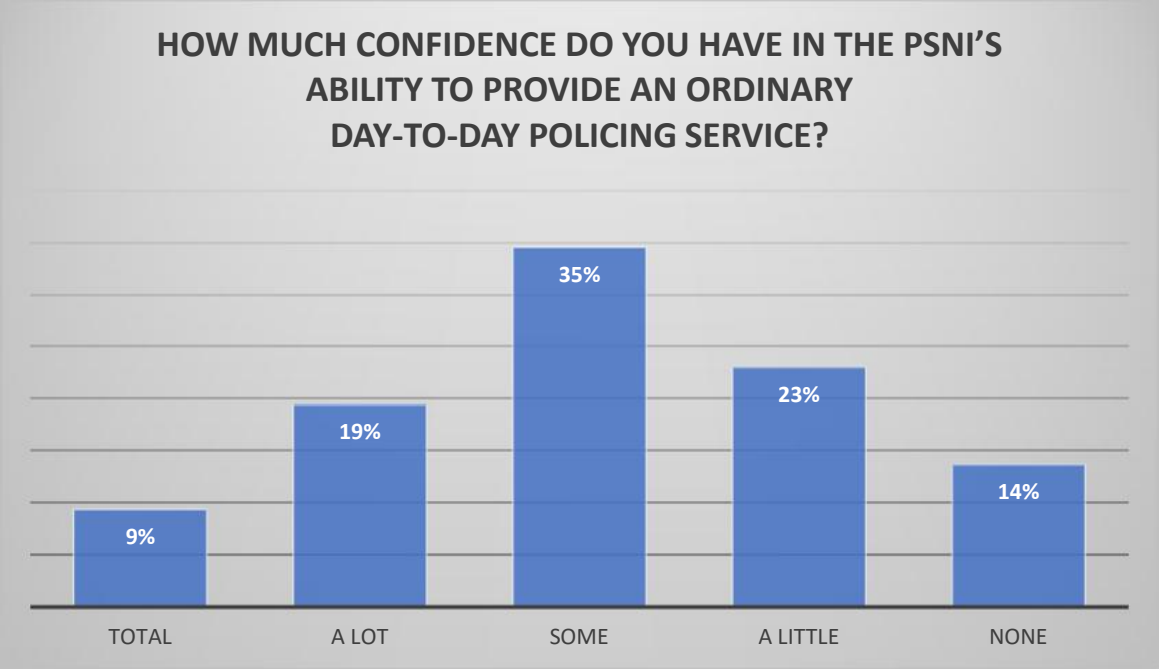
32% of those that experienced an incident/crime stated that they reported it to the PSNI.



For those that experienced an incident/crime and didn't report it, the two main reasons were that the respondent did not feel the incident/crime was important enough to report (25%), or that the respondent felt that the police could not help (18%).



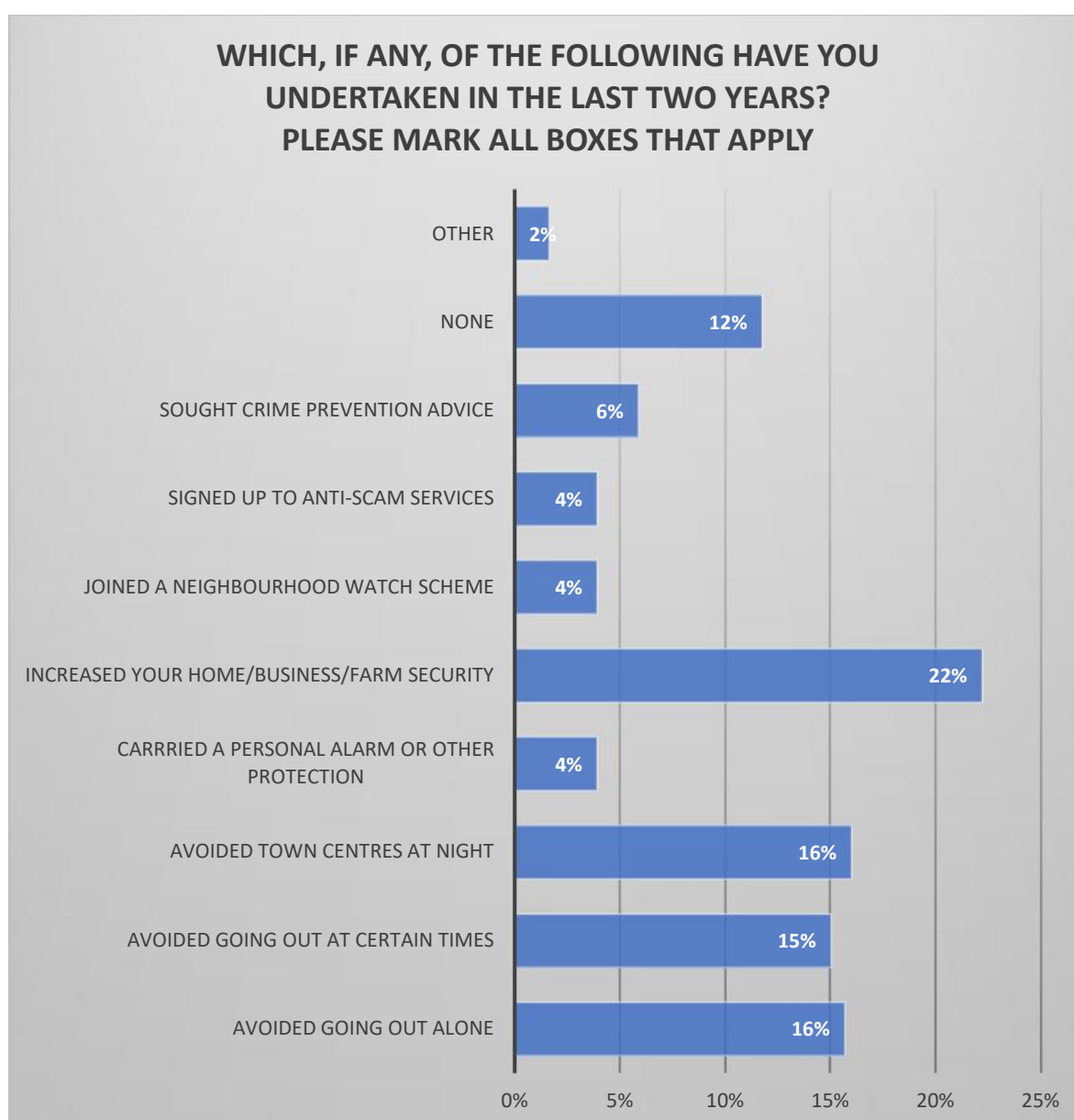
63% of respondents stated that they had some to total confidence in the PSNI's ability to provide an ordinary day to day policing service. 23% stated a little and 14% stated none.



Crime Prevention

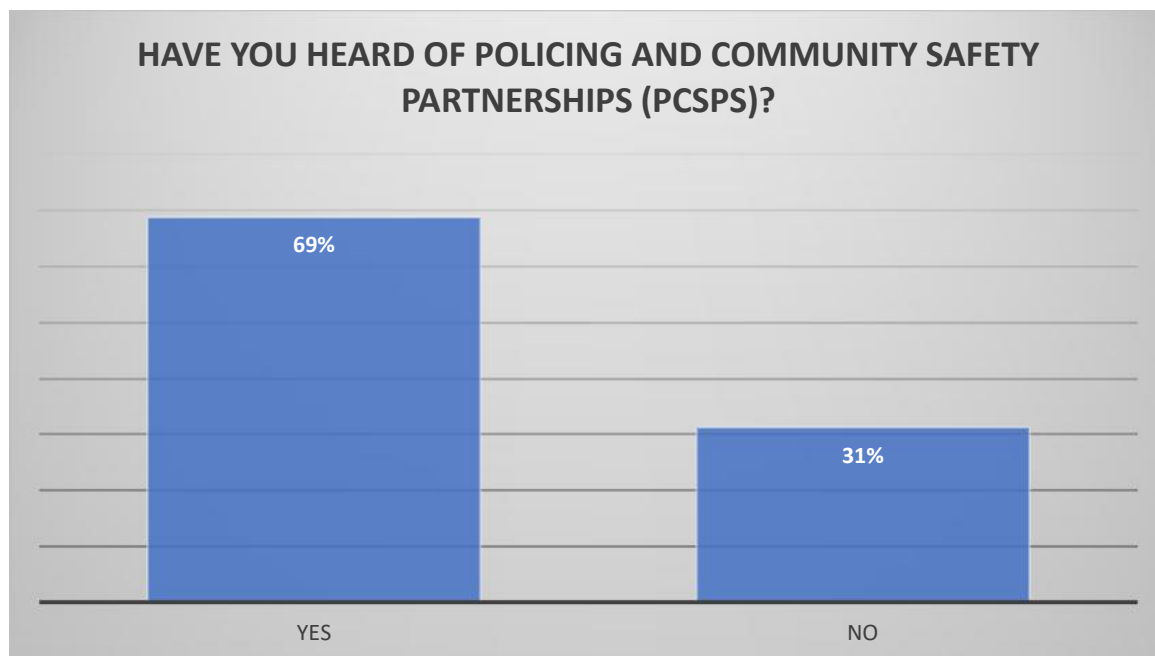
Respondents stated that they had taken the following crime prevention measures in the last 2 years

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1. Increased home/farm/business security | 22% |
| 2. Avoided town centres at night | 16% |
| 3. Avoided going out alone | 16% |
| 4. Avoided going out at certain times | 15% |

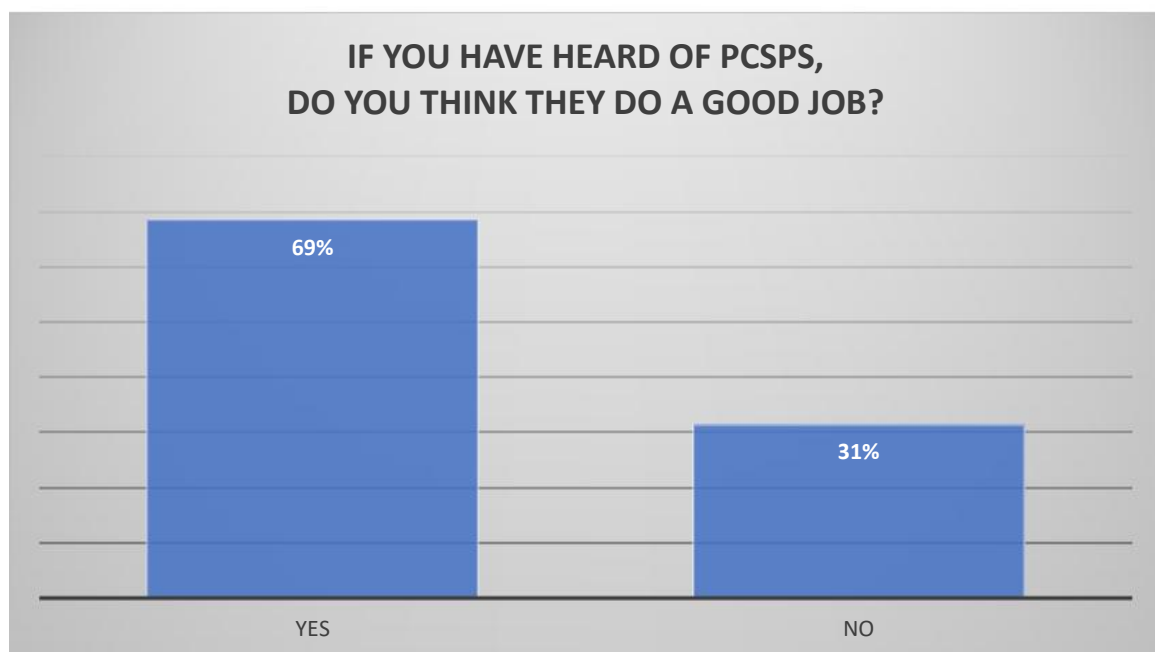


Awareness of PCSPs

69% of respondents stated they had heard of Policing & Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs).



69% of respondents, who had heard of PCSPs, stated that they think PCSPs do a good job.



What would have biggest impact on reducing crime?

Respondents were asked the following: “Apart from increasing police numbers, what single step would have the biggest impact on reducing crime, antisocial behaviour, and the fear of crime in your area?”

The responses are listed below, as originally submitted.

More patrolling
Seeing crime being dealt with and not ignored
Parental responsibility
More visual police patrols, more engagement with officers in the community
Treating people equal
Not enough being done to bring these people to court, even when you have evidence on camera you are let down every time and so the person continues to do it
Deal with those that commit crime rather than ignore it
Report to the police
Police patrolling on foot speaking to local residents
Funding for anti-crime campaigns
More mobile patrols in unmarked cars in all areas
Dealing with speeding daytime Road racing at night in Upperlands
Dealing with road racers at nighttime in and around Kilrea road
Cameras
Adults taking responsibility for themselves and their children
Visible police presence at certain times of evening, alternative activities for youth, more lighting in town...especially the car park at centra/home bargains
More interaction during daytime
Better lighting on streets
Get rid of 101 as I tried to use it to report a crime in progress once used it as was not sure if it was crime . So unimpressed. Someone tried to use to report car blocking my driveway, no help. Will never try again
Increased police numbers will be no use because they have to on the ground doing their job not driving around in cars .
More interaction with the people/groups involved
Better street lighting and routine visible police presence.
More speed cheking
Engagement with people
Speed humps
Visible patrolling on foot
Action taken when crime is reported
Improve Mental Health Awareness
Locals on the street
Tougher punishment

Having better lighting and cctv and zero tolerance for offenders
Clamp down on bad dry
Better Road lighting in rural areas
Get rid of Muslims and foriners
The police may b a lot more helpful if when violence is taking part as they watch if they actually took action instead of turning a blind eye constantly
More patrols in rural areas
Following up blatant anti social behaviour
Reporting it ,people being more security aware
speed checks in village (Castlecaulfield)
Road checks for speed and police on boat.
Be Vigilant at all times.
Direct action and stricter consequences
More police resources
Our area does not have any problems at the moment
Speed traps at weekends
Any one stealing caught on your land u should be aloud to cut there hands off
More interaction and support
Better laws to protect the innocent
Tougher sentences
Overt police patrolling
Awareness
Working in community
Been able to lift the phone and get through to your local station
A officer or 2 on the beat from time to time would help , its the answer , you can't police any area if you aren't in it ,
Big find
With reference to the drug abuse more. Plain. Clothing dealing is on the. Rise in. The area
Listening and responding appropriately
The polic not be so tolerant when youths cause damage by vandalism
Have an elected ombudsman and the power to immediately sack police and take them to court and have MI5 under the control of the ombudsman also
Education and information programmes to reduce hate crime
Speeding
More foot patrols !!
Equality of policing across different areas
Police actually dealing with it and young ones actually realising for every action theres a consequence no matter what race or religion they are
Slow signs/speed ramps
Agencies working together
Bigger penalties for law breakers.
People carrying Personal Alarms
Community police doing walkabouts and communicating with residents
Get the drugs out of my town
More patrols in area

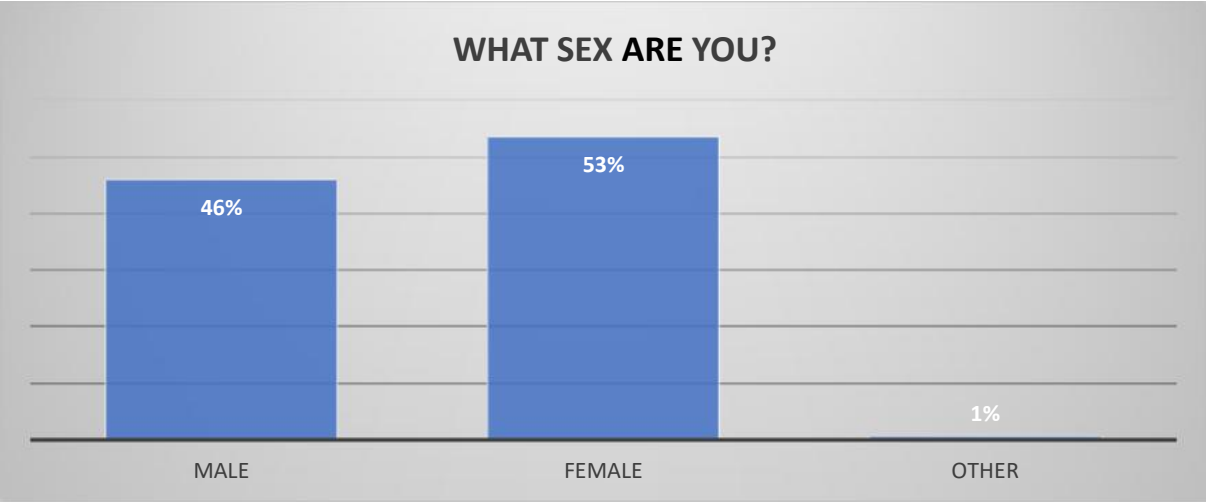
Clamp down on drug and alcohol misuse
More emphasis put on penalties and punishments
Neighbourhood watch
More interesting things for our youth.
If someone reports a crime then we would love police to check, most people are afraid to report
Better police engagement with the community. Psni have lost the faith of normal people during the pandemic for their heavy handed tactics.
POLICE CAR DRIVING AROUND
Beat officers including rural areas.
Arm citizens.
Arresting the drug dealers that the police already know about
Reopen local PSNI stations.my closest is approx 15 miles away
This question says it all you don't even want to know about increased police numbers. There also needs to be a broader view of crime to understand how we can address the causes of crime, eg how many young people in the care system are criminalised by the time they are 18 - what responsibilities are the state taking to address this. We need to address crime at its root.
More cameras
More time needs to be spent on drug dealing and drug dealers and drug misuse in the area
Accountability...proper punishment, real deterrents
I'm not sure what can be done, paramilitaries are still real in mid ulster and can seem to do what they want without fear
More of them being charged
Removing antisocial people from area and removing drug dealers
Drug dealers know to the police being halted
More visible beat patrols around estates
Visible policing
Consequences for drug dealing offences ie. Passport removal immediate
Removing people from housing developments that bring violent behaviour who leave their neighbours scared
More police on the ground
More stop checks on drivers and speed traps
Visible police presence
Camera on main streets
CCTV, spot patrols, regeneration of derelict buildings/ areas.
Increased CCTV
Adequate punishment for those that commit the crime
The drug dealing is an absolute nightmare! It's happening in front of the police's eyes!!! I even seen it myself happening in front of police and when challenged about it they just shrug the shoulders
Larger presence in the area
Speed cameras
Policing the buses as I have seen drugs coming into the magherafelt & maghera area from Belfast via Coleraine,
No other steps. Increasing police presence is the most needed action
Removing the drug den

More police patrolling around estates
Enforcement
Stop youths bloody speeding and doing powercircles on the bloody roads
More police presence & yes alot of this is to do with a lack of police numbers. Also more senior officers out on the streets meeting the public & seeing how hard foot officers r getting it. How can the police have such high numbers sitting at hospitals is there something more than can be done to free them up?
CCTV, speed boards in 30 zones
traffic calming measures.....speed cameras
Knowledge
Thankfully it's quiet on our street and have had no problems
Street lights
In addition to this, more speed patrols on the Clady Road
Education via community groups.
More community group activity
More police out and about, frequent vehicle checks, more presence everywhere!!!!
Would love to see police being nice and get Training in disabilities and mental health
Reaching out to the nationalist community and installing more trust
More action against drugs
More needs to be done to tackle drug dealing. No sooner are the dealers arrested then they're back selling. Start drug and alcohol addiction classes in school, that's where it should start. We as a collective neighbourhood have reported drug dealing in our area on so many occasions and it's great to see some action taken but then they're out and the drugees are banging at all hours for their fix or ones who have beef with another are hollering and banging at all hours, kicking cars. And yes the police are involved because either the drug dealer has called them or one of us but we know it'll happen again. If we can't stop the dealers then starve their customer base with education from a young age. You go to schools to talk about road safety well drug/alcohol abuse needs to be on the table.
People in the community being more vigilant and parents actually giving a shit about where their kids are.
Cctv, patrols at 10pm onwards
More interaction with public in rural areas
Walk around patrols, harsher punishment for offenders
Police presence in rural areas as well as towns
An odd patrol wouldn't hurt or arriving on time
Better lighting
Speed monitoring
Reporting crime
Well that's easy. If I need to report a crime, why would I report this when I've seen in past exactly who you listen to. Numerous reports made regarding homophobic hate crime and what happens? I'm the one treated like the criminal. So honestly no faith at all in the police so I'll happily just get in with it. More problems than it's worth.

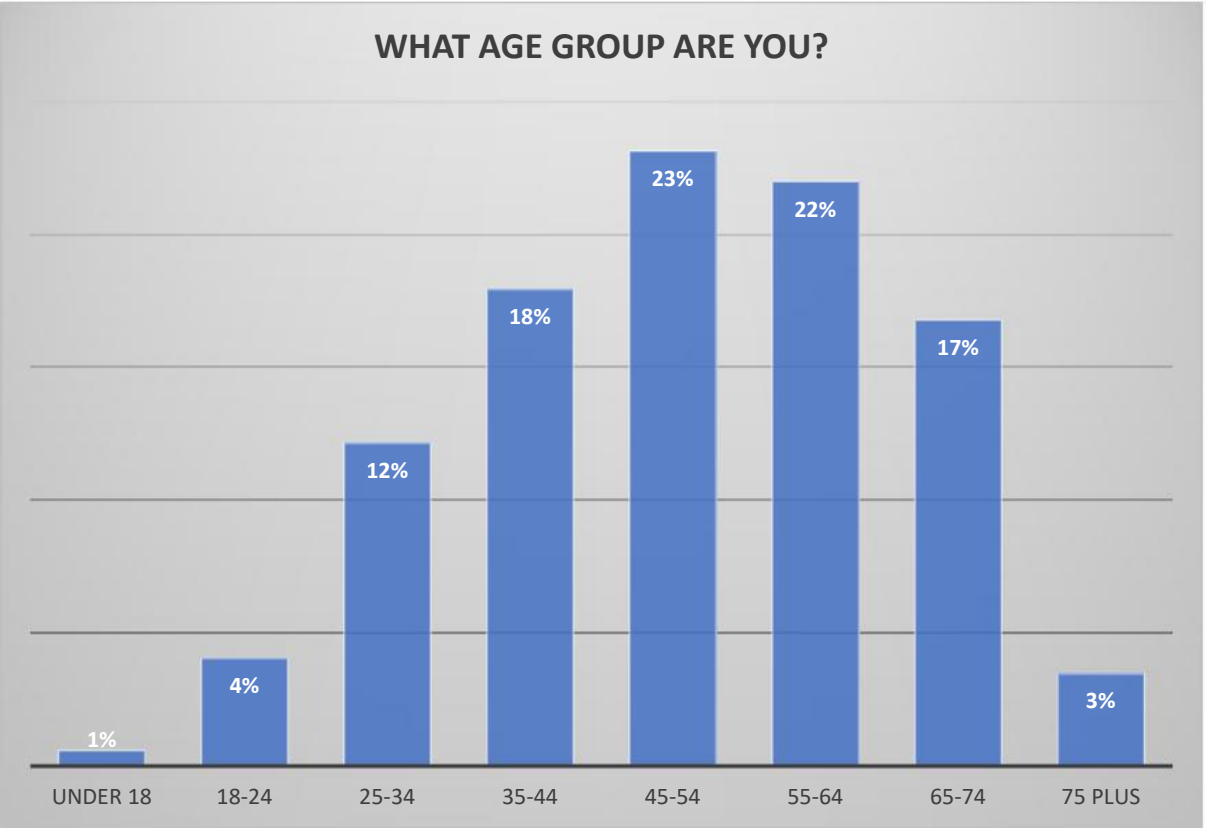
Demographics

Respondents to the PCSP survey stated the following

Sex



Age Group

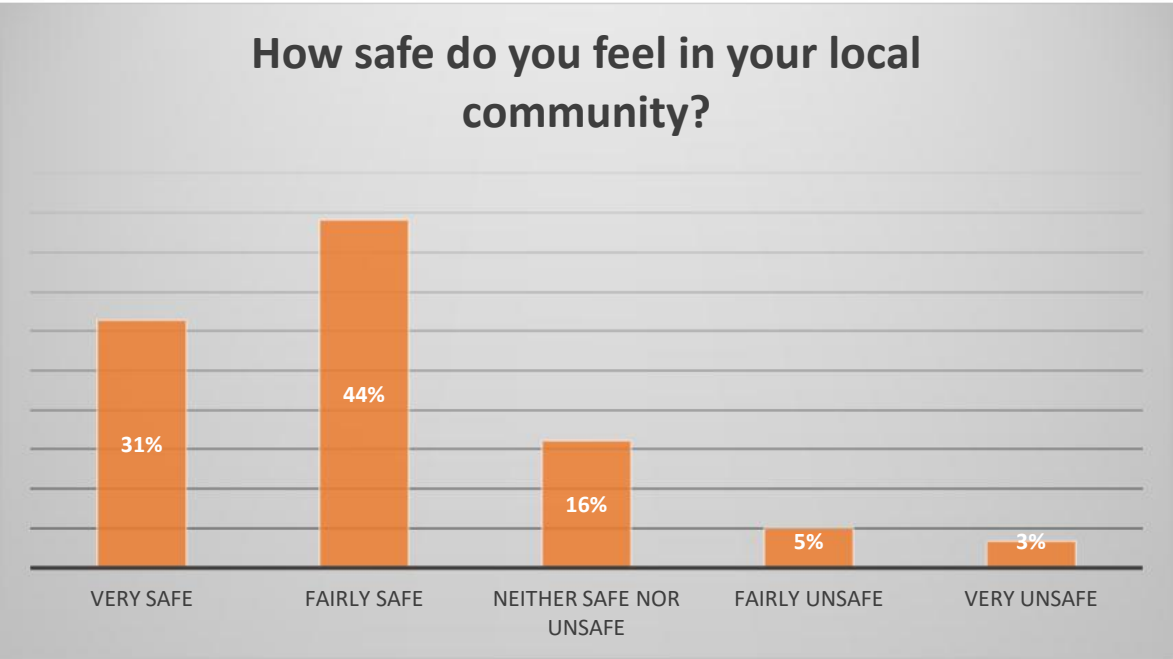


Youth Survey

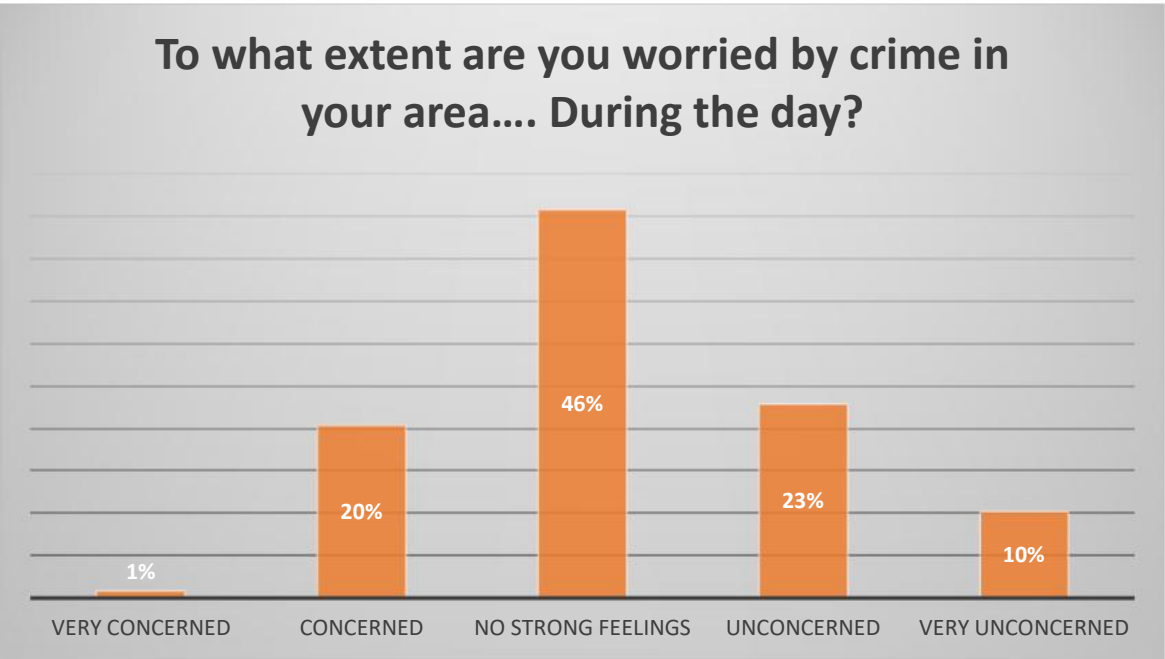
The EA Youth Service engaged with young people across the district to undertake a survey with 119 completing it.

Fear of Crime

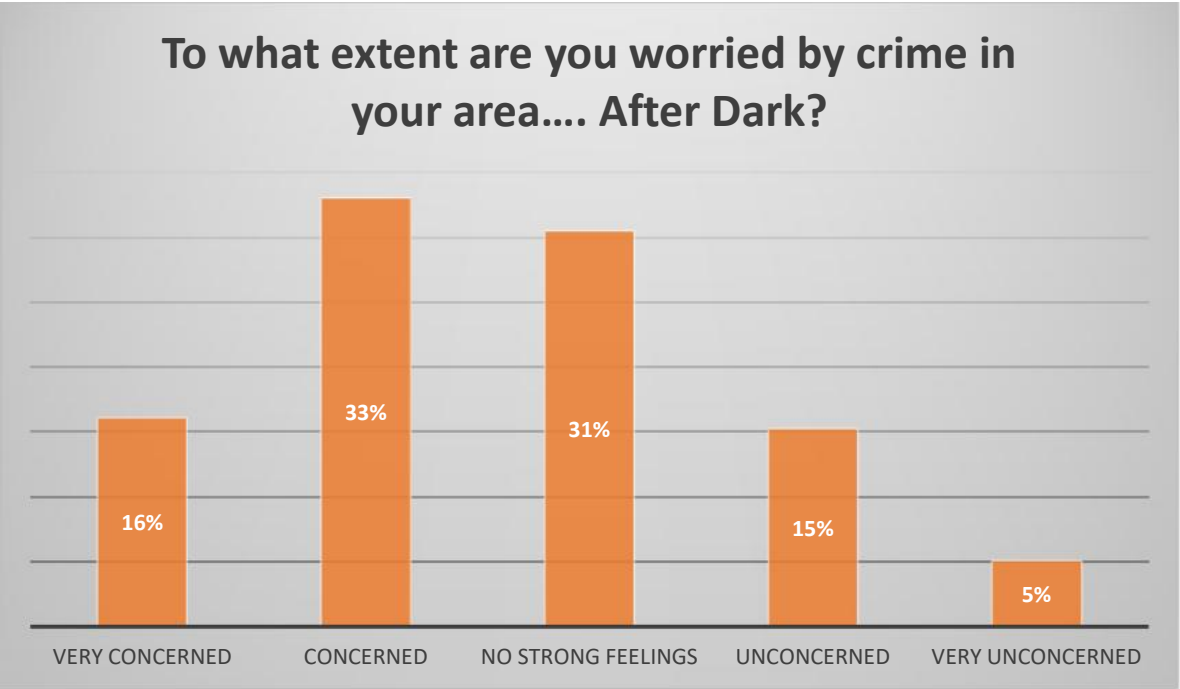
Only 8% of respondents stated that they felt unsafe in their local community.



