



27 February 2020

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Council to be held in The Chamber, Dungannon at Mid Ulster District Council, Council Offices, Circular Road, DUNGANNON, BT71 6DT on Thursday, 27 February 2020 at 19:00 to transact the business noted below.

Yours faithfully

Anthony Tohill  
Chief Executive

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## AGENDA

### OPEN BUSINESS

1. Apologies
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Chair's Business

### Matters for Decision

- |  |           |
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| 4. Council Minutes of Meeting held on 23 January 2020                        | 5 - 22    |
| 5. Special Planning Committee Minutes held on 30 January 2020                | 23 - 24   |
| 6. Planning Committee Minutes of Meeting held on 4 February 2020             | 25 - 60   |
| 7. Policy and Resources Committee Minutes of Meeting held on 6 February 2020 | 61 - 86   |
| 8. Special Council Minutes of Meeting held on 10 February 2020               | 87 - 90   |
| 9. Environment Committee Minutes of Meeting held on 11 February 2020         | 91 - 100  |
| 10. Development Committee Minutes of Meeting held on 13 February 2020        | 101 - 128 |
| 11. Conferences, Seminars & Training Report                                  | 129 - 150 |
| 12. Request for Civic Recognition  | 151 - 160 |
| 13. Mid South West Region Growth Deal  | 161 - 236 |

### Matters for Information

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Notice of Motions

## 16 Cllr Brown to move:

That this Council recognises the vital contribution that farming makes to our rural economy and that our local agriculture industry is in a state of crisis due to unprecedented low farmgate prices.

Mid Ulster Council therefore calls on the devolved government and the British Government to invest in local farmers by making additional funding available to help them deal with the current financial crisis and the uncertainties created by Brexit.

We appreciate the high nutritional value and traceability of our local farm produce and support the calls for an intense and co-ordinated period of product protection and promotion by processors, retailers and the food service industry.

That this Council will take a lead by pro-actively promoting and sourcing local farm produce where possible”.

## 17 Cllr Doris to move

This council acknowledges the important role landowners and TNI play to ensure our roads are safe to travel on. However on some occasions more can be done to prevent danger to the public. I therefore propose that this council writes to the Minister for Infrastructure requesting that inspections of dangerous trees along roads receive additional resources to prevent tragic incidents.

## 18 Cllr Wilson to move

That this Council writes to Steve Barnett, Assistant Director of Operations at the Royal British Legion (RBL), Johnny Mercer MP Minister for Defence People and Veterans and the Minister for Veterans' Affairs in the Cabinet Office expressing our disappointment at the proposed closure of Bennet House, Portrush. The council notes the integral support and respite this facility has provided to many residents from our district and calls upon the Ministers to engage with the RBL to ensure a sustainable solution is brought forward to retain this vital service.

## 19 Cllr Quinn to move

That this Council welcomes the announcement from the Infrastructure Minister that an additional £3m will be allocated to fixing street lights and filling potholes in our roads; notes the positive impact that fixing these problems will have on the lives of ratepayers; further notes the severe pressure on maintenance budgets; and agrees to write to the Minister for Finance to outline the need for additional

resource to tackle these and other pressures that are vital for improving lives across our communities.

**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

20. Council Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 23 January 2020
21. Special Planning Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 30 January 2020
22. Planning Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 4 February 2020
23. Policy and Resources Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 6 February 2020
24. Special Council Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 10 February 2020
25. Environment Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 11 February 2020
26. Development Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 13 February 2020
27. Document for Sealing: Lease of lands situated at Somme Park, Killyman, between NIHE and Mid Ulster District Council
28. Document for Sealing: Licence of a 3G Synthetic Pitch at Aughnacloy College, 23 Carntell Road, Aughnacloy, between The Education Authority and Mid Ulster District Council
29. Document for Sealing: Lease with the Church of Ireland for Lands at Maghera (Footpath and Walled Garden)

Matters for Information





**Minutes of Meeting of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 23 January 2020 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon**

<b>Chair</b>	Councillor Kearney
<b>Members Present</b>	Councillors Ashton, Bell, Black, Brown, Buchanan, Clarke, Colvin, Corry, Cuddy, Cuthbertson, Doris, Elattar, Forde, Gildernew, Glasgow, Graham, Hughes, Kerr, Mallaghan, McAleer, McFlynn, McGinley, B McGuigan, S McGuigan, McLean, McNamee, D McPeake, S McPeake, Milne, Molloy, Monteith, Mullen, O'Neill, Quinn, Robinson and Wilson
<b>Officers in Attendance</b>	Mr A Tohill, Chief Executive Ms Campbell, Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation Mr McCreesh, Director of Business & Communities Mr Cassells, Director of Environment & Property Ms Canavan, Director of Organisational Development Mr Kelso, Director of Public Health & Infrastructure Ms Mezza, Head of Marketing & Communications Mr Moffett, Head of Democratic Services Mr JJ Tohill, Director of Finance Mrs Forde, Member Support Officer
<b>Others in Attendance</b>	<b>Deputation:</b>  <b>Northern Regional College</b>  Craig Fairless, Head of Marketing Deborah Kerr, Head of Performance and Planning  <b>South West College</b>  Michel McAlister, Chief Executive Jill Cush, Deputy Chief Executive John Moss, Head of Faculty Ciaran McManus, Assistant Chief Executive Shirley Patterson, STEM Centre Co-ordinator  <b>Education Authority</b>  Averil Morrow, Head of Learning & Technology Paul Crowe, School Improvement Team - South West Locality

The meeting commenced at 7 pm

## **C001/20      Apologies**

Councillors Burton, McKinney and Totten

## **C002/20      Declarations of Interest**

The Chair Councillor Kearney reminded Members of their responsibility with regard to declarations of interest.

## **C003/20      Chair's Business**

Councillor McLean requested that Council congratulate all those residents who had been named on the recent Queen's Honours List.

**Resolved**      That the Chair send a letter of congratulations to residents recently named on the recent Queen's Honours List

*Councillors Elattar and Corry entered the meeting at 7.03pm*

Councillor Kerr referred to the national and local media reports concerning Shannon Whitehouse who having been recently diagnosed with an incurable cancer decided to use the life left to her to raise funds for the Boom Foundation.

He advised that money raised by Boom is split between practical help and vital research with 50% remaining in the North to be used Boom for the benefit of sarcoma patients whilst the remaining 50% is sent to Sarcoma UK to try to achieve the best possible standard of treatment and care for patients with sarcoma.

Councillor Kerr requested that an invitation be extended to the Whitehouse family and friends to meet with the Members prior to a meeting of the Development Committee and that the Boom Foundation be invited to make a presentation to the Committee.

Councillor Doris concurred stating Sinn Féin had worked closely with the family to secure licensing for the charitable event and commended the PSNI and the community who went the extra mile to ensure its success. Councillor Doris shared that her thoughts were with Shannon and her family.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr  
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

**Resolved**      That an invitation be extended to the Whitehouse family and friends to meet with the Members prior to a meeting of the Development Committee and invite the Boom Foundation to make a presentation to the Committee.

Councillor McGinley stated that he was standing down as a Sinn Féin Councillor and spoke of the honour it had been to represent his community on Council and lead the Sinn Féin team. He advised that Councillor Mallaghan would take the post of Party Leader and thanked all Members for working in partnership for the district. He

reflected that a lot had been achieved and acknowledged the work of the Chief Executive, Directors and Officers and commended them on the passion they displayed for their work which was evident in the success of the district. In closing, he wished the Council continuing success urging it to remain innovative, forward thinking remaining at the heart of the community.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney congratulated Councillor McGinley and wished him success in his new role.

Councillor Mallaghan on behalf of Sinn Féin thanked Councillor McGinley for his service stating that he 'had been thrown in at the deep end' as group leader, led the team through the transition and displayed excellent qualities such as the ability to compromise and promote good working relations especially with the senior management team. He stated he would be a loss to the Council but wished him all the best in his future role.

Councillor Quinn extended best wishes to Councillor McGinley for the future and stated he had enjoyed working with him for the good of the Torrent area.

Councillor Quinn also concurred with Councillor Kerr's comments and proposal in relation to the Whitehouse family and stated that the event held had been an example of how Coalisland rally around their own.

Councillor Wilson wished Councillor McGinley every success in his new role whatever it may be.

Councillor McLean wished Councillor McGinley all the best stating that whilst they had had their differences, clashes and run-ins they had always been mature about it.

Councillor Monteith on behalf of himself and Councillor Kerr also extended best wishes stating while they hadn't always agreed the arguments had been well put.

Councillor McPeake thanked the Chair Councillor Kearney for the opportunity to speak and highlighted the non-participation of the Southern Health and Social Services Trust in the Mid Ulster Support Hub. He advised that it had been raised at the Policing and Community Safety Partnership the previous evening where it had been agreed to write to express concern to the Minister for the Department for Health and the Health Care Board and proposed that Council do likewise. He highlighted that Support Hubs were designed to help vulnerable people get access to the right support, at the right time, from the right organisation in their local area.

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake  
Seconded by Councillor B McGuigan and

**Resolved** That Council to write to Minister for Health and also the Health & Social Care Board to express concern of the non-participation of SHSCT in the Mid Ulster Support Hub

*Councillor Mallaghan left the meeting at 7.12pm*

*Declaration of Interest: Councillor Glasgow declared an interest in D006/20 Community Development Report – Rolling Grants Awards re Montober RBP 598*

**C004/20      Deputation: South West Regional College, Northern Regional College and Education Authority**

The Chair, Councillor Kearney welcomed representatives of South West Regional College, Northern Regional College and Education Authority

Mr McAlister, Chief Executive introduced the South West Regional College Team following which Mr Moss, Miss Patterson and Mr McManus delivered presentation detailed at appendix one.

*Councillor Mallaghan returned to the meeting at 7.13pm  
Councillor McGinley left the meeting at 7.13pm returning at 7.20pm*

The Chair Councillor Kearney thanked the South West College team for their presentation.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney invited Ms Kerr and Mr Fairless to deliver their presentation following which he called on Members for questions.

Councillor Molloy focusing on South West College wished them every success with regard to the welding academy and commented on the application numbers and the expansion of input from local companies. He sought an update on the proposed 'centre of excellence' with regard to engineering and also asked if there was any potential to expand the childcare facility.

In response Ms Cush advised that the college remained committed to the proposed 'centre of excellence' which was an evolving story commenting that the regional growth deal was a change in path that provided opportunities to do something on a larger scale. She highlighted that it was imperative to work collaboratively to shape the proposition and whilst there was plans across the North for such a centre it was their belief it needed to be in Tyrone. In relation to the childcare facility Ms Cush acknowledged that it was essential for students but there was no current plans to expansion plans but it would be kept under review.

Councillor Kerr thanked representatives for the presentation stating that it was great to see recruitment to the welding academy.

Councillor B McGuigan speaking in relation to Northern Regional College acknowledged the number of schools in the area and that often a college was second choice to university but asked if they were encouraging and promoting apprenticeships were students could train close to home and attain a job. He further stated that often people went to university attained a degree but couldn't secure a job.

In response Mr Fairless stated that the college needed to signpost people to courses. He stated that the college foothold in Mid Ulster was small and concurred with comments regarding the schools but emphasised that it was for everyone to

encourage young people to explore options at college as university was not for everyone. He stated that often schools were reluctant to allow FE Colleges to speak to students especially sixth formers. He assured that the college engaged with employers in order to endeavour to address skills gaps.

Ms Kerr advised that the college struggled to get access to fourth and fifth year students but advised that they were also speaking to primary schools to get the message out that they are not second best. She highlighted that the message needed to be delivered that college was not second best, that courses were unique and the lecturers had actually worked in industry. In closing Ms Kerr stated that the college was working with employers to attain more placements and were endeavouring to change the dynamic to increase provision with the introduction of new programmes in the proposed three year plan.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney thanked representatives of both colleges for their input.

*Councillor Wilson left the meeting at 7.54 pm*

The Chair, Councillor Kearney welcomed representatives of the Education Authority. Ms Morrow delivered presentation at appendix three.

Ms Morrow drew particular attention to the need to reinforce the options available at Regional Colleges together with relevant careers advice and drew Members attention to school leavers' data for the district.

*Councillor Wilson returned to the meeting at 8.05pm*

The Chair, Councillor Kearney thanked Ms Morrow for the presentation and reflected on the leavers' data.

Councillor McLean reflected on experiences whereby the child had not chosen the wrong career path but rather the parents had chosen the wrong path for the child as often parents felt if the child should go to university. He emphasised that there was fantastic opportunities for young people in the regional colleges which offered courses which allowed them to fulfil their potential.

Ms Morrow stated that the Education Authority can't 'make' schools do things but rather work with them and offer direction. She concurred with Councillor McLean's comments and gave an example of parents being devastated at their child not going to university but following a college course but a year or two down the line realising that it had been for the best. Ms Morrow also advised that in relation to STEM often girls were not engaged in courses as 'daddy' didn't want them pursuing that path. Ms Morrow stressed that everyone did need to go to university as the Regional Colleges offered fantastic opportunities and the school environment did not suit everyone.

Councillor McGinley concurred with Ms Morrow that schools could be more proactive inviting businesses in stating that there is a general trend in schools from day one to

promote academia and emphasised that school principals needed to strike a balance.

Ms Morrow said teachers had come through the academic route thus they were comfortable with it and were not risk takers and stressed that the culture needed to change.

Councillor Colvin concurred that parents had a huge influence and often they were unaware of the new opportunities thus the remit should include educating the parents together with improved career advice as the more people knew about options the better.

Ms Morrow stated that currently the Education Authority had embarked on a massive project part of which was taking principals to five locations across Europe to look at how other Education systems worked highlighting in particular the German education system where for example there was utmost respect for engineers.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney thanked everyone for their input and concluded that one of the first things he was told in his teaching career was teachers accounted for 3% of a child's education whilst the parent accounted for 97%.

*The representatives withdrew from the meeting at 8.20pm*

## **Matters for Decision**

### **C005/20 Council Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 16 December 2019**

Proposed by Councillor B McGuigan  
Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan and

**Resolved** That the Minutes of the Council held on Monday 16 December 2019 (C253/19 – C272/19) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

### **C006/20 Planning Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 7 January 2020**

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan  
Seconded by Councillor S McPeake and

**Resolved** That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on Tuesday 7 January 2020 (P001/20 – P012/20) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

### **C007/20 Policy and Resources Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 9 January 2020**

Proposed by Councillor Gildernew  
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

**Resolved** That the Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 9 January 2020 (PR001/20 – PR025/20) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

**C008/20 Environment Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 14 January 2020**

Councillor McGinley drew attention to *E003/20 Chair's Business Protect Life 2 Strategy* and drew attention to the comments made at the meeting and also the letter received from Dr McBride listed in the correspondence report. He reported that at the meeting with Dr McBride on the 8<sup>th</sup> January a number of opportunities had been discussed and that whilst at the committee it had been proposed to bring a paper to the Council meeting time restraints had not permitted same. Councillor McGinley drew attention to the invitation in the letter for Council to present on planned suicide prevention work to highlight Council's actions via the Mid Ulster Community Plan, at the meeting of Protect Life 2 Steering Group scheduled for Wednesday 26 February 2020. He also highlighted a number of other actions Council agreed to consider.

- Staff made aware of and encouraged to do Towards Zero Suicide online training through the e-learning platform <https://www.zerosuicidealliance.com/training/> and where appropriate further training to develop knowledge and skills for example Safetalk or Mental Health First Aid;
- PHA could engage Samaritans to deliver a media training session to Councillors;
- Explore Council Charter on Suicide Prevention;
- Work with PHA in developing a Directory of Services for Mid Ulster that was not Trust area Specific; and
- Work with PHA to consider options to assist Council representation at Protect Life Implementation Groups.