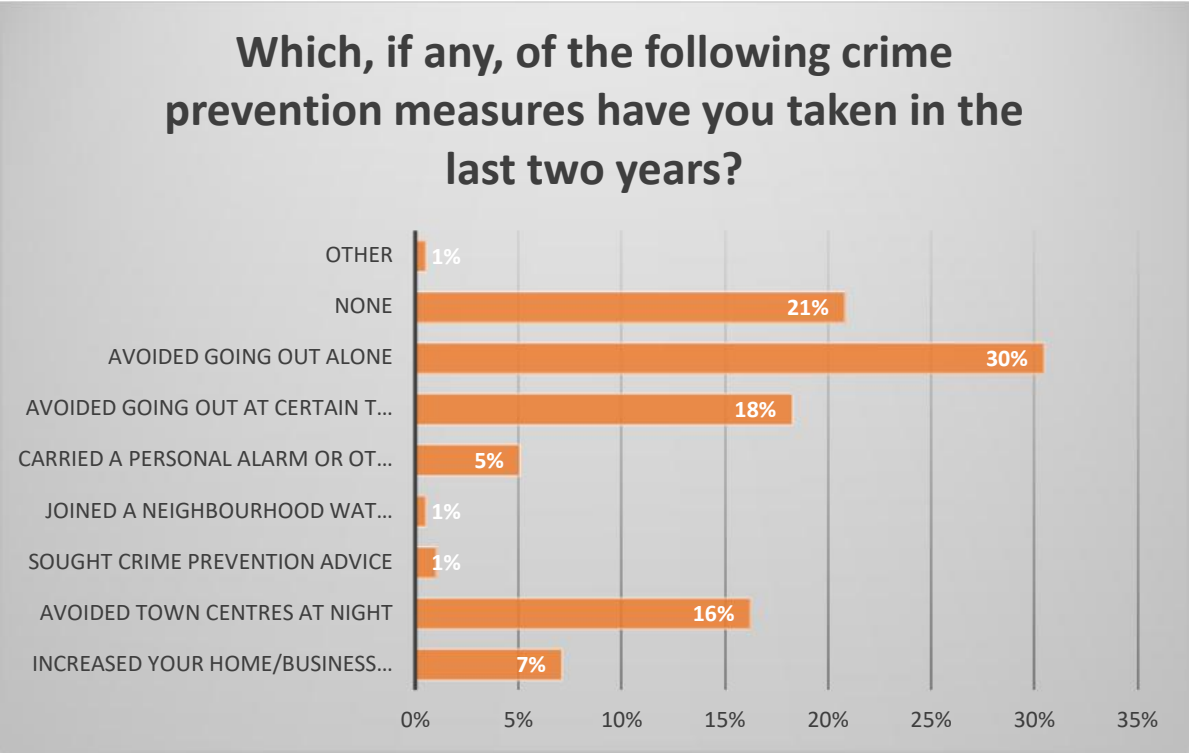
21% of respondents were concerned about crime in their area during the day



49% of respondents were concerned about crime in their area after dark



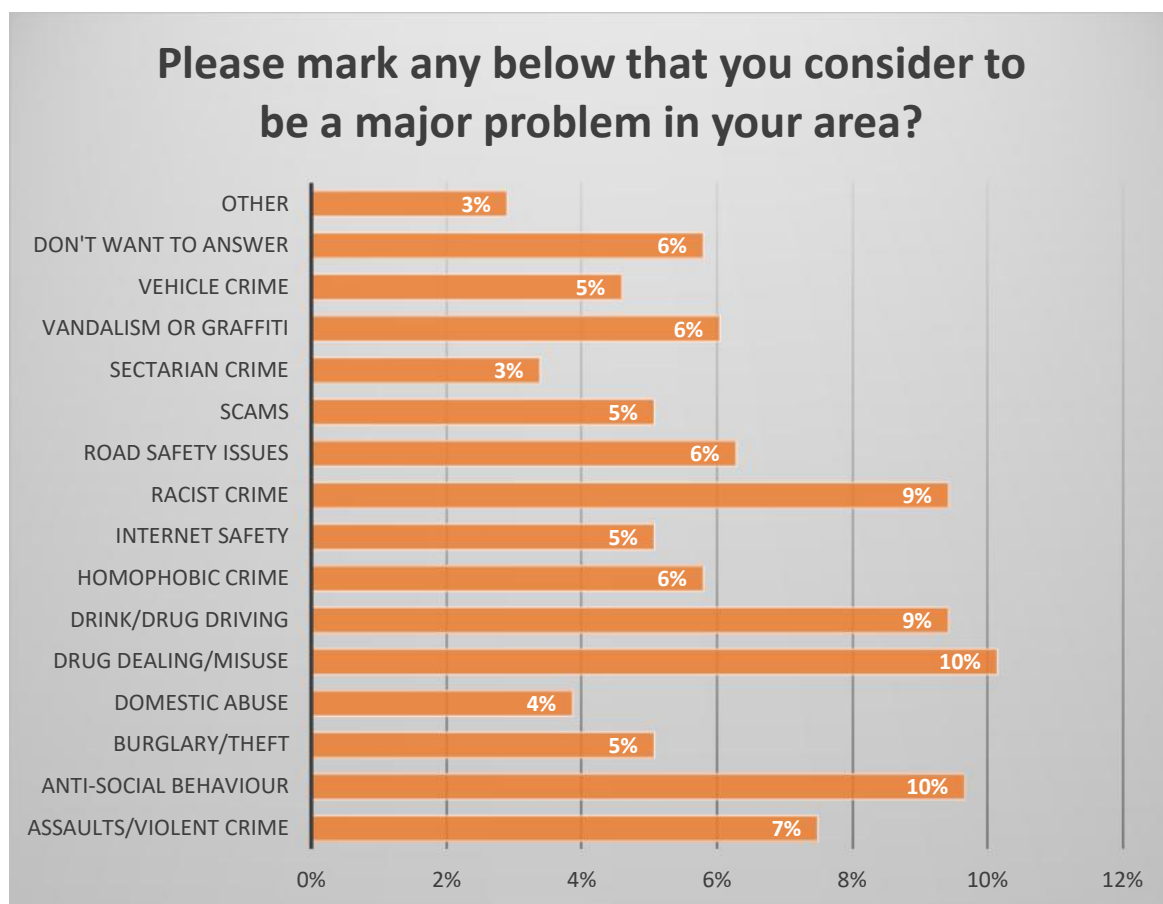
48% of respondents stated that they either avoid going out alone or going out at certain times



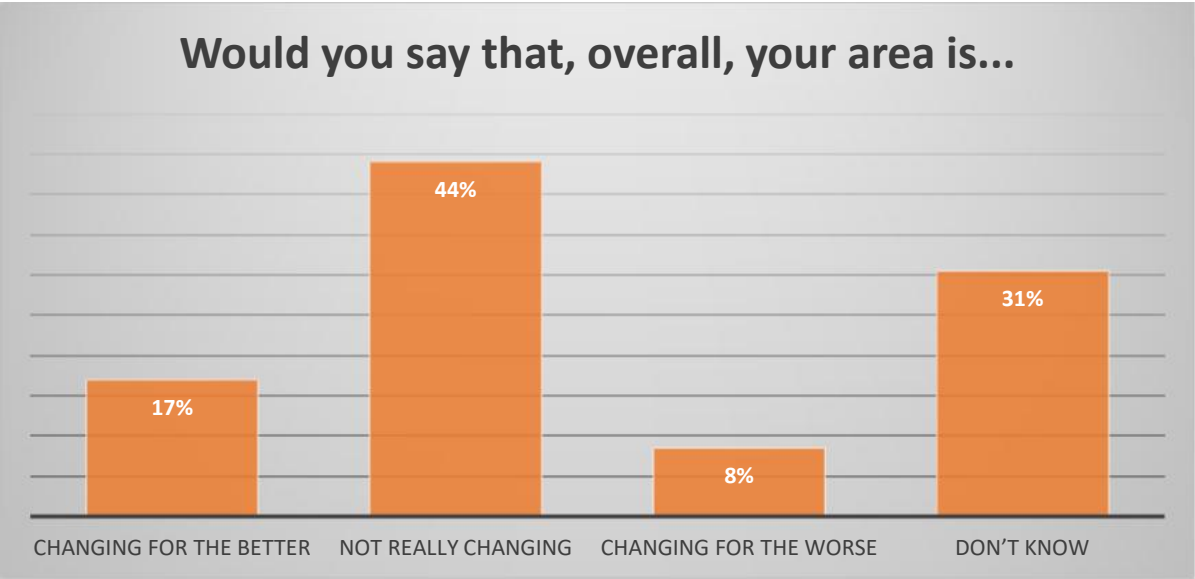
Experience of Crime

Respondents stated the following as the top 5 major problems in their area

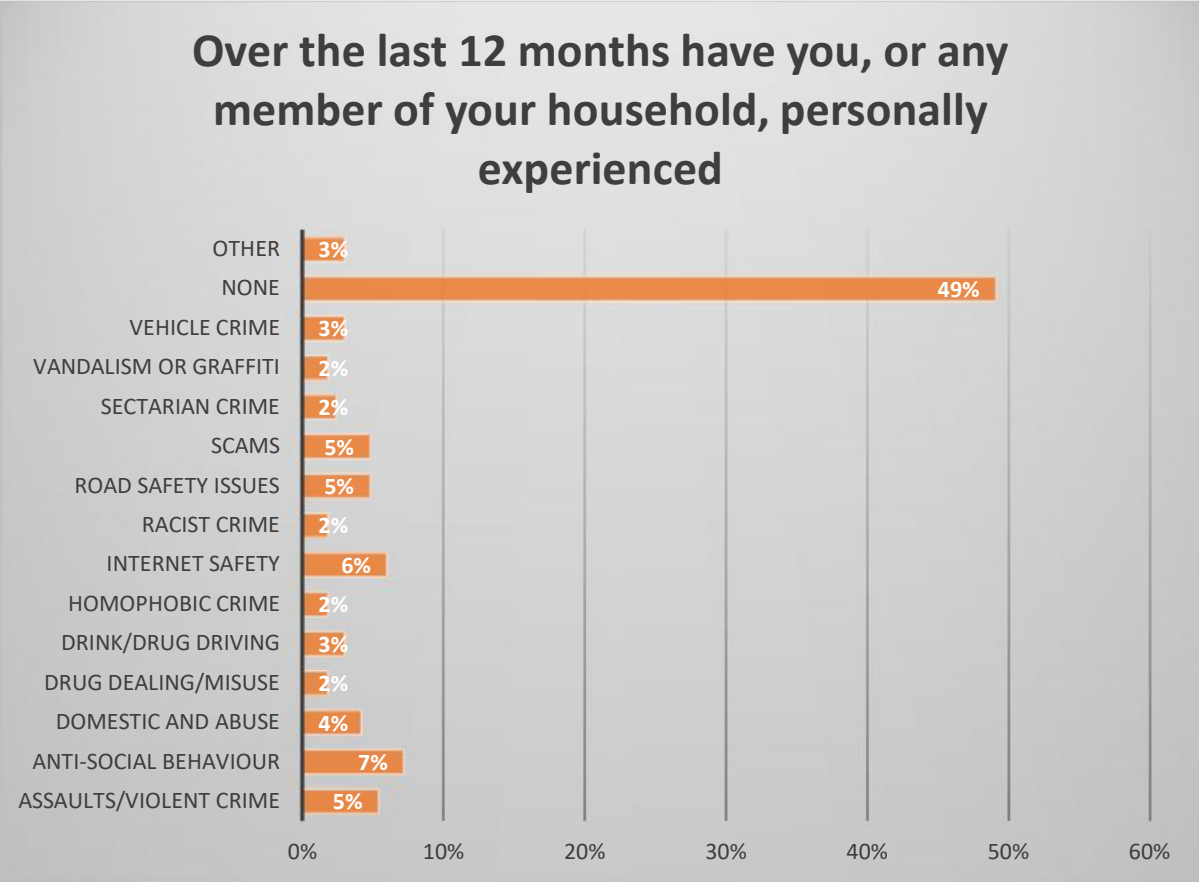
1. Drug Dealing/Misuse
2. Anti-social Behaviour
3. Drink/Drug Driving
4. Racist Behaviour
5. Assaults/Violent Crime



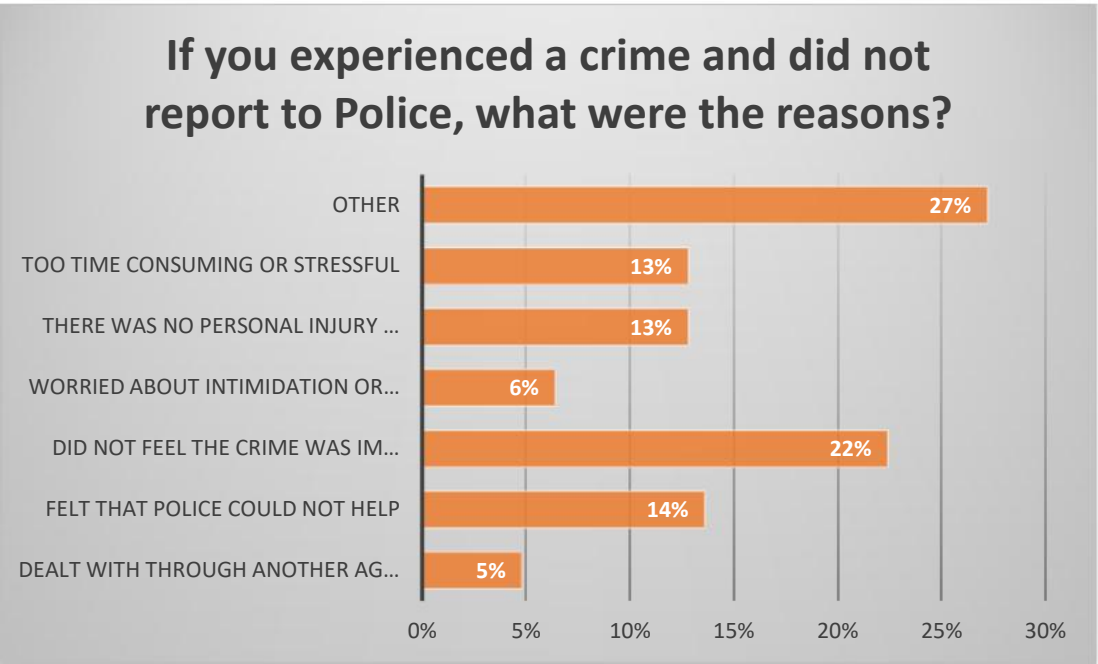
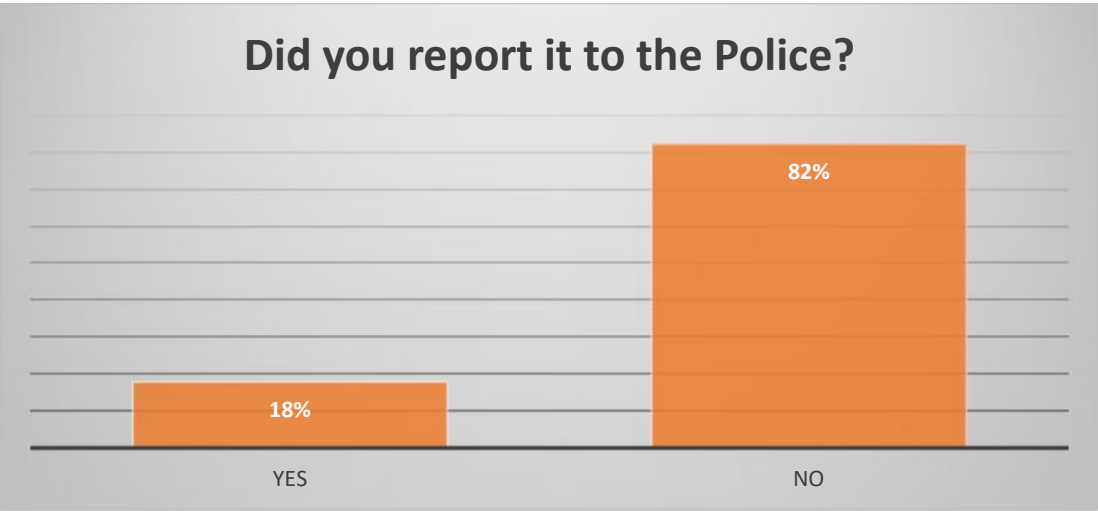
Only 8% stated that they thought that their local area was changing for the worse.



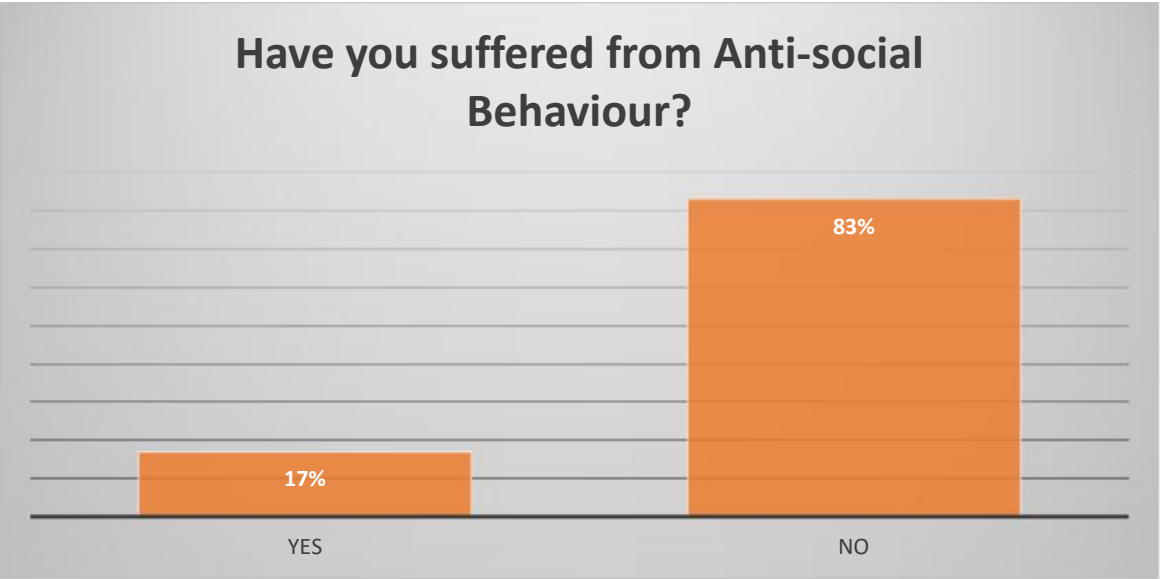
Nearly 50% of respondents stated that they never crime over the last 12 months.



Reporting of Crime

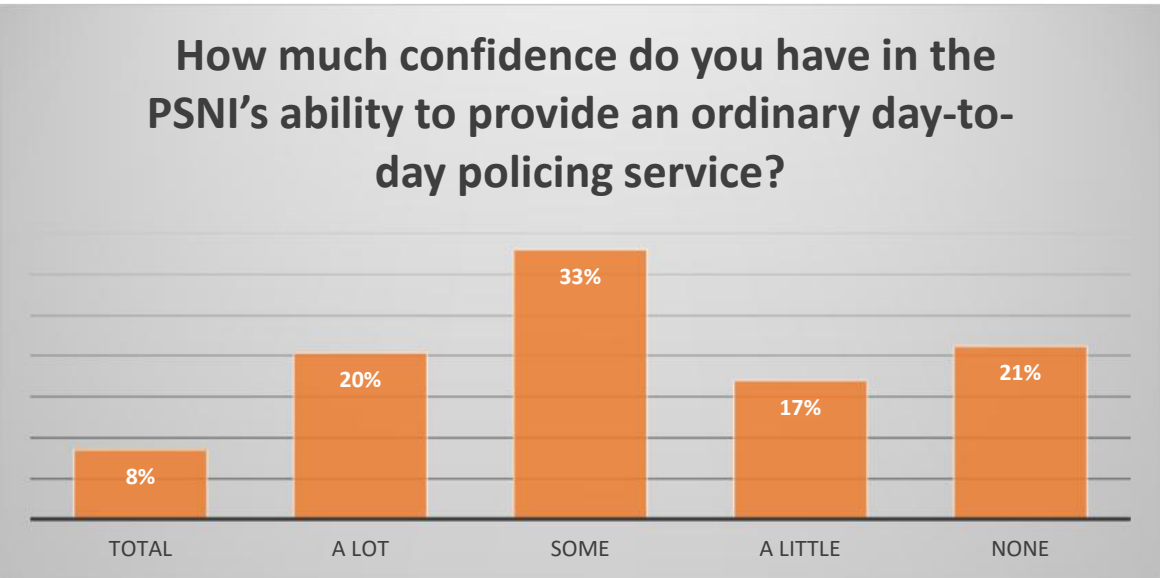


17% of respondents stated they had suffered from anti-social behaviour



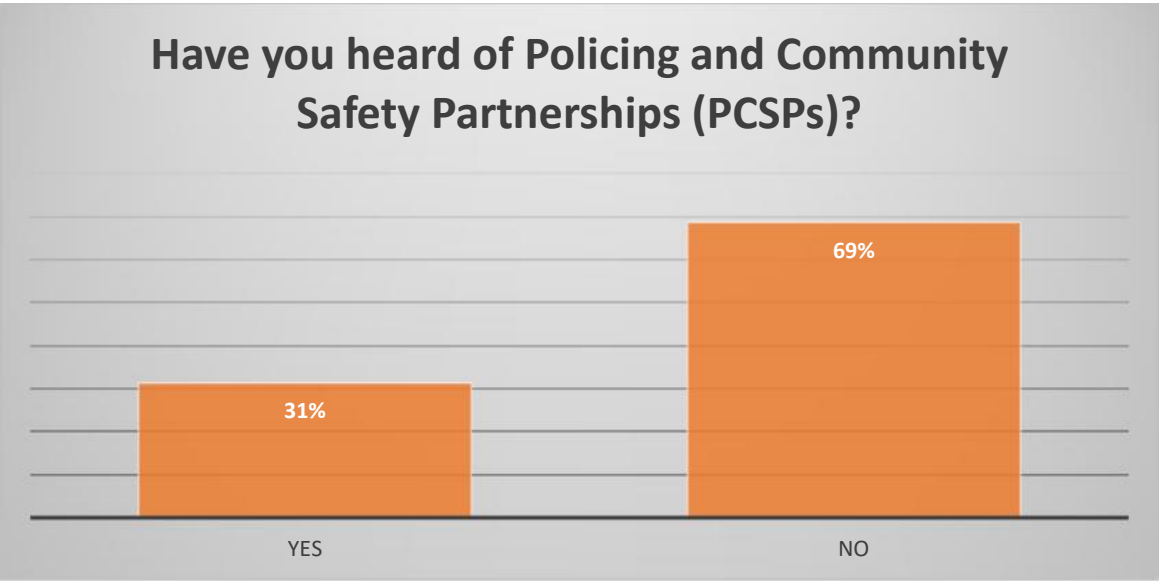
Confidence in Policing

78% of respondents stated they had total to a little confidence in the PSNI. 21% state they had none

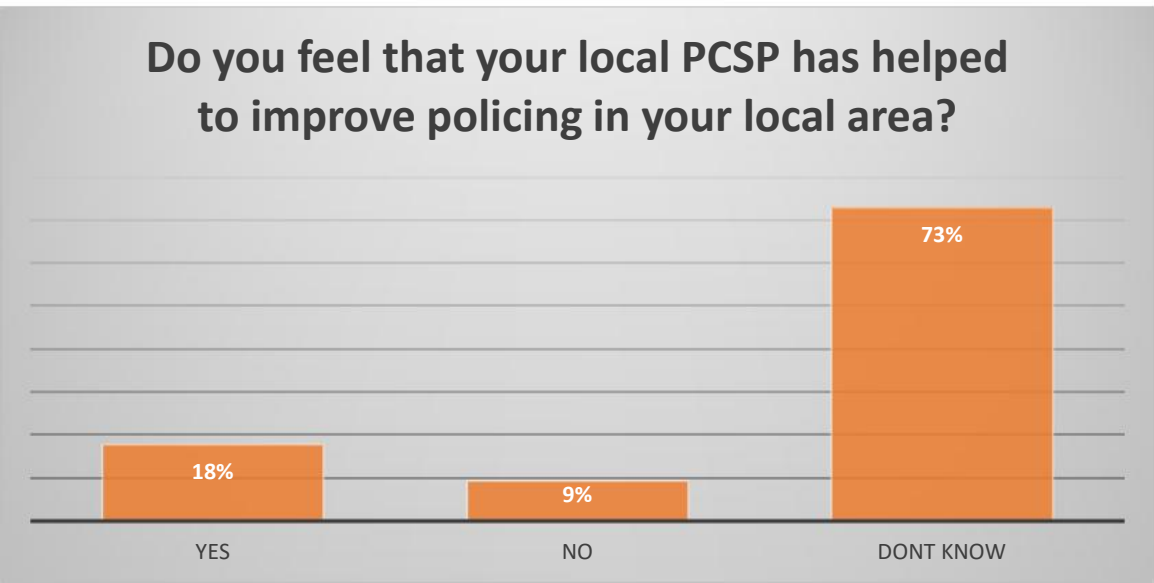


Awareness of PCSPs

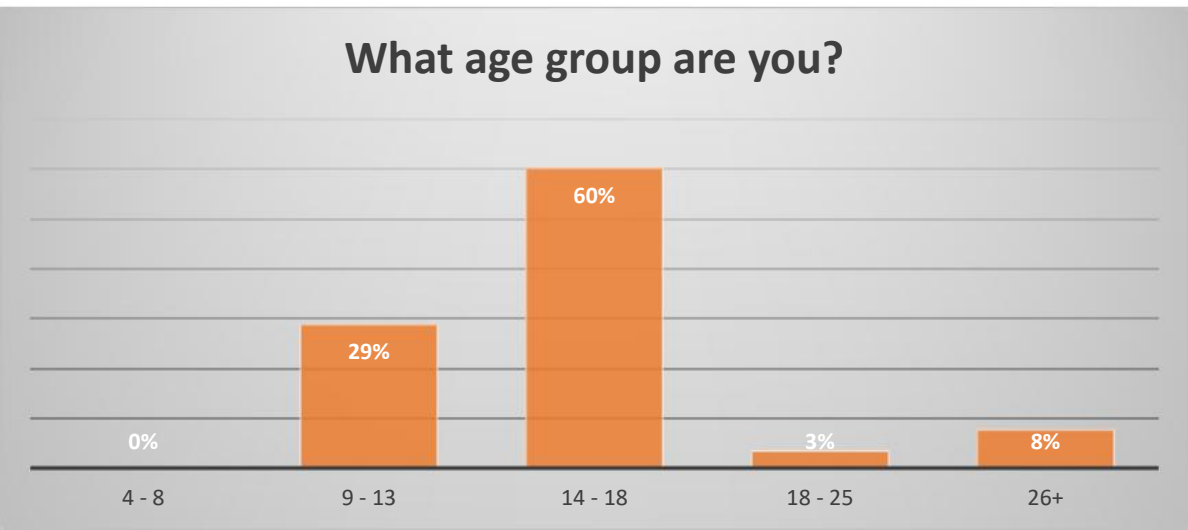
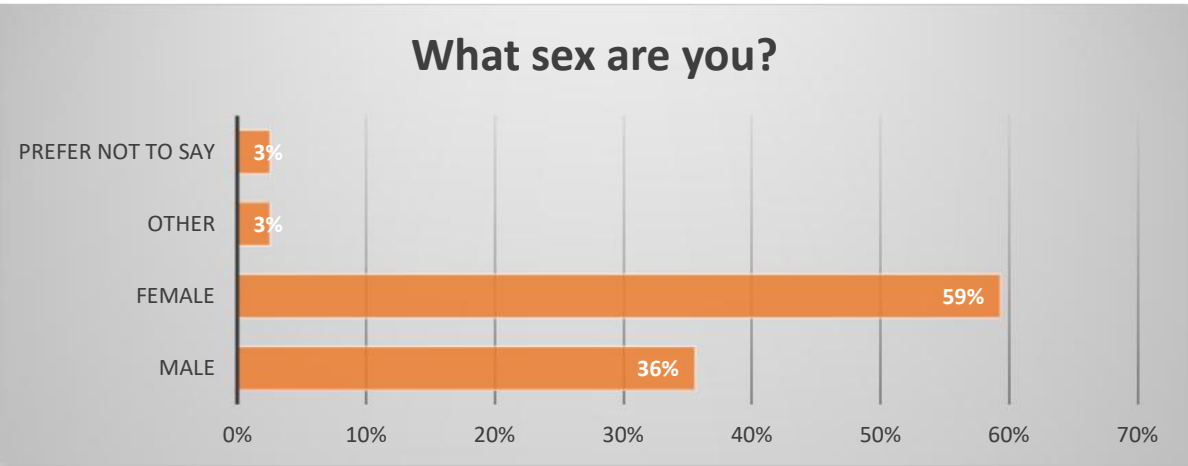
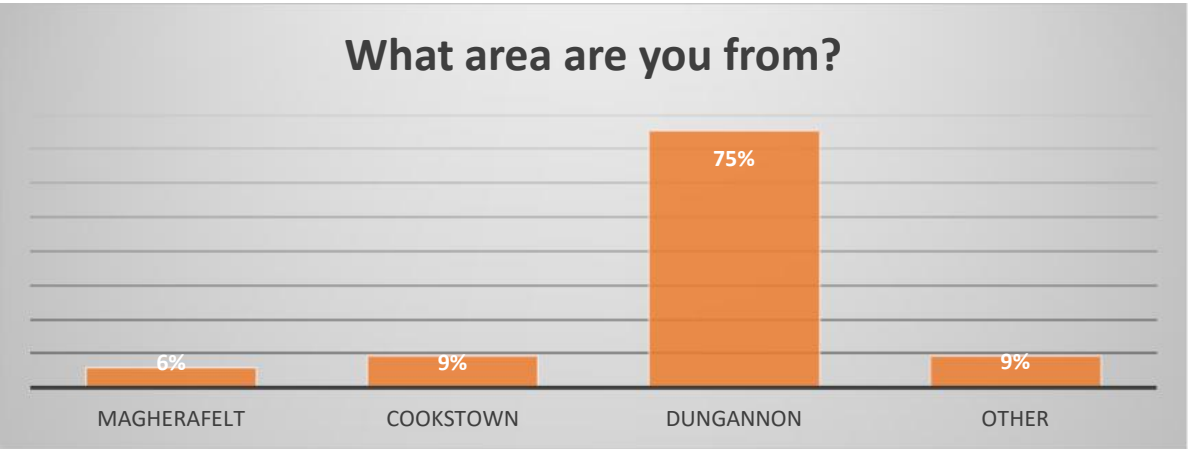
31% of respondents had heard of PCSPs



73% of respondents didn't know if their local PCSP had helped improved policing in the their local area.



Demographics



What would have biggest impact on reducing crime?

Respondents were asked the following: “Apart from increasing police numbers, what single step would have the biggest impact on reducing crime, antisocial behaviour, and the fear of crime in your area?”

The responses are listed below, as submitted.

Partnership work - pooling resources
More patrolling cars
Have more security
Educating young people about the consequences of their actions
Working with other agencies like schools
trying to help the young people doing the crimes
education people on what they are doing wrong
police more visable in areas
Education / awareness
police
Pollice
educating people
more inclusive youth programmes within the dungannon area (ie visiting schools)
more awareness/information about crimes happening
Encouraging CCTV for more businesses and homes
Education in schools - ensuring young people have choices apart from crime / gangs
More security in the area
Daily police car driving around Dungannon every hour
people stop being aggressive
Youth club
Awareness and checks
youthclub
more imformation
Somewhere for the young people to go
more police around
Cctv in operation to watch certain areas where anti social behaviour happens so they can be brought to justice
Stiffer jail sentences
youth club
Youth service
youth club
youth club
youth club
more police

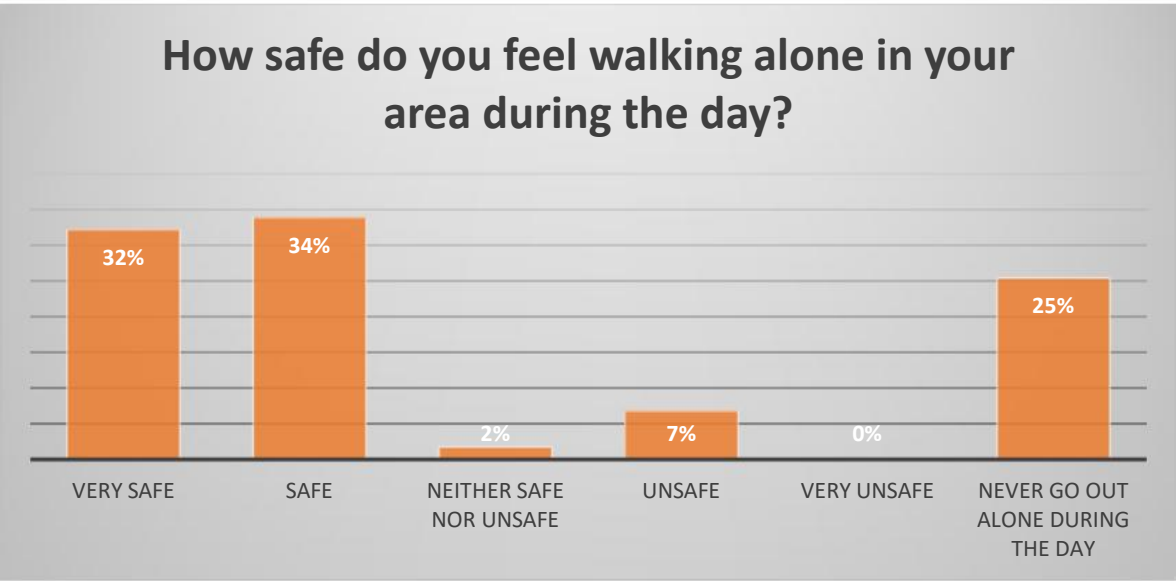
jail for all unwanted sexual interactions
Enforce safety measures
more police patrols
Nothing has really happened it's a fairly safe area
put cameras in our area
security cameras and alarms
Checking if people have weapons
more CCTV cameras
more police going on patrol
Awareness
A lot of things would cause my area is small
More CCTV cameras
More CCTV cameras
Having more cctvs
Youth centres
It be talked about more around schools and town
More cameras in places where crimes are more likely to happen
Camera ?
Community days such as people gathering for tea and for a chat
Make people more aware of local crime
Lights. Cameras. Neighbourhood support
More harsh punishments for serious crime and increasing drunk driving consequences

Agewell Survey

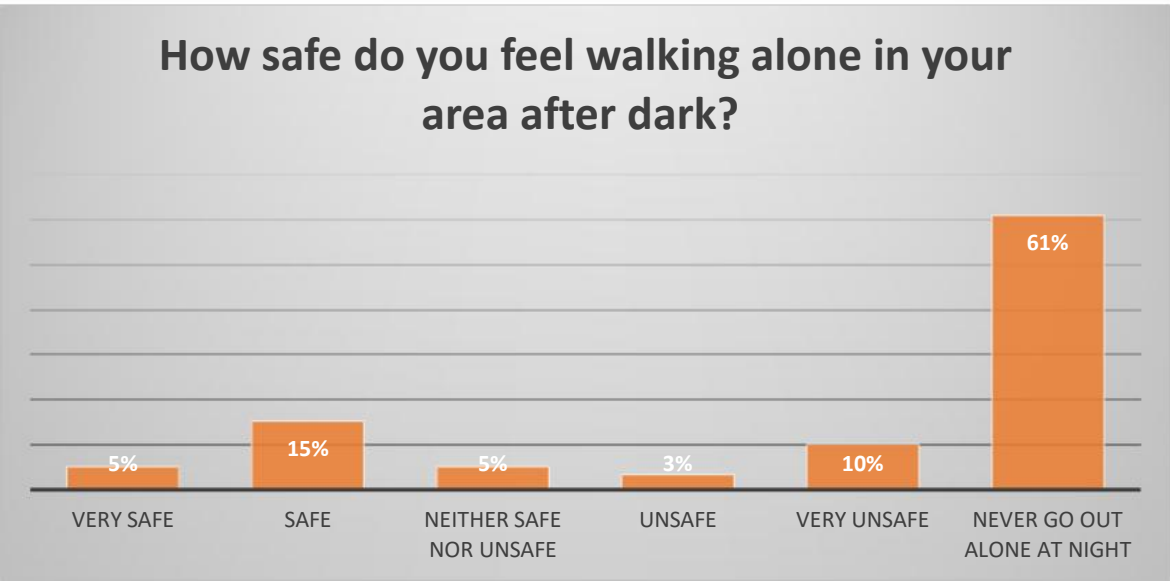
A Telephone Survey was undertaken by Agewell of it's members. 59 older people completed this survey.