Councillor McGinley stressed that it was not for Council to take on the role of other statutory agencies but to create hope and opportunity referring to aforementioned charter as a means of how suicide prevention could be a consideration in all decision making. He concluded in that it was not enough to display a passion to do the aforementioned but Council needed to hold itself to account to do something.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney stated that passion was a good way to describe the meeting and complimented Councillor McGinley on driving the initiative. The Chair also referred to the invitation for Council to make a presentation to the Protect Life 2 Steering Group.

The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure acknowledged that the issue was a sensitive subject and referred to the Mid Ulster Community Plan mental health objective which Council was engaged in. The Director suggested that a working group or one of meeting be arranged to drive forward the initiatives raised at an early date in order that Council may prepare for the presentation aforementioned.

Councillor McGinley suggested that a working group/one of meeting be held and a paper brought to the Environment Committee who would need to have delegated authority to approve as the presentation date was prior to the February Council meeting.

Proposed by Councillor McGinley  
Seconded by Councillor McLean and

**Resolved**                      That

- (i) an all Member Meeting be arranged to prepare paper for presentation to Protect Life 2 Steering Group scheduled for Wednesday 26 February 2020; and
- (ii) Environment Committee scheduled for 11 February 2020 granted delegated authority to approve the paper

The Chair, Councillor Kearney acknowledged the opportunity to present to the Protect Life Strategy Working Group advising that there was only one elected member sitting on the group.

Councillor Quinn highlighted that during recent engagement with mental health groups throughout Mid Ulster a problem was that the groups whilst striving for one goal did not communicate nor work collaboratively. He acknowledged that the Health Trusts had agreed that a forum should be arranged for organisations to work collaboratively in establishing what is required and stressed that all desperately needed to work towards this goal. The Chair, Councillor Kearney stated that as aforementioned a working group would meet to summarise way forward.

Councillor McGinley concurred with the Chair emphasising that ideas should be discussed with the Public Health Agency to prevent duplication of work.

Kearney we will collate an agenda agreed working group summarise ideas

Councillor Glasgow drew attention to the *E008/20 Cemetery Administration and Management Update* and stated that he had still not received clarification as to whether Orritor Presbyterian Church had been consulted with regard to changes. He stated that the matter was a sensitive one and highlighted that rural areas do not have the infrastructure of other areas.

In response the Director of Environment and Property stated that the matter was a work in progress and he would report back to the Councillor when he had the relevant feedback.

Proposed by Councillor Milne  
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

**Resolved**      That the Minutes of Environment Committee held on Tuesday 14 January 2020 (E001/20 – E025/20) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.



## **C009/20      Development Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 16 January 2020**

Councillor Quinn drew attention to D013/20 and requested that it be noted the exceptional work of the Project Officers in relation to both the Halloween and Christmas events in Coalisland.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke  
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

**Resolved** That the Minutes of Development Committee held on Thursday 16 January 2020 (D001/20 – D023/20) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

## **C010/20      Conferences, Seminars & Training Report**

Approval was sought for the undernoted for attendance of Councillors and Council Officers as outlined in the report, the payment of attendance fees and associated costs as incurred.

### **(i)      Member Approvals**

- *National Association of Councillors*

24-26 January 2020 – The Ripon Spa Best Western Hotel, Ripon  
Delegate Fees: £350 plus VAT – Metropolitan County, Unitary Borough & District Councils plus travel and subsistence

- *31<sup>st</sup> Colmcille Winter School 2020*

28 and 29 February 2020 – Colmcille Heritage Centre, Co Donegal  
€130 per delegate plus travel, accommodation and subsistence

### **(ii)      Officer Approvals (retrospective approval)**

<b>Conference &amp; Seminar</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>No. of Attendees</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Attendance Fee (Yes/No)</b>
Celtic Connections	22 January 2020	1	Glasgow	£315

<b>Conference &amp; Seminar</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>No. of Attendees</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Attendance Fee (Yes/No)</b>
American Conference for Irish Studies in Houston	4 April 2020	1	Houston, Texas	No
Nilga Conference, Exhibit and Gala Awards Dinner	20 February 2020	2	Crown Plaza Belfast	Yes

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan  
Seconded by Councillor Buchanan and

**Resolved** That the attendance of Members and Officers, the payment of attendance fees and associated costs as incurred be approved, as required for attendees.

#### **C011/20 Requests for Civic Recognition**

The Head of Democratic Services sought approval for the previously circulated report on civic recognition requests from Members, in line with the stated Council Policy, as detailed within the report.

Councillors requested amendments and additions as undernoted:

Councillor Wilson requested that Cookstown Hockey Club 2<sup>nd</sup> XL to be upgraded to 'civic reception' as the team was a different one to that honoured previously.

Councillor S McPeake requested that Erin's Own GAC Lavey Minor Football Team to be upgraded to 'civic reception' as similar to aforementioned this was a different team playing in a different league.

Proposed by Councillor Milne  
Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan and

**Resolved** That undernoted be upgraded to civic reception status.

- Erin's Own GAC Lavey Minor Football Team upgraded to 'civic reception'
- Cookstown Hockey Club 2<sup>nd</sup> XL upgraded to 'civic reception'

Proposed by Councillor Kerr  
Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan and

**Resolved** That subject to the foregoing, approval be given to submitted requests for civic recognition as outlined in the report.

#### **C012/20 Northern Ireland Assembly Ministerial Engagement**

The Chief Executive presented previously circulated report which sought approval for a series of engagements with the newly appointed Ministers of the Northern Ireland Assembly. He drew attention to previous delegations which had been led by the Council Chair and accompanied by the Party Leader of the four main parties or their nominee. In addition he sought approval to invite the First Minister and the Deputy First Minister to Mid Ulster to hear directly from Members the priorities of the Council. He drew attention to the appendix of the report and Members responded with the undernoted comments to be included:

Councillor S McPeake said that partnership work with Policing and Community Safety Partnership to tackle the scourge of antisocial behaviour should be listed.

Councillor Ashton commented that it was good to see Ministers in post who were accountable and requested that the rates support grant be added to the list of both the Department for Communities and the Department for Finance and commented that Ministers would be inundated with requests for meeting and suggested a joint meeting may be appropriate for this matter.

In response the Chief Executive stated that Members would recall prior to the period of recess a cross council delegation had met with previous Ministers in relation to the rates support grant. He stated it was his understanding that Derry and Strabane had written to reconvene the cross delegation now that the Assembly had resumed.

Councillor Mallaghan welcomed the report and proposed that as well as inviting the First Minister and Deputy First Minister to the district that a list of accommodation be forwarded to highlight Councils facilities to hold NI Assembly Committee meetings. He also added that budgets for Good Relations programme and TBUC (Together Building a United Community) which had provided funding for the Decade of Anniversaries programme.

Councillor Elattar requested that a sustainable budget for repair of rural roads be included as although major roads were included in strategic projects many people who resided in rural communities had to use the roads to access for example hospitals.

Councillor Doris requested that extra protection for Neighbourhood Renewal project be requested highlighting the excellent projects delivered through Coalisland and Dungannon Neighbourhood Renewal project such as Brackaville GAA pitch, Indoor Activity centre at Coalisland Fianna GFC, Community sports hub at Dungannon United Youth, Men's Shed in both towns and Gortgonis Play Park.

Councillor B McGuigan stated that whilst housing matters such as homelessness and affordable housing was included so too should sheltered housing accommodation.

Councillor Glasgow drew attention to the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs and requested that how the department was going to tackle the impact of Brexit should be included especially in relation to compensation and hardship grants. In relation to the Department for the Economy he highlighted Project Stratum and stated that it was a once in a lifetime opportunity and to date he found the response to Mid Ulster unsatisfactory.

Councillor Corry requested that Environmental licensing in relation for example to Gold Mining needed to be included.

Councillor Bell requested that Capital Sports Programmes needed to be included within the Department for Communities.

Councillor Clarke highlighted the importance of rural tourism within DAERA and also concurred with comments regarding project Stratum. He also stated that the Sperrin's had been listed as an Area of Natural Beauty for some 50 years but did not receive the same financial support as example the Mourne's.

Councillor McFlynn requested that Keep Children Safe Campaign should be added to the list for the Department for Infrastructure highlighting the need for 20mph signs at schools.

Councillor McGinley requested that with the exit from the European Union Lough Neagh and its industries such as fishing and sand dredging needed to be a point for discussion.

Councillor Quinn requested that arts funding in Mid Ulster was significantly disadvantaged and should be included on the list for the Department for Communities and also that an Animal Cruelty Register should be included on the list for both DEARA and the Department for Justice.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney stated that issues had been raised and at this stage officials should proceed and prior to each meeting a pre meeting be held to finalise issues to be raised.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan  
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

**Resolved** That Council

- (i) write to all Ministers of the Assembly and ask that they receive a delegation from Mid Ulster District Council on the matters listed in the appendix to the report and any other strategic issues the Council agrees to add and that Council invites the First Minister and Deputy First Minister to Mid Ulster to head directly from Members on the priorities of the Council;
- (ii) write to the Executive Office advising of Council facilities suitable for them to hold their committee meetings; and
- (iii) Write to the Chairpersons of Stormont Committees inviting them to hold one of their meetings in Mid Ulster.

*Councillor S McPeake left the meeting at 8.55 pm*

## **Matters for Information**

### **C013/20 Correspondence**

Members noted previously circulated report providing correspondence received for the attention of Council as outlined:

- Chief Executive, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
- Permanent Secretary, Department of Health

- Permanent Secretary, Department for Communities and the Head of the Appeals Service, Department for Communities
- Northern Area Manager, Ulsterbus, Translink
- Chief Executive, NILGA
- General Counsel and Company Secretary, Northern Ireland Water
- Chief Medical Officer, Department of Health
- President, Mary Peters Trust

Councillor Monteith drew attention to the response received from Permanent Secretary, Department for Communities and the Head of the Appeals Service, Department for Communities and stated that it was disappointing their reference to 'rented facilities offer a less formal environment' when the appeals were to be informal. He stated that Council should not only discuss the use of Council facilities but also seek a meeting with Appeal Service to discuss venues for Informal Appeals especially in relation to issues such as car-parking at Dungannon Court house a site that is used regularly.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith  
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

**Resolved** That Council request a meeting with Appeal Service to discuss venues for Informal Appeals

In response to Councillor Molloy's query the Head of Democratic Services stated that the letter had been included in the correspondence report but to date no formal response had been sent. It was noted that the Council Offices at Magherafelt was on occasion used by the Appeals Service.

*Councillor McAleer left the meeting at 8.59 pm*

Councillor Wilson drew attention to the response from Northern Area Manager, Translink regarding Service 212 Cookstown to Antrim Area Hospital and expressed concern regarding the proposals and how the changes would impact service users and they would be communicated. He suggested that clarification of same should be sought.

Councillor Milne concurred with Councillor Wilson and proposed that a further meeting be sought with a representative of Antrim Area Hospital present, he expressed concern that the proposals did not go far enough in addressing the issue. He also stated that appointment letters being sent out needed to include the bus timetable.

Proposed by Councillor Milne  
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and

**Resolved** That Council write to request a meeting with Translink/Ulsterbus representative and Antrim Area Hospital Representative to discuss Cookstown to Antrim Area Hospital Service pilot scheme.

*Councillor Doris left the meeting at 9pm*

Councillor B McGuigan drew attention to the request from Newry Mourne and Down District Council to support the notice of motion moved regarding the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service budget. He stressed that it was important for Council to support the motion and send letters as requested.

*Councillor McAleer returned to the meeting at 9.02pm*

Proposed by Councillor B McGuigan  
Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan and

**Resolved** That Council to write to the Permanent Secretary of the Department for Health regarding budgeting for the NI Fire & Rescue Service.

Proposed by Councillor B McGuigan  
Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan and

**Resolved** That Council note the correspondence report.

#### **C014/20 Consultations Notified to Mid Ulster District Council**

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on consultations notified to Mid Ulster Council for comment.

The Head of Democratic Services advised Members that Council would be preparing a response to the Department for Communities : Gambling Regulation in Northern Ireland and that whilst an extension date for the response was being sought it may be appropriate to grant delegated authority to the Environment Committee should an extension not be granted. It was further suggested that should it be deemed necessary a meeting be held to collate Members views for the response.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan  
Seconded by Councillor McLean and

**Resolved** That Council

- (i) seek an extension for the response, and in the event of it not granted then delegated Power be granted to the Environment committee on 11 February to approve response; and
- (ii) Should it be deemed necessary, a meeting be held to collate Member views on same
- (iii)

Councillor Molloy drew attention to SEUPB Peace Plus Programme - European Territorial Cooperation 2021-2027 and highlighting past successes stated that Council should be making a response and given the closing date if an extension should be sought and if not granted delegated authority should be granted to the Development committee.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy  
Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan and

**Resolved** That Council seek an extension for their response, and in the event of it not granted then delegated Power be granted to the Development committee on 13 February to approve response;

*Councillor Doris returned to the meeting at 9.08pm*

## **C015/20 Notice of Motion**

Councillor Brown moved motion as undernoted -

That Mid Ulster Council resolves:

- to require all public firework displays within the local authority boundaries to be advertised in advance of the event, allowing residents to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable people
- to actively promote a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people – including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks
- to write to the UK Government urging them to introduce legislation to limit the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90dB for those sold to the public for private displays
- to encourage local suppliers of fireworks to stock ‘quieter’ fireworks for future firework displays.

Speaking on the motion Councillor Brown stated that

“According to the NHS Information Centre (2012), more than 1 in 100,000 people in the UK are Autistic. A common symptom of Autism is extreme noise sensitivity, which can lead children and vulnerable adults to develop avoidance reactions, such as leaving noisy places to find quieter ones. This may lead them to miss out on social opportunities at festivals that involve loud fireworks. Additionally, the noise from fireworks may induce panic in Autistic children and adults, leading them to leave their home, get lost, or even suffer a serious accident.

*A parent of a vulnerable adult who live in Mid Ulster has said, “We never took our son near fireworks. He was ok with the visual when looking out the window; the really loud ones were the worse. He didn’t like the noise!”*

Every year it is reported that thousands of pets will suffer as a result of fireworks being let off. Animal hospitals and vets across the country see a marked rise in pets requiring medication during such stressful times, and many pets are brought into rehoming centres having run away from home.

RSPCA reports that a recent poll confirmed around 62 percent of dogs show signs of distress during fireworks. This alone means thousands of animals are affected by unplanned and random fireworks each year.

Results also saw other animals showing distress during fireworks: 54 percent of cats and 55 percent of horses. Since 2014 the RSPCA alone has received 2,285 calls about fireworks, with 411 of these calls being in 2018, figures for 2019 are not completed. Many owners do not report stress caused to their dogs and pets others seek help from their local vet.

*A local dog owner has also said to me, "Our dogs have varied with their reactions but one of them was terrified and had to get a sedative from the vet."*

Sadly, it's not just household pets that are affected by fireworks. Farm animals are easily frightened by loud noises and sudden flashes of bright light, which can startle and cause them to injure themselves on fencing and farm equipment. Fireworks are also highly disturbing to some birds and have caused abandonment of nests or even whole colonies.

It's difficult to explain to a dog or indeed any other animal why usually quiet and peaceful night times have become noisy and bright suddenly. Pets are often scared of the bangs and flashes and vets and animal charities have produced firework survival guides to help owners and their dogs through the season and major events like Halloween and New Year's Eve.

Noise level studies have indicated that by reducing the maximum permitted noise level of fireworks for public sale to 90 decibels this is likely to minimise distress to animals. The current allowed level, 120 decibels, is equivalent to a jet aircraft taking off. Fireworks above 90 decibels should only be used at licensed public displays.