Survey Results

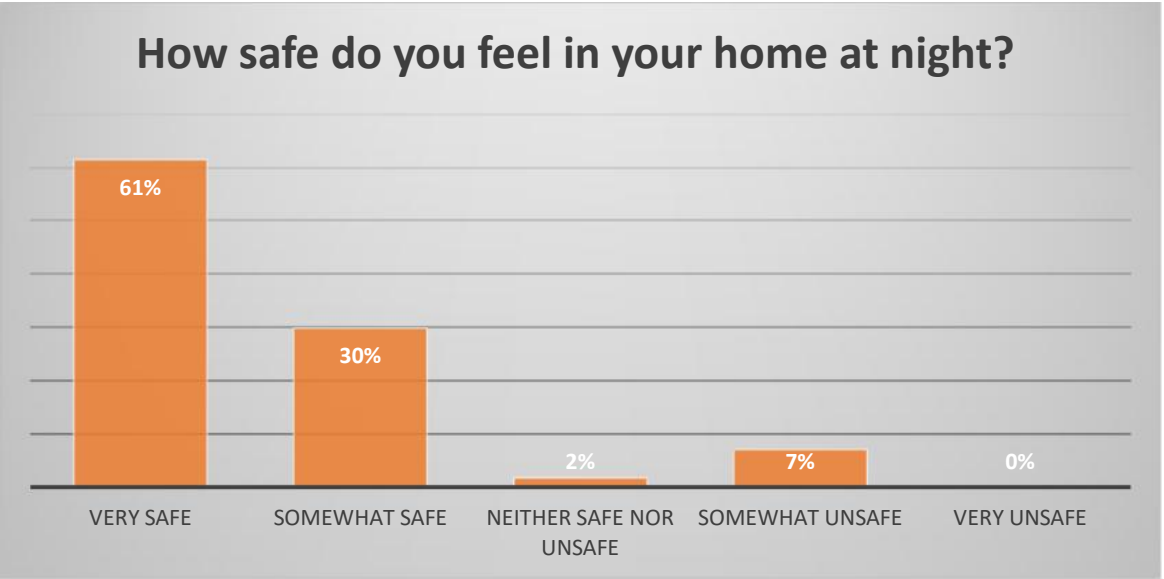
7% of respondents stated that they feel unsafe walking alone during the day.
25% never go out alone during the day



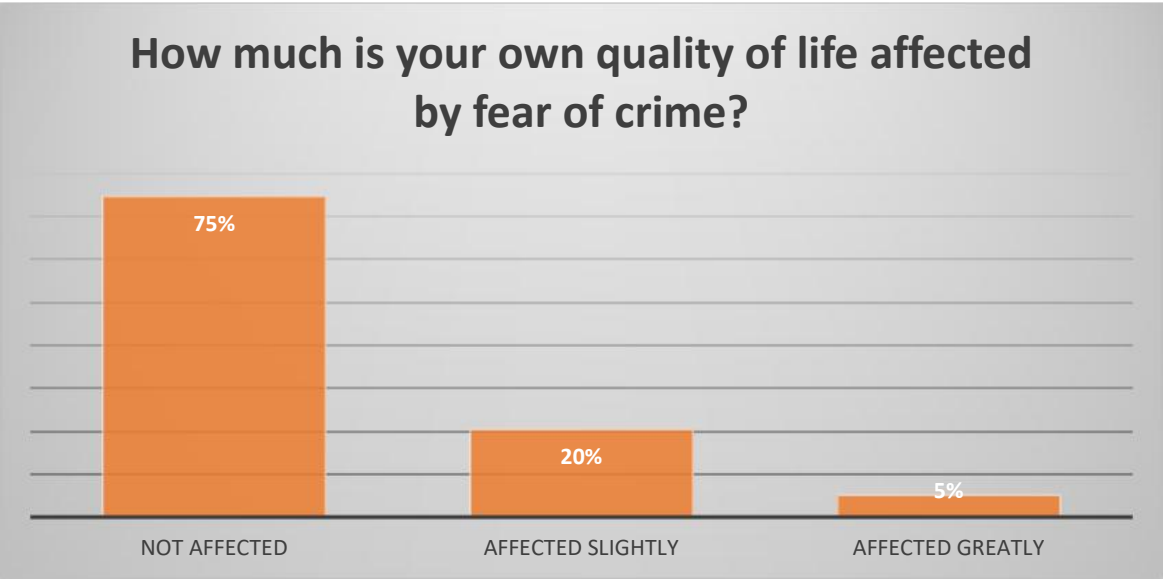
13% felt unsafe walking alone after dark. 61% never go out alone at night.



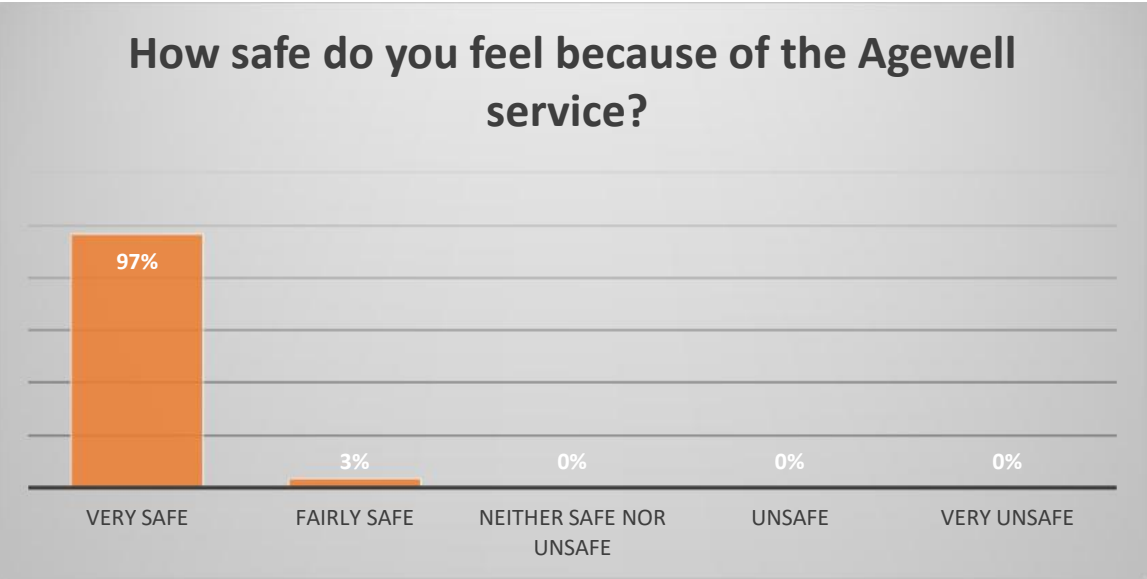
7% feel somewhat unsafe in their home at night.



25% stated their quality of life was affected by fear of crime.



100% stated that they felt very safe or fairly safe because of the Agewell service.



PCSP Strategic Plan 2022-25

The Joint Committee of the Dept of Justice and NI Policing Board agreed the strategic objectives for the PCSPs. These are listed below and will form the basis of the development of the PCSP Strategy and Action Plan.

The Joint Committee agreed three Strategic Priorities for PCSPs.

Strategic Priority 1 – To ensure effective delivery in response to local need, and improve the visibility and recognition of the work of the PCSP through effective consultation, communication and engagement

through:

- carrying out meaningful engagement in the district with the local community, relevant statutory partners / agencies, businesses and the community & voluntary sector in the development and implementation of PCSP Action Plans;
- ensuring ongoing two-way engagement in the district with the local community, relevant statutory partners / agencies, businesses and the community & voluntary sector to provide a problem-solving forum to identify effective solutions to local issues, ensuring sufficient flexibility to address issues as they emerge, and seeking relevant expertise from the designated organisations as appropriate;
- using a range of platforms, including multi-media, to communicate and promote the work of the PCSP; and
- increasing awareness of the work of the PCSP.

Strategic Priority 2 - To improve community safety by prioritising and addressing local community safety issues, tackling crime and anti-social behaviour

through

- utilising the partnership created by the statutory, elected and independent/ community membership of the PCSP to initiate and lead work to improve community safety and tackle ASB locally;
- working in partnership to develop outcome and locality focused interventions to address the most pressing crime types and behaviours impacting local community safety, as evidenced by local need, with appropriate targets and indicators so that impacts can be measured;
- drawing on best practice, promote early intervention and collaborating effectively to improve PCSP-supported projects and programmes that address the underlying causes of ASB, crime and the fear of crime in the community, including, where appropriate, a focus on changing behaviours;
- enhancing safety and feelings of safety, in particular for those who might be more vulnerable;
- engaging with partners in the district, to horizon scan in order to respond to and re-direct resources to respond to emerging local community safety issues;
- having cognisance of the Community Safety Framework in developing local plans, and providing a feedback loop to the Community Safety Board on local issues in order to inform community safety policy development – and vice versa; and
- providing comprehensive community input into decision making processes about tackling actual and perceived anti-social behaviour and giving feedback to the community on the effectiveness of interventions on meeting outcomes.

Strategic Priority 3 – To support confidence in policing, including through collaborative problem solving with communities

through

- ensuring local accountability through the Policing Committee's role in monitoring police performance;
- identifying priorities from the PCSP Plan for consideration in the development of the local Policing Plan which are consistent with the Northern Ireland Policing Plan;
- providing views to the District Commander through the Policing Committee and supporting the PSNI to engage with the community to identify and address local problems;
- delivering initiatives that link to identified local problems that impact confidence in policing;
- carrying out meaningful local events aimed at increasing PSNI engagement with local communities to build and strengthen public confidence in policing;
- delivering PCSP initiatives in the hardest to reach communities;
- providing a platform for the PCSP and PSNI to engage with young people, including on the themes of upholding the rule of law, and of ways of increasing confidence in policing; and
- building community confidence in the rule of law by helping mitigate the harm caused to people and communities by paramilitarism, criminality and organised crime consistent with wider Programme for Government objectives and through use of co-design principles, where appropriate.

Turning the Curve

When developing the 2023-24 action plan, the PCSP reviewed current projects to determine if they were effective and should be continued in the new action plan

	Project Name	Short Impact Synopsis	
SP1 Awareness	Awareness raising	Profile on social media has increased year to year. 39,588 reach in Q1 and Q2. 539% increase compared to Q1 and Q2 in previous year. Engagement including crime prevention stands and Clogher Show, Youth Events, Older Events etc.	C o n t i n u e
	Emergency Services Road Traffic Collision Reconstructions	The Fatal Road Traffic Collision Reconstructions demonstrated good impact with increase in knowledge and awareness of 100% of those attending the initiatives. Feedback from partner agencies very positive. 100% stated that it had improved their attitude to the emergency services.	C o n t i n u e
	Crashed Car Simulator	The Crash Car Simulator demonstrated good impact with increase in awareness of 90% of those attending the initiative. The simulator will continue to be targeted at post primary schools	C o n t i n u e
	SIDs	SIDs have been previously deployed and demonstrated that they reduce speed and are popular with the local community.	
Youth Diversion	Youth Engagement and Diversionary programmes at hotspot areas and times	The Youth Engagement initiatives previously demonstrated positive increases in awareness of the educational topics and also demonstrated a behaviour change in the participants. Three Yeps are currently operational across the district.	C o n t i n u e

ASB Educational Programmes	Where is Your Child Tonight education programme and PR campaign	Operates at peak times such as Halloween and Christmas. Uses bus, adshels and social media advertising. Campaigns well received.	C o n t i n u e
Alcohol Youth Engagement	Alcohol Awareness	Incidents of underage drinking across Mid Ulster has reduced and there is no current need for this project.	S t o p
NTE Training	Training includes: Defib and First Aid Training Responsible Alcohol Trading programmes Drugs/Alcohol training programmes for staff in night-time economy	Previously 100% of those participating on the training courses stated they were relevant and well delivered. 100% stated courses met their objectives and helped them to practice responsible retailing in licensed premises.	C o n t i n u e
Safe Night Out	Penalty Notice: Cost of Your Night Out	Campaign well received. Feedback from PSNI that there was reduction in penalty notices given during advertising period	C o n t i n u e
	Support Club Angels, Street Angels/Reaching Out groups that provide assistance to those in the night-time economy.	This has restarted and PCSP will provide support when needed. Previous feedback from PSNI state that the Club Angels/Reaching Out Groups make a positive impact on the safety of the night time economy.	C o n t i n u e
Internet Safety	TeenSafe Programme	This programme is aimed at teenagers and will involve them participating in six topical workshops delivered by partners ranging from internet safety to road safety. When delivered in previous years, they were very successful.	C o n t i n u e
	Internet Safety Programmes	The internet safety primary and post primary programmes are currently being rolled out. Previously 94% of participants found the programmes beneficial.	C o n t i n

			u e
Domestic Violence	Domestic Violence campaign	Behind Closed Doors campaign normally held at Christmas through bus/adshel and social media advertising.	C o n t i n u e
	Positive Relationships Schools programme	This is a post primary school programme currently that operates in Q3 and Q4. Previously there was an average increase in awareness of topics was 66%.	C o n t i n u e
	High risk victims security installations	This provides security equipment to enable high risk victims of domestic violence to remain in their homes and increase their feeling of safety. Feedback from PSNI very positive for this programme. They report that 100% of participants stated it had increased their feeling of safety.	C o n t i n u e
VP Initiatives	Hold community safety awareness raising events with the following target demographics, older people, people with disabilities. Also awareness raising events for rural crime and hate crime, and safety for females	Feedback from these events very positive and increases awareness.	C o n t i n u e
	Alcohol and Drugs Schools Project	Previous feedback from schools and pupils was very positive with over 65% of pupils increasing awareness.	C o n t i n u e
	Agewell – Older Persons Security	This provides fitted security equipment to older people across the district. Crime prevention and awareness messages relevant to older people are distributed by Agewell directly to their members. 100% of older people who received this service stated that it had increased their feeling of safety	C o n t i n u e

Comm & Police Engagement	Police engagement with communities including children, youth, at risk and disadvantaged communities (activities such as, Bike Marking, Trailer Marking, PEPs, etc)	On average over 90% of participants stated the engagement event increased their confidence in policing, with over 90% stating that their awareness had been increased of the relevant topic.	C o n t i n u e
	Promote and sustain Neighbourhood Watch Schemes	Currently there are 32 schemes in Mid Ulster.	C o n t i n u e
Policing Committee	Fresh Start initiatives and Programme for Government key messages and campaigns	PCSP to integrate the message of increasing lawfulness through the work and engagement with the community. Project with 30 youth facilitated by EA Youth and PSNI completed with positive feedback.	C o n t i n u e
Awareness Raising	Awareness raising campaigns and engagements – rural crime, cyber crime, scams/bogus callers, fear of crime, road safety, Text Alert, BeeSafe, Participatory Budgeting, Safer U App, SIDs	PCSP to continue with awareness raising campaigns. Feedback from partners is positive and crime levels across all categories in the population has reduced.	C o n t i n u e

Action Plan

In December 2022 PCSP undertook an Assessment of Policing and Community Safety in the Mid Ulster District Council Area.

This exercise was undertaken to ensure that the priorities identified continue to reflect priority policing and community safety issues in the area and was informed by analysis of information provided by statutory partners, as well as the results of ongoing borough wide engagement and consultation on policing and community safety across the council area.

Cognisance was also taken of:

- The Programme for Government
- The most recent CJINI Inspection Reports
- The Northern Ireland Policing Plan
- Local Policing Plan
- Together Building a United Community
- Council's GR Plan
- Tackling Paramilitary Activity, Criminality, and Organised Crime Programme
- Community Planning

A Turning the Curve Exercise was undertaken in relation to the current PCSP Action Plan Indicators/themes to formulate the partnership's best thinking on projects and initiatives to contribute towards the overall outcome.

To deliver on the strategic objectives the PCSP has developed an action plan with three strands:

Strategic Priority 1 – To ensure effective delivery in response to local need, and improve the visibility and recognition of the work of the PCSP through effective consultation, communication and engagement

Strategic Priority 2 - To improve community safety by prioritising and addressing local community safety issues, tackling crime and anti-social behaviour

Strategic Priority 3 – To support confidence in policing, including through collaborative problem solving with communities

STRATEGIC PRIORITY – 1
To ensure effective delivery in response to local need, and improve the visibility and recognition of the work of the PCSP through effective consultation, communication and engagement
INDICATORS
% people who have heard of PCSPs

Theme	Aims and short description	Key Activities	Start Date	Finish Date	Resource/ cost required	Performance measures	Reporting Quarter
Form and Successfully Deliver the Functions of the PCSP							
PCSP Delivery	Support the PCSP to function effectively and deliver on the action plan aligned with the Community Plan and in line with OBA	PCSP private, public and thematic sub group meetings (ASB, Night Time Economy and Vulnerable Persons) Local and regional PCSP training and capacity building activities	Q1	Q4	£3620		
PCSP Awareness	Engage with local community, statutory groups and key stakeholders and	PCSP Communications Strategy in place including a social media presence	Q1	Q4	£3620	How much did we do # of social media posts # of PR campaigns/projects developed and launched # of PCSP posters/leaflets	Q2-4

	increasing PCSP awareness					distributed How well did we do it? #/% Increase in social media reach Is anyone better off #/% of people with an increased awareness of the PCSP and its work to address policing and community safety issues	Q4
PCSP Engagement	Engage with local community, statutory groups and key stakeholders and increasing PCSP awareness	Engagement events to provide opportunities for meaningful and two way engagement	Q1	Q4	£3620	How much did we do? # of public engagement & consultation events held How well did we do it? # of attendees/stakeholders at PCSP engagement and consultation events # and % of members of the public satisfied with PCSP engagement and consultation events Is anyone better off? #/% of attendees at consultation/engagement events with an increased knowledge of the work of the PCSP	Q2-Q4

						#/% of attendees at consultation/engagement events who feel that the PCSP is improving their area #/% of PCSP members who feel that they are more engaged with the community # and % of members of the public with increased knowledge of PCSP	
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STRATEGIC PRIORITY – 2
To improve community safety by prioritising and addressing local community safety issues, tackling crime and anti-social behaviour
INDICATOR –
Recorded incidents of ASB
Recorded incidents of crime related to NTE
Recorded crime against vulnerable groups

Theme	Aims and short description	Key Activities	Start Date	Finish Date	Resource/ cost required	Performance measures	Reporting Quarter
Anti-Social Behaviour							
Anti-Social Driving	Engage target groups to divert, deter and raise awareness re anti-social driving and road safety	Emergency Services Road Traffic Collision Reconstructions	Q3	Q4	£13862	How much did we do? Number of events Number of SIDs deployed Number of participants in events	Q1-4
		Crashed Car Simulator	Q1	Q4		How well did we do it? #/% of participants assessed their participation as positive	Q1-4
		Speed Indicator Devices	Q1	Q4		# of weeks SIDs were deployed	Q1-4
						Is anyone better off? #/% of participants with increased knowledge and	Q3-4

						<p>awareness of the impact of anti social driving (Reconstructions)</p> <p>#/% of participants with improved attitude towards policing (Reconstructions)</p> <p>% participants more likely to engage with PSNI following reconstructions</p> <p>% reduction in speed recorded by SIDs</p>	<p>Q3-4</p> <p>Q3-4</p> <p>Q1-4</p>
Youth Diversionary/ Engagement Programmes	Engage with, divert and deter young people from ASB in hotspot and target areas/times	Youth Engagement Initiatives - Youth Engagement and Diversionary programmes at hotspot areas and times	Q3	Q4	£25,708	<p>How much did we do? Number of initiatives Number of participants in each initiative</p> <p>How well did we do it? #/% of participants completing each initiative #/% of participants assessed their participation as positive</p> <p>Is anyone better off? #/% of participants with increased knowledge and awareness of the impact of ASB #/% of participants initiative</p>	Q3-4

						with improved attitude towards policing (when PSNI involved) % participants more likely to engage with PSNI following event	
Anti-Social Behaviour Educational Programmes	Raise awareness and educate re impact and consequences of ASB	<p>"Where is Your Child" education programme and PR campaign – District wide video campaign</p> <p>ASB 'Who Do I Call' initiative- District wide campaign</p>	Q3	Q4	£15,862	<p>How much did we do? No of advertising sites No of posts/adverts No of leaflets distributed</p> <p>How well did we do it? Number of social media reach No of advertising sites within areas with high ASB</p> <p>Is anyone better off? ASB reduction in population during initiative</p>	Q3-4

Theme	Aims and short description	Key Activities	Start Date	Finish Date	Resource/ cost required	Performance measures	Report ing Quarter
Night Time Economy							
NTE Training	Deliver training to support Night Time Economy stakeholders and increase knowledge and understanding re trading responsibilities & NTE issues	<p>Training includes:</p> <p>Defib and First Aid Training</p> <p>Responsible Alcohol Trading programmes</p> <p>Drugs/Alcohol training programmes for staff in night-time economy</p>	Q3	Q4	£13,648	<p>How much did we do? No of events No of participants at each event</p> <p>How well did we do it? #/% of participants completing each initiative #/% of participants in each initiative assessed their participation as positive</p> <p>Is anyone better off? #/% of participants in each initiative with increased awareness and knowledge #/% of participants in each initiative with improved attitudes towards policing (where relevant) % participants more likely to engage with PSNI following event % participants more likely to report crime following event.</p>	Q4

Safe Night Out	Improve NTE experience for all through education and multi-agency initiatives	Penalty Notice: Cost of Your Night Out campaign	Q3	Q4	£15,862	How much did we do? No of advertising sites How well did we do it? No of advertising sites within NTE areas Is anyone better off? ASB reduction during initiative	Q3-4
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Theme Vulnerable Persons	Aims and short description	Key Activities	Start Date	Finish Date	Resource/ cost required	Performance measures	Reporti ng Quarter
Internet Safety	Engage with and increase target audience's awareness and knowledge of how to stay safe online	Teen Safe programme Internet Safety Programmes	Q3	Q4	£15,862	How much did we do? Number of events Number of schools Number of participants in each initiative No of posts/adverts on social media How well did we do it? #/% of participants in each initiative assessed their participation as positive # Reach on social media Is anyone better off? #/% of participants in each initiative with increased awareness and knowledge of internet safety #/% of participants in each initiative with improved attitudes towards policing (where relevant) #/% of participants in initiative more confident in accessing support services (Internet Safety only)	Q4

Domestic Violence	Increase awareness and knowledge of domestic violence	Domestic Violence campaign	Q3	Q4	£24,862	How much did we do? No of advertising sites How well did we do it? No of advertising sites within high population areas Is anyone better off? Increase in reports in DV incidents/crimes during campaign	Q4
		Positive Relationships DV Schools programme	Q3	Q4		How much did we do? Number of participants in each initiative Number of schools delivered in How well did we do it? #/% of participants in each initiative assessed their participation as positive Is anyone better off? #/% of participants in each initiative with increased awareness and knowledge #/% of participants in initiative more confident in accessing support services	Q4

		High risk DV victims security installations	Q1	Q4		<p>How much did we do? # of referrals # of home visits # of homes in receipt of equipment # items of home security measures provided</p> <p>How well did we do it? # and % of referrals satisfied with the service # and % of referrals feel that the service is useful # and % of equipment provided within 2 weeks of referral</p> <p>Is anyone better off? # and % of referrals who feel safer in their homes as a result</p>	Q2-4
Vulnerable Persons Initiatives	Increase awareness and knowledge of community safety issues affecting vulnerable people and provide	Hold community safety awareness raising events with the following target demographics, older people, people with disabilities. Also awareness raising events for rural crime	Q1	Q4	£26,145	<p>How much did we do? No of events No schools Number of participants in each initiative</p> <p>How well did we do it? #/% of participants completing each initiative</p>	Q1-4

	support as identified	and hate crime. As well as safety for females. Alcohol and Drugs Schools Programme				<p>#/% of participants in each initiative assessed their participation as positive</p> <p>Is anyone better off? #/% of participants in each initiative with increased awareness and knowledge #/% of participants in each initiative with improved attitudes towards policing (where relevant) % participants more likely to engage with PSNI following event % participants more likely to report crime following event. #/% of participants in initiative more confident in accessing support services</p> <p>How much did we do? # of referrals # of home visits # of homes in receipt of equipment # items of home security measures provided</p> <p>How well did we do it? # and % of referrals satisfied</p>	
		Ageing Well – Older Persons Security	Q1	Q4			Q2-4

		Rapid Bins	Q1	Q4		<p>with the service # and % of referrals feel that the service is useful</p> <p>Is anyone better off? #/% of participants with increased feeling of safety</p> <p>How much did we do? # of Rapid Bins # of campaigns promoting Rapid Bins</p> <p>How well did we do it? #/% of partners reporting satisfaction with Rapid Bins initiative</p> <p>Is anyone better off? # of drugs deposited in Rapid Bins</p>	Q1-4
Crime Prevention Awareness Raising	Increase community knowledge of PCSP and awareness of activities and	Awareness raising campaigns and engagements – rural crime, cyber crime, scams/bogus callers, fear of crime, road	Q1	Q4	£26,862	<p>How much did we do? Number of awareness raising campaigns No of events held No of members of the public attending</p>	Q2-4

	preventative measures	safety, Text Alert, BeeSafe, Participatory Budgeting Schemes, Safer U App,				<p>Number of text alert messages issued</p> <p>How well did we do it?</p> <p>#/% of participants who report their participation as positive/beneficial</p> <p>Is anyone better off?</p> <p>#/% participants improved their level of awareness of information, resources or support available in relation to topic</p> <p>#/% of participants with increased confidence in police</p> <p>% participants more likely to engage with PSNI following event</p> <p>% participants more likely to report crime following event.</p>	
Support Hub	Support Hub	Facilitate Support Hub	Q1	Q4		<p>How much did we do?</p> <p># of Support Hub meetings</p> <p># of referrals</p> <p># referrals not accepted</p> <p># of partners organisations on Hub</p> <p># of support hub actions</p> <p>How well did we do it?</p>	Q1-Q4

						<p>% of partners attending meetings #/% of support hub actions completed</p> <p>Is anyone better off? #/% people helped by Hub who are discharged because their needs are met #/% of individuals who leave the Hub of their own volition or are removed due to lack of engagement</p>	
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STRATEGIC PRIORITY – 3
To support confidence in policing, including through collaborative problem solving with communities
INDICATOR
% increase in community confidence in policing
% increase in the level of reporting to the police (NI Crime Survey)
% increase in the level of community and police engagement
% increase in people who felt that the local PCSP has helped to improve policing in their local area

Policing Committee and Confidence Building	Aims and short description	Key Activities	Start Date	Finish Date	Resource/ cost required	Performance measures	Reporting Quarter
Policing Committee Monitoring	<p>Ensure Local accountability through monitoring police performance</p> <p>Ensure that policing delivery reflects the involvement, views and</p>	Facilitate and hold Policing Committee private meetings, themed public meetings, and Local Policing Plan meetings	Q1	Q4	£9,862	<p>How much did we do? Number of Policing Committee meetings No of members of public attending public meetings</p> <p>How well did we do it? #/% PCSP Members attending all meetings. #/% of members of public satisfied with public meetings</p> <p>Is anyone better off? #/% participants and PCSP members with improved</p>	<p>Q1-4</p> <p>Q4</p>

	priorities of local communities					awareness of local policing delivery.	
Community and Police Engagement	<p>Support effective engagement with the police and local community</p> <p>Improve police service delivery in partnership with local communities</p>	<p>Police engagement with communities including children, youth, at risk and disadvantaged communities (activities such as, PEPS, Bike Marking, Trailer Marking, etc)</p> <p>Themed public meetings, consultative forums and local meetings</p> <p>Neighbourhood Watch</p>	Q2	Q4	£16,862	<p>How much did we do? Number of local meetings. Number of public themed meetings Number of engagement activities Number of NH Watch Schemes Number of members of the public attending</p> <p>How well did we do it? #/% of members of the public satisfied with meeting/event #/% of members of the NH Watch who feel satisfied with meetings/events</p> <p>Is anyone better off? #/% of participants with increased confidence in police % participants more likely to engage with PSNI following event % participants more likely to report crime following event.</p>	<p>Q2-4</p> <p>Q2-4</p> <p>Q4</p> <p>Q2-4</p>

						<p>#/% of members of the NH Watch who feel supported to deliver their role.</p> <p>#/% of members of the NH Watch who feel their area feels safer because of the scheme.</p>	<p>Q4</p> <p>Q4</p>
Policing Committee Communication	Build community confidence in the rule of law and embed a culture of lawfulness	Engage with high risk youths to deter repeat behaviour and reoffending. PSNI YDO and EA Youth are partners.	Q2	Q4	£12,362	<p>How much did we do? Number of participants in the initiative</p> <p>How well did we do it? #/% of participants in each initiative assessed their participation as positive</p> <p>Is anyone better off? #/% participants with increased awareness % participants with improved levels of awareness of support services #/% of participants with increased confidence in police % participants more likely to engage with PSNI following event % participants more likely to report crime following event.</p>	Q4

Acronyms

DoJ	Department of Justice
NIBP	Northern Ireland Policing Board
FYTD	Financial Year to Date
PFYTD	Previous Financial Year to Date
NPT	Neighbourhood Policing Team
LPT	Local Policing Team
CPO	Crime Prevention Officer
DST	District Support Team
CID	Criminal Investigation Department
ASB	Anti-Social Behaviour
NTE	Night Time Economy
VVC	Vulnerable Victims of Crime
NIFRS	Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service
RAPID Bins	Remove All Prescription and Illegal Drugs
BAME	Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic
TAIS	Timorese Association Inclusive Support
CRN	Community Resolution Notice
YDO	Youth Development Officer
PPU	Public Protection Unit
MARAC	Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference
STEP	South Tyrone Empowerment Project
DAERA	Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
HMRC	Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs
DVA	Driver Vehicle Agency
DFI	Department for Infrastructure

**Minutes of the meeting of Mid Ulster Policing and Community Safety Partnership held
on Wednesday 14 December 2022 in Council Chamber, Dungannon and via MS
Teams at 2.30pm**

- Present:** Councillor Dominic Molloy (Chair), Councillor Frances Burton,
Councillor Clement Cuthbertson, Councillor Cathal Mallaghan,
Councillor Robert Colvin, Councillor Christine McFlynn,
Councillor John McNamee, Councillor Sean McPeake,

Sue Chada, Grace Meerbeek, Pearse McFlynn

Martin Corr (NIFRS), Sharon Crooks (NIHE), Sinead Dolan
(YJA), Michelle Grant (PBNI), Inspector Kyle Lucas (PSNI), Ryan
McGee (EA), Inspector Peter McNeill (PSNI)
- Apologies:** Alexandra Black (Vice Chair), Superintendent Stephen Murray
(PSNI), Chief Inspector Michael McDonald (PSNI), Julie
McKeown
- In Attendance:** Michael McCrory (PCSP Manager), Shauna McCloskey (PCSP
Officer), Annette McGahan (PCSP Officer), Martina McCullagh
(PCSP Assistant)

The Meeting commenced at 2.30pm

PCSP250/22 WELCOME

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

The Chair extended sincere condolences to Councillor Meta Graham, a past PCSP Member on the passing of her husband and also to Oliver Morgan, Good Relations Manager on the recent passing of his mother.

PCSP251/22 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

**PCSP252/22 MINUTES OF MID ULSTER POLICING & COMMUNITY SAFETY
PARTNERSHIP MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2022**

The Minutes of Mid Ulster Policing and Community Safety Partnership meeting held on Wednesday 7 September 2022 were approved by Members.

Proposed by: Councillor Sean McPeake

Seconded by: Councillor John McNamee

PCSP253/22 MATTERS ARISING – PCSP243/22 – PSNI Business Crime Presentation

The PCSP Manager advised that following the PSNI Business Crime Prevention presentation at the last PCSP meeting on the 7 September 2022, it was agreed that 3 events would be held across the District. The

first Business Event was held on the 22 November 2022 in The Terrance Hotel in Magherafelt. The uptake for the event was not great despite businesses being informed. Two further events will be arranged for Cookstown and Dungannon.

Councillor Burton referred to the Crime Awareness Business Events and asked if businesses in the Clogher Valley could be contacted and included in the event being held in Dungannon or alternatively a separate event arranged at a venue in Clogher Valley.

The PCSP Manager advised that both options will be considered and the most effective will be used.

PCSP254/22 PUBLIC SPACES CCTV REPORT

The Chair referred Members to the CCTV Report together with maps showing the location of all cameras across the District.

In response to a question from Councillor Cuthbertson regarding the number of cameras located at Park and Ride sites, the PCSP Manager advised that 3 cameras were installed at each of the 4 Park and Ride sites with funding provided by DfI. There is one full pan tilt zoom camera which moves up and down and can zoom in and out, this is normally in a resting position and can cover most of the car park. The other 2 cameras are fixed on the entry and exit, if PSNI request information, footage can be provided which includes car number plate recognition.

In response to a question from Councillor Cuthbertson regarding funding from PSNI for CCTV cameras in Moy, Inspector McNeill advised that both their applications for funding have been declined on the grounds that CCTV does not fall within the funders remit. A further avenue of internal funding is being explored but due to current budget constraints it is unlikely to be successful, a definite outcome will be known within the next few weeks. The application is for £10,000.

The PCSP Manager advised that a communication has been received from the DoJ and NIPB stating that they would allow a small amount of funding in special circumstances to contribute to an overall CCTV Project in conjunction with PSNI funding, if their funding should materialise. This could be an option, but would require approval from funders.

Councillor Burton supported the installation of CCTV cameras in Moy. In response to a question from Councillor Burton regarding the level of CCTV coverage in Fivemiletown, the PCSP Manager advised that there are 2 cameras, 1 positioned on Edfield Way and 1 on Main Street, both are pan tilt and zoom. They record 24/7 and live monitored 32 hours per week on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings and nights. These hours depend on Police recommendations and may be altered if need arises on another night. Additional hours have been banked with the monitoring company for this reason.