Let us not ignore the problem. We have an opportunity to make Mid Ulster a "vulnerable people and animal firework friendly council."

By implementing the simple steps set out in my motion, we can help reduce the stress caused to vulnerable people, their carers and to our animals and their owners."

Councillor Black seconded the motion.

*Councillor Graham and Milne left the meeting*

Councillor Molloy spoke of a motion carried by Council in October 2019 regarding incorporating 'quiet hours' into events for people with example autism and said that Council should take cognisance of quieter firework. He stated that Sinn Féin would support the motion.



*Councillor Graham and Milne returned to the meeting*

Councillor Cuddy stated that the motion was interesting and perhaps Council should look towards light displays instead of fireworks. He stated that the UUP would support the motion especially as it would support many vulnerable people.

Councillor Brown thanked parties for their support for the motion.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney put the motion to vote.

For	32
Against	0
Abstained	2

The Chair, Councillor Kearney declared the motion carried

*The press and public withdrew from the meeting at 9.13 pm*

**Items restricted in accordance with Section 42, Part 1 of Local Government (NI) Act 2014 - Confidential Business**

Proposed by Councillor Clarke  
Seconded by Councillor Colvin and

**Resolved** That items (C016/20 –C022/20) be taken as confidential business

**Matters for Decision**

- (i) Council Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 16 December 2019
- (ii) Planning Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 7 January 2020
- (iii) Policy and Resources Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 9 January 2020
- (iv) Special Planning Committee (Development Plan) Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 13 January 2020
- (v) Environment Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held 14 January 2020
- (vi) Development Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held 16 January 2020
- (vii) Document for Sealing: "Lease of Lands at Lime Kiln Lane to Women's Aid"

**C023/20 Duration of Meeting**

The meeting was called for 7 pm and ended at 9.16pm

**Chair** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Minutes of Special Planning Committee (Local Development Plan) of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 30 January 2020 in Council Offices, Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt**

**Members Present**

Councillor Mallaghan, Chair

Councillors Black, Brown, Clarke (7.04 pm), Colvin, Gildernew, Glasgow, Kearney, McFlynn, S McPeake, Robinson

**Officers in Attendance**

Dr Boomer, Planning Manager  
Ms McEvoy, Head of Development Plan  
Ms McAllister, Senior Planning Officer  
Mr McGibbon, Senior Planning Officer  
Ms Grogan, Democratic Services Officer

The meeting commenced at 7.03 pm.

**SP006/20 Apologies**

Councillors Bell, Cuthbertson, McKinney, Quinn.

**SP007/20 Declarations of Interest**

The Chair reminded members of their responsibility with regard to declarations of interest.

**SP008/20 Chair's Business**

None.

*Councillor Clarke entered the meeting at 7.04 pm.*

**Matters for Information**

**SP009/20 Report on Final Development Plan Practice Note 10 – Submitting Development Plan Documents for Independent Examination**

Members noted previously circulated report which provided details on Development Plan Practice Note 10 – Submitting Development Plan Documents for Independent Examination.

**Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business**

Proposed by Councillor Gildernew  
Seconded by Councillor Glasgow and

**Resolved** In accordance with Section 42, Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 that Members of the public be asked to withdraw from the meeting whilst Members consider items SP010/20 to SP014/20.

**Matters for Decision**

- SP010/20 Representations and Counter-Representations to the Local Development Plan 2030 – Draft Plan Strategy
- SP011/20 Late Representations to the Local Development Plan 2030 – Draft Plan Strategy
- SP012/20 Addendum to Employment and Economic Development Paper (Population Projections)
- SP013/20 Addendum to Employment and Economic Development Paper (Jobs per Hectare)

**Matters for Information**

- SP014/20 Housing Monitoring Report 2015 – 2019

**SP015/20 Duration of Meeting**

The meeting was called for 7 pm and concluded at 8.15 pm.

Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Minutes of Meeting of Planning Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Tuesday 4 February 2020 in Council Offices, Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt**

**Members Present**

Councillor Mallaghan, Chair

Councillors Bell, Black, Brown, Clarke, Colvin, Cuthbertson, Gildernew, Glasgow, Kearney, McFlynn, McKinney, D McPeake, S McPeake, Quinn, Robinson

**Officers in Attendance**

Dr Boomer, Planning Manager  
Mr Bowman, Head of Development Management  
Ms Doyle, Senior Planning Officer  
Ms Kiley, Barrister (Agenda Items 4.7 and 4.8)  
Ms McCullagh, Senior Planning Officer  
Ms McNally, Council Solicitor  
Miss Thompson, Democratic Services Officer

**Others in Attendance**

**Applicant Speakers**

LA09/2019/0024/O Ms Young  
LA09/2019/0025/F Mr Bell  
Mr Bell  
LA09/2019/0489/F Mr Lavery  
LA09/2017/0897/F Mr Cassidy  
LA09/2019/1008/F Mr Kelly  
LA09/2019/1081/O Ms Gourley  
LA09/2019/1158/O Mr Cassidy  
LA09/2019/1415/F Mr Gourley  
LA09/2019/0357/F Mr & Mrs Salt and Deborah Tate  
Mr Turkington

The meeting commenced at 7.02 pm

**P013/20 Apologies**

None.

**P014/20 Declarations of Interest**

The Chair reminded members of their responsibility with regard to declarations of interest.

Councillor Kearney declared an interest in planning applications LA09/2019/0024/O, LA09/2019/0025/F and LA09/2016/1654/A and requested to speak on this application.

Councillor S McPeake declared an interest in planning applications LA09/2019/0024/O and LA09/2019/0025/F.

Councillor McKinney declared an interest in planning applications LA09/2019/0024/O, LA09/2019/0025/F and LA09/2018/1282/O.

## **P015/20      Chair's Business**

The Planning Manager referred to previous discussion in relation to application regarding Benburb Gatelodge and advised that an email had been received from Historic Buildings Division on 31 January 2020 to advise that the Gatelodge has been listed as a B2 Listed Building and that Notice to this effect has been served. The Planning Manager stated that this listing will have to be taken into account going forward and he would advise the agent for the application to contact the case officer to discuss the best way forward.

The Planning Manager referred to previous discussion in relation to Clark's Mill at Upperlands and advised that further to the Committee writing to the Department in relation to its concerns regarding the scheme it was now confirmed that a public inquiry would take place.

Councillor S McPeake stated he still had concerns regarding the size of the application at Clark's Mill, the impact on the Area Plan and how it may disadvantage neighbouring settlements. The Councillor stated that the Housing Executive were unaware of the scheme and that he felt the scheme and the process did not stack up and asked what else the Committee can do to reinforce its concerns.

The Planning Manager stated that now that there is going to be a public inquiry officers will be able to go through the application in detail and probe the inquiry process. The Planning Manager felt that there were a number of questions that needed to be asked in relation to the application.

Councillor McFlynn stated she shared Councillor S McPeake's concerns and the effect the development could have on housing allocation in other areas.

Councillor Black asked that if there were assurances given that the development at Upperlands would not affect housing allocation in other areas whether this would make the proposal acceptable.

The Planning Manager stated that the District is made up of a number of settlements which have different community make ups and that there were genuine concerns in relation to the allocation of housing in other settlements if the proposal went ahead. The Planning Manager stated that he did not feel the Committee had got answers to the questions it had posed in its correspondence.

Councillor Black stated he understood what was being said but that the concerns seemed to boil down to housing allocation for other areas if the proposal went ahead. The Councillor stated that if there was an assurance that could be given that housing allocation in other areas would not be affected it would be helpful. Councillor Black stated he would like to see investment in the Upperlands area and that he would not like to see the proposal fail.

Councillor McKinney stated that Upperlands takes in a big area and is where the only Primary School is located for the area and is where investment should be. The Councillor stated there was land available across the District for housing but that this was being held to ransom by its owners.

The Planning Manager stated that Council has not said they are opposed to the development but feels there are questions to be answered in relation to the scheme. The Planning Manager reminded Members that the Committee will not make the decision relating to this application but rather the Department will make a determination on it.

## **Matters for Decision**

### **P016/20      Planning Applications for Determination**

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan referred to the below applications which were on the agenda for determination and sought approval to have the following applications deferred from tonight's meeting schedule for an office meeting/submission of further information –

Agenda Item 4.9 – LA09/2019/0232/F – 8 semi detached dwelling at land to the rear of 65-69 Oldtown Street, Cookstown for Mr Malcom Thom.

Agenda Item 4.11 – LA09/2019/0475/O – Housing Development (Phase 1) at lands opposite 2 Lisnamuck Road, Tobermore for Tobermore Concrete.

Agenda Item 4.13 – LA09/2019/0784/F – Farm shed to include feeding, shelter and storage area; underground slurry tanks and new access to be taken from Drumlamph Lane at approximately 130m SE of 9 Drumlamph Lane, Castledawson for Mr Cathal Shivers.

Agenda Item 4.16 – LA09/2019/1045/O – Dwelling and domestic garage/store at 130m NW of 27 Tirnaskea Road, Pomeroy for Mr Mick Mallon.

Agenda Item 4.18 – LA09/2019/1090/F – Isolation shed for animals and storage of machinery at approximately 165m NW of 81 Kinturk Lower Road, Lower Mullan, Cookstown for Eamonn Maynes.

Agenda Item 4.23 – LA09/2019/1220/F – Dwelling and domestic garage 35m N of 25 Annaghmore Road, Annaghmore, Coalisland.

Agenda Item 4.24 – LA09/2019/1232/O – Relocation of approved 'Off Site' replacement dwelling and domestic garage (LA09/2017/0079/O) adjacent to 103 Tirkane Road, Maghera for Diarmaid Donnelly.

Agenda Item 4.26 – LA09/2019/1376/O – Site for dwelling and garage (gap site) at 50m S of 39 Baladoogh Lane, Cookstown for Patrick McAleer.

Agenda Item 4.27 – LA09/2019/1387/O – Infill site for dwelling and domestic garage at site approximately 10m S of 11 Reenaderry Road, Coalisland for Sean Robinson.

Agenda Item 4.28 – LA09/2019/1402/O – Site for a dwelling and domestic garage approximately 50m NE of 45 Moneyneany Road, Draperstown for Mr Michael McWilliams.

Agenda Item 4.30 – LA09/2019/1465/O – Infill dwelling and detached garage at approximately 28m E of 260 Ballygawley Road, Dungannon for Mr Kevin McCaul.

Agenda Item 4.31 – LA09/2019/1466/O – Infill dwelling and detached garage at approximately 102m E of 260 Ballygawley Road, Dungannon for Mr Kevin McCaul.

In relation to agenda item 4.3 – LA09/2017/1366/F – Residential development comprising of 52 units (to supercede approved I/2006/1186/F) at 20 Dungannon Road, Cookstown for McKernan Construction – the Planning Manager advised that an amended certificate of land ownership had been received and it would be unwise to discuss this application tonight.

Councillor McKinney referred to email he had received today and that there was a decision to be taken by the Planning Appeals Commission.

The Planning Manager stated that it was correct that Planning Appeals are to determine an application but that this did not relate to tonight's application. The Planning Manager stated that the application tonight should be deferred until after the 21 day consultation period had passed in relation to the amended certificate of land ownership.

Proposed by Councillor Bell  
Seconded by Councillor McKinney and

**Resolved** That the planning applications listed above for deferral be deferred for an office meeting/submission of further information/to consider additional information received.

The Chair drew Members attention to the undernoted planning applications for determination.

**LA09/2017/0318/F Replacement pig shed with 2 feed bins and an above ground covered slurry store at land approximately 100m NE of 13 Drumard Road, Draperstown for Stanley Hepburn**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2017/0318/F which had a recommendation for approval. Members were also advised of addendum which set out Environmental Health conditions received on 24 January 2020 which would be added to a decision notice.

Proposed by Councillor McKinney  
Seconded by Councillor Brown and



**Resolved** That planning application LA09/2017/0318/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report and addendum.

**LA09/2017/1003/F Timber drying area and store at lands approximately 140m S of 3A Glenarny Road, Drum for Michael Bell**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2017/1003/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Colvin  
Seconded by Councillor Gildernew and

**Resolved** That planning application LA09/2017/1003/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

**LA09/2017/1366/F Residential development comprising of 52 units (to supercede I/2006/1186/F) at 20 Dungannon Road, Cookstown for McKernan Construction**

Agreed that application be deferred to consider additional information submitted.

**LA09/2017/1426/F Retention of boundary wall and the alteration of ground levels to provide concrete finish to hardcored yard at 55 Knockanroe Road, Cookstown for Reid Engineering (Cookstown) Ltd**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2017/1426/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Colvin  
Seconded by Councillor Cuthbertson and

**Resolved** That planning application LA09/2017/1426/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

**LA09/2017/1653/F Lateral extension of existing quarry over 4.7 hectares to secure additional reserves at Derraghadoan Shale Quarry, Carland Road, Dungannon for Lafarge Ireland**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2017/1653/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Gildernew  
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

**Resolved** That planning application LA09/2017/1653/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

**LA09/2018/1101/F Residential housing development (32 two-storey semi-detached dwellings and 22 detached dwellings) at lands 92m S of 2 Laurel Brook, Aughrim Road, Magherafelt for F P McCann**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2018/1101/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Brown  
Seconded by Councillor S McPeake and

**Resolved** That planning application LA09/2018/1101/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

**LA09/2019/0024/O Outline application to support future mixed use and enterprise centre/business units which will be subject to Reserved Matters Planning Applications submitted by purchasers of plots from Mid Ulster District Council at former Maghera High School, Tobermore Road, Maghera for Mid Ulster District Council**

**LA09/2019/0025/F Development of existing brown field site; new internal access road/footpaths; improved access including right hand turning lane; alteration of existing levels to provide platforms for future development; installation of utilities, installation of site fencing; clearance of undergrowth vegetation and associated site works to support future mixed use and enterprise centre/business units at former Maghera High School, Tobermore Road, Maghera for Mid Ulster District Council**

*Councillors Bell, Black, Brown, Clarke, Colvin, Cuthbertson, Gildernew, Glasgow, Kearney, Mallaghan, McFlynn, McKinney, D McPeake, S McPeake, Quinn, Robinson all declared an interest in this application.*

*Councillors Black, Kearney and S McPeake withdrew from the meeting.*

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan stated that Council recommended last month to progress discussions with interested parties regarding potential sites, however, that is not a material consideration to the applications before the Committee tonight and any decision being taken tonight would need to be on the basis of planning grounds only. The Chair further advised that Denise Kiley of counsel would be taking up the role of legal adviser to the Committee regarding these two applications.

Ms Doyle (SPO) presented reports on planning applications LA09/2019/0024/O and LA09/2019/0025/F advising that that they were recommended for approval. Members also noted addendum circulated which advised of change of drawing number to suggested condition 9 and that further objection letters had been received.

The Chair advised the committee that request to speak on the applications had been received and invited Ms Young to address the committee in the first instance.

Ms Young stated she was speaking on behalf of Maghera Park Campaign Group and wanted to thank Councillors Black, B McGuigan and Wilson for their help to date. Ms Young stated that these applications represented major development in the Maghera area and that there were great concerns regarding road congestion, the visual impact of the scheme, economy and the use of public money. Ms Young stated that there were other sites in the Maghera area which could be used for redevelopment and referred to other business units in the area which are currently vacant. Ms Young stated that the Maghera community have come together in huge numbers to object to these applications and that the site represents a once in a lifetime opportunity for shared space in the town. Ms Young stated that the provision of the Walkway and Walled Garden is some form of compensation but that the Walkway is in bad repair and the Walled Garden only has limited opening. Ms Young stated that consultation has been lacking with the scheme being brought to the public's attention in June 2017 and just 2 months later being advertised as an opportunity site. Ms Young stated that the speed with which the applications were submitted and the timing of such (On Christmas Eve) was questionable and left little time for people to respond. Ms Young asked that the applications be refused or at least deferred for 8 weeks until Council engages with the community as not everyone was informed of the amended plans.