Councillor McFlynn supported the installation of cameras in Moy. Councillor McFlynn referred to the number of cameras in Magherafelt, a total of 7,

compared to 4 cameras currently in Cookstown and given the distance between one end of the town to the other, approx. 1.5 miles, asked if additional cameras could be considered for the junction at Union Street and Molesworth Street and also Chapel Street, Cookstown.

The PCSP Manager clarified that the number of cameras in place in all towns across the district originate from the legacy councils, which were integrated into one system. The CCTV System is Council owned, therefore, any application for additional cameras would have to be approved at Council level.

PCSP255/22 ACTION PLAN REVIEW

The PCSP Manager advised that a review of the Action Plan for 2022/2025 was carried out last year, and must be reviewed annually to determine what is missing, what may need to be amended or possibly something that is no longer needed within the Action Plan. The Action Plan document has been incorporated into a PowerPoint presentation for ease of reference and understanding.

The PCSP Manager advised that the Joint Committee (DoJ and NIPB) has agreed 3 Strategic Objections for PCSPs. Each objective will be taken individually, looking at the indicators they are measured against and the baselines. All current projects within the Action Plan will be reviewed to ensure there is still a need for them, or if they require amendment and if there are any new projects that could be incorporated into the Action Plan.

Strategic Objective 1 – *To ensure effective delivery in response to local need, and improve the visibility and recognition of the work of the PCSP through effective consultation, communication and engagement;*

Indicator - *% people who have heard of PCSPs*

The PCSP Manager advised that the last community survey conducted resulted in 69% of people who responded had heard of PCSP. The aim is to increase this in the next survey conducted.

Members were in agreement to continue with the current programme of work under Strategic Objective 1.

Strategic Priority 2 – *To improve community safety by prioritising and addressing local community safety issues, tackling crime and anti-social behaviour;*

Indicators – *Recorded incidents of ASB; Recorded incidents of NTE; Recorded crime against vulnerable groups*

Anti-Social Behaviour – *anti-social driving; youth diversion & asb educational programmes*

Anti-social driving

Members made the following comments / suggestions;

Pearse McFlynn suggested carrying out a piece of work to determine where anti-social behaviour is most prevalent, as it would appear from an on-lookers point of view that there is not the same levels of people socialising in Cookstown giving rise to asb incidents.

The PCSP Manager advised that Cookstown had been the largest NTE and had the highest levels of violence outside of Belfast. Inspector Lucas carried out a piece of work in relation to anti-social behaviour hotspot statistics for presentation at the Night-Time Economy Sub Group meetings, which has shown that Cookstown now accounts for 5% of violent crime with Moy accounting for 19%. Police continue to provide statistics on hotspots at all Sub Group meetings.

The Chair stated that it is recognised that Cookstown is currently not the nightlife spot that it once was, Moy and Magherafelt have become more popular with revellers.

Councillor Burton suggested working closely with Youth Groups/Clubs and relevant agencies to develop and deliver a programme on safe driving, and specifically provide advice on how to drive safely during winter weather, as young drivers do not have the practical experience of how to handle a vehicle when driving in frost and snow.

Councillor Colvin was in agreement with Councillor Burton's suggestion regarding the delivery of a 'safe driving' programme to new drivers. He also raised concerns about the level of 'do-nuts' on our rural roads.

The Chair stated that 'do-nuts' are a serious problem on our roads, evidence gathering is very important and reporting any information to the Police. In an attempt to stop this type of activity ramps installed in private car parks have proven to be very successful.

Councillor Cuthbertson referred to submissions made to the Environment Committee in relation to incidents of drink driving allegations emanating from patrons of Gribben's Bar in Tullyallen.

Inspector McNeill advised that they have received complaints from surrounding neighbours of Gribben's Bar in relation to anti-social behaviour and young people drink/driving incidents. The Clogher Valley Neighbourhood Policing Team carry out patrols at the weekends and are liaising with the licensee and are currently looking at control measures to put in place.

Youth Diversion

Councillor Cuthbertson asked for an update on a group of young people who gather late at night in Northland Village, Dungannon causing annoyance to residents, and if they have been identified and could they be encouraged to participate in a youth diversionary programme.

Inspector McNeill advised that a site meeting took place on Monday 12 December 2022, where CCTV and lighting were ruled out as it is a residential area. It is hoped a dummy camera and 'talking sign' will be

installed in the area together with regular Police patrols to combat these issues.

The PCSP Manager advised that a discussion has taken place with Dungannon Youth Resource Centre outreach, with the hope that the young people will engage, currently awaiting an update from DRYC.

Night-Time Economy – alcohol youth engagement; nte training; safe night out

Alcohol Youth Engagement

The PCSP Manager advised that the Alcohol Youth Engagement Programme has not operated this year due to the reduction in underage drinking.

Inspector Lucas advised that underage drinking is currently not a major issue.

Members agreed that the Alcohol Youth Engagement Programme could be removed from the Action Plan.

The PCSP Manager advised that ‘vaping’ is an issue at the moment, adults are purchasing for underage users. Start360 and Cancer Focus are working with participants of the Youth Engagement Programme in Dungannon.

Inspector McNeill advised that a number of retailers are currently being checked in relation to selling vaping products to underage youths. Environmental Health, MUDC are also involved in retailer checks.

NTE Training

Night Time Economy Training including Defib and First Aid Training, Responsible Alcohol Trading Programmes and Drugs and Alcohol Programmes to remain.

Safe Night Out

Penalty Notice; Cost of your Night Out advertising campaign to remain.

Vulnerable Victims of Crime - Internet Safety; Domestic Violence; Vulnerable Persons Victims

TeenSafe Programme

This programme is aimed at teenagers and will involve them participating in six topical workshops delivered by partners ranging from internet safety to road safety and is due to be delivered in January 2023.

Internet Safety Programme

The Internet Safety Primary and Post Primary Programmes are currently being rolled out.

Ryan McGee suggested engaging with ‘Youth Work Alliance’ who provide support to groups through a number of services including peer group

meetings, individual and organisational mentoring and advice. They could deliver sessions on 'digital resilience and 'on-line gambling'.

The PCSP Manager advised that the Action Plan could be expanded to include 'gambling and risky on-line behaviour'.

Domestic Violence campaign

The 'Behind Closed Doors' campaign is run over the Christmas period through bus/adshel and social media advertising.

Positive Relationships Schools Programme

This is a Post Primary school programme and is currently being rolled out.

High risk victim security installations

This programme provides security equipment to enable high risk victims of domestic violence to remain in their homes and increase their feeling of safety. There has been 14 referrals from the CPO in the year to date, these referrals are forwarded to Agewell who in turn fit the security equipment.

Councillor Burton suggested arranging a 'Domestic Violence' event in Clogher Valley area in the New Year.

Older Persons Events

Older Persons Events will commence in January 2023.

Alcohol and Drugs Schools Project

Alcohol and Drugs Schools Projects operates in Quarter 3 and Quarter 4.

Agewell – Older Persons Security

This project provides fitted security equipment to older people across the district. Crime prevention and awareness messages relevant to older people are distributed by Agewell directly to their members.

Hate Crime

A brief discussion took place regarding 'Hate Crime', the PCSP Manager will follow up on this issue.

In response to a question from Grace Meerbeek in relation to concerns about Romanians working at car wash businesses having been trafficked, the Chair advised the member to contact Police directly and report their concerns.

Rapid Bins

Rapid Bins to be included in the Action Plan.

Crime Prevention Awareness Raising

Crime Prevention Awareness Raising consists of awareness raising campaigns and engagements – rural crime, cyber-crime, scams/bogus callers, fear of crime, road safety, text alert, BeeSafe, participatory budgeting, SaferU App and SIDs.

Strategic Priority 3 – *to support confidence in policing, including through collaborative problem solving with communities;*

Indicators -

- *% increase in community confidence in policing*
- *% increase in the level of reporting to the police (NI Crime Survey)*
- *% increase in the level of community and police engagement*
- *% increase in people who felt that the local PCSP has helped to improve policing in their local area*

Community & Policing Engagement

Police engagement with communities including children, youth at risk and disadvantaged communities, through Bike Marking, Trailer Marking, PEPs, YEPs etc. These events take place throughout the year to help community engagement with Police.

Promote and sustain Neighbourhood Watch Schemes

There are currently 36 Neighbourhood Watch Schemes across Mid Ulster District, 9 of which require re-accreditation.

Policing Committee Communication

The aim is to build community confidence in the rule of law and embed a culture of lawfulness. Engagement with high risk youths to deter repeat behaviour and reoffending. PSNI and EA Youth Service are partners.

PCSP256/22 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business.

PCSP257/22 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next PCSP meeting will take place on Wednesday 8 March 2023 in Council Chamber, Dungannon at 2.30pm and via MS Teams.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending today's meeting and wished everyone a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

The meeting ended at 4.00pm.

Report on	1. Hidden Heritage Tours 2023 2. Tourism Mentor Programme 2023 3. Service Level Agreement – Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN) (2023/24) 4. Service Level Agreement – MEGA 2022/25 – Update 2023/24
Date of Meeting	5 April 2023
Reporting Officer	Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism & Strategic Programmes

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To provide members with an update on key activities as detailed above
2.0	Background
2.1	Hidden Heritage Tours 2023 Hidden Heritage Tours are organised annually across the District to encourage locals and visitors to explore heritage sites and discover the hidden gems of Mid Ulster.
2.2	Tourism Mentor Programme 2023 In March 2021 a similar project was delivered supported by DEARA through the Rural Tourism Collaborative Experiences Programme. This project brought together a small number of tourism businesses and other potential partners to co-develop combined visitor experiences. These new experiences met the visitor's needs, helped increase dwell time in the area, and thereby helped drive economic growth.
2.3	Service Level Agreement – Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN) (2023/24) Over the past number of years, a group of 8 Councils from north and south (as listed below) have provided a financial contribution towards ICBAN to support their work; these are Mid Ulster District Council, Fermanagh and Omagh Council,

	<p>Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council and Monaghan, Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim and Cavan County Councils.</p>
2.4	<p>Service Level Agreement – MEGA 2022/25 – Update 2023/24</p> <p>MEGA (Mid Ulster Manufacturing & Engineering Growth & Advancement) is an award-winning collaborative growth network formed in 2017 with the support of Mid Ulster District Council and Invest NI to address the immediate and medium-term skills shortages in the manufacturing and Engineering industries in the Mid-Ulster area. MEGA is unique in that it is an industry-led collaborative network of businesses who are working together towards a common goal. Its main aim is to tackle skills and labour issues in Mid Ulster and create and implement ways to attract and retain talent in the engineering and manufacturing industry.</p>
3.0	<p>Main Report</p>
3.1	<p>Hidden Heritage Tours 2023</p> <p>This year's Hidden Heritage programme will look at three heritage experiences, which allow you to step back in time and discover what's on your doorstep whilst increasing visitor spend in the area and encouraging overnight stays in the district.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Maghera, Past and Present, A Walking Tour of the Town - 3 June 2023</p> <p>The walking tour will begin at Maghera Heritage Centre in Main Street which houses historical information, records, publications, photographs and memorabilia. The tour includes a visit to St Lurach's Church and the Walled Garden.</p> <p>Summer Solstice Experience – Beaghmore - 21 June 2023</p> <p>Visit Beaghmore Stone Circles with a tour guide in daylight hours and hear how this area, once dense woodland, was cleared by Neolithic farmers. Today, a lack of light pollution at Davagh Forest means that the night sky is at its darkest. The tour includes a visit to OM Dark Sky Park and Observatory.</p> <p>William Carleton and his Connections – Augher and Clogher – 8 July 2023</p> <p>Enjoy the scenery and stories along the Carleton Trail named in honour of the acclaimed 19th Century poet and novelist William Carleton who spent his childhood in and around the beautiful Clogher Valley. The tour includes a visit to St Macartan's Cathedral and the Forth Chapel.</p> <p>All tours are £25 per person, which includes coach, tour, refreshments, and a light meal. Each tour has a capacity of 48 persons. Booking is essential.</p>

3.2	<p>Tourism Mentor Programme 2023</p> <p>Mid Ulster District Council has a strong tourism product offering and is keen to further develop and enhance visitor experiences in Mid Ulster. This can be achieved by helping to strengthen existing and identifying new visitor experiences, all of which can be aligned to Tourism NI's "Embrace A Giant Spirit" brand experience.</p> <p>Due to the success of the previous Tourism Mentor Programme, approval is being sought for the appointment of a facilitator to deliver a Tourism Mentor Programme to five new or existing tourism experiences.</p> <p>The appointed facilitator will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and engage with appropriate Mid Ulster Tourism business, and recruit potential participants, reviewing each to determine how they can work together in the development of a high quality, authentic visitor experience. • Undertake Marketing intelligence, research, and support for the experience product target market to ensure that the new experience fits into the core existing markets and experience brand for Northern Ireland. • Mentor business to stimulate ideas and to create new experiences. • Mentor business to enhance existing experiences to become more immersive and engaging for visitors. • Development of a measurable Action Plan that will deliver on a new product/experience offering to the marketplace. • Scope and identify the market(s), customers, segments and opportunities for the experiences including how to target and maximise these. • Identify stakeholders and partners who could benefit from the new experience offering. <p>Programme Outcomes and Evaluation</p> <p>The expected outcomes as a result of the investment are:</p> <p>Visitor Experience Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced visibility and accessibility of individual products and combined experience (including where appropriate pre-visit and season extension). • Expanded services or product offerings to improve the visitor experience. • Access new visitor segments. • Achieve greater levels of visitor satisfaction. <p>Economic Development Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased visitor spend. • Increased visitor numbers. • Increased dwell time. • Increased employment opportunities.
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3.3	<p>Service Level Agreement – Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN) (2023/24)</p> <p>ICBAN submitted a request to Mid Ulster District Council on 26 October 2022 (Appendix 1a), seeking continued financial support from Council of £15,000 for the 2023/2024 financial year. By way of briefing, ICBAN has provided a detailed account of the work they have completed in 2022/2023 financial year (Appendix 1b) and seek support to build upon these initiatives in 2023/2024.</p> <p>Last year, Council provided a financial contribution to ICBAN via a Service Level Agreement and subject to Members approval this year, it is recommended that Members approve a further £15,000 funding for the 2023/2024 financial year, via a new Service Level Agreement as detailed in Appendix 1c. The SLA will be reviewed by Council's Legal Services Team before issue.</p>
3.4	<p>Service Level Agreement – MEGA 2022/25 – Update 2022/23</p> <p>In 2022, MEGA (Mid Ulster Manufacturing & Engineering Growth & Advancement) Network submitted a request to Mid Ulster District Council for a contribution of £15,000 per annum for the period 2022-25 to support the delivery of their new 3-year Strategic Action Plan.</p> <p>In May 2022, Council approved a 3 year Service Level Agreement (SLA) with MEGA providing a financial contribution of £45,000 for the 2022/2025 term, which equates to £15,000 per financial year.</p> <p>Appendix 2 provides a summary of the work MEGA has completed in Year 1 (2022/2023).</p> <p>It is now timely for Council to approve release of its second payment to MEGA for the 2023/2024 financial year as per the original SLA. This will allow the work of the MEGA Network to continue the project's momentum, building on early successes and allow for effective forward planning and project management.</p> <p>Council's financial support to the MEGA Network will enable the group to deliver against the first 3 Work Streams of their Strategic Action Plan which include Focus on People, Skills for the Future and Collaborate to Win.</p>
4.0	<p>Other Considerations</p>
4.1	<p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <p>Financial:</p> <p>Hidden Heritage Tours 2023 Provision has been made in the 2023/24 tourism budget of £4,000.</p>

	<p>Tourism Mentor Programme 2023 Provision has been made in the 2023/2024 tourism budget of £10,000</p> <p>Service Level Agreement – Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN) (2023/24) Provision has been made in the 2023/24 economic development budget for £15,000.</p> <p>Service Level Agreement – MEGA 2022/25 – Update 2023/24 Council previously agreed to fund MEGA with £45,000 over a 3 year period (2022/23 to 2024/25), with £15,000 to be paid per annum. Provision has been made in the 2023/24 economic development budget for the <i>second tranche</i> of funding of £15,000.</p>
	<p>Human: Officer Time</p>
	<p>Risk Management:</p>
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications:
	Rural Needs Implications:
5.0	Recommendation(s)
	<p>It is recommended that Members:</p>
5.1	<p>Hidden Heritage Tours 2023</p> <p>Approve content of the proposed Hidden Heritage Programme 2023 and associated budget of £4,000 from the 2023/24 Tourism budget, required to deliver the tours.</p>
5.2	<p>Tourism Mentor Programme 2023</p> <p>5.2.1 Approve content of the proposed Mid Ulster Tourism Mentor Programme and associated budget of £10,000 from the 2023/24 Tourism budget, which includes the appointment of a facilitator(s) to establish/develop ‘Embrace the Giant Spirit’ brand aligned experiences.</p> <p>5.2.2 Note that subject to approval, competitive quotations will be sought from suitably qualified facilitator(s) to deliver the programme and appointment(s) made to allow the programme to commence.</p>

5.3	<p>Service Level Agreement: Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN) (2023/24)</p> <p>5.3.1 Note ICBAN's 2022/23 Progress Report outlining actions completed against their 2022/23 Service Level Agreement Targets.</p> <p>5.3.2 Approve Council's Service Level Agreement with ICBAN for the financial year, April 2023 – March 2024, as detailed on Appendix 1c, subject to Council's Legal Team having final review of the SLA before issue.</p> <p>5.3.3 Approve the release of £15,000 from Council's Economic Development Budget (2023/24), subject to Council being provided with the requisite documentation as detailed in the Service Level Agreement on Appendix 1c.</p>
5.4	<p>Service Level Agreement: MEGA - Year 2 2023/24</p> <p>(i) Note MEGA's Progress Report 2022/2023, outlining actions completed, against their Service Level Agreement Targets for 2022/2023.</p> <p>(ii) Approve release of second annual payment to MEGA of £15,000 from Council's Economic Development budget (2023/2024), subject to Council being provided with all the requisite documentation as detailed in the existing Service Level Agreement (2022/23 to 2024/25).</p>
6.0	<p>Documents Attached & References</p>
	<p>Appendix 1a – ICBAN Funding Request (2023-2024)</p> <p>Appendix 1b – ICBAN Progress Report (2022-2023)</p> <p>Appendix 1c – SLA between MUDC and ICBAN (2023-2024)</p> <p>Appendix 2 – MEGA Progress Report (2022-2023)</p>

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26 October 2022

Mr. Adrian McCreesh
Chief Executive
Mid Ulster District Council
Burn Road
Cookstown
County Tyrone
BT80 8DT

Dear Adrian,

ICBAN Member Councils' Annual Contribution (2023-24)

Each October, ICBAN contacts member Councils regarding the Annual Contribution to the cross-border partnership. Member Council contributions are a very important contributor towards our core administration resources and for which we are always most appreciative. The amount to be levied has been agreed by the Management Board to be £15,000 for the 2023 financial year for County Councils, and 2023-24 financial year for NI Councils. This is the same level as last year.

The attached Update provides more information on our current work programme and project delivery.

On behalf of the ICBAN Management Board, I would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to all Councils for their ongoing support and assistance. Should you have any queries or would like more information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Shane Campbell

CEO
ICBAN

APPENDIX 1B ICBAN Progress on Mid Ulster SLA Projects

(01 April 2022 – 31 March 2023) Update as at 21.02.2023

ACTION

Implementation of the 'Framework of Regional Priorities' strategy for the Irish Central Border Region

- Promote and advocate on same, targeting key stakeholders in government, political, community and business sectors etc.
- Engage in relevant public consultations in both jurisdictions, using the FRP strategy as the basis for submissions.
- Develop a pipeline of new projects, aligned across the 5 key Pillars / Themes, and targeting opportunities for cross-border and regional development funding including but not limited to Peace Plus, Shared Island Initiative, and Levelling-up / Shared Prosperity:
 - Initiate and review new project opportunities and initiatives, including those linked to the already identified Emergent Catalyst Projects.
 - Progress the development of these new project opportunities and initiatives (under the direction of the ICBAN Management Board).

ACTIVITIES & PROGRESS

ICBAN continues to promote the FRP. Meetings have been held with a range of key stakeholders from various sectors, including all member Councils' Senior Management and local political representatives, Shared Island Unit, SEUPB, Oireachtas Joint Committee for the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement, Institute of Technology Sligo, FE Colleges, Waterways Ireland, and InterTrade Ireland etc.

Delivery of the strategy is a key focus for the organisation. A Sub-Committee for the Implementation of the FRP has been established with the aim of supporting the overall work programme of the ICBAN Management Board, as and when required, in overseeing the implementation of the Framework of Regional Priorities (FRP) strategy. The Sub-Committee, along with the Council Senior Officers Forum (for Council Directors / Heads of Service), bring more energy and impetus to the delivery of the regional priorities.

These structures will assume an oversight role that will 1) support and direct the operational efforts of staff & 2) advise the Management Board on decisions relating to delivery of the FRP.

The remit of the FRP Sub-Committee for Implementation includes:

- helping identify and apply for financial supports for the implementation plans,
- directing promotional plans,
- reviewing research and reports,
- enhancing engagement and buy-in from member Councils,
- monitoring the operational programme,
- and putting in place structures for engaging other regional and national stakeholders.

The Sub-committee also engages with stakeholders on key project developments, advocacy initiatives, and related issues for attention.

2 Joint Meetings of the FRP Sub-Committee and Council Senior Officers Forum have been held on (total number of participants serving on these groupings is 22), including:

21st June 2022 - presentation of key findings of QUB Intern Research on the 'The Ulster Canal Regeneration Project :Re-imagining the Central Border Region's Tourism Infrastructure'

Separate meetings of the CSO Forum:

- 24th November 2021
- 15th September 2022.
- 09th November 2022
- 08th February 2023

ICBAN is working to develop projects and identify potential funding sources, under the five pillars of the FRP:

- Human Capital Pillar – Education, Skills & Training

Priority Projects between educational institutions

This group was established in December 2021 to bring together senior staff of the Region's 6 established FE / HE educational institutions, including the South West College, Southern Regional College, the Atlantic Technological University and the three local Education & Training Boards (ETBs).

Steering Group meetings have been held on 29th June 2022, 30th September 2022 and 20th January 2023. Reports are provided to ICBAN on the progress in developing projects within the four priority areas of: Sustainable Construction, Advanced Manufacturing Initiative, Apprenticeships - Professional & Technical Pathways, and Digital Inclusion.

ICBAN met with Mr. Mark Huddleston, Peace Plus programme Advisor and former Skills Commissioner on 07th December 2022, to discuss how the four developing project areas would align with the PEACE Plus programme. Mr. Huddleston suggested that some of the ideas could complement the remit of the Mid South West Growth Deal delivery plans and encouraged a sharing of ideas. These have since been shared with the MSW group.

Mr Ciaran McManus, Assistant Principal at South West College also updated on the Steering Group's progress to the Council Senior Officers' Forum meeting on 08th February 2023.

- Natural Capital – Greening the Region

Climate Friendly Farming / Biodiversity

18 people attended a regional ICBAN meeting held on 27th June in Palace Demesne, Armagh, including Mid Ulster District Council's Biodiversity Officer. A working group has been set up: and is looking into opportunities of Project Concepts around hedgerows, biodiversity, and carbon sequestration, for consideration under Investment Area 5.1 of PEACE Plus.

ICBAN met with Ms. Bethany Waterhouse-Bradley (PEACE Plus Investment Area 5 adviser) on 24th November 2022 to discuss the feasibility of draft Concept Notes. This feedback was brought to a working group meeting on 10th January 2023, attended by representatives of all eight Member Councils, along with Derry City and Strabane District Council. Queen's University Belfast post-graduate intern, Mr. Gil Guerra, is now working on the project with a brief to develop the Project Concept.

- Liveable Communities

Ringforts Projects Development

ICBAN assisted project partners Mid Ulster District Council and Leitrim County Council with a successful funding application for Shared Island Development Funding. Leitrim County Council are keen to examine opportunities to redevelop the ancient ringwork at Killahurk near Carrigallen, through learning from the example of works to Tullahogue Fort, near Cookstown completed by Mid Ulster District Council and the Department for Communities (NI). New project partners include Department for Communities (NI) and National Monuments Service (RoI).

ICBAN attended the initial project meeting on 17th October 2022 and will support the partners when and where needed on taking the project forward.

- Infrastructure & Connectivity

Ulster Canal Feasibility Study

ICBAN assisted Waterways Ireland, MUDC and other Partner Councils in the development of a project proposal to the Shared Island Local Authority Development Funding call for a Feasibility Study for the development of the Ulster Canal northwards from Clones through the Blackwater River and onto Lough Neagh. The application was unsuccessful and feedback has been obtained.

A meeting was held on 09th December 2022 to discuss the feedback and to consider the merits of promoting the project further. It was agreed that there was a need to carry out such a study which would identify options, costs and benefits and that opportunities for funding of such should be followed up. ICBAN will continue to promote the merits of the project.

ICBAN's former intern, Ms. Laura Sierociuk, was interviewed in early December 2022 for the BBC NI programme 'The View' which examined the cross-border opportunities for the Ulster Canal. Laura had spoken of the need for a Feasibility Study to examine costings for the proposed route from Clones to Lough Neagh.

Greenways Networks

A response was submitted to the AECOM consultation on new plans for an all-island National Cycle Network. ICBAN contacted all member Councils to share the response submitted to encourage that similar points be made by Councils in the Central Border Region's wider interests. ICBAN also engaged with Sustrans NI on same relating to the Greenways study being completed for Department for Infrastructure (NI).

- Economic Development

Mountain biking

Potential ideas for a regional cross-border project have been discussed with Coillte when visiting the Coolanney Mountain Bike Trail on 19th June. ICBAN had responded to correspondence from Coillte on this and await the next initiative from Coillte.

▪ Consultation responses/engaging with stakeholders:

During this period ICBAN has been active in engaging with SEUPB and agencies on plans for the delivery of PEACE Plus programme elements. These have included with, Urban Foresights on Smart Towns & Villages', RSM Consultancy on tourism theme, and Grant Thornton on Clusters. ICBAN has engaged with the SEUPB's Thematic Advisers and has attended a number of pre-application workshops. Feedback updates have been shared with member Councils and other stakeholders to help prepare opportunities for the Region.

ICBAN is facilitating MUDC and other member Councils in the development of cross-border projects for the Peace Plus programme. This has entailed the pooling of suggested project ideas, the creation of potential synergies, and the bringing together of working groups to progress potential applications.

ICBAN attended the Centre for Cross-Border Studies Annual Conference held in Dundalk on 30th September 2022.

<p>ACTION</p> <p>Regional Literary Tourism – Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close the BLITZ / Spot-Lit project and share learning through a 'Transformative Guide' with member Councils including Mid Ulster District Council (MUDC). • Drawing on learning from both the BLITZ and Digi-2-Market projects, examine opportunities for the development of literary tourism using immersive technologies, through the 'N-Lite' preparatory project.
<p>ACTIVITIES & PROGRESS</p> <p>The BLITZ / Spot-Lit project has helped to address the untapped potential of literary tourism across four regions of the Northern Periphery and Arctic (NPA) territory – the West of Ireland, Northern Ireland and counties Cavan & Monaghan, Dumfries & Galloway in Scotland and Kainuu, Finland.</p> <p>The project is now closed and the project website provides a compendium of all the developed resources and learning involved.</p> <p>'N-LITE' Bridging Project</p> <p>ICBAN was involved in the development of a new project idea around the potential of Immersive Technologies' to promote Literary Tourism products and services. The learning developed is available in the form of the project proposal / application.</p>
<p>ACTION</p> <p>Broadband Infrastructure – Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To utilise the previously completed reports for continued advocacy on broadband issues and inadvertent roaming charges. • Close the Digi-2-Market project and share learning with member Councils including Mid Ulster District Council (MUDC).
<p>ACTIVITIES & PROGRESS</p> <p>Broadband Infrastructure Advocacy</p> <p>The Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO) report into 'Broadband Investment in Northern Ireland,' which was initiated by ICBAN, was published. ICBAN then asked the Minister for Finance, the NIAO and the Stormont Public Accounts Committee to oversee the implementing of the report findings, including the clawback of c.£14 million of funding from BT.</p> <p>ICBAN wrote to the Permanent Secretary of the Department of Finance on 17th January 2023 to request an update on the status of the initial clawback due for 31st March 2023 for the Northern Ireland Broadband Improvement Project, the clawback amount that is due, and how much of this will be invested back into broadband infrastructure in NI. Latest feedback has been received and ICBAN will continue monitoring progress on claiming clawback, which could be potentially used for next generation broadband improvements.</p> <p>ICBAN has been bringing together member County Councils to discuss the rollout of the National Broadband Ireland plan, to examine best practice on monitoring delivery, and to review learning from the work with NI Councils.</p>

Digi-2-Market Project

The Northern Periphery & Arctic Programme funded Digi-2-Market has completed. This project was designed for SMEs to take advantage of new digital marketing opportunities through augmented and virtual reality technologies.

The project website provides a compendium of all the developed resources and learning involved.

The final project claim has been submitted and was verified on 22nd June 2022. ICBAN awaits reimbursement. ICBAN shared the learning of the Digi-2-Market project by directing Council Officers to the project website: <https://digi2market.eu/>

ACTION

EU Exit – Objectives:

- Assist the Council in further exploring the opportunities and challenges of the EU Exit.
- Continue to deliver submissions and make representations drawing on the previously completed reports as evidence.

ACTIVITIES & PROGRESS

ICBAN keeps abreast of Brexit developments, through monitoring of current affairs and governmental updates. The organisation has been submitting evidence to a number of committees and consultations and uses such opportunities to make representations on behalf of the Central Border Region.

Having identified an absence of community consultation on both sides of the border, ICBAN together with Queen's University Belfast (QUB) have to date published four reports on the impact of Brexit on local communities. There have been over 2,100 responses to these research initiatives to date. ICBAN has ensured those voices were heard by disseminating the reports to those involved in high-level negotiations, including the EU's negotiating team and the UK and Irish governments.

ICBAN and QUB are developing a proposal to partner on a fifth such research project entitled '*Borders Beyond Brexit - Experiences of Cross-Border Cooperation in the Irish Central Border Region*'. This would be a new research study that proposes to collect evidence on how changes as a result of Brexit are experienced and perceived by those directly involved in cross-border cooperation, where problems and opportunities lie, and what the prospects of development or regression in such cooperation are. It will be addressed chiefly through eight organisational case studies, along with an online survey giving a voice to at least 250 citizens. The findings would be shared with key influencers and those with direct roles in implementing and monitoring Brexit. Funding for such is currently being sought.

APPENDIX 1C

SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

MID ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL

AND

IRISH CENTRAL BORDER AREA NETWORK (ICBAN)

April 2023 – March 2024

THIS AGREEMENT is made on the day of 2023.

PARTIES

- (1) MID ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL whose address is at Dungannon Office, 15 Circular Road, Dungannon BT71 6DT (the "**Council**"); and
- (2) IRISH CENTRAL BORDER AREA NETWORK incorporated and registered in Northern Ireland with company number NI040472 whose registered office is at Units 4-6 Enniskillen Business Centre, 21 Lackaghboy Road, Enniskillen, County Fermanagh, Northern Ireland, BT74 4RL ("**ICBAN**").

BACKGROUND

- a) ICBAN was established in 1995 to promote co-operation and communication on a cross-border basis on common regional development concerns. ICBAN works in a spirit of cross-border consensus decision-making, cross party cooperation and partnership.
- b) ICBAN currently has 8 partner councils: 3 in Northern Ireland, which are, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, Mid Ulster District Council and Fermanagh & Omagh District Council; and 5 Councils in the Republic of Ireland which are Cavan County Council, Donegal County Council, Monaghan County Council, Leitrim County Council and Sligo County Council.
- c) The Council and ICBAN have agreed to enter into this Agreement in order to set out the contractual basis upon which ICBAN shall provide certain services to the Council.

1. DEFINITIONS

"Charges" shall mean the charges which shall become due and payable by the Council to ICBAN in respect of the Services in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement, as such charges are set out in Schedule 2.

"Commencement Date" shall mean 1st April 2023

"Data Protection Legislation" means all applicable data protection and privacy legislation in force from time to time in the UK including the UK GDPR; the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA 2018) (and regulations made thereunder) and the Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations 2003 (SI 2003/2426) as amended and the guidance and codes of practice issued by the Information Commissioner or other relevant regulatory authority and applicable to a party.

"Law" shall mean the laws of Northern Ireland and any other laws or regulations, regulatory policies, guidelines or industry codes which apply to the provision of the Services or with which ICBAN is bound to comply.

"Services" shall mean those services specified in Schedule 2 of this Agreement and any other such services which may be agreed between the parties from time to time.

"Term" shall mean from the Commencement Date until 31st March 2024.

“Working Day” shall mean Monday to Friday, excluding any public holidays in Northern Ireland.

2. COMMENCEMENT AND DURATION

This Agreement shall take effect on the Commencement Date and, unless terminated earlier in accordance with the terms of this Agreement, shall continue for the Term.

3. SUPPLY OF SERVICES

- a. ICBAN shall provide the Services and provide secretariat to ICBAN Company and its structures with a view to enhancing the region and bringing to the area European and other funding in partnership with all 8 local authority members for the duration of the Term and in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement.
- b. Responsibility for the management of the ICBAN will be vested in the Board of Directors of ICBAN and its executive team.
- c. The parties' authorised representatives for the purpose of this shall be the Assistant Director of Economy, Tourism and Strategic Programmes and the Chief Executive of ICBAN. ICBAN contact for day-to-day purpose shall be the Programme and Policy Officer.
- d. The Council reserves the right to withdraw funding should the ICBAN fail to adequately provide the service as outlined in this document, which forms the basis of the Council's agreement to commit funds to it. Funding will be reviewed annually and will require ICBAN to submit 6 month and end of year progress reports for each year of the agreement showing progress against the targets and the plan for the year ahead. In addition ICBAN may be required to attend a committee meeting of council in Quarter 3 to outline their progress to date and work for the future months.

4. COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

- a. ICBAN shall operate a procedure for dealing with the repercussions of defaulting on any of its obligations under this Agreement and/or complaints about its provision of the Service.

5. COMPLIANCE AND CHANGE IN LAWS

- a. In performing its obligations under this Agreement ICBAN shall have regard to and comply with all applicable Law (including but not limited to the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 and any other Law relating to health and safety).
- b. ICBAN shall monitor and shall keep the Council informed in writing of any changes in the Law which may impact the Services and shall provide the

Council with timely details of measures it proposes to take and changes it proposes to make to comply with any such changes.

- c. ICBAN shall neither be relieved of its obligations to supply the Services in accordance with the terms of this Agreement nor be entitled to an increase in the Charges as the result of a change in Law.

6. INSURANCE

- a. ICBAN shall at its own cost effect and maintain with reputable insurance companies adequate insurance to cover all such risks and liabilities as may arise in the course of providing the Services including death or personal injury, loss of or damage to property or any other loss (the "Required Insurances"). Such policies shall include cover in respect of any financial loss arising from any advice given or omitted to be given by ICBAN. This is, in part, to ensure the risk is minimised to the Council against all claims, demands, actions or proceedings made or brought and all losses, damages, costs, expenses and liabilities incurred, suffered or arising directly or indirectly in respect of or otherwise connected with the actions of the Services provided by ICBAN.
- b. If, for whatever reason, ICBAN fails to give effect to and maintain the Required Insurances, the Council may make alternative arrangements to protect its interests and may recover the costs of such arrangements from ICBAN.
- c. The terms of any insurance or the amount of cover shall not relieve ICBAN of any liabilities under the agreement.

7. ICBAN STAFF

- a. In relation to the employment of staff, employment conditions and practices must comply with all the relevant Law and should take account of current good practice in relation to employment rights and the promotion of equality of opportunity and good relations.
- b. The Parties believe that the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 (the "Employment Regulations") will not apply to this Agreement, whether on its commencement, during the Term on expiry or termination of the Agreement in whole or in part. In the event that, contrary to the expressed understanding of the Parties, the Employment Regulations are alleged by any person (including a Party, any trade union or staff association, employee representative or employee) to apply, or held by court of competent jurisdiction to apply, ICBAN shall indemnify the Council for all liabilities, claims, losses, damages, costs and expenses arising out of or in connection with the application of the Employment Regulations.

8. AUDIT

- a. During the Term and for a period of seven years thereafter ICBAN shall allow the Council (acting by itself or via any representatives authorised to act on behalf of the Council) to access any of ICBAN's premises, records, financial or

otherwise, systems, personnel or equipment as may be required for the purposes of (*inter alia*) fulfilling any legally enforceable request by a regulatory body, monitoring and evaluating ICBAN's compliance with its obligations under this Agreement, verify the accuracy of the Charges or identify suspected fraud and to verify the achievement or objectives or progress towards such objectives.

9. CHARGES

- a. The Council shall pay the Charges to the ICBAN in accordance with Schedule 2.
- b. If ICBAN is in breach of any of its obligations relating to this Agreement then the Council may require ICBAN to pay the Council the aggregate of all Charges paid to ICBAN during the Term or such lesser amount as the Council may determine.
- c. ICBAN shall publicise receipt of the Charges by the inclusion of a printed acknowledgement in relevant publicity material to include newspaper advertisements, stationery and promotional aids. Mid Ulster District Council shall be entitled to publish details of the assistance referred to in this letter at such times and in such manner as they may decide.
- d. The Council would expect that its contributions would receive formal recognition by way of an invitation to the Council Chair and the elected representatives for the area at any appropriate regional event/official opening and mention in publicity pertaining to the event/facility.
- e. ICBAN shall be required to submit 6 month and end of year progress reports for each year of the agreement showing progress against the targets and the plan for the year ahead. In addition ICBAN may be required to attend a committee meeting of council in Quarter 3 to outline their progress to date and work for the future months.

10. INDEMNITY

- a. ICBAN shall indemnify and keep indemnified the Council against all liabilities, costs, expenses, damages and losses incurred by the Council arising out of or in connection with:
 - i. ICBAN's breach or negligent performance or non-performance of this Agreement;
 - ii. any claim made against the Council arising out of or in connection with the provision of the Services, to the extent that such claim arises out of the breach, negligent performance or failure or delay in performance of this Agreement by ICBAN.

11. LIABILITY

- a. Nothing in this Agreement limits any liability which cannot legally be limited, including for:
 - i. death and personal injury caused by negligence; and
 - ii. fraud or fraudulent misrepresentation.
- b. Subject to clause 10(a), the Council's total aggregate liability under this Agreement shall be limited to the Charges.

12. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

- a. The Council is subject to the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the "Act"). Any information, which comes into the possession of the Council may be subject to disclosure under the provisions of that Act, unless an exemption applies. Only the Council can make the decision regarding whether information is disclosable or not. In arriving at the decision, The Council will take account of the nature of the information, exemptions provided by the Act, and the public interest. If the information is disclosable in accordance with the terms of the Council has no discretion to prevent its disclosure.
- b. ICBAN will:
 - i. provide all necessary assistance and cooperation as reasonably requested by the Council to enable the Council to comply with its obligations under the Act;
 - ii. transfer to the council all requests for Information relating to this Agreement that it receives as soon as practicable and in any event within 2 Working Days of receipt;
 - iii. provide the Council with a copy of all information belonging to the Council requested in the request for information which is in its possession or control in the form that the Council requires within 5 Working Days (or such other period as the Council may reasonably specify) of the Council's request for such information; and
 - iv. not respond directly to a request for information unless authorised in writing to do so by the Council.

13. DATA PROCESSING

- a. Both parties acknowledge that the only personal data which will be exchanged between the parties is details of employee names of each party. Both parties acknowledge that they shall each act as independent controllers in respect of these employee names.
- b. Both parties will comply with all applicable requirements of the Data Protection Legislation. This clause is in addition to, and does not relieve, remove or replace, a party's obligations or rights under the Data Protection Legislation.

- c. ICBAN shall ensure that it has an appropriate privacy policy in place with those of its employees whom shall have their name shared with the Council.

14. NO PARTNERSHIP OR AGENCY

- a. Nothing in this Agreement is intended to, or shall be deemed to, establish any partnership or joint venture between any of the parties, constitute any party the agent of another party, or authorise any party to make or enter into any commitments for or on behalf of any other party.
- b. Each party confirms it is acting on its own behalf and not for the benefit of any other person.

15. CONFIDENTIALITY

- a. The provisions of this clause do not apply to any Confidential information:
 - i. is or becomes available to the public (other than as a result of its disclosure by the receiving party or its representatives in breach of this clause);
 - ii. was available to the receiving party on a non-confidential basis before disclosure by the disclosing party;
 - iii. was, is, or becomes available to the receiving party on a non-confidential basis from a person who, to the receiving party's knowledge, is not bound by a confidentiality agreement with the disclosing party or otherwise prohibited from disclosing the information to the receiving party;
 - iv. the parties agree in writing is not confidential or may be disclosed;
 - v. which is disclosed by the Council on a confidential basis to any central government or regulatory body.
- b. Each party shall keep the other party's Confidential Information secret and confidential and shall not:
 - i. use such Confidential Information except for the purpose of exercising or performing its rights and obligations under or in connection with this Agreement (**Permitted Purpose**); or
 - ii. disclose such Confidential information in whole or in part to any third party, except as expressly permitted by this.
- c. A party may disclose the other party's Confidential information to those of its representatives who need to know such Confidential Information for the Permitted Purpose, provided that:
 - i. it informs such representatives of the confidential nature of the Confidential Information before disclosure; and
 - ii. it procures that its representatives shall, in relation to any Confidential Information disclosed to them, comply with the obligations set out in this clause as if they were a party to this Agreement,

- iii. and at all times, it is liable for the failure of any Representatives to comply with the obligations set out in this clause.
- d. A party may disclose Confidential Information to the extent such Confidential Information is required to be disclosed by Law (including under the Act), by any governmental or other regulatory authority or by a court or other authority of competent jurisdiction provided that, to the extent it is legally permitted to do so, it gives the other party as much notice of such disclosure as possible.

16. REMEDIATION PROCESS

- a. If ICBAN is in default in complying with any of its obligations under this Agreement the Council may, at its sole discretion, choose to terminate this Agreement in accordance with clause 17 or enter into a remediation plan process. If the Council chooses to enter into a remediation plan process, it shall give a remediation notice to ICBAN which shall specify the default in outline and the actions ICBAN needs to take to remedy the default.
- b. The Council shall be under no obligation to initiate a remediation plan process.
- c. Within 5 Business Days of receipt of a Remediation Notice, ICBAN shall:
 - i. submit a draft remediation plan, even if it disputes that it is responsible for the matters which are the subject of the remediation notice; or
 - ii. inform the Council that it does not intend to submit a remediation plan, in which event the Council shall be entitled to serve a termination notice.
- d. The Council shall either approve the draft remediation plan within 5 Business Days of its receipt or it shall inform ICBAN why it cannot accept the draft remediation plan. In such circumstances, ICBAN shall address all such concerns in a revised remediation plan, which it shall submit to the Council within 5 Business Days of its receipt of the Council's comments. If no such notice is given, ICBAN's draft remediation plan shall be deemed to be agreed.
- e. Once agreed, ICBAN shall immediately start work on the actions set out in the remediation plan.
- f. If a remediation plan cannot be agreed within 5 Business Days then the Council may elect to end the remediation plan process and serve a termination notice.
- g. If a remediation plan is agreed between the parties, but ICBAN fails to implement or successfully complete the remediation plan by the required completion date, the Council may:
 - i. terminate this Agreement by serving a termination notice; or

- ii. give ICBAN a further opportunity to resume full implementation of the remediation plan.

17. TERMINATION

- a. Without affecting any other right or remedy available to it the Council may terminate this Agreement with immediate effect or on the expiry of the period specified in the Termination Notice by giving written notice to ICBAN if one or more of the following circumstances occurs or exists:
 - i. if ICBAN is in material breach of this Agreement, which is irremediable;
 - ii. if ICBAN is in material breach of this Agreement (where, for the avoidance of doubt, failure to adequately provide the services shall constitute a material breach) and, where such breach is remediable, fails to remedy such breach within 3 days of being notified of such breach;
 - iii. if there is an Insolvency Event; or
 - iv. the Council reasonably believes that the circumstances set out in regulation 73(1) of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 apply.

18. TERMINATION ON NOTICE

Without affecting any other right or remedy available to it, the Council may terminate this Agreement at any time by giving one month's written notice to ICBAN.

19. WAIVER

- a. A waiver of any right or remedy is only effective if given in writing and shall not be deemed a waiver of any subsequent right or remedy.
- b. A delay or failure to exercise, or the single or partial exercise of, any right or remedy shall not waive that or any other right or remedy, nor shall it prevent or restrict the further exercise of that or any other right or remedy.

20. SEVERANCE

If any provision or part-provision of this Agreement is or becomes invalid, illegal or unenforceable, it shall be deemed deleted, but that shall not affect the validity and enforceability of the rest of this Agreement.

21. ASSIGNMENT AND OTHER DEALINGS

- a. The Council may at any time assign, mortgage, charge, subcontract, delegate, declare a trust over or deal in any other manner with any or all of its rights and obligations under this Agreement.
- b. ICBAN shall not assign, transfer, mortgage, charge, subcontract, delegate, declare a trust over or deal in any other manner with any of its rights and obligations under this Agreement without the prior written consent of the Council.

22. ENTIRE AGREEMENT AND VARIATION

- a. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties and supersedes and extinguishes all previous and contemporaneous agreements, promises, assurances and understandings between them, whether written or oral, relating to its subject matter.
- b. No variation of this Agreement shall be effective unless it is in writing and signed by the parties.

23. GOVERNING LAW

This Agreement and any dispute or claim arising out of or in connection with it or its subject matter or formation (including non-contractual disputes or claims) shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the law of Northern Ireland.

24. JURISDICTION

Each party irrevocably agrees that the courts of Northern Ireland shall have exclusive jurisdiction to settle any dispute or claim arising out of or in connection with this Agreement or its subject matter or formation (including non-contractual disputes or claims).

Schedule 1 – SERVICE OBJECTIVES & SPECIFICATION

1. AIMS OF THE SERVICE

ICBAN will provide a service to 8 partner Councils that will deliver the priorities in their agreed Framework of Regional Priorities for the Irish Central Border Region, 2020–2027. This framework permits all areas to work together in developing actions and setting cross border priorities for the region and play a pivotal role in the formation of strategic alliances between key stakeholders in the region. The delivery of the service and projects should contribute to the Council's International Linkages Framework and be consistent with its aims, objectives and standards.

2. PROJECTS FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

ICBAN will continue to develop the following projects for member Councils including

2.1. Interactions

Promote opportunities for MUDC to regularly engage with other member Councils within the ICBAN Partnership, and to discuss opportunities for cross-border co-operation through ICBAN structures, including Management Board (for nominated elected reps) and Council Senior Officers Forum (for Directors / Heads of Service)

2.2. Framework of Regional Priorities Strategy

Implementation of the 'Framework of Regional Priorities' strategy for the Central Border Region

- Promote and advocate on same, targeting key stakeholders in government, political, community and business sectors etc.
- Engage in relevant public consultations in both jurisdictions, using the FRP strategy as the basis for submissions.

2.3. Project Pipeline:

Development of a pipeline of new projects, aligned across the 5 key Pillars / Themes of the FRP, and targeting opportunities for cross-border and regional development funding (including but not limited to Peace Plus, Shared Island Initiative, and Levelling-up / Shared Prosperity, Reconciliation Fund):

- Initiate and review new project opportunities and initiatives, including those linked to the already identified Emergent Catalyst Projects, and transferable concepts such as the 'Border Transition' community-led climate initiative led by ICBAN.
- Progress the development of these new project opportunities and initiatives (under the direction of the ICBAN Management Board and its structures).

2.4. Peace Plus:

Facilitate MUDC and other member Councils in coming together and sharing ambitions and ideas in developing project concepts and opportunities for the Peace Plus programme

2.5. Broadband Infrastructure

To utilise the previously completed reports for continued advocacy on regional broadband issues and inadvertent roaming charges.

2.6. EU Exit

- Assist the Council in further exploring the opportunities and challenges of the EU Exit.
- Continue to deliver submissions and make representations drawing on the previously completed reports as evidence.

2.7. Communications

Provide regular updates on the work and interests of the organisation and cross-border co-operation happening in the Region, through quarterly newsletters, social media updates, reports, and in-person presentations, as required.

3. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1. ICBAN will provide the following services for the Council:

- 3.1.1.** ICBAN will deliver a general information service on EU and other funding programmes.
- 3.1.2.** ICBAN will assist with project identification, project co-ordination and financial management as agreed for PEACE PLUS and other funding programmes.
- 3.1.3.** ICBAN will represent the agreed vision of the region in responding to consultations relating to regional, international and global funds.
- 3.1.4.** In implementing its framework ICBAN will lobby for the needs of the cross border region in Dublin/Belfast/London and in Brussels.
- 3.1.5.** ICBAN will organise Best Practice Visits of both elected members and officials as and when required.
- 3.1.6.** ICBAN will provide elected member and official training and development on EU issues and any other issues as and when required.
- 3.1.7.** ICBAN will submit 6 monthly reports detailing progress on all key areas of work and its contribution to Council's International Linkages Framework.
- 3.1.8.** ICBAN will administer all structures necessary to manage and implement the funds appropriately.
- 3.1.9.** ICBAN will facilitate the involvement of council staff and elected members in its work.

SCHEDULE 2 – FINANCIAL & RESOURCING ARRANGEMENT

The Council has agreed that payment of £15,000 sterling (Fifteen thousand pounds will be paid to ICBAN for organisation costs for year 1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024 (the Charges).

Payment will be released only upon the following condition:

- Submission of an original invoice at a time acceptable to the Council. Copies are NOT acceptable.
- Provision of completed and signed Declaration Form confirming ICBAN has all requisite documentation in place
- The Council will have the right to request repayment of all or part of the assistance if the conditions outlined in this Agreement are not met.

ANNEX ONE

ACCEPTANCE FORM

I, Shane Campbell, as Chief Executive of ICBAN have read and understood the Council's Service Level Agreement between ICBAN and Mid Ulster District Council.

I agree to comply with the conditions as detailed in these documents and to abide by those principles and procedures in my role as a Chairperson/Chief Executive (delete as appropriate) of ICBAN.

Council Official _____

ICBAN Chief Executive
(delete as appropriate) _____

Signed: _____

Signed: _____

Position: _____

Position _____

Name (Block Capitals)

Name (Block Capitals):

Date _____

Date _____

Please sign two copies of this Agreement, one to be returned to Mid Ulster District Council and one to be retained by ICBAN.



Progress Update Report

The implementation of MEGA's new strategic action plan will deliver outcomes and positive impacts by 2025

Annual Review Number:	1 (SLA Year 1)	Period covered by Review	1 st April 2022 to 31 March 2023
Network Name	MEGA – Manufacturing & Engineering Growth Advancement	SLA Start/End Date	1 st April 2022 – 31 st March 2025
Maria Curran	MEGA Project Director	maria.curran@midulstermega.com	

ACTION 1

1. Focus on People

Address the current deficit in human resources available to the manufacturing and engineering sector in Mid Ulster.

- Careers Portal - Collaborate with MUDC to develop a Manufacturing & Engineering online careers portal that showcases MEGA companies; career paths; "a day in the life of"; job vacancies etc.
- School Ambassadors programme rolled out. All ambassadors attend at least 1 school visit per year.
- Schools Projects – Year 1 pilot project with 5 schools/companies. Year 2 & 3 increased to minimum 8/10
- JBO Connections attend 2 MEGA meetings per year
- National diversity. Target marketing in native languages.
- Host an annual MEGA jobs fair targeted at specific recruitment groups.
- Workplace attractiveness. Design a self assessment questionnaire to baseline & score MEGA member working conditions. Consider the facilities necessary to support diversity in the operational workplace. • Encourage members to apply for funding support to address improvement action plans.
- PR & Marketing. Part time marketing resource to handle all social media, website content, PR and marketing activity. • Develop a new communications strategy. • Use PR to address misperceptions of the sector. • Maximise MEGA opportunities for press and media exposure. • Seek media training for key MEGA representatives

MEGA Progress Report (Apr 2022-March 2023)

ACTIVITIES & PROGRESS

- Industry & Education engagement manager visited nearly every post-primary school in Mid Ulster, and several in the bordering areas for a total of 31 schools reached during the 2021-22 academic year. This resulted in a total of 1,270 students being informed about the career opportunities within the manufacturing and engineering sector.
- MEGA Ambassadors also attended post-primary schools: Engineers, HR Managers, Apprentices, Welders, etc. all spoke to students about their roles, what inspired them into the sector and what the highlights are of working where they do.
- Well-attended Education Sub-Committee meeting in May 2022 with 20 attendees: careers teachers, principals, technology & design teachers and industry. Many topics were discussed, such as: parents not wanting their children to take up careers in manufacturing & engineering; apprenticeship deadlines; increasing collaboration with schools & industry.
- The commencement of company tours for careers & technology & design teachers brought 20 teachers from Mid Ulster to industry to raise awareness of the career opportunities within the manufacturing & engineering sector.
- Two career information sessions held in Magherafelt & Dungannon during GCSE exam results day (Aug 22) to help inform students of the career opportunities within the sector.
- Schools newsletter August 2022 sent to all stakeholders highlighting all the industry/education activity that took place over the 2021-22 academic year ie Ambassador programme, Year 11 projects, Year 12 company visits, teacher tours, primary school outreach programme, etc
- MEGA STEAM Train programme was a new initiative over the summer. Industry & Education engagement manager organised and helped deliver 4 summer scheme sessions, during July and August, at the Torrent Complex in Donaghmore. The 240 places were sold out within 48hrs.
- Regular communication with local JBO's and dept for communities on upcoming events and opportunities.
- Recruitment event held in Dungannon, April 2022 to attract foreign national workers. Marketing materials created in four different languages. Poor turn out of potential applicants.
- 37 students now on degree apprenticeship course. Cohort 2 of degree apprentices are of mixed age, background and diversity
- Mentor engaged with 35 industry providers to secure 23 placements. New links established for next year's cohort.
- Article in Irish News and advertisement on Q Radio during GCSE exam week to promote opportunities in the sector and highlight Careers Information sessions.
- On completion of the 6-week welding academy course 85 people were employed at end of July. Currently, 66 welding, 4 engineering alternative role and 15 did not respond to employment update.
- Launched new MEGA website in November 2022. Create links to website on most social media posts. This will help build up engagement on the site. More attractive and appealing structure and more user-friendly for all stakeholders.
- **22 Post primary schools visited** in the last 6 months with **1023 students** received a presentation about the career opportunities in the sector.
- **MEGA Ambassadors** continue to accompany Elita to school visits: Engineers, HR Managers, Apprentices, Welders, etc. all speak to students about their roles, what inspired them into the sector and what the highlights are of working where they do. We are seeing improved alignment between education, training and industry in order to reduce the skills imbalance in NI.
- **7 school projects** underway which allows students to get stuck into hands-on learning within a company and experience first-hand what it would be like to work in a manufacturing & engineering company.
- Ongoing communication with local JBO's and dept for communities on promotion of Level 1 welding course through LMP funding in partnership with SWC. **JBO** rep attended MEGA Attract sub committee meeting January 2023. Maria has regular meeting with Fionnbarr Dorrian DfC regarding upcoming job fairs and curriculum delivery within the prison service.

MEGA Progress Report (Apr 2022-March 2023)

- MEGA attending **STEP NI Information Mornings** in March in Cookstown, Magherafelt & Dungannon to promote diversity. Elita can communicate opportunities in five different languages.
- **Recruitment event** held in UUM Feb 2023 for potential degree apprentices. 116 attendees for a potential 25 industry jobs.
- MEGA Mentoring Officer has identified and is working alongside 5 'MEGA Champion' Companies to identify problems/difficulties with **workplace attractiveness** including and ranging from Mentoring Cultures to Physical buildings and helping companies to address these.
- All details/evidence of ongoing promotions, events, stories are available on all our social media channels: Twitter (910 followers), LinkedIn (3,402), Facebook (2,300) and Instagram (652). Website is now more attractive and user friendly
- Part time social media expert employed a few hours a week to populate social sites and update website.
- **Radio campaign** to promote sector ran during Apprenticeship Week in Feb 2023

ACTION 2

2. Skills for the Future

Adapt the provision of education of skills development to meet the changing needs of the sector over time.

- Skills demand planning. Conduct an annual survey of members to understand people & skills demands for the 12-18 months ahead. Collaborate with MUDC LMP to inform stakeholders of the rolling 12 – 18 month skills needs.
- MEGA Skills Academy. Create a skills academy to deliver a range of short training courses (eg spray painting; robotic welding; CNC; Hydraulics). Leverage the supply base to loan training equipment & materials
- Digital manufacturing & I4.0. Identify a training partner for digital manufacturing & automation (e.g. Digital Catapult, Dundalk AMTCE) Adopt a clear curriculum relevant to MEGA members. Identify funding opportunities to support member training. Train members in emerging technologies
- Skills investment programme. Signpost and encourage members towards grant support packages available for skills investment (e.g. Skills Advancement Grant for INI clients) 3 year span of project

ACTIVITIES & PROGRESS

- Meeting with Matt Murray, Head of Dept NRC, resulted in discussion leading to creating an apprenticeship course in Magherafelt campus for Sept 2023 intake. (currently only offered in Ballymena campus). This will help companies in that region to steer more students towards apprenticeships and for Mega to attract new members from the Northern region of MUDC.
- NRC, SWC & AMTCE currently completing a course mapping document that Mega will collate and distribute to network members
- 10 companies attended information session in Glenavon on SMDH Project. Business development officer has since engaged with Terex, Specdrum, Muldoon Transport, Edge Innovate, SFM Engineering. Overall long-term impact of engagement in SMDH is the development of digital 4.0 knowledge and skills that support the transition of the sector into a new era of manufacturing.
- 5 companies so far have agreed to get involved in SMDH project. Project team have to provide a solution and then get companies signed up to access their data. (verbally onboard)
- Funding opportunities are available for companies participating in SMDH project
- People & Skills Survey 2023 undertaken in January for MEGA to have baseline information to ensure we are delivering exactly what our cluster of companies require. This year we are focusing on the current skills challenges employers are facing, identifying barriers to building supply of the needed skills, and the skills that will be needed in the future. **39 company responses collectively employing 5,511 people.**
- Based on the results of the survey MEGA will identify key action areas. This data will provide MEGA with statistical information that will enable us to influence policy changes within various government departments and shift dynamics in education and training.

MEGA Progress Report (Apr 2022-March 2023)

- MEGA fed into **LMP Action Plan for 2023-24** referring to results of our People & Skills survey.
- In the absence of a skills academy MEGA have been speaking with 21 training to provide alternative pathways to achieving training in identified gap areas. Partnered with 21 Training to deliver Level 2 in-house training for the following areas: Industrial Painting, Storage & Warehouse Customer services
- MEGA secured funding for upcoming **Assured Skills Welding Academy** starting in late March. 3 academies in total throughout 2023. Assured Skills Welding Academy will bring **36 potential new welders into the sector in 2023**
- **UK Innovate Smart Manufacturing Data Hub Project.** There have been over 100 engagements with companies and over 30 companies are now part of the project. Companies are starting to think about using data to become more efficient and competitive.
- Companies are signposted towards potential funding opportunities that will help to train members in emerging technologies. We regularly share upcoming funding opportunities sent through INI, MUDC and Innovate UK for skills development.

ACTION 3

3. Collaborate to win

Build strong working relations with key delivery partners and leverage third party resources and budget to the best advantage of MEGA members.

- Education & skills alignment. Build strategic working relationships at board level with funded skills delivery partners (e.g SWC, NRC) Collaborate with operational resource to devise new training and development offerings that are aligned to industry skills demands.
- Degree apprenticeships. Sustain the Engineering degree apprenticeship. Grow to 30 plus places per year
- Emerging skills programme. Build networks with Centers of Excellence to understand emerging technologies & skills requirements. Encourage Centers of Excellence to host awareness sessions in Mid Ulster
- Influence & communicate. Embrace Manufacturing NI as a collaboration partner to manage communications and influence with Government.
- MSW economic engine. Build relationships with the MSW programme team and stay abreast of developments under the Growth deal
- Assign two MEGA representatives to the ESIC working group
- NI Makers Alliance. Maintain representation with the Makers Alliance and provide periodic updates on MEGA activities and successes.

ACTIVITIES & PROGRESS

- Meeting with Ciaran McManus, SWC & Matt Murray, NRC August 2022 to devise new training and development offerings ie SWC – Business in Engineering course NRC- Apprenticeships in Magherafelt campus
- Collaborating with Ryan Harkin, Justin Quinn UU to deliver CRF funded Engineering Skills Catapult for development of degree apprenticeship
- Mentoring officer collaborates regularly with UU, mentors, students, industry to ensure the provision of equal training and support opportunities
- SMDH Project - Improved industry cohesion through links with Cambridge, Catapult, Ulster University, Hartree, Manufacturing NI will lead to improved industry collaboration to promote the overall competitiveness of the Mid-Ulster region in a global marketplace.
- Maria invited by Manufacturing NI to take part in Q&A at the Leadership Summit Anchor High on 12th May 2022. New connections made within the sector and companies throughout NI more aware of the work being undertaken by the MEGA network.
- Darragh Cullen will contribute to the NI wide manufacturing agenda on behalf of Mega members and ensure our voice is heard when industrial strategy is being devised by Makers Alliance
- After months of negotiation between industry and **NRC**, MEGA helped secure 2 new engineering apprenticeship offerings to start in September 2023 in NRC campus Magherafelt:
 - Level 2 Engineering
 - Level 3 Advanced Engineering

MEGA Progress Report (Apr 2022-March 2023)

- Members of MEGA board & team visited **Ulster University Belfast** campus new engineering dept and dept leads gave us an overview of their current courses
- Industry survey completed with companies regarding **QUB** apprenticeship opportunities. Follow up meeting with QUB to discuss HLA apprenticeships at undergraduate level and post graduate level. Decision made to move forward with **Level 7 MSc Apprenticeship** in Mechanical Engineering with Business Management. Currently waiting on a response from Dfe
- Currently 37 degree apprentices on the level 6 course. Hosted a half day training between Ulster University, the Department of the Economy and MEGA Mentors. 45 people attended.
- 116 attendees at degree apprenticeship information/recruitment event in Magee in Feb 2023. To date over 40 applicants for Sept 2023 entry. Closes 31st March
- Accredited MEGA Mentor Programme launched and continues to be rolled out and jointly facilitated between SWC and MEGA every Thursday. Cohort on has 13 member companies participating.
- MEGA Chair Darragh Cullen and Maria Curran met with Secretary of State Chris Heaton- Harris to discuss the urgency for investment in skills and policy changes to ensure our education system and training system is flexible and adaptive to meet the needs of our economy. We are asking government to invest significantly more for the next 3 to 10 years in skills and training in readiness for the 10x Economy.
- Provided an overview of MEGA's work with primary and secondary school students to the Task and Finish Group at QUB in January 2023. Sent Claudine McGuigan MSW coordinator our Education & Industry Newsletter.
- Several MEGA companies, including Edge, Nugents, Bloc, Terex, attended Mid South West Economic Engine event Jan 2023. Over 50 companies met in Craigavon to play their part in shaping the vision, direction, and ambition of the Region's Growth Deal as part of the ongoing industry consultation and engagement.
- Darragh Cullen as Chair of MEGA attended Makers Alliance meeting in Feb 2023.
- 62 people/48 members attended the **MEGA Directors Breakfast** on the 8th November. Manufacturing NI and Makers Alliance among invited guests. Members reported this to be an excellent networking opportunity for all companies and insightful into the current challenges including energy, sustainability, automation, innovation and International growth.

Report on	Granville Industrial Estate (Dungannon) Report
Date of Meeting	5 th April 2023
Reporting Officer	Assistant Director of Economy, Tourism & Strategic Programmes

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 Granville Industrial Estate, Dungannon.
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>Granville Industrial Estate</p> <p>Granville Industrial Estate is one of the busiest and economically successful of its kind on this part of our island, providing significant employment (approximately 3,000 jobs) in the local area. Long-standing occupying businesses have made ongoing representation to Council that in its current state of disrepair the industrial estate is not an attractive proposition to further invest in.</p> <p>Over a number of years the Council has been lobbying the relevant Government Departments, including Department for Infrastructure (DfI), for much needed investment to enhance and improve the physical infrastructure within the estate.</p> <p>In addition, neighbouring residents on the Eskragh Road (North) have raised concerns to members and officers in relation to traffic volume and speed which are having a detrimental effect on their quality of life.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Granville Industrial Estate</p> <p>Members will be aware that Council has been lobbying the relevant Central Government Departments for several years to address a number of ongoing issues in relation to Granville Industrial Estate.</p> <p>This lobbying led to DfI Roads recently completing an investment of approximately £250,000 into the infrastructure within Granville Industrial Estate</p>

	<p>and completing a major carriageway and footway resurfacing scheme between Granville and Dungannon (this scheme extends for 2km with an estimated £350,000 investment). In addition, DfI Roads commissioned Amey Consultants to develop a comprehensive options study/masterplan focusing on strategic and connectivity road improvements within Granville Industrial Estate.</p> <p>Members will be aware of a number of concerns raised by local residents from Eskragh Road (North) in relation to traffic volume and speed as well as noise, litter and air pollution.</p> <p>A constructive meeting was held with officials from DfI Roads on 14th March 2023 to discuss progress to date in Granville and the ongoing operational and residential issues.</p> <p>Members from Dungannon and Clogher Valley DEAs and council officers were in attendance. A follow-up meeting between members and council officers was held on 21st March 2023, at which it was agreed to write to Mr Johnny Graham, Senior Engineer, DfI Roads to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Welcome the recent £600k investment in carriageway and footway improvements at Granville, notwithstanding the need for additional street lighting on the footpath along the A45 which is critical for pedestrian safety and promoting active travel. b) Welcome the Granville Industrial Estate Options Report/Masterplan produced by Amey Consultants and to support the introduction of a left turn slip road at the main entrance as an interim measure to help alleviate congestion and improve access and egress from and to the Industrial Estate. c) Request DfI Roads engage with Dungannon Farmers Mart to discuss traffic and parking issues at Granville. d) Request DfI Roads commence the legislative process to introduce a Stopping-Up Order on the Eskragh Road (North) in conjunction with revoking the Order at Eskragh Road (West), which came into operation in 2011.
	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: N/A
	Human: Officers' Time
	Risk Management: N/A

4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	<p>It is recommended that Members:</p> <p>Granville Industrial Estate, Dungannon</p> <p>Grant approval for Council to issue a letter to Mr Johnny Graham, Senior Engineer, DfI Roads to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Welcome the recent £600k investment in carriageway and footway improvements at Granville, notwithstanding the need for additional street lighting on the footpath along the A45 which is critical for pedestrian safety and promoting active travel. b) Welcome the Granville Industrial Estate Options Report / Masterplan produced by Amey Consultants and to support the introduction of a left turn slip road at the main entrance as an interim measure to help alleviate congestion and improve access and egress from and to the Industrial Estate. c) Request DfI Roads engage with Dungannon Farmers Mart to discuss traffic and parking issues at Granville. d) Request DfI Roads to commence the legislative process to introduce a Stopping-Up Order on the Eskragh Road (North) in conjunction with revoking the Order at Eskragh Road (West), which came into operation in 2011.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	None

Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 16 March 2023 in the Council Offices, Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt and by Virtual Means

Members Present

Councillor Clarke, Chair

Councillors Ashton, Black, Burton, Corry, Cuddy*, Doris*, Kerr*, McNamee*, Martin*, Milne*, Molloy*, Quinn*, Wilson

Officers in Attendance

Mr Black, Strategic Director of Communities and Place (SD: C&P)

Mr Gordon, Assistant Director of Health, Leisure and Wellbeing (AD: HL&W)**

Ms McKeown, Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes (AD: EDT&SP)**

Mr Tohill, Strategic Director of Corporate Services & Finance (SD: CS&F)

Mr Clarke, Neighbourhood Development Manager, Community Development

Mr O'Hagan, Head of ICT**

Mrs Grogan, Committee and Member Services Officer

Others in Attendance

Councillor S McGuigan

Agenda Item 4 – Deputation ICBAN

Mr Shane Campbell***

* Denotes Members present in remote attendance

** Denotes Officers present by remote means

*** Denotes Others present by remote means

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

The Chair, Councillor Clarke welcomed everyone to the meeting and those watching the meeting through the Live Broadcast. Councillor Clarke 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.