Mr Bell stated he is the agent for Council on both applications and endorsed the view of the planning officers to approve the proposals. Mr Bell stated that the applications were submitted in December 2018 and that all statutory consultees have recommended approval of the applications, subject to conditions. Mr Bell stated that Council acquired the site, which had been vacant for over 20 years, in 2015, that the site is accessible and the proposals would not compromise traffic flow. Mr Bell stated that the proposals are a good use of the site as there is clear economic need in the area and interest has already been expressed. If approved, Mr Bell advised that some plots could be ready by the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2020 and ready for business in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2021. Mr Bell stated that there has been engagement with the community and as a result of this consultation the scheme has been amended to address as many of the concerns as possible including landscaping, the removal of diseased trees and a walkway to the north of the site. Mr Bell stated the applications represented an opportunity to regenerate derelict land and boost employment in the Maghera area and asked that the Committee endorse the recommendation of the planning officer and statutory consultees.

Ms Doyle (SPO) referred to comment that there was no notification on the amended plans received and advised that as there had been almost 1300 objections received it was decided that it would not be feasible to notify everyone of the amended plans individually. Ms Doyle advised that when the amended plans were received a notice was placed on the planning portal, notice of the amended plans were notified in the press, neighbour notification was carried out and Ms Young was informed as she had taken a lead in the campaign group.

The Planning Manager stated he is a planning officer and advised that plans submitted by the Council are reviewed in the same way as any other application and

are gauged against planning policy. Similarly the role of the Planning Committee is to give due consideration to planning policy and make a determination based on this consideration. The Planning Manager referred to the issues regarding the lack of consultation and the request to defer the applications and advised that major applications such as these are subject to pre consultation which did take place for these applications.

The Planning Manager stated that the Maghera community have indicated that they would prefer the site to be developed as a park but did not think that the community should write the proposals off. The Planning Manager stated that Maghera has had investment and referred to the Walled Garden and future public realm scheme. The Planning Manager stated that there will only be a partial loss of open space with the amended plans and also referred to the Tree Preservation Order (TPO) which is on the agenda for consideration later, the Planning Manager stated that the applications were not dependent on this TPO but that the notion that Council had not given consideration to its proposals were not correct. The Planning Manager stated that notifying key figures and placing notices on planning portal and in the press was normal practice when there had been a large number of objections received.

Councillor McFlynn asked how much green space would be left if the proposals were approved.

The Planning Manager stated he was unsure of the exact size but indicated on the map how much of the site would be green space.

Councillor Glasgow referred to the advertisement placed regarding the amended plans and stated that Council only advertises in the Derry Post and Tyrone Courier. Councillor Glasgow also asked what the quality of the open space would be and whether the new pathway would provide a link to the Walled Garden.

Ms Doyle (SPO) showed maps/photographs which set out the linkages and how the site is shielded from view by a belt of trees.

The Planning Manager stated that public open space is of the highest amenity, that the site had restricted access being a former school and Council had done all the necessary surveys in relation to nature conservation interests at the site and NIEA has not raised objection. The Planning Manager also advised of investment in Maghera over recent years opening up the Walled Garden. He advised that this application resulted in the loss of some 1.4 hectares of open space subject to restricted access and that in line with this proposal a public walkway comprising of nearly a 1 hectare of public open space had been provided. He questioned whether the loss of a very small amount of open space was enough reason to bring down the economic benefits of the scheme. The Planning Manager stated that land can be zoned for industry but usually public money is required to be put in to it in order to deliver it, hence interventions by bodies such as Invest NI. The Planning Manager stated that businesses want serviced sites with access and drainage and that the Council was proposing to invest in the site to deliver this.

Councillor McKinney stated that visibility from inside the site to outside will be nil and that the proposal will not be an eyesore or distraction to passing traffic. Councillor McKinney stated that there would not be houses close to the site and there would be a gap between the site and Clarke's Hill. Councillor McKinney stated he believed there is a need for employment in the area and that Maghera is hampered for this sort of facility. Councillor McKinney stated that Council has invested in the site with proposals to redevelop it into what is before Members and that there has been interest from businesses in the site. Councillor McKinney stated he had no hesitation in proposing the applications for approval.

The Planning Manager stated that there had been residential applications approved both adjacent to and opposite the site however officers have taken this into account and consulted on this and there are no issues. The Planning Manager stated that light industry is compatible with nearby housing.

Councillor Cuthbertson referred to the plans being submitted on Christmas Eve and asked if this was an issue in relation to allowing sufficient time for consultation.

Ms Doyle (SPO) stated that plans were received on the 19 and 20 December and this was notified on the planning portal on 23 December. Ms Doyle stated that Ms Young was also advised of the amended plans on 23 December and that notice was placed in the press at the beginning of January.

The Planning Manager asked what the revisions to the application were.

Ms Doyle (SPO) stated that the amended plans were to reduce the red line and take the site out of the flood plain and reduce the amount of open space being lost.

The Planning Manager stated that the amended plans were actually reducing the impacts of the scheme. The Planning Manager referred to request to defer the applications but stated that Members had enough information before them tonight to make a decision.

Councillor Glasgow stated that he had listened to what had been said and had read the reports relating to the applications and did not have an issue regarding the re-advertisement of the amended plans. Councillor Glasgow stated that there will be benefits to the application and seconded Councillor McKinney's proposal.

Councillor Brown asked if there was anything that could be incorporated into the plans to open the green space to the public.

The Planning Manager stated this could be done but not tonight as it was for Council to decide what it wanted to pursue and any further amendment would be subject to re-consultation.

The Planning Manager advised that the Department had directed that they be notified when a recommendation is made by the Planning Committee before a final decision is made. It was advised that this direction allows the Department the opportunity to consider whether the application should be called in and if the Department is minded not to call in the application or to impose any other action on

the Council then the Planning Manager can proceed to issue the decision as per the conditions.

**Resolved** That the Planning Committee are minded to approve planning applications LA09/2019/0024/O and LA09/2019/0025/F subject to conditions as per the officer's report (and noting change to drawing number for condition 9 as per addendum) and that the Department be notified of this recommendation.

*Councillors Black, Kearney and S McPeake rejoined the meeting.*

**LA09/2019/0232/F 8 semi detached dwellings at land to the rear of 65-69 Oldtown Street, Cookstown for Mr Malcolm Thom**

Agreed that application be deferred to allow for submission of further information earlier in meeting.

**LA09/2019/0467/F Refurbishment and alteration of existing workshop at 20B Station Road, Glebe Industrial Estate, Magherafelt for Coolhaven Developments Ltd**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2019/0467/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor McKinney  
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

**Resolved** That planning application LA09/2019/0467/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

**LA09/2019/0475/O Housing development (Phase 1) at lands opposite 2 Lisnamuck Road, Tobermore for Tobermore Concrete**

Agreed that application be deferred to allow for submission of further information earlier in meeting.

**LA09/2019/0489/F Retention of the existing curtilage (amended description and site location plan) at lands 140m S of 215 Washingbay Road, Coalisland for Evergreen Peat**

**LA09/2017/0897/F Part use of existing farm shed to provide internal dry storage in association with the Evergreen Peat business at 100m NW of 213 Washingbay Road, Coalisland for Jim McCuskey, Evergreen Peat**

The Head of Development Management presented report on planning applications LA09/2019/0489/F and LA09/2017/0897/F advising that they were recommended for refusal.

The Chair advised the committee that requests to speak on the applications had been received and invited Mr Lavery to address the committee in the first instance.