D041/23 Notice of Recording

This meeting will be webcast for live and subsequent broadcast on the Council's You Tube site.

D042/23 Apologies

Councillor Elattar.

Ms Linney, Assistant Director of Development (AD: Dev).

D043/23 Declaration of Interests

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

Councillor Clarke declared an interest in Agenda Item 8 Sean item 8 – SLA – Broughderg.

D044/23 Chair's Business

No items.

D045/23 Deputation – ICBAN

The Chair, Councillor Clarke welcomed Mr Shane Campbell from ICBAN to the meeting and invited them to make their presentation.

Mr Campbell updated the committee on the workings and progress of ICBAN (appendix 1).

Mr Campbell took members through the outputs of the organisation as follows:

- 1) 'The Framework of Regional Priorities, 2021-2027' strategy programme
- 2) Broadband Infrastructure
 - Utilise reports for continued Advocacy
 - Complete implementation of 'Digi2Market' project with SMEs in Agri, Engineering and Tourism sectors
- 3) Regional Literary Tourism – Complete implementation of 'Spot-lit' / BLITZ' Project
- 4) Brexit – Making representations on Regional Data; Exploring the Opportunities and Challenges of Brexit

The Chair thanked Mr Campbell for his excellent presentation and invited any comments in which members may have.

Councillor Molloy thanked Mr Campbell for his very indepth presentation on the sterling work in which ICBAN has carried on for a long period of time. The Councillor referred to comment made in relation to the Ulster Canal and the intention for a feasibility study and hoped that this was not a duplication as Mid Ulster District Council and ABC also carried this study out along with Lough Neagh Partnership, presented by Mr Gerry Darby last Autumn with costings for the lower Blackwater as part of the Ulster Canal, the Blackwater navigatable from Benburb down to Lough Neagh. The member felt if this could be incorporated into Mr Campbell's study as it

was very indepth and came back with good recommendations as to how to access the river and how it can be used at the significant part that is already navigatable.

Mr Campbell thanked the member for his kind remarks and said that he had read the study which had been completed by Mr Gerry Darby from Lough Neagh Partnership and confirmed that there would not be a duplication between the terms of reference proposed for this feasibility study. He said that this was taken into account when papers were being developed as the basis for the study and no doubt wants to link in with Lough Neagh Partnership and their findings as a key constituent and stakeholder organisation as the group develop these plans.

Councillor Burton felt that this was a very important point as she recalled one of the former Council's programmes where there were people in a business situation had a shelf ready project to go forward to the bank which was not acceptable. The Councillor felt that when working with these feasibility studies people do not want to be doing the exact same thing all over again and was important that this was not lost and took on board. The member referred to the slide where it alluded to cross-border education programme and asked if Mr Campbell could elaborate on and who was involved in either training or benefitting from it.

Mr Campbell advised that these were proposals at this stage between further education, higher education institutions of the regions which includes South West College, Southern Regional College, three educational training boards which were in the south of the area and also Atlantic Technological University. ICBAN were looking towards developing three priority project areas in learning of education skills and training which includes cross border apprenticeships, particularly focusing on the areas of sustainable construction. The second area relates to digital citizens and coding for secondary schools, with one element looking towards augmented reality, virtual reality opportunities for the tourism sector. The third area relates to supporting SMEs in directing capital investments through an advanced manufacturer initiative, which is at quite an early stage and it is anticipated that the Peace Plus programme will open quite soon, possibly in May or June and would anticipate that the efforts of the six educational bodies with ICBAN would probably excelerate. Mr Campbell advised that efforts of the organisation strive to make sure there is a communication linkage between the work of the FE and HE sectors on this with the ambitions of the Mid South West Councils Group as well to ensure that all those efforts can be joined up in this region.

Councillor Burton enquired if ICBAN would be engaging with the regions within the border areas i.e. Aughnacloy which was a border town and Fivemiletown also close to the border. She enquired if there was a possibility with a linkage if the schools were interested as she was aware of the schools very recently taking their young people out to different events for future career paths and was wondering if this was something that could be tapped into, either by the schools or by ICBAN.

Mr Campbell advised that this would be something that he would pass on the Southern Regional College i.e. the project in which they were looking at is coding in secondary schools which is most relevant to those skills beyond schools and FE/HE. He said that he could certainly pass on to Southern Regional College for schools within the border regions of Aughnacloy and Fivemiletown. Mr Campbell advised

that there was also a different project called vertical transition which is looking at supporting communities along the border in developing their own climate action responses, one of these projects has already been completed in a united block which is Cavan, Leitrim and Fermanagh borders and looking at securing funding to roll this out into other areas. There was a significant element of that project in Lough Neagh areas which included local schools and children within the area about their futures and what climate actions they would like to be involved in and how they could promote that with their parents and this would be something that the organisation would be keen to deliver to other areas. Mr Campbell stated that this would be something that he would be keen to engage with Council Officers on to open out to other areas.

Councillor Kerr declared an interest in ICBAN as he was employed by the company involved with Project Stratem.

Councillor Kerr congratulated Mr Campbell on his excellent presentation and alluded to comments made regarding the massive investment by the 26 County Government in the Ulster Canal. The member said that a huge issue within the Torrent area is the Coalisland Canal, with one of the main objectives being trying to get it reopened as there was a linkage from the Ulster Canal to Coalisland Canal. The member said that although the investment was very much welcomed, he hoped that there could be further projects lobbied by the 26 County Government for the smaller waterways and hopefully further down the line it could be a joint effort between Mid Ulster Council and all the other Councils to link to Ulster Canal to try and get the Coalisland Canal back to its original status.

Mr Campbell advised that the work which will be completed on the feasibility study, the costings on the route would have to be considered on the linkage to the Coalisland Canal. He advised that he appreciated that Mid Ulster Council were very keen to see the development on the Ulster Canal with the element of the Coalisland Canal also and this would be certainly considered and would be mindful of that in the future.

Councillor Quinn concurred with previous comments about the excellent presentation and said it would be a remiss of him not to join in and shout about the Coalisland Canal as it was something that the community would like to see established. He was aware of the sterling work which the organisation has been doing through Councillor Kearney and could certainly see physically what ICBAN were doing around the country with a lot of exciting plans for the future.

Councillor Corry thanked Mr Campbell for the presentation and referred to Ringforts Feasibility Study and advised that Mid Ulster were developing a Heritage Strategy and part of that study was to investigate Ring Forts and different tins etc. which may be an idea to tie into together. The Councillor referred to Climate Friendly Farming/ Biodiversity, particularly the hedgerows and said that it was disappointing to see over the last number of years the number of hedgerows and trees which were being taken away as she had witnessed this for herself locally with flooding and half a mountain sliding down on to the road.

Mr Campbell advised that the Peace Plus programme was a £1.144 billion package that was going to be rolled out, but has to be launched yet and due to be agreed by the end of April and early May. He stated that an element of the programme was going to be for large scale regional projects and wants to ensure that all the Councils in the partnership can secure as much of that funding into the region as possible and whilst certain funding will be for these large regional scale projects, there will be elements of the Peace Plus programme which will be for smaller projects for communities up to £100K which is the level of funding being talked about on Peace Plus element 6.2 which was community initiatives on cross-border basis. Mr Campbell advised that discussions had been taking place on how some of that information could be shared on what could be coming up on Shared Island and Peace programmes and what opportunities could be taken advantage off for the area. He hoped that there could be opportunities for Heritage improvements and Biodiversity in the Peace Plus programme as these smaller scheme levels up to £100k schemes which could still make a significant difference. Mr Campbell advised that the Shared Island programme continues to open up new areas and opportunities and at the moment there is a programme looking into Climate Action Plans which will be raised with the Council within the coming days. Mr Campbell said that it was important to see what was out there and how best to sieze upon such opportunities as ICBAN listen to what plans Mid Ulster Council may have or other adjacent District Councils may have in trying to create links i.e. linkage between Carrigallen and Tullyhogue Ringforts. There is large amount of funding being made available for cross-border initiatives over the next number of years and would be important to seize every opportunity to try and secure that.

The Chair, Councillor Clarke advised that a lot of good work is being done in every area by ICBAN i.e. canals, schools/colleges, boardband etc. and concurred with Councillor Corry's comment about this Council being very upfront about development of our heritage and especially our environment which was absolutely essential. The Chair, stated that there has been a lot of protections in place but our environment is deteriorating at a rapid pace. The member referred to the Sperrin Partnership of the four Councils within the Sperrins area which have come together and are working upon a good project but there is still so far to go, 55 years since the Sperrins was declared an AONB, but in that time the landscape has been obliterated so there is a huge job to be done to try and restore it the way it was in 1968, never mind enhancing it. The Chair stated that there was a lot of work being done and was confident that there would be a massive amount of work to be done in the future and thanked Mr Campbell for attending the committee tonight to provide members with an update and also the organisations ongoing work alongside the Council.

Mr Campbell left the meeting at 7.35 pm.

Matters for Decision

D046/23 Facilities Room Hire Chares at Arts, Leisure and Tourism 2023/24

The Strategic Director of Communities and Place (SD: C&P) presented previously circulated report to update Members on Room hire charges in Arts, Leisure and Tourism venues/ facilities and to seek approval to implement from 1st April 2023.

Councillor Ashton said that whilst scanning through the breakdowns she noticed that some of the figures seemed to be different from what would have been passed as a similar kind of space. The member referred to the Hill of The O'Neill for non-commercial for Sunday, hourly rate £105 and full day £262 and felt that this was totally out of sync with all the other hourly and daily rates. The member also referred to the Helicon and Square Box and enquired if these would not be of similar size in space and felt that the hourly/daily rates seemed to be totally out of sync right across the board.

The SD: C&P in referring to Ranfurly advised that as noted within the report, a further review of the Ranfurly was required in the context of the strategic review currently being progressed and that a further report may need to be considered around pricing, once that review was completed. In terms of the Square Box and Helicon he advised that the Helicon does have a greater capacity than the Square Box.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the Proposed Room Hire Charges at Arts, Leisure and Tourism venues/facilities 2023/2024 as outlined in appendix A of this report.

D047/23 Community Wealth Building

The Strategic Director of Communities and Place (SD: C&P) presented previously circulated report and sought approval on Community Wealth Building.

Councillor Corry said that she would be happy to propose the recommendation as she attended the working group which was a very exciting project going forward and great to secure funding to support that.

Proposed by Councillor Corry
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to note the Community Wealth Building Update and accept the offer of funding from DfC (£29,000) to support the development of our CWB work and 'test and learn' plan.

D048/23 Development Report

The Strategic Director of Communities & Place (SD: C&P) presented previously circulated report and sought approval for the following:

- Rolling Community Grants
- Grant Funding Allocation 2023-2024 Update
- DfC Advice Salary & Cost of Living Uplift Payment
- Good Relations – Additional Funding
- Community Arts Plan 2023 – 2024

- Community Arts – King's Coronation 2023
- Seachtain na Gaeilge Grant 2023
- Cross Border Arts and Climate Change Project
- Development Update

Councillor Kerr proposed the recommendation.

Councillor Wilson said that he would be happy to second the recommendation but wished to raise a few points.

Councillor Wilson advised that there were a number of programmes within the report which has been an absolute success for this Council and felt that our Council did not promote them enough. The member referred especially to the programme for Traditional Music in Schools run by Mr Donald Canavan which is run by all schools which wanted to be involved, this was brilliant and this Council should be taking credit for this. The member advised that this was the initiative of the legacy Cookstown Council and now it has expanded out and felt that this should be linked in with the promotion and also credit for the Piping School also. Councillor Wilson said that it was encouraging to see Mid Ulster Arts Festival being run again, which was a good idea, as in previous Cookstown Council there was a Comedy Festival which run over a few days and attracted people to the area and welcomed that development. The member stated that although it was a very full report, felt that Council should be taking credit for some of the tremendous projects that Officers and teams were delivering.

Councillor Quinn concurred with Councillor Wilson's comments regarding the Arts Festival as it was an excellent idea and was happy to push it forward himself. The member congratulated the Council on getting it implemented and said that whilst it may be small this year, he anticipated it escalating over the next decade. The member referred to the Comedy Festival and stated last year he had suggested trying to reignite it and attach it along with the Arts Festival and may be something that Officers could look into for next year. When it comes to the Arts, Mid Ulster is the envy of every other Council and referred to Fra Fee's appearance in the Lyric Theatre celebrating his career, he's from Killyman and started with the Bardic Theatre and Craic Theatre and this was the talent Mid Ulster was producing which was being celebrated all over the world for its success.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council –
- To approve Local Community Festivals and Good Relations grants
 - To note the updated Grant Funding Allocation 2023-2024
 - To approve DfC Advice Salary & Overhead Allocations
 - To approve receipt of Good Relations Additional Funding
 - To agree the Community Arts Plan 2023 – 2024
 - To approve the Community Arts King's Coronation activity 2023
 - To approve the Seachtain na Gaeilge Grants
 - To support the Cross Border Arts and Climate Change Project
 - To note update the Development Department

The SD: C&P sought permission to raise a verbal item which was linked to the Development Report, he apologised for not raising the item verbally, however indicated that the matter had only recently come to Officers attention.

The SD: C&P advised that this week correspondence had been received from the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) offering Council a share of funding to facilitate the local screening of the King's Coronation and the Coronation Concert with additional funding being made available to facilitate the screening of the Eurovision Song Contest the following weekend. Confirmation of our intention to accept or decline this funding is required to be confirmed with the NIO tomorrow therefore the committee is being asked to consider the request.

Councillor Ashton said that she would be happy to propose the recommendation, but would add previously in these incidents with NIO that we actually partner with a community organisation that has been able to roll out a wider programme on behalf of the Council and would ask that Officers be given that space to have those discussions if it's linking in with a strategic partner.

Proposed by Councillor Ashton
Seconded by Councillor Burton and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that approval be given to accept NIO's offer of funding to facilitate the local screening of the King's Coronation and Coronation Concert and Eurovision. It was further agreed that Officers are to liaise with the NIO to explore the opportunities to progress this funding with community organisation(s) in supporting and enhancing relevant events which may already be being planned.

D049/23 Health, Leisure & Wellbeing Service Level Agreements 2023/24

The Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing (AD: HL&W) presented previously circulated report and sought approval to agree proposals on Community Service Level Agreements (SLA's) for the financial year 2023/24 only.

Councillor Doris said that she would be happy to propose the recommendation, but referred to the work which was being carried out at Drumcairne Forest at the moment where there had been talk of an SLA with a community group for closing of the gates which wasn't included within this report. The member also referred to Coalisland Mens Shed carrying out good work litter picking down at Coalisland Canal and was wondering if the AD: HL&W could explore these two requests to see if anything could be accomplished.

Councillor Kerr said that he would be happy to second the report. The member referred to the Washingbay Walkway and said that he wished to raise a few issues regarding Washingbay Walkway.

- Fencing to the entrance – Member had met with Mr Nigel Hill a few years ago and still this has not been painted which was promised 2 to 3 years ago.

- Reed Bed for central sewage system, still not fixed after Council workers entered 2 years ago, reeds have not been replaced and causing a smell within the public park area
- Trees recently cut down and branches left shrewn throughout the local nature reserve

Councillor Kerr proposed that a report be brought back to next month's Development committee meeting on a proposed timescale as to when the fencing would be painted, the reed issue sorted and shrewn branches to be removed and sorted.

Councillor Quinn concurred with comments from Councillor Kerr and said that he had the same issues and would also second his proposal for a report to be brought back next month. In referring to the Washingbay Waterway advised that there was still a lot of issues relating to sight coming out of the facility which can be quite dangerous, especially at night time. He was aware of Council Officers on previous occasions trying to find a solution with the landowner on either side and asked if this could be relooked at again to see if there could be some kind of compromise in regards to better sightlines coming out of the entrance.

The AD: HL&W in referring to Councillor Doris' issues stated that intensive discussions have been taking place regarding Drumcairne Forest which hasn't come to fruition as yet and this was why it wasn't included within this report.

The AD: HL&W advised that he would note the point around the Coalisland Mens Shed and if anything does materialise similar to the Slieve Gallion report a few months ago, then a report would be brought back to this committee, but this would need considered in line with the available budgets within the incoming year if there is capacity.

The AD: HL&W in response to Councillors Kerr and Quinn's point in relation to Washingbay advised that this would be inspected to see what can be accomplished. The Assistant Director advised that it may not be possible to bring a report back to next month's committee due to meetings being moved forward to the first week of April to accommodate the Easter period, with reports having to be in next week, but would try and put one together, but if this was not possible, including the absence of committee meetings in May, then an email will be issued to the two Councillors by way of an update if they were agreeable.

Councillor Kerr said that he would be happy to incorporate Councillor Quinn's comments into his proposal. The member said that he realised that it might be a tight timescale to have report brought back to committee next month but would appreciate an update on progress in the interim.

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council note the contents of this report and give approval for the Health, Leisure & Wellbeing Service Level Agreements for the period 2023/24 financial year only.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Quinn and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that an update on progress be provided to members on concerns related to Washingbay Walkway.

D050/23 Affordable Warmth Scheme SLA 2023-2024

The Assistant Director of Health, Leisure & Wellbeing (AD: HL&W) presented previously circulated report to update Members on communications received from the Department for Communities (DfC) on the Affordable Warmth Scheme 2023-2024 and the consideration of the Service Level Agreement (SLA) for the April 2023 – March 2024 year.

Councillor Burton said that she would be happy to support the proposal. The member said that she was aware of this being very well oversubscribed and enquired if there was a waiting list or were the Council able to deal with the people who were in the current system as this was a very valuable service due to the current economic climate and people being on the breadline.

The AD: HL&W advised Council was making use of the current threshold with a maximum of 20 referrals each month which normally were sent off to the department within the first two weeks of every month. For any other enquiries which come in during that same calendar month, officers still work through the criteria, screening and ready to submit the next month and maybe just a time lapse due to the targets. The Assistant Director said that these were all being tracked and anyone which meets the eligibility criteria are kept in chronological order and once the new month is started then they are sent off to the department.

Councillor Corry said that she was happy to second the recommendation. The member was aware of the oversubscription of the programme and was disappointed at the number of referrals being reduced but hoped that a better increase can be met in the future. She also hoped that the Assembly could be up and running shortly and that the Minister can track more funds to the likes of Affordable Warmth to help people which are struggling.

Proposed by Councillor Burton
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to note the content of this report and to approve the Service Level Agreement between the Department for Communities and Mid Ulster District Council for the Affordable Warmth Scheme for the April 2023 – March 2024 year.

D051/23 Catering Provision at Arts and Leisure Venues

The Assistant Director of Health, Leisure & Wellbeing (AD: HL&W) presented previously circulated report to update members on current catering provision at arts and leisure venues and to seek approval for Cafe and refreshment contract for arts, leisure and recreation venues.

Councillor McNamee proposed to accept the officer's recommendation. The member enquired where the tenders would appear; papers or online tender.

The AD: HL&W said that it was envisaged to put these through eTendersNI but would also be seeking to promote it once it goes live on our social media. The Assistant Director stated that there was a requirement to change our procurement stance at the moment in terms of advertising within the printed media, but would investigate and come back to the member.

Councillor Molloy said that he had a similar kind of thought and if it was advertised necessarily as a procurement exercise, suggested it can be advertised by Comms through print media and to direct people to the eTender way of approaching it, possibly having much experience of leisure or tourism facilities outside of Mid Ulster, felt that the offerings within our centres are poor and this is recognised. The Member stated that in the past we have been much too restrictive in either awarding tenders or the way we do things and has been prohibitive to people hiring also and hoped that this could be looked at in a fresh light and looked forward to it coming back to committee on a decision on a final awarding.

Councillor Wilson said that his concern would be around Cookstown Leisure Centre and childrens parties that take place there. The member stated that at present it allows for people to take their own food in and was vitally important that this stays as we do not provide the food the kids want for a childrens party. He felt it was very important that the option was given to parents rather than using vending machines.

The AD: HL&W stated that this could be taken under consideration as under the proposal for Cookstown Leisure Centre there is a commercial kitchen space which is not being utilised at present, but there is a hope that Council can attract a caterer to come in and run the space and be able to provide options for hot and cold food for snacks for a range of functions including birthday parties. The Assistant Director said that this can be taken on board around the current operations to see what flexibility that we can have within any specification, but there is an intention to make this as attractive as possible as a viable business opportunity as it would be good to see it up and running again.

Councillor McNamee advised that there was a good Café facility at Cookstown Leisure Centre previously and would be good to see it back to something similar again in the future.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to give approval for Council to:
Proceed to seek to procure cafe and refreshment contract(s) for arts, leisure and recreation venues as outlined in section 3.8 of this report.

D052/23 Draft Mid Ulster LMP Action Plan 2023-24

The Assistant Director of Economy, Tourism & Strategic Programmes (AD: ET&SP) presented circulated report to update Members on the development of Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership - Draft Action Plan 2023-2024.

Councillor Wilson declared and interest in the above item as he sits on the Partnership and withdrew from the meeting at 8.03 pm.

Proposed by Councillor Corry
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to:

- Approve the Draft Mid Ulster LMP Action Plan 2023-2024 subject to any final adjustments required by the Department for Communities (DfC) following assessment. A copy of the final Mid Ulster LMP Action Plan 2023-2024 to be brought back to the Development Committee for Members information once DfC has approved the Plan.
- Approve that delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive to;
 - (a) Sign and return the letter of offer from the Department for Communities;
 - (b) Make appointments to the successful organisations following the completion of all relevant procurement exercises. This will allow work on the Mid Ulster LMP Action Plan 2023-24 to commence as soon as possible.

Matters for Information

D053/23 Minutes of Development Committee held on 16 February 2023

Members noted Minutes of Development Committee held on 16 February 2023.

Councillor Kerr referred to D027/23 and enquired if there was any update on the correspondence from the Southern Trust regarding Cervical testing or was it going to be brought on the Correspondence list to full Council meeting at the end of the month.

The Strategic Director of Communities & Place (SD: C&P) advised that no update was available at present, but would investigate and come back to the member.

D054/23 Lands at Altmore/ Cappagh Update

Members noted update on the current position regarding the proposed development of publically owned lands at Altmore/Cappagh.

Councillor Kerr welcomed the report and said that he was aware that there was a scheduled meeting next week but emphasised the importance of getting progress on this project as soon as possible.

D055/23 Economic Development Report – OBFI

Members noted update on key activities as listed below:

- Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes – 16.11.22
- Tourism Development Group Minutes 11.11.22

Councillor Kerr referred to item 2.1 and enquired if there was any update on the local section of DfI regarding the flooding at Kings Row, Coalisland. The member stated that he had raised this issue a few times at Development committee and there was still no concrete date.

Councillor Kerr said that he has been in contact with Council Officers regarding this issue but felt there was a need to provide some kind of pedestrian safe crossing from Mamies Corner to Washingbay Road to give pedestrians priority for a right of way and asked if this could be also incorporated into the meeting with DfI as both areas are beside each other. The member would appreciate if this meeting with Roads Service could be scheduled as soon as possible.

The Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes (AD: EDT&SP) advised that she would need to liaise with the other Department involved with the project in terms of the technical side, in terms of flooding. The Assistant Director advised that an update would need to be sought in relation to that and an update provided to the member after the meeting.

Live broadcast ended at 8.09 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Corry

Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved In accordance with Section 42, Part 1 Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 that Members of the public In accordance with Section 42, Part 1 Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 that Members of the public be asked to withdraw from the meeting whilst members consider items D056/23 to D059/23.

Matters for Decision

D056/23	SHHP - Bellaghy Bawn Literary Residential Proposal
D057/23	Environmental Health Management System
D058/23	Feeney's Lane

Matters for Information

D059/23	Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 16 February 2023
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D060/23 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7pm and concluded at 8.30 pm.

Chair _____

Date _____

Annex A – Introductory Remarks from the Chairperson

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

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

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

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

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

ICBAN Progress Report Presentation

for year to 31/03/2023


By Shane Campbell, ICBAN



1. **'The Framework of Regional Priorities, 2021-2027' strategy programme**
2. **Broadband Infrastructure**
 1. Utilise reports for continued Advocacy
 2. Complete implementation of 'Digi2Market' project with SMEs in agri, engineering and tourism sectors
3. **Regional Literary Tourism** - Complete implementation of 'Spot-lit' / BLITZ' Project
4. **Brexit** - Making representations on regional data; exploring the opportunities and challenges of Brexit

Outputs

2. Broadband Representations

- 
- ▶ Drawing on 'Fibre at a Crossroads' reports' evidence
 - ▶ Monitoring for clawback of c.£14m funds to enhance delivery into rural areas
 - ▶ Monitoring delivery of Project Stratum and potential clawbacks
 - ▶ Best practice and oversight of National Broadband Ireland programme



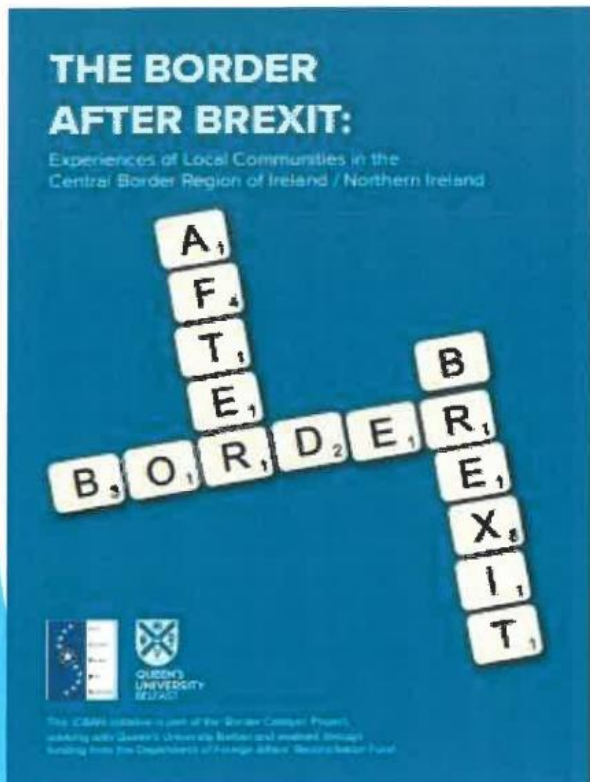
Digi2Market Immersive Technologies Project

Designed for SMEs to take advantage of new digital marketing opportunities, through Augmented and Virtual Reality technologies

Digital City - a gated business community portal where SMEs can interact internationally on solutions, product collaboration and accessing new overseas markets is to be released.



4. Brexit



- ▶ Submitting evidence to committees and consultations, drawing on evidence from 4 research exercises / reports, and 2100 responses gathered, including:
 - ▶ House of Lords Call for Evidence
 - ▶ EU Parliament Regional Development research programme
- ▶ New research bid: Impacts from Brexit and Protocol / Windsor Framework on cooperation, within NI, North-South and island of Ireland / GB

Report on	Corporate Events 2023
Date of Meeting	5 th April 2023
Reporting Officer	Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing
Contact Officer	Sharon Arbuthnot, Events Officer

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To provide information on the proposed Mid Ulster District Council Corporate Events Programme for April 2023 – March 2024.
2.0	Background
2.1	Previously in February 2022, Members at the Development committee resolved to approve the return on the Mid Ulster District Council's Corporate Events calendar following a gap in delivery from late 2019 as the Covid-19 pandemic affected the delivery of the events calendar during this period. Approval was also given to procure and engage specialist support to conduct a review on the current portfolio of corporate events and make recommendations for future consideration by Members (minute reference: D027/22).
2.2	Anecdotally, it is believed that the events delivered during 2022 attracted larger audience figures than pre-covid attendance figures.
2.3	The schedule of corporate events are managed by via the Council's Events Team however as Members will be aware, these events are not solely delivered by one Department or team within council. Without the instrumental support of other departments and services it would be impossible to provide the high standard of events delivered. It was evident that the various interdepartmental teams take pride when involved with corporate events.
2.4	In addition to the direct impacts, increased footfall and visitor numbers to our Town Centres which is viewed can help to stimulate growth within our Town Centres. Events can also have indirect impacts on our local community. The social benefits are less visible, but they are just important. Events can raise community pride, provide people with new experiences, strengthen relationships and bring communities together and this was extremely evident during 2022 following a two year gap in event provision.
3.0	Main Report

3.1	Officers have been advised by Marketplace Europe on their availability for the summer tour and unfortunately their proposed dates clash with the dates of the local government elections – it has been identified that a large amount of council staff who are intrinsic to the event delivery also have a role in the elections. Therefore, Officers liaised with Marketplace Europe to seek alternate dates. Unfortunately this was not possible therefore the Continental Market will be postponed for 2023 and is anticipated to return in 2024.
3.2	Event budgets will continue to be under pressure for operational, health and safety and event programming expenditures. Costs have increased significantly post-covid; shortages in specialist equipment/services along with increases costs to insurance, fuel and staffing have all been contributing factors. The Events Team in partnership with the various Council event leads will assess budgets with the aim of reaching the maximum outputs for both safety precautions and visitors to the 2023 events across the district.
3.3	Online booking systems will be explored with the aim of ensuring attendance numbers are accurately and consistently recorded at events which take place at enclosed sites. This data will also have many additional benefits to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data on where the people who attend our corporate events travel from • Data to facilitate post event evaluations to be carried out. Feedback from our events is important to ensure to meet the expectations of our customers. • Data can provide evidence to support funding applications on event numbers/visitors to the area etc for future events.
3.4	Due to the nature of many of the events, planning needs to commence as soon as possible and in many cases, procurement exercises need to be conducted along with application for any statutory approvals, ie. road closures. It should be noted to Members that in order to proceed with the planning and execution of these events, elements of the event planning will need to currently proceed “at risk” and should any of the events need to be scaled back or cancelled with consideration of any future public health impacts or budget constraints at any given time, then Council may not have any recourse over any expenditure that has been incurred. Officers plan to take all reasonable steps to ensure financial risks are mitigated so far as reasonably practicable and will engage the support and advice of Councils procurement and insurance team.
3.5	Enclosed within Appendix A is the proposed corporate events schedule for 2023. As Members will be aware, previously in February 2022, approval was given to procure and engage specialist support to conduct a review on the current portfolio of council corporate events within the wider tourism and economic context along with their capacity to deliver against key corporate objectives and make recommendations for future consideration by Members. This process is nearing its conclusion and a future report will be brought to Development committee.
	Other Considerations
	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
4.1	Financial: Delivered within departmental budget allocation as per the 2023/24 rates estimates process. Elements of the event planning is proposed to currently proceed “at risk” with expenditure to be incurred and should any of the events need to be scaled back or cancelled with consideration of the covid restrictions (if any) at any given time, then Council may not have any recourse over any expenditure that has been incurred.
	Human:

	Delivered with staff from various departments/services.
	Risk Management: Risk Assessments to be continually reviewed with assistance from Council Corporate Health & Safety team. Assessing each event will need to be considered on its individual merits - Events plans are also presented to the Safety Advisory Group (SAG) at relevant times in the year.
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: None anticipated at this juncture.
	Rural Needs Implications: None anticipated at this juncture.
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	To note the contents of this report.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix A Proposed Corporate Events Schedule for 2023.

Appendix A: Proposed Corporate Events Schedule for 2023

Date of Event	Name of Event	Location
05 August 2023	Walled Garden Event	Maghera
19 August 2023	Lumarina	Ballyronan
27 October 2023	Dungannon Halloween	Dungannon
28 October 2023	Cookstown Halloween	MUSA, Cookstown
31 October 2023	Coalisland Halloween	TBC
31 October 2023	Maghera Halloween	Maghera
24 November 2023	Cookstown Xmas Switch On	Cookstown
25 November 2023	Dungannon Xmas Switch On	Dungannon
25 November 2023	Magherafelt Xmas Switch On	Magherafelt
02 December 2023	Maghera Xmas Switch On	Maghera
03 December 2023	Coalisland Xmas Switch On	Coalisland

**** Dates may be subject to change****

Report on	1. Mid Ulster Town and Village Business Spruce Up Scheme Phase 4 (2022/2023) – Evaluation Report 2. Letter of thanks from Network Personnel re ESF Programmes
Date of Meeting	5 April 2023
Reporting Officer	Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism & Strategic Programmes

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To provide Members with an update on key activities as detailed below.
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>Mid Ulster Town and Village Spruce Up Scheme Phase 4 (2022/2023) - Evaluation Report</p> <p>The Mid Ulster Town and Village Business Spruce Up Scheme offered discretionary grants of up to 75% eligible costs, capped at £5,000 per property for external and/or internal improvements.</p> <p>The Scheme was available to both occupied commercial premises and vacant/derelict units within the town centre boundary of each of the towns (Coalisland, Cookstown, Dungannon as per Area plan 2010; Maghera and Magherafelt as per Area Plan 2015) and development limits of the eligible villages as per the proposed Mid Ulster Settlement Report within the draft Local Development Plan (2030), published in February 2019, under the Mid Ulster Settlement Hierarchy, with the additional village of Moygashel. The scheme opened for applications on Monday 19 August 2019 and closed for applications at 4pm on Wednesday 18 September 2019.</p> <p>Knox and Clayton Chartered Architects were appointed to assist in the delivery of the Mid Ulster Town and Village Business Spruce Up Scheme, including assessment of applications and management and monitoring of the successful projects. Applications which proceeded to assessment had to achieve a minimum threshold of 40% to be eligible for grant aid. 253 applications achieved over the 40% threshold to value of £912,306.29.</p>

	<p>In the financial year 2019-2020, under Phase 1, 32 applicants accepted Letters of Offer and completed works to the value of grant aid of £115,908.67.</p> <p>In the financial year 2020-2021, under Phase 2, 72 applicants accepted Letters of Offer and completed works to the value of grant aid of £251,247.63.</p> <p>In the financial year 2021-2022, under Phase 3, 67 applicants accepted Letters of Offer and completed works to the value of grant aid of £227,873.07.</p> <p>In the financial year 2022-2023, under Phase 4, 29 applicants accepted Letters of Offer and completed works to the value of grant aid of £104,425.15.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Phases 1 to 4 of the Mid Ulster Town and Village Business Spruce Up Scheme have resulted in £699,454.52 of Grant Aid awarded to 200 properties across the Council area.</i> • <i>Council funding further generated additional private sector leverage funding of £427,097.85 towards the overall Scheme.</i>
2.2	<p>Letter of thanks from Network Personnel re ESF Programmes</p> <p>From April 2015, following a request from Network Personnel, Mid Ulster District Council provided match funding towards two ESF programmes they delivered: Up for Work and Job Match Programme. Following the successful delivery of 'Call 1' ESF programmes, which ended in March 2018, and a further successful Application by Network Personnel to ESF 'Call 2' Council also agreed to provide match funding to Network Personnel to deliver the next tranche of these two ESF Programmes until March 2022.</p> <p>At the end of the 7 years, it is estimated that Council match funding to both these ESF funded Programmes totalled £88,662, which leveraged in further funding of £4,008,802, and resulted in a total investment in the region of £4,092,464.</p> <p>Network Personnel then continued the delivery of the Programmes during the year April 2022 to March 2023. Council funding was not required as the Department for the Economy provided the 'match' for these.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Mid Ulster Town and Village Business Spruce Up Scheme Phase 4 (2022/2023) – Evaluation Report</p> <p>Following the completion of Phase 4 of the Mid Ulster Town and Village Spruce Up Scheme, an evaluation report has been completed by Hamill Architects Ltd, a copy of which is attached at Appendix 1.</p>

3.2	<p>Letter of thanks from Network Personnel re ESF Programmes</p> <p>Network Personnel have now sent a letter to Council (Appendix 2) advising that the funding for their ESF programmes will cease on 31 March 2023, and to thank Council for the match funding contribution to both 'Up for Work' and 'Job Match' for 2015-2022.</p> <p>For Members information, the above two programmes which Council provided match funding towards, has contributed towards the following achievements;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,519 participants accessing support • 613 participants were helped to gain employment • 2,208 qualifications achieved by participants • 257 participants progressing to further education / training <p>Following a request from Workspace Group, at the Development Committee meeting in January 2023, Members agreed to provide a letter of support to accompany Network Personnel's bid for funding for two programmes to support those furthest from the labour market to become more economically active to the Shared Prosperity Fund's 'Economic Inactivity Competition'. Network Personnel is currently waiting to hear the outcome of their funding bid.</p>
	<p>Other Considerations</p>
4.1	<p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <p>Financial: Mid Ulster Town and Village Business Spruce Up Scheme Phase 4 (2022/2023) - Evaluation Report</p> <p>Grant Aid £104,425.15 (2022/2023 budget) Phase 4 Architect Fees £9,945 (2022/2023 budget)</p> <p>Human: Officer Time</p> <p>Risk Management: Projects were tightly managed to ensure delivery within the timeframe.</p>
4.2	<p>Screening & Impact Assessments</p> <p>Equality & Good Relations Implications:</p> <p>Council procedures were adhered to.</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications:</p> <p>Council procedures were adhered to.</p>

5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	<p>It is recommended that Members:</p> <p>Mid Ulster Town and Village Business Spruce Up Scheme Phase 4 (2022/2023) – Evaluation</p> <p>Note Mid Ulster Town and Village Business Spruce Up Scheme – Phase 4 Evaluation Report</p>
5.2	<p>Letter of thanks from Network Personnel re ESF Programmes</p> <p>Note letter of thanks received from Network Personnel for match funding provided by Council from 2015 to 2022 in relation to their two ESF Programmes; Up for Work and Job Match.</p>
6.0	Documents Attached and References
	<p>Appendix 1 – Mid Ulster Town and Village Spruce Up Scheme Phase 4 (2022/2023) – Evaluation Report</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Letter of thanks from Network Personnel re ESF Programmes</p>

Mid Ulster
**Town & Village Business
Spruce Up Scheme**

Supporting Local Business



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

FINAL EVALUATION REPORT

MID ULSTER TOWN & VILLAGE BUSINESS SPRUCE UP SCHEME

(PHASE 4 - 2022-2023)



Completed by Paul Hamill of Hamill Architects Ltd – February 2023



CONTENTS:

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Aims and Objectives of the scheme
- 3.0 Who could apply?
- 4.0 Scope of works eligible for funding
- 5.0 Procurement
- 6.0 Application process
- 7.0 Assessment of the Applications
- 8.0 Successful Applicants
- 9.0 Geographical spread of successful applications
- 10.0 Payment of grant
- 11.0 Case studies
 - 1. Project No 78 – Caroline Owens Florist Magherafelt
 - 2. Project No 39 – Serephina Cookstown
- 12.0 Statistical Data
- 13.0 Overview of Scheme
- 14.0 Conclusion

Appendices

- Appendix 1 Guidance Notes
- Appendix 2 Application Form
- Appendix 3 Individual Assessment Sheet
- Appendix 4 Commencement Inspection Form
- Appendix 5 Final Inspection Form

1.0 Introduction

This report provides an overview of the Mid Ulster Town and Village Business Spruce Up Scheme, 2019-2022 (Phase 4- 2022 - 2023). It presents a breakdown of the applications received, a synopsis of a number of successful projects and the impact of the scheme.

Mid Ulster District Council supports the improvement and enhancement of business/commercial properties within the town centre boundary of each of the towns (Coalisland, Cookstown and Dungannon as per Area Plan 2010; Maghera and Magherafelt as per Area Plan 2015 of each town) and development limits of each village as identified in the attached maps.

The Mid Ulster Town and Village Business Spruce Up Scheme is a pilot project and offers discretionary grants of up to 75% eligible costs, capped at £5,000 per property for internal and/or external improvements. The Scheme is available to both occupied business/commercial properties and vacant business/commercial properties within the town centre boundary of each of the towns (Coalisland, Cookstown and Dungannon as per Area Plan 2010; Maghera and Magherafelt as per Area Plan 2015) and the development limits of each village. Whilst the Mid Ulster Town and Village Business Spruce Up Scheme is intended to aid minor works to business/commercial premises, large scale schemes may apply however please note the maximum grant aid is up to 75% eligible costs, capped at £5,000 per property.

The allocation of grant was a competitive process and limited funds were available. Applicants were made aware that this would potentially be the only funding opportunity for the next 3 years (Subject to funding).

Successful applications were scored and ranked highest to lowest.

2.0 Aims and Objectives of the Scheme

The aim of the Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme is to improve the competitiveness and economic sustainability of the identified towns and villages in the Mid Ulster District Council area by:

1. Making external improvements to the built environment in the towns and villages.
2. Encouraging the improvement of the internal appearance of properties visible to the public.

The objectives of the scheme are:

1. To enhance and improve the attractiveness of business/commercial properties.
2. To deliver high-quality external and internal improvements to properties in the towns and villages.
3. To attract new business and investment through improvements to vacant properties.
4. To stimulate private sector investment.
5. To assist businesses in each town and village to increase competitiveness and sustainability.
6. To improve user perceptions of each town and village.

3.0 Who Could Apply?

- Business/commercial properties within the town centre boundary of each of the towns (Coalisland, Cookstown and Dungannon as per Area Plan 2010; Maghera and Magherafelt as per Area Plan 2015) as identified within scheme maps
- Business/Commercial properties within the development limits of villages under the Mid Ulster Settlement Hierarchy, draft Local Development Plan (2030) as identified within scheme maps.

TOWNS: - Coalisland, Cookstown, Dungannon, Maghera and Magherafelt.

VILLAGES:- Aghaginduff/Cabragh, Annaghmore, Ardboe, Augher, Aughnacloy Ballinderry, Ballygawley, Ballylifford, Ballynakilly, Ballyronan, Bellaghy, Benburb, Brockagh/Mountjoy, Caledon, Cappagh, Castlecaulfield, Castledawson, Churchtown, Clady, Clogher, Coagh, Creagh, Desertmartin, Donaghmore, Draperstown, Drummullan, Edendork, Eglish, Fivemiletown, Galbally, Granville, Gulladuff, Killyman, Moneymore, Moortown, Moy, Moygashel, Newmills, Orritor, Pomeroy, Sandholes, Stewartstown, Swatragh, Tamnamore, The Bush, The Loup, The Rock, Tobermore and Upperlands.

The grant was available to:

- Business/commercial premises
- Shops (including hairdressers, beauty salons, dry cleaners, clothing retailers etc.).
- Financial and Professional services (e.g., estate agents, insurance companies etc.).
- Restaurants, Public houses, Cafes, and Food takeaways.
- Vacant premises. For a vacant property to be eligible evidence was to be provided that:

- 1) The property is used as a business/commercial property. If this was not evident from the supplied photograph then evidence (old photographs, rates bills, etc.) was to be provided.
- 2) If the vacant property existed as a residential property with plans to change use to a commercial property, a change of use planning permission should be submitted to Council prior to commencement of works.
- 3) That it will be marketed/let as a business/commercial property after improvement works are complete. Evidence must be provided of how this will be achieved and actively promoted, such as letter from proposed letting agent, letter from property owner of actions that will be taken to seek a tenant.

Application forms were acceptable from the property owner/s or tenants. If a tenant made an application, it had to be co-signed by the property owner(s) otherwise the application was deemed incomplete and subsequently rejected.

Individual applications from owners/tenants whose properties were adjacent to each other were welcome. Where two or more applications adjacent to each other were made they were defined as 'Multiple Applications'. These applications were viewed as having a greater positive effect on the appearance of a street and were scored as per page 5 of the Guidance Document 'How do we assess your application'.

4.0 Scope of Works Eligible for Funding

The property owners/tenants of eligible business/commercial properties in the designated areas could apply for grant-aid to carry out the following:

Internal Works eligible for grant-aid include repair and refurbishment of:

- Walls, ceilings, doors, floors, and stairs.
- Internal redecoration work e.g., repainting of walls, ceilings etc.
- Rewiring and plumbing.
- Access improvements.
- New interior window display lighting, where shutters are not in use.
- Subdivision to form smaller units.
- Restructuring to form larger units.
- Permanent (i.e., not loose fitted, or mobile) display cases/built-in furniture and joinery.
- Please note that internal works to a business/commercial property which is above ground floor level will be considered.

External works eligible for grant-aid include repair and refurbishment of the following:

- Shop fronts, including fascia, signage, and lighting.
- Windows.
- Doors.
- Rainwater goods; guttering or downpipes on shopfronts.
- Redecoration (including painting, signage etc.).
- Pedestrian access improvements.
- Security measures (including security glazing/laminated glass which allows window shopping to take place in the evening e.g., open or lattice shutters/door grilles-NOT solid shutters).
- Virtual graphics / hoardings.
- Equipment and associated labour costs as deemed appropriate for preparation of work e.g., power washing, hire of lift equipment etc.
- Please note that external works to a business/commercial property which is above ground floor level will be considered.

Ineligible Works included:

The scheme did not support:

- Works which required planning permission which was not in place at the Application stage.
- Routine maintenance such as clearing of debris from gutters, cleaning tarmac, cleaning of roofs, chimneys etc.
- Improvements to residential property, including residential property located above commercial premises.
- Retrospective applications (for work already completed or underway).
- CCTV / Alarm systems.
- Mobile/loose fixtures and fittings or furniture.

- Internal work which was not in the public area of the property.
- Mannequins.

The grant did not include:

- Statutory fees (e.g., Building Control Approval), professional fees etc.
- Insurances
- Interest (on loans taken out to fund your building project)
- VAT (except if the applicant is not VAT registered)

5.0 Procurement

Completed applications had to be accompanied by competitive quotations/tenders from bona-fide reputable contractors. If a contractor is not employed to complete all works, the appropriate number of quotations/tenders had to be submitted for each element of the scheme.

The scheme required:

- 2 Written Quotations for project elements costing up to £4,999.99
- 4 Written Quotations for project elements costing from £5,000-£30,000

All quotations had to be dated and on headed paper and the funder reserved the right to have an independent quantity surveyor check the validity of quotations/tenders.

6.0 Application Process

Completed application forms were to be returned to Knox Clayton Architects, or alternatively, one of the Council Offices (Dungannon, Cookstown or Magherafelt), by 4pm on Wednesday 18 September 2019. Only fully completed Applications were validated and late submissions were not accepted.

12 No. Business Clinics were held at various public locations spread around the Council area. This provided the opportunity for those interested in applying for funding to drop-in without appointment and receive advice on their application. Representatives from the scheme's Chartered Architect and Mid Ulster District Council were present at each business clinic.

7.0 Assessment of the Applications:

The following criteria was used by the assessment panel to score the application for a grant:

- i) **Current Condition of the elements of work requesting funding (25%)**
Scoring ranged from 0%-25%, for example, if the current condition of the elements of work requested for funding to the property was considered very poor, the maximum 25% was allocated.
- ii) **Impact the proposed element of works will make (25%)**
Scoring ranged from 0%-25%, for example, if the proposed element of works would

have a transformation impact on the property, the maximum 25% would be allocated.

iii) Value for Money (25%)

This was calculated based on the formula: - Impact (points) ÷ Grant Sought = Weighted Criteria. Weighted criteria achieved ranged from 5%-25%, with excellent Value for Money allocated the maximum 25%.

iv) Multiple Application Status (10%)

Multiple applications received a favourable weighting, where individual applications were received from owners/tenants whose properties were adjacent to each other. These applications would be viewed as having a greater positive effect on the appearance of a street and as a result were scored highly by the assessment panel, being allocated a further 10%.

v) Vacant Business/Commercial Property (10%)

Vacant Business/Commercial Property favourable weighting were allocated 10%.

vi) Property's first submission (5%)

A favourable weighting of 5% was granted to any property which had not previously been awarded funding under a Mid Ulster District Council Improvement Scheme. *Any property which had previously received funding under a Mid Ulster District Council Improvement Scheme will be allocated 0%.*

All applications had to score a minimum of 40% to be considered for funding.

There was no internal appeal or review process for unsuccessful applications. The decision of the Independent Chartered Architect was final.

8.0 Successful Applicants – “Your Letter of Offer”

If an application was successful, the applicant was issued with a ‘Letter of Offer.’ This was a form of contract that stated:

- The amount of grant awarded
- The terms and conditions associated with the grant

It was made clear to the successful Applicants that no works could commence until a signed ‘Letter of Offer’ was returned to Mid Ulster District Council within the allocated timescale.

9.0 GEOGRAPHICAL SPREAD OF SUCCESSFUL APPLICATIONS (Completed Schemes-Phase 4)

Valid Schemes were completed in the following villages (in alphabetical order):

Town/Village	Number of completed schemes
Ballygawley	3
Bellaghy	1
Castledawson	3
Clogher	1
Cookstown	3
Dungannon	3
Maghera	6
Magherafelt	5
Moy	2
Pomeroy	2
	29

10.0 Payment of Grant

It was stipulated that payment of grant would only be made once Mid Ulster District Council was satisfied that all the terms and conditions in the 'Letter of Offer' had been fulfilled. A site visit was conducted by Hamill Architects Ltd to verify that the works had been completed as stated at application stage and to the required standard. Applicants were advised that they would be asked to amend work which does not comply with or falls below the agreed standard.

Payment of grant was be made on receipt of a single claim following a successful site visit. This claim had to include the submission of original invoices and proof of payment.

11.0 Case Studies of selected completed projects

We have selected the following projects for a brief Case Study of Phase 4 of Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme. These have been selected for the reason as noted below:

1. Project No 78 – Caroline Owens Florist,8 Broad Street Magherafelt – Reason selected: A project that featured internal and external works and resulted in a very attractive unit.
2. Project No 39 – Serephina,2 Oldtown Street Cookstown- Reason selected: Multiple internal

works and significant client contribution.

11.1 **Project No 78 – Caroline Owens Florist, 8 Broad Street Magherafelt.**

- Scope of Works: Remove and make good existing shop frontage (sign, surround, pillars), to include signage lettering and painting ,and fully tiling of the floor to the public side of shop.

Exterior Before



Exterior After



Interior Before



Interior After



Impact of the Works:

This project was chosen as it was a good example of a project that included both internal and external works, which provided a very attractive finish for a modest cost, providing excellent value for money. The shop is in a prominent position in Magherafelt, and the improvement works and the obvious pride in the business that the proprietor has in the way that the shop is presented, makes a small but significant improvement to the streetscape in Magherafelt.

11.2 Project No 39 – Serephina.2 Oldtown Street Cookstown.

Scope of the Works

The works carried out were all interior works and included a new counter, shelving, lighting, carpet, wallpaper and paint.

Before:



After:

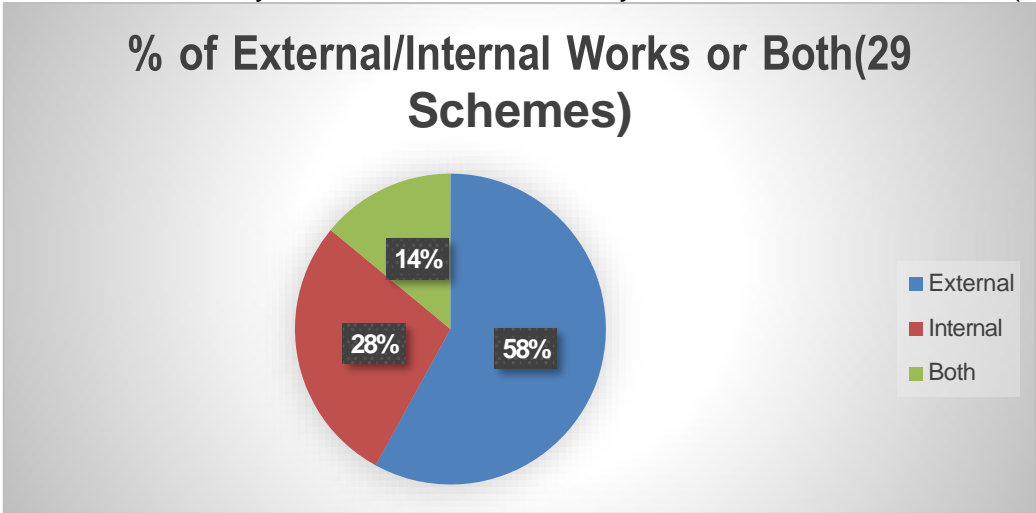


Impact of the Works

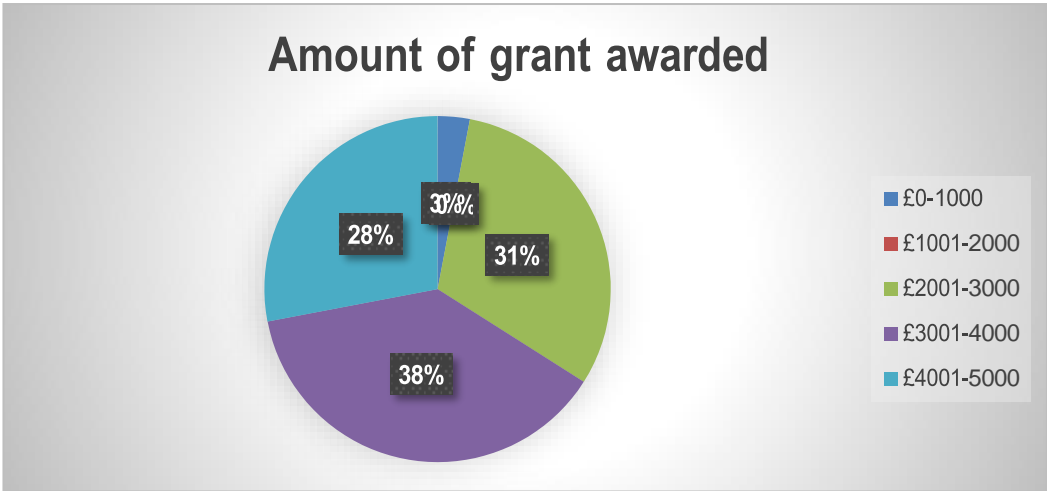
The building is located on the corner of Oldtown Street and William Street in a prominent location. This Application was chosen to feature as it it's a good example of a project with significant private sector leverage (£5000 grant versus a £7890 spend). The interior of the shop is transformed, and is much more welcoming to customers.

12.0 Statistical Data

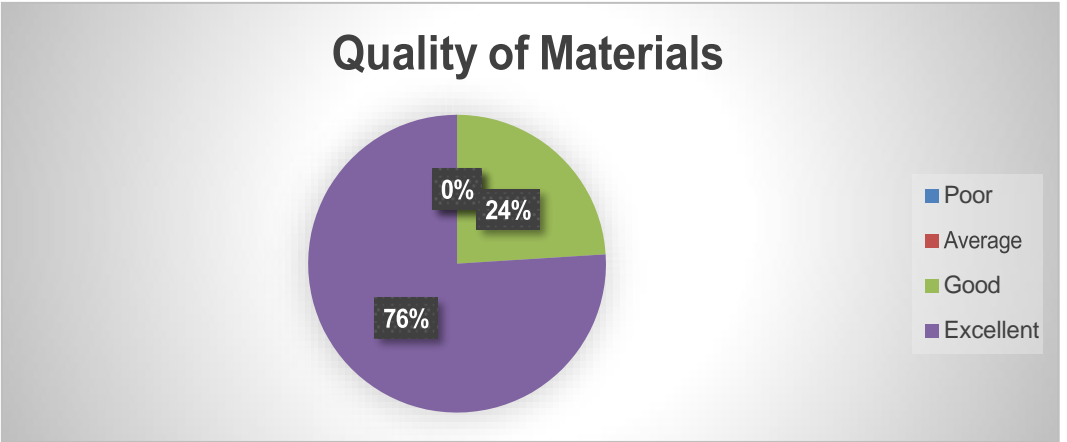
In terms of the ratio of projects that were funded for Internal and External works, 28% carried out Internal works only, 58% external works only and 14% carried out both (total of 29 schemes).



The Scheme provided a grant of up to 75% of eligible costs, capped at £5,000. As can be seen from the pie chart below, the biggest percentage of grants were awarded in the £3,001 - £4,000 range (38%), £2,001 - £3,000 range (31%). The lowest awards were in the £1,001 - £2,000 range (0%).



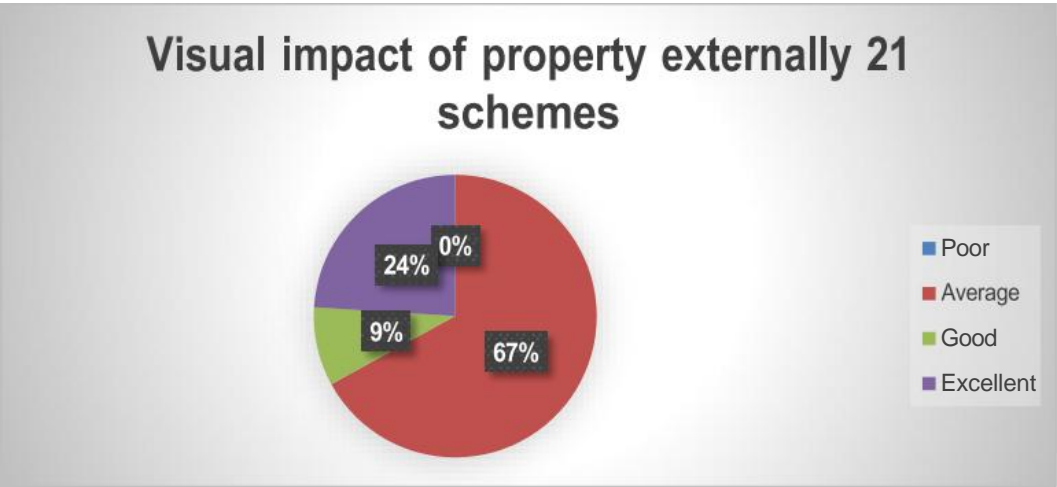
The quality of the materials used overall were rated as 24% good, 76% deemed excellent and 0% average or poor. (total of 29 schemes).



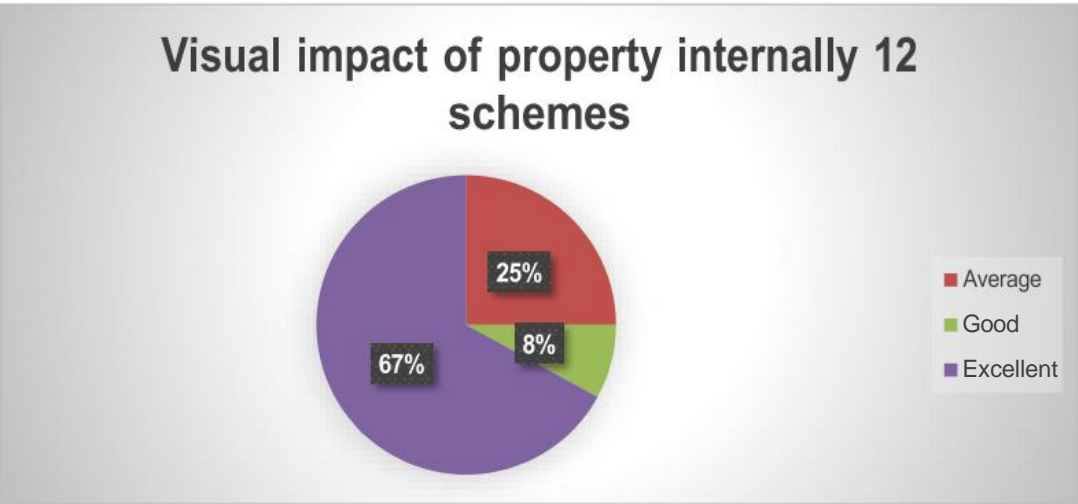
The quality of workmanship overall was rated as 76% Excellent, 24% deemed excellent, with none deemed average or poor (total of 29 schemes).



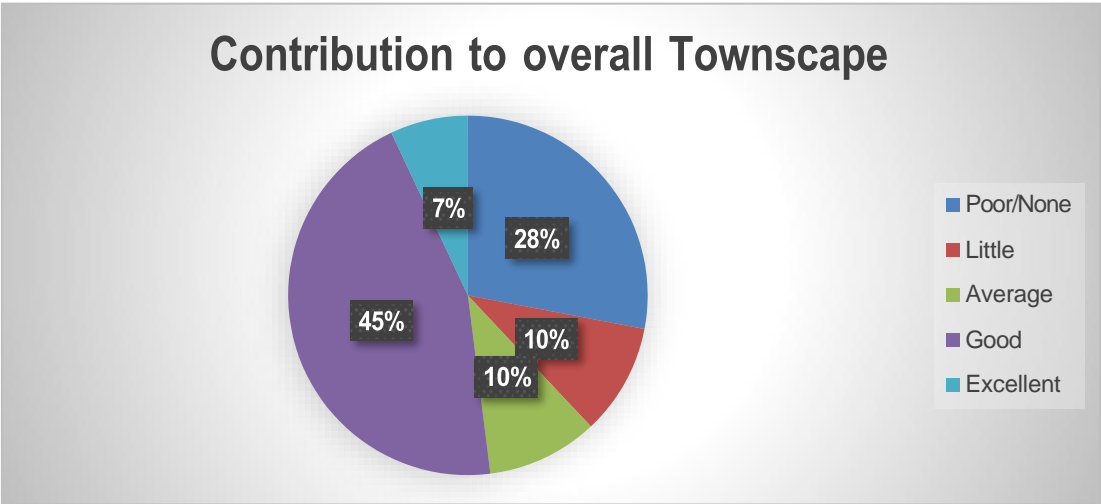
The visual Impact of most schemes relating to external works rated overall as Good, 67%,24% rated as excellent, and 9% rated average.8 of the 29 schemes did not have external works as part of their project.



The Visual Impact of most schemes relating to internal works rated overall as excellent, 67%, 8% as good, and 25% as average. 17 of the 29 schemes did not have internal works as part of their project.



An important and key statistic in the delivery of the scheme is the Contribution to the Overall Townscape. 45% of schemes had a good impact, with 7% deemed excellent, 10% deemed average, 10% deemed Little and 28% deemed poor/ none , this latter statistic reflecting those schemes that were internal only and therefore had limited impact on overall Townscape.



13.0 Overview of Scheme

The Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme aimed to improve the competitiveness and economic sustainability of the eligible towns & villages.

Through the delivery of the scheme properties awarded funding strived to achieve a comprehensive improvement to building frontage, internal repairs, and refurbishment. The wider impact on each town & village aimed to visibly enhancing the townscape and improving local infrastructure.

A final evaluation of each completed property was carried out with a score awarded between 1 (very poor) and 5 (excellent) to measure the visual improvement to the property on an individual basis, and to measure the contribution of the improvement works to the overall townscape. The overall impact of the scheme has been, very positive. It is doubtful whether such works would be carried out by the participating businesses in towns & villages, to the extent they were, if it were not for the grant being offered by the Council.

Phase 4 resulted in £104,425.15 of Grant Aid awarded to 29 properties across the Council area, with private sector leverage of £66,378.34. Grants ranged from £900.00 to the £5,000.00 maximum with the average being £3,600.87. 7No. applications received the maximum £5,000.00 grant.

Phases 1 to 4 of the Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme has resulted in £699,454.52 of Grant aid awarded to 200 properties across the Council area. The private sector leverage amounts to £427,097.85 for the 4 Phases.

Hamill Architects Ltd believe that the budget for the scheme was put to excellent use as it helped 200 (mostly small) businesses improve their premises and enhance the visual appearance of their towns & villages.

14.0 Conclusion

The Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme has made a significant positive impact to the properties and contributed to the enhancement of their respective Town / Villages.

The funding provided by the scheme has unquestionably improved the external appearance and quality of interior space of each property.

The scheme has succeeded in offering local business meaningful support, and the monetary incentive has encouraged property owners to carry out improvement works to their properties which, without the incentive, may not have otherwise been carried out, or at least, not to the extent to which they were.

Phase 3 proved more challenging than the previous Phases 1 and 2. There were a number of reasons for this. Covid 19, which continued throughout 2021 and 2022, took its toll on these phases. During Phases 3 and 4, the extended further lockdowns had an increasingly negative impact on businesses, particularly those in hospitality. The priority for many businesses was “getting through it”, with less emphasis on any sort of capital expenditure towards improving premises.

Additionally, the costs of both materials and labour had increased significantly since 2019, due to both normal inflationary factors and Covid 19. This was further exacerbated for those schemes that were late to start works in 2022, by the war in Ukraine. Delays in the supply of materials was also a problem.

Phase 4, even though it comprised the properties that scored lowest in the initial overall scoring table, still provided many worthwhile results, and some much needed funding to businesses coming out of the shadow of Covid 19 and the other challenges that businesses face today.

The total amount of private investment in the scheme (Phase 1 - 4) amounts to £427,097.85, which shows a commitment from the property owners and tenants to successfully deliver the scheme. The impact this has made across the Mid Ulster District Council towns and villages has been significant and will assist the local economy to remain competitive in the current market.



Guidance Notes for Applicants

Welcome to the Mid Ulster Town and Village Business Spruce Up Scheme Guidance Notes for applicants. Before you complete your application form, you must take time to read this document carefully.

These guidance notes are provided to help you understand the aims of the Mid Ulster Town and Village Business Spruce Up Scheme and how you can make a grant application.

Background

Mid Ulster District Council supports the improvement and enhancement of business/commercial properties within the town centre boundary of each of the towns (Coalisland, Cookstown and Dungannon as per Area Plan 2010; Maghera and Magherafelt as per Area Plan 2015 of each town) and development limits of each village as identified in the attached maps.

The Mid Ulster Town and Village Business Spruce Up Scheme is a pilot project and offers discretionary grants of up to 75% eligible costs, capped at £5,000 per property for internal and/or external improvements. The Scheme is available to both occupied business/commercial properties and vacant business/commercial properties within the town centre boundary of each of the towns (Coalisland, Cookstown and Dungannon as per Area Plan 2010; Maghera and Magherafelt as per Area Plan 2015) and the development limits of each village. Whilst the Mid Ulster Town and Village Business Spruce Up Scheme is intended to aid minor works to business/commercial premises, large scale schemes may apply however please note the maximum grant aid is up to 75% eligible costs, capped at £5,000 per property.

Please note that allocation of grant is a competitive process and limited funds are available, therefore not all applications will be funded.

Applicants MUST be aware that this will potentially be the only funding opportunity for the next 3 years (Subject to funding).

Aims and Objectives

The aim of the Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme is to improve the competitiveness and economic sustainability of the identified towns and villages in the Mid Ulster District Council area by:

1. Making external improvements to the built environment in the towns and villages.
2. Encouraging the improvement of the internal appearance of properties visible to the public.

The objectives of the scheme are:

1. To enhance and improve the attractiveness of business/commercial properties.
2. To deliver high-quality external and internal improvements to properties in the towns and villages.
3. To attract new business and investment through improvements to vacant properties.
4. To stimulate private sector investment.
5. To assist businesses in each town and village to increase competitiveness and sustainability.
6. To improve user perceptions of each town and village.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS A 'SPRUCE UP' SCHEME INTENDED TO AID MINOR WORKS TO BUSINESS/COMMERCIAL PREMISES IN THE IDENTIFIED TOWNS AND VILLAGES. IT IS NOT ENVISAGED THAT WORKS INCLUDED IN THE SCHEME WILL NEED STATUTORY APPROVALS SUCH AS PLANNING PERMISSION, LISTED BUILDING CONSENT, BUILDING CONTROL ETC. HOWEVER IF ANY OF THE PROPOSED WORKS DO NEED STATUTORY APPROVALS THESE MUST BE IN PLACE PRIOR TO WORKS COMMENCING AND A COPY OF APPROVAL ISSUED TO KNOX & CLAYTON ARCHITECTS.

Who Can Apply?

- Business/commercial properties within the town centre boundary of each of the towns (Coalisland, Cookstown and Dungannon as per Area Plan 2010; Maghera and Magherafelt as per Area Plan 2015) as identified within scheme maps
- Business/Commercial properties within the development limits of villages under the Mid Ulster Settlement Hierarchy, draft Local Development Plan (2030) as identified within scheme maps.

TOWNS: - Coalisland, Cookstown, Dungannon, Maghera and Magherafelt.

VILLAGES:- Aghaginduff/Cabragh, Annaghmore, Ardboe, Augher, Aughnacloy Ballinderry, Ballygawley, Ballylifford, Ballynakilly, Ballyronan, Bellaghy, Benburb, Brockagh/Mountjoy, Caledon, Cappagh, Castlecaulfield, Castledawson, Churchtown, Clady, Clogher, Coagh, Creagh, Desertmartin, Donaghmore, Draperstown, Drummullan, Edendork, Eglish, Fivemiletown, Galbally, Granville, Gulladuff, Killyman, Moneymore, Moortown, Moy, Moygashel, Newmills, Orritor, Pomeroy, Sandholes, Stewartstown, Swatragh, Tamnamore, The Bush, The Loup, The Rock, Tobermore and Upperlands.

Please note that the inclusion of a building within an eligible area does not give any automatic entitlement to a grant. This is a competitive process.

The grant is available to:

- Business/commercial premises
- Shops (including hairdressers, beauty salons, dry cleaners, clothing retailers etc).
- Financial and Professional services (e.g., estate agents, insurance companies etc).
- Restaurants, Public houses, Cafes and Food takeaways.
- Vacant premises

PLEASE NOTE:

For a vacant property to be eligible evidence must be provided that:

- 1) The property is used as a business/commercial property. If this is not evident from the supplied photograph then evidence (old photographs, rates bills, etc.) must be provided.
- 2) Should the vacant property currently exist as a residential property with plans to change use to a commercial property, a change of use planning permission should be submitted to Council prior to commencement of works.
- 3) That it will be marketed/let as a business/commercial property after improvement works are complete. Evidence must be provided of how this will be achieved and actively promoted, such as letter from proposed letting agent, letter from property owner of actions that will be taken to seek a tenant.

Application forms will be acceptable from the property owner/s or tenants. If a tenant makes an application, it must be co-signed by the property owner(s) otherwise the application will be deemed incomplete and subsequently rejected.

Please note should your application be successful; evidence of ownership must be provided at Letter of Offer stage. If the tenant is applying, the tenant will have to request such information from the property owner.

Individual applications from owners/tenants whose properties are adjacent to each other are welcome. Where two or more applications adjacent to each other are made they will be defined as 'Multiple Applications'. These applications will be viewed as having a greater positive effect on the appearance of a street and will be scored as per page 6 'How do we assess your application'.

Properties that are ineligible to apply for grant aid include banks, building societies, charity shops, government organisations, political organisations, community groups/clubs, sports groups/clubs and social clubs.

Eligible Expenditure - what we can fund...

The property owners/tenants of eligible business/commercial properties in the designated areas may apply for grant-aid to carry out the following:

Internal Works eligible for grant-aid include repair and refurbishment of:

- Walls, ceilings, doors, floors and stairs.

- Internal redecoration work e.g. repainting of walls, ceilings etc
- Rewiring and plumbing.
- Access improvements.
- New interior window display lighting, where shutters are not in use.
- Subdivision to form smaller units.
- Restructuring to form larger units.
- Permanent (i.e., not loose fitted or mobile) display cases/built-in furniture and joinery.
- Please note that internal works to a business/commercial property which is above ground floor level **will** be considered.

External works eligible for grant-aid include repair and refurbishment of the following:

- Shop fronts, including fascia, signage and lighting.
- Windows.
- Doors.
- Rainwater goods; guttering or downpipes on shopfronts.
- Redecoration (including painting, signage etc.).
- Pedestrian access improvements.
- Security measures (including security glazing/laminated glass which allows window shopping to take place in the evening ,e.g., open or lattice shutters/door grilles-NOT solid shutters).
- Virtual graphics / hoardings.
- Equipment and associated labour costs as deemed appropriate for preparation of work e.g., power washing, hire of lift equipment etc.
- Please note that external works to a business/commercial property which is above ground floor level **will** be considered.

Ineligible Expenditure - what we cannot fund...

The scheme will not support:

- Works which require planning permission which is not in place prior to works commencing.
- Routine maintenance such as clearing of debris from gutters, cleaning tarmac, cleaning of roofs, chimneys etc.
- Improvements to residential property, including residential property located above commercial premises.
- Retrospective applications (for work already completed or underway).
- CCTV / Alarm systems.
- Mobile/loose fixtures and fittings or furniture.
- Internal work which is not in the public area of the property.
- Mannequins.

The grant **will not** include:

- Statutory fees (e.g., Building Control Approval), professional fees etc.
- Insurances
- Interest (on loans taken out to fund your building project)
- VAT (except if the applicant is not VAT registered)

Procurement Guidelines

Completed applications must be accompanied by competitive quotations/tenders from bona-fide reputable contractors. If a contractor is not employed to complete all works, the appropriate number of quotations/tenders must be submitted for **each element** of the scheme: **Please cost each element of work separately in Section 3.1 of Application Form, Pages 5 & 6, and ENCLOSE the appropriate number of quotes for each element of work with your application. Quotes must be for comparable elements. (Failure to do so will result in your application being deemed incomplete)**

- 2 Written Quotations for project elements costing up to £4,999.99 (please note if one quotation is over £5,000, four quotations will be required.)
- 4 Written Quotations for project elements costing from £5,000-£29,999.99 (please note if one quotation is £30,000 or over but below EU thresholds you must appoint using publicly advertised open or restricted tender competition)
- For any items over £30,000 but below EU thresholds you must appoint using a publicly advertised open or restricted tender competition.

All quotations should be dated and on headed paper. All quotations/tenders will be assessed by an independent Chartered Architect to check the validity and the costings of each quotation/tender. The funding will be allocated accordingly. Failure to provide adequate numbers of quotations/tenders will result in the application being deemed incomplete and subsequently rejected.

PLEASE NOTE THAT A QUOTATION/TENDER WILL BE DEEMED INVALID IF THE APPLICANT IS DEEMED TO HAVE A CONFLICT OF INTEREST (A PERSONAL, PRIVATE OR FAMILY INTEREST) IN RESPECT OF THE COMPANY(S) QUOTING FOR WORK AND/OR DEEMED TO BE A 'LINKED COMPANY' (EU RECOMMENDATIONS 2330/361/EC). COMPANIES ARE LINKED IF ONE OF THEM DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY CONTROLS OR HAS THE CAPACITY TO CONTROL THE AFFAIRS OF THE OTHER.

How do we assess your application?

The following criteria will be used by the assessment panel to score the application for a grant:

- 1 Current Condition of the elements of work requesting funding (25%)**
Scoring will range from 0%-25%, for example, if the current condition of the elements of work requested for funding to the property are considered very poor, the maximum 25% will be allocated.
- 2 Impact the proposed element of works will make (25%)**
Scoring will range from 0%-25%, for example, if the proposed element of works will have a transformation impact on the property, the maximum 25% will be allocated.
- 3 Value for Money (25%)**
This will be calculated based on the formula: - Impact (points) ÷ Grant Sought =

Weighted Criteria. Weighted criteria achieved will range from 5%-25%, with excellent Value for Money allocated the maximum 25%.

4 Multiple Application Status (10%)

Where two or more application adjacent to each other are made, these applications will be defined as a 'Multiple Application' and will be viewed as having a greater positive effect on the appearance of a street. Therefore, Multiple Applications will be scored accordingly by the assessment panel and will be allocated a favourable weighting of up to 10%

5 Vacant Business/Commercial Property (10%)

Vacant Business/Commercial Property favourable weighting allocated 10%.

6 Property's first submission (5%)

Favourable weighting of 5% will be granted to any property which has not previously been awarded funding under a Mid Ulster District Council Improvement Scheme. *Any property which has previously received funding under a Mid Ulster District Council Improvement Scheme will be allocated 0%.*

Please note all applications must score a minimum of 40% to be considered for funding.

There is no internal appeal or review process for unsuccessful applications. The decision of the Independent Chartered Architect is final.

Successful Applications - your 'Letter of Offer'

If your application is successful, you will be issued with a 'Letter of Offer'. This is a form of contract that states:

- The amount of grant awarded
- The terms and conditions associated with the grant

IMPORTANT - NO WORKS CAN COMMENCE UNTIL A SIGNED 'LETTER OF OFFER' AND ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS ARE RETURNED TO MID ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL WITHIN THE TIMEFRAME NOTED ON THE LETTER OF OFFER.

Please note all successful applicants issued Letters of Offer in November 2019 must have works completed and claimed by 20th March 2020.

Payment of Grant & financial considerations

Payment of grant will only be made once Mid Ulster District Council is satisfied that all of the terms and conditions in the 'Letter of Offer' have been fulfilled.

A site visit will be carried out to verify the works have been completed as stated at application stage and to the required standard. You may be asked to amend work which does not comply with or falls below the agreed standard.

Payment of grant will be made on receipt of a single claim following a successful site visit. This claim will include the submission of original invoices and proof of payment. Proof of payment should be in the form of copy cheques/copy of BACS payment and original bank statements/online bank printouts from a reputable financial institution (clearly showing the name of account and account number).

Insurance, Liability and Indemnity

The applicant, agent and/or contractor is responsible for all risks in connection with public or employer liability associated with the building works under the scheme and will fully indemnify the Council. The applicant, agent and/or contractor shall maintain such insurance policies as are necessary to cover all possible liabilities to the Council arising under the Scheme.

How do I apply?

Complete the attached application form and return, with relevant documentation listed in section 6 of the application form. Completed application forms should be returned in a sealed envelope marked **Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme** to the address below by **4pm on Wednesday 18th September 2019**:

KNOX & CLAYTON ARCHITECTS, 2A WALLACE AVENUE, LISBURN, BT27 4AA

Or alternatively,

Council Offices
Burn Road
Cookstown
BT80 8DT

Council Offices
Circular Road
Dungannon
BT77 6DT

Council Offices
Ballyronan Road
Magherafelt
BT45 6EN

Please note only fully completed applications will be considered. Any application submitted with missing information or incomplete questions will be deemed incomplete and subsequently rejected. A fully completed application constitutes:

- **A fully completed application form - the following sections must be completed in full to warrant a fully completed application:**
 - **Your Details**
 - **Property Details**
 - **Project Details**
 - **Project Costs & Administration (including adequate quotations/tenders)**
 - **Declaration**
 - **Completed Property Owner Declaration**
- **Submission of all necessary documents as per section 6 page 13 of the application form, prior to 4.00pm on Wednesday 18th September 2019.**

LATE OR INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED

Business Clinics

Property Owners/Tenants are invited to attend drop in business clinics to find out more about the scheme and to get advice/assistance in completing application forms. Representatives from the scheme's Chartered Architect will be present. These clinics will be held on two consecutive weeks. The dates and venues for these meetings are as follows:

Date	Town	Time	Venue
Tuesday 27 th August 2019	Tobermore	10am-1pm	The Kilcronaghan Centre Rectory Road, Tobermore
Tuesday 27 th August 2019	Bellaghy	2pm-5pm	Seamus Heaney Homeplace Main Street, Bellaghy
Wednesday 28 th August 2019	Aughnacloy	10am-1pm	Aughnacloy Youth Hall Sydney Street, Aughnacloy
Wednesday 28 th August 2019	Dungannon	2pm-5pm	Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House Market Square, Dungannon
Thursday 29 th August 2019	Ballygawley	10am-1pm	Ballygawley Community Hall Fairfield House, Main Street, Ballygawley (Located in playing fields off Main Street)
Thursday 29 th August 2019	Donaghmore	2pm-5pm	The Torrent Complex Hillview Avenue, Dungannon
Tuesday 3 rd September 2019	Coalisland	10am-1pm	Cornmill Centre The Corn Mill, Lineside, Coalisland, BT71 4LP
Tuesday 3 rd September 2019	Stewartstown	2pm-5pm	Crieve Centre 2 Hillhead, Stewartstown
Wednesday 4 th September 2019	Moneymore	10am-1pm	Moneymore Recreation Centre Moneyhaw Road, Moneymore
Wednesday 4 th September 2019	Maghera	2pm-5pm	Walsh's Hotel Main Street,

			Maghera
Thursday 5 th September 2019	Cookstown	10am-1pm	The Burnavon Arts & Cultural Centre Burn Road, Cookstown
Thursday 5 th September 2019	Magherafelt	2pm-5pm	The Bridewell Church Street, Magherafelt

Who do I contact for more information?

If you need any assistance on any aspect of the Mid Ulster Town and Village Business Spruce Up Scheme, please contact:

Knox & Clayton Architects,
Laura McIlwrath laura@knox-clayton.co.uk

Tel: 028 9267 4312

Or alternatively,

Mary McCullagh mary.mccullagh@midulstercouncil.org
Lynn Shiels lynn.shiels@midulstercouncil.org

Tel: 03000 132 132

Tel: 03000 132 132

All documents can be downloaded at
www.midulstercouncil.org/spruceupscheme



Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme

Supporting Local Business



Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme 2019-2022 Application Form

Applications should be completed in conjunction with the attached Guidance Notes.

Only fully completed application forms submitted with the required documentation (as per page 13) will be considered – Any application submitted with missing information or incomplete questions will be deemed incomplete and subsequently rejected.

PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS

The closing date for applications is **4pm on Wednesday 18th September 2019**, and the applicants **MUST** be aware that this will potentially be the only funding opportunity for next 3 years (Subject to funding).

NB: The Council will process your personal data in accordance with Mid Ulster District Council privacy statement. For further details go to <https://www.midulstercouncil.org/privacy>

1. YOUR DETAILS

1.1 Applicant Details (The applicant must be the key contact to discuss all details of this application)

Name			
	Are you the property owner or tenant? (Delete as applicable) Property Owner Tenant		
Address			
Telephone	Phone:	Mobile:	
Email		Website	

2. PROPERTY DETAILS

2.1 Please provide details of the property for which the grant is being sought

Name of Business Trading in Property:	
Property Address:	
Please provide a short description of the business for which the grant is being sought.	
Are you the owner of the property? <i>(delete as applicable)</i>	Yes/No
<p>Is the business/commercial property currently vacant?</p> <p>If Yes, please provide details of the vacant business/commercial property indicating:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The property's previous use as a business/commercial property 2) Should the vacant property currently exist as a residential property with plans to change use to a commercial property, a change of use planning permission should be submitted to Council prior to commencement of works 3) How it will be marketed/let as a business/commercial property after 	Yes/No

improvement works are complete			
Are you registered for VAT?	Yes/No	If yes, please provide VAT registration number.	
Has the building got 'Listed Building Status'?	Yes/No Status Type: - _____		
Have you received Listed Building Consent for the proposed works? Please note that Consent MUST be obtained prior to commencement of works	N/A		
Please state the current number of employees			

Type of Business (Please Tick the appropriate box):	Sole Trader	
	Business Partnership	
	Limited Company	
	Registered Company	
	Other (Please specify)	

2.2 Previous Funding Received

Has this property been awarded Grant Aid under previous improvement schemes? I.e., Mid Ulster Town Centre Shop Improvement Scheme / Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme	Yes / No
Please detail which scheme(s) applied for and please provide details of work completed	N/A

2.3 Please describe the current condition of the **element(s) of work** proposed to be improved/refurbished (***a current colour photograph must be attached to your application of each element of works proposed. NB: Please ensure the photograph is of high quality as it will be used for assessment purposes***)

3 PROJECT DETAILS

- 3.1 Please provide a full description of work to be carried out and the associated cost under each of the relevant headings in the tables.

Please Note:

1. Quotations **MUST** be comparable, like for like.
2. If one quote is over £4,999.99, 4 quotations must be provided; if one quote is over £29,999.99 but below EU thresholds you must appoint using a publicly advertised open or restricted tender competition.
3. All quotations should be dated and on headed paper. The funder reserves the right to have a chartered architect to check the validity of quotations/tenders. Please note that professional fees will not be eligible for grant aid, and you employ such services at your own risk, whether or not your application is successful. **PLEASE NOTE THAT A QUOTATION/TENDER WILL BE DEEMED INVALID IF THE APPLICANT IS DEEMED TO HAVE A CONFLICT OF INTEREST (A PERSONAL, PRIVATE OR FAMILY INTEREST) IN RESPECT OF THE COMPANY(S) QUOTING FOR WORK AND/OR DEEMED TO BE A 'LINKED COMPANY' (EU RECOMMENDATIONS 2330/361/EC):- COMPANIES ARE LINKED IF ONE OF THEM DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY CONTROLS, OR HAS THE CAPACITY TO CONTROL THE AFFAIRS OF THE OTHER.**
4. Costs should not include VAT regardless if the company is VAT registered or not.
5. All projects which receive a letter of offer in November 2019 must have works completed and claimed for by 20 March 2020.

Element of Work	Description of Work (e.g., repair, replacement of new feature, materials to be used, colour schemes)	Cost (as per quotations / tenders obtained) Excluding VAT Please cost each element of work separately and ENCLOSE the appropriate number of quotes for each element of work with your application. <i>(Failure to do so will result in your application being deemed incomplete)</i> 2 Written Quotations for elemental costs up to £4,999.99 4 Written Quotations for elemental costs from £5,000-£29,999 For any items over £30,000 but below EU thresholds you must appoint using a publicly advertised open or restricted tender competition)			
		Quote 1 (Chosen Contractor) Contractor Name	Quote 2 Contractor Name	Quote 3 Contractor Name	Quote 4 Contractor Name
Internal Works					
TOTAL COST £					

Element of Work	Description of Work (e.g., repair, replacement of new feature, materials to be used, colour schemes)	Cost (as per quotations / tenders obtained) Excluding VAT. Please cost each element of work separately and ENCLOSE the appropriate number of quotes for each element of work with your application. <i>(Failure to do so will result in your application being deemed incomplete)</i> 2 Written Quotations for elemental costs up to £4,999.99 4 Written Quotations for elemental costs from £5,000-£29,999 For any items over £30,000 but below EU thresholds you must appoint using a publicly advertised open or restricted tender competition)			
		Quote 1 (Chosen Contractor) Contractor Name	Quote 2 Contractor Name	Quote 3 Contractor Name	Quote 4 Contractor Name
External Works					
TOTAL COST		£			

3.2 Please identify if the proposed project is part of a Multiple Application (See note on page 3 of Guidance Notes)

Is project part of a Multiple Application	Yes/No
If yes, please give details below naming adjacent business/commercial premise applying	

3.3 What is the planned start and completion date for the project?

Expected Start Date:		Expected Completion Date:	
----------------------	--	---------------------------	--

NB: All applicants issued a Letter of Offer in November 2019 must have works completed and claimed by 20 March 2020. If successful, no works should commence prior to receipt of Letter of Offer.

3.4 Statutory Approvals

Is Planning Permission required for the project?	Yes/No	If yes, please state the status of your Planning Application: (Please tick)	Application to be submitted	
			Application submitted	
			Approval Received (Please enclose a copy of Planning Approval)	

NB: Planning Approval must be in place BEFORE works commence. In addition to this, any signage alterations must have approved consent to display an advertisement prior to works commencing (a copy of the approval must be sent to Knox & Clayton Architects prior to commencement of works).

Is Building Control approval required for the project?	Yes/No	If yes, Building Control Approval must be in place BEFORE payment of grant.
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Is Listed Building Consent required for the project?	Yes/No	If yes, a copy of the Listed Building Consent MUST be submitted prior to commencement of works.
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3.5 Please state how your scheme meets the objectives as stated in the Guidance Notes (See note on Page 2 of Guidance Notes)

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4 PROJECT COSTS AND ADMINISTRATION

4.1 Please provide details of total project cost and grant aid sought:

Total Project Cost: If VAT registered, please detail Net Cost, If Not VAT Registered, please quote Gross Cost	£
Grant Aid Sought: If VAT registered, please detail Net Cost, If Not VAT Registered, please quote Gross Cost	£

Details regarding the amount of grant-aid available through this scheme are detailed in the Guidance Notes Page 1.

4.2 Please complete details of remaining funding for the project:

Are you able to provide the remaining funding for the project? <i>(Proof of available match funding may be required on request from Mid-Ulster Council)</i>	Yes / No
Anticipated Project Duration <i>NB: Work should not commence until a 'Letter of Offer' for grant aid is received and you have signed and returned the 'Form of Acceptance' in compliance with the terms and conditions of this grant.</i>	Number of Weeks

5. DECLARATION

Notes to Applicants:

- a. Only owners/tenants of properties located **within the scheme boundaries** included within the Guidance Notes and associated maps are eligible to apply.
- b. Please note that completion of this application does not guarantee an award of grand aid.
- c. Any costs incurred in the completion of this application will be at your own expense and will not be refunded.
- d. Please note that if your application is successful, you will be required to provide documentation to Council for funding purposes before any funds can be released (e.g., bank account details, confirmation of VAT status, original bank statements)
- e. No funds can be issued until all the necessary information required by Mid Ulster District Council has been received (NB: the Council may ask for additional information at any stage of the application process).
- f. If approved, Council will issue a formal Letter of Offer for your scheme – works must not commence until a formal Letter of Offer has been signed and returned to Council. Grant aid cannot be awarded for works already carried out.
- g. Work commenced prior to a Letter of Offer being signed and returned to Council or work commenced before the required statutory approvals are in place will be deemed ineligible and will not be funded.
- h. All projects must meet the required timescales.
- i. Applicants must comply with publicity arrangements: - Consent to the business being named in and participating in any publicity produced in relation to this Scheme.
- j. It is the applicant's responsibility to comply with all relevant health and safety, including in particular The Construction (Design & Management) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 for any works being carried out. For more information, please visit <https://www.hseni.gov.uk/publications/simple-guide-cdm-regulations-ni-2016>
- k. It is the applicant's responsibility to comply with all other relevant legislation.

I/We confirm that the information contained in this Application is true and accurate to the best of my/our knowledge and belief. I/We understand and agree to the above Notes and Guidance, and I/We acknowledge that if false or misleading information is provided that the Council may exclude me/us from the Scheme. I /We further acknowledge that in the event that it comes to light, following the issuing of the Letter of Offer, that false or misleading information was provided, the Council reserves the right in its absolute discretion to refuse to withhold grant monies or seek to recoup grant monies already paid.

I/We hereby apply for Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme

Signature(s).....
(PROPERTY OWNER(S)/TENANTS)

.....

Name(s) (Print).....

Date.....

IF THE APPLICANT IS A TENANT, THE PROPERTY OWNER(S) MUST COMPLETE THE SECTION BELOW

I/We the property owner(s) give permission to _____(tenant) to
conduct and complete the works as detailed in the attached application form to: -

Property Address:

Name of Business currently located in property: _____

Signature(s).....
(PROPERTY OWNER(S))

Completed application forms should be returned to the address below in a sealed envelope
marked

Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme

**KNOX & CLAYTON ARCHITECTS,
2A WALLACE AVENUE, LISBURN, BT27 4AA**

Or alternatively,

**Council Offices
Burn Road
Cookstown
BT80 8DT**

**Council Offices
Circular Road
Dungannon
BT77 6DT**

**Council Offices
Ballyronan Road
Magherafelt
BT45 6EN**

Please note ONLY fully completed applications will be considered. Any application submitted with missing information or incomplete questions will be deemed incomplete and subsequently rejected

PLEASE NOTE

- **A Fully Completed Application Form - the following sections must be completed in full to warrant a fully completed Application:**
 - **Your Details**
 - **Property Details**
 - **Project Details**
 - **Project Costs & Administration (including adequate quotations/tenders)**
 - **Declaration Completed**
 - **Completed Property Owner Declaration**
- **Submission of all necessary documents as per section 6 page 13 of the application form – Please ensure all required documentation required is enclosed with your application, as no documents will be accepted after 4pm on Wednesday 18th September 2019.**

LATE OR INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED: THEY WILL BE DEEMED INCOMPLETE AND WILL SUBSEQUENTLY BE REJECTED.

CLOSING DATE FOR COMPLETED APPLICATIONS
WEDNESDAY 18th SEPTEMBER 2019 AT 4PM

6 DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED

Failure to fully complete the application form and submit the required documentation below will result in your application being deemed incomplete and will subsequently be rejected.

6.1 Please provide the following documentation as part of your application:

	Attached (Please tick)
Completed application form, signed appropriately by the tenant/property owner as per page 11	
Colour photograph showing the element(s) of works proposed to be improved / refurbished.	
Detailed costs for any works to be completed in Section 3.1. Please ensure to cost each element of work separately and ENCLOSE the appropriate number of quotes for each element of work with your application.	
If applying for a property which is currently vacant evidence must be provided that: 1) The property's previous use as a business/commercial property 2) Should the vacant property currently exist as a residential property with plans to change use to a commercial property, a change of use planning permission should be submitted to Council prior to commencement of works 3) How it will be marketed/let as a business/commercial property after improvement works are complete	
If proposed works require planning permission this must be in place prior to works commencing - a copy of permission MUST be attached if planning approval has been granted	
If proposed works require consent to display an advertisement this must be in place prior to works commencing – a copy of approval MUST be attached if it has been granted	
If proposed works require listed building consent, this must be in place prior to works commencing – a copy of approval MUST be attached if it has been granted.	
Property owner has signed the declaration.	

NB: Make a copy of this application and any supporting documentation for your own records as we do not intend to return any information supplied unless specifically requested.

Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme



Supporting Local Business

Individual Scoring Assessment Sheet

SECTION A:

1. Applicant Details:

Name of Applicant:			
Address of Applicant:			
Tel No:		Email Address:	
Name of Business:			
Property Address:			
Total Project Cost:		Grant Aid Requested:	

2. Checklist

Eligibility Criteria	Yes	No
Is the property located within the boundary of the scheme as defined in the Guidance Notes.?		
Is the property type eligible for the scheme? (I.e., Commercial, NOT a bank, building society, charity shop, government organisation, community groups / clubs, sports groups / clubs, or social clubs?)		
Has the application form been signed by tenant and / or property owner?		
Has a colour photograph of the element of works proposed to be improved/refurbished been provided? (Interior and/or Exterior)		
Are written quotations from bonafide reputable contractors, of which there is no conflict of interest between the applicant and the companies who have the provided quotations?		
If for a vacant business/commercial property, has the following evidence been provided:-		

1) That it was previously used as a business/commercial property (If this is not evident from the supplied photograph then evidence (old photographs, rates bills, etc.) must be provided 2) Should the vacant property currently exist as a residential property with plans to change use to a commercial property, a change of use planning permission should be submitted to Council prior to commencement of works. 3) That it will be marketed/let as a business/commercial property after improvement works are complete. Evidence must be provided of how this will be achieved and actively promoted.		
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3. Assisting documents checklist

	YES	NO	Is this permission needed for this scheme
Has a copy of planning permission been submitted?			
Has a copy of listed building consent been submitted?			
Has a copy of building control consent been submitted?			
Has a copy of advertising consent been submitted?			

Have detailed costs been provided (two/four written quotations / tenders as appropriate)?

NB: Both written quotations for elementary costs up to £4,999.99 MUST be less than £5,000.00 or 4 quotations are required.

Individual Element	2 Written Quotations for elementary costs up to £4,999.99			4 Written Quotations for elementary from £5,000-£29,999			For any items over £30,000 but below EU thresholds you must appoint using a publicly advertised open or restricted tender competition)		
	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A

For Section B, please provide a score for each question in the box provided. Weighting criteria is provided for each question individually.

Please note all applications must score a minimum of 40% to be considered for funding.

SECTION B

1 – CURRENT CONDITION OF ELEMENT(S) TO BE GRANT AIDED (25%)

Scoring Breakdown

Weighting Criteria	Assessment Comments
Very Poor / Non-Existent	Element(s) not fit for purpose / have an unsightly visual contribution to the street scape
Poor	Element(s) are in bad repair / have an unsightly visual contribution to the streetscape
Average	Element(s) in need of repair / works will improve the visual impact of the street scape
Very Good	Element(s) are in good condition, but minor works will improve the visual impact of the street scape
Excellent	Element(s) do not have a negative impact on current street scape / any works will not improve the visual impact of the street scape

Weighting Criteria	Score	Comments
Very Poor/Non-Existent 25%		
Poor 20%		
Average 15%		
Good 10%		
Very Good 5%		
Excellent 0%		
Score in this Section		

2 – IMPACT PROPOSED ELEMENT/ELEMENTS OF WORK WILL MAKE (25%)

Scoring Breakdown

Weighting Criteria	Assessment Comments
None	Works will not improve the visual contribution to the street scape
Minor	Works will have a minor contribution to the visual impact of the street scape / will not drastically change the street
Average	Works will have a positive impact on the visual aesthetics of the street scape / noticeably enhance the street scape
Good	Works will improve the attractiveness of the street scape
Very Good	Works will greatly improve the visual impact of the street scape / noticeably change the street elevation

Transformation	Works will transform the street scape completely / element(s) will be unrecognisable
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Weighting Criteria	Score	Comments
None 0%		
Minor 5%		
Average 10%		
Good 15%		
Very Good 20%		
Transformation 25%		
Score in this Section		

3 –VALUE FOR MONEY (25%)

Value for money calculated as: Impact (points) ÷ Grant Sought (in thousands to nearest £500)

EXAMPLE 1 Average Impact(12) ÷ Grant Sought(£5000) = $12 \div 5 = 2.4$ =Score of **10%**.

EXAMPLE 2 Very Good Impact(24) ÷ Grant Sought(£2000) = $24 \div 2 = 12$ =Score of **25%**.

Weighting Criteria	Score	Comments
0-1.999 - 5% Poor		Impact = ----- Grant Sought = Value for Money = Score =
2-3.999 - 10% Average		
4 – 7.999 - 15% Good		
8 – 11.999 - 20% Very Good		
12 – 30 - 25% Excellent		
Score in this Section		

4 –MULTIPLE APPLICATION (10%)

Weighting Criteria	Actual Score	Comments
Not Multiple Application 0%		
Multiple Application as part of 2 properties 5%		
Multiple Application as part of more than 2 properties 10%		
Score in this Section		

5- VACANT BUSINESS/COMMERCIAL PROPERTY (10%) No Commercial activity taking place at time of application, can be long or short term vacant

Weighting Criteria	Actual Score	Comments
Not Vacant Business/Commercial Property 0%		
Vacant Business/Commercial Property 10%		
Score in this Section		

6- PROPERTY'S FIRST SUBMISSION (5%)

Weighting Criteria	Actual Score	Comments
No previous grant aid has been awarded to this property under previous improvement schemes 5%		
Grant aid has been awarded previously under an improvement scheme by Mid Ulster District Council 0%		
Score in this Section		

Summary:

		Maximum Score	Actual Score
1	CURRENT CONDITION OF ELEMENTS TO BE GRANT AIDED	25	
2	IMPACT OF PROPOSED ELEMENT	25	
3	VALUE FOR MONEY	25	
4	MULTIPLE APPLICATION STATUS	10	
5	VACANT BUSINESS/COMMERICAL PROPERTY	10	
6	PROPERTY'S FIRST SUBMISSION	5	
Total Score:		100	

Recommended Grant Aid:	
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Signatures of Assessment Panel:	Date:



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme



Supporting Local Business

Commencement Inspection Report

Application Ref No.			
Applicant Name			
Business Name			
Property Address			
Photograph (Before Works Commence)			
Is the photo supplied with the application a true reflection of the current condition of the premises	Yes		
Have any of the funding works been carried out (if yes list within comments section)	No		
Planning Approval Granted	Ref No:	Building Control Approval Granted	Ref No:
Listed building Consent Granted	Ref No:	Advertising Consent Granted	Ref No: -
SUMMARY OF WORKS			
Element of Works	Description of Works		
Internal Works	•		

External Works	•
Other (Please Specify)	
Comments	
Date Works Due to Commence	
Date Works Due to Complete	
Inspection Conducted by	
Inspection Date	
Signed (original)	

Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme



Supporting Local Business

Section B: Final Site Inspection

Application Ref No.	
Applicant Name	
Business Name	
Property Address	
Photograph of Property before Works	
Photograph of Property on Completion	
Date of Completion	
Has the work been carried out within the required timescale (30th March 2020)	
Verification of Statutory Approvals attached	
Has the works been completed in accordance with the application	

Summary of Works

Element of Works	Description of Works	Progress of Works
Internal Works		
External Works		
Other (Please Specify)		

QUALITY OF WORKS

	1 Very Poor	2 Poor	3 Average	4 Good	5 Excellent
Quality of materials					
Quality of Workmanship					
Comments					

IMPACT OF SCHEME IN RESPECT TO:

	1 Poor / No Impact	2 Little Impact	3 Average	4 Good	5 Excellent
Visual Improvement of the external structure of the property					
Visual Improvement of the internal structure of the property					
Contribution to overall townscape					
Comments					

Final Inspection Conducted by	
Final Inspection (date)	
Grant Offered	
Recommendation to Pay Grant	

Comments on impact of Scheme	
Signed	
Date	

21 March 2023

Dear Colleague

As you may be aware ESF funding for employability programmes ceases across Northern Ireland on 30th March 2023. Unfortunately this includes the funds for 3 of our programmes namely Community Family Support, Up for Work and Jobmatch.

We would like to thank you sincerely for all the support you have provided for these initiatives over the past 5 years. It has helped ensure that they were well known to clients across the whole community and that the maximum number of people benefited from the employment, training and mentoring opportunities available.

I am pleased to report that of the 4,333 people who engaged on these programmes some 34% found work and 20% progressed to further training or education.

I would also like to highlight that Network Personnel currently operates a number of other employment programmes including Apprenticeships and 'Access all Areas' and as such, our support for those seeking to build skills and find employment is ongoing.

Moreover, we are awaiting the outcome of a number of other funding applications and look forward to continuing our joint working relationship for the benefit of all.

Thank you again.

Best regards



Ann McBride
Programme Manager