Mr Lavery stated that he was pleased that both applications tonight were being proposed for refusal. Mr Lavery stated that the ongoing activity is outside of planning permission for approved farming activity and that he had supplied photographs to support this. Mr Lavery also referred to ongoing enforcement action. Mr Lavery stated that on 23 January 2020 large industrial gates were installed at the site without planning permission and were a further breach of planning processes. Mr Lavery stated that it was possible to permit an application where the scale of such does not harm the neighbouring area however it was advised that the ongoing activity is harmful to the rural area with heavy plant moving back and forward at times very early in the morning. Mr Lavery stated that to approve the application would double the size of the business at this site which would undermine rural character. Mr Lavery stated that the application is against Policy 4 of PPS21 and that no exceptional circumstances had been given as to why the proposal cannot be sited elsewhere. Mr Lavery asked that the applications be refused.

In response to the Planning Manager Mr Lavery stated he was representing an objector who lives beside the site and is impacted on the ongoing activity. Mr Lavery went on to say the applicant should not be allowed to have a site permitted for farming use and then be allowed to use for industrial purposes.

Mr Cassidy stated that Evergreen is an established business with 50 employees and has recently won a contract to supply peat to Lidl the result of which could create a further 40 jobs. Mr Cassidy stated that the approval in 2013 was for a farm shed and was used as such for a number of years until the applicant's father became ill. Mr Cassidy stated that the applications do not harm rural character and that there is only a marginal increase in the site area which Mr Cassidy stated could be conditioned. Mr Cassidy stated that there were environmental benefits of the applications as the site could be planted out. In relation to the objections raised Mr Cassidy advised there was mains electricity at the site and that there was no loose peat stored on site. Mr Cassidy also stated that the objector has also recently built 3 buildings without planning permission.

The Planning Manager referred to Mr Cassidy's comments in that conditions could be applied however he stated that conditions do not seem to mean anything to the applicant.

Mr Cassidy stated that the applications could be conditioned.

The Planning Manager stated that it is a clear observation that the site keeps morphing without the proper permissions and that it is up to the Committee to consider the information before them.

The Council Solicitor stated that on looking at the reasons for refusal she did not believe conditions would overcome these reasons nor can conditions be used as a means of trying to approve an application that does not meet policy.

The Planning Manager stated that the lorries will be nuisance in a rural area and that he was struggling to understand the argument of farm diversification.

The Head of Development Management stated he was not convinced that there was an active and established farm.

Proposed by Councillor Cuthbertson  
Seconded by Councillor Brown and

**Resolved** That planning applications LA09/2019/0489/F and LA09/2017/0897/F be refused on grounds stated in the officer's reports.

**LA09/2019/0784/F Farm shed to include feeding and shelter area, storage area and underground slurry tanks - new access to be taken from Drumlamph Lane, at approximately 130m SE of 9 Drumlamph Lane, Castledawson for Mr Cathal Shivers**

Agreed that application be deferred to allow for submission of further information earlier in meeting.

**LA09/2019/0810/F 5 tonne modular pelletizing plant for research and development use at 11 Aughnagar Road, Ballygawley (Acheson & Glover precast yard) for Brian Fox Silform Technologies**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2019/0810/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Councillor McFlynn referred to the officer report which referred to request by NIEA for a drainage assessment but that planning did not deem this necessary and asked why it was not deemed necessary.

The Head of Development Management advised that the proposal is for a dry process which will be undertaken in an existing yard and that officers were not of the opinion that the criteria was being met for a drainage assessment to be completed.

Proposed by Councillor Gildernew  
Seconded by Councillor Robinson and

**Resolved** That planning application LA09/2019/0810/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

**LA09/2019/1008/F Retention of dwelling under construction at 7 Tobermesson Road, Dungannon for Conor Curran**

*Councillor Cuthbertson declared an interest in this application.*

The Head of Development Management presented a report on planning application LA09/2019/1008/F advising that it was recommended for refusal.



The Chair advised the committee that a request to speak on the application had been received and invited Mr Kelly to address the committee.

Mr Kelly stated that the outline permission in 2003 included a condition that the dwelling to be replaced should be demolished within 6 weeks of the new dwelling being occupied. Mr Kelly also referred to the Reserved Matters application in 2006 which was approved but did not include this condition. A further application in 2007 included a condition of commencement time only. Mr Kelly advised that the new dwelling has not yet been occupied, however should it be felt necessary a condition could be added to the application that the old dwelling no longer be used for human habitation.

The Head of Development Management advised that the condition to demolish the old dwelling within 6 weeks of the new dwelling being occupied did not have to be repeated on the Reserved Matters approval. The officer added that the condition suggested by the agent tonight cannot be achieved as the old dwelling is outside the red line of the site and outside of the applicant's control.

Councillor Brown stated that if the site was sold at auction and the buyer was not made aware of the conditions attached then where did this leave the applicant. Councillor Brown felt that this should be taken into consideration.

The Council Solicitor stated that it was a case of "buyer beware" and in any event was not a material consideration or relevant for the Planning Committee's decision making.

The Planning Manager stated that the applicant does not own the old dwelling and should this application be refused then the Committee could be asked to serve two enforcement notices in the future – 1. To demolish the old dwelling, 2. To move out of the new dwelling. The Planning Manager stated that he felt that if the application was to be refused it would force the two parties to sort out their issues.

Councillor Quinn asked if the owner of the dwelling to be replaced could make an application.

The Planning Manager stated that that is not what is before the committee, that the current application is just for a change of house type however the conditions cannot be changed.

Councillor Gildernew stated felt that it was up to the Committee to decide on the application and all other issues appeared to be civil matters which were nothing to do with the Planning Committee.

The Planning Manager stated that he could not see an alternative but to refuse the application.

Councillor Colvin stated that the remit of the Planning Committee is clear and that the other issues associated with this application were a legal mess. Councillor Colvin proposed that the application be refused.

Councillor Quinn asked if it was possible to defer the application to see if the issues between both parties can be worked out.

The Planning Manager stated that it appeared that the issues cannot be overcome, however if they were overcome another application could be looked at favourably. The Planning Manager also stated that the dwelling to be replaced should be stat charged and that this needed to be looked at.

The Council Solicitor stated that it appeared that the only option to grant permission would be for all relevant parties to enter into a Section 76 planning agreement, but that based on what some parties have advised in the course of the processing and consideration of this application, this did not seem to be possible.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan proposed that the application be deferred for 28 days in order to write to both parties to see if a resolution can be reached.

Councillor Gildernew seconded Councillor Mallaghan's proposal.

Councillor McKinney seconded Councillor Colvin's proposal.

Members voted on Councillor Mallaghan's proposal –

For – 12  
Against – 3

Members voted on Councillor Colvin's proposal –

For – 3  
Against – 12

**Resolved** That planning application LA09/2019/1008/F be deferred for 28 days to write to both parties to see if resolution to issues can be reached.

**LA09/2019/1045/O Dwelling and domestic garage/store at 130m NW of 27  
Tirnaskea Road, Pomeroy for Mick Mallon**

Agreed that application be deferred to allow for submission of further information earlier in meeting.

**LA09/2019/1081/O Site for dwelling at 40m S of 117 Cavankeeran Road,  
Pomeroy for Catherine McAleer**

Ms McCullagh (SPO) presented a report on planning application LA09/2019/1081/O advising that it was recommended for refusal.

The Chair advised the committee that a request to speak on the application had been received and invited Ms Gourley to address the committee.

Ms Gourley stated that the applicant's father requires ongoing care and would benefit from his daughter, the applicant, and grand daughter living next door. Ms

Gourley stated that the application meets all criteria except for being associated with a focal point, however it was felt that the application would round off existing development without disrupting the character of the area. Ms Gourley stated that the site is enclosed and bounded on two sides. Members were further advised of three previous planning appeal decisions in which the criteria for requiring a focal point was set aside and that Mid Ulster Planning Committee had also previously approved a similar application which was not associated with a focal point. Ms Gourley felt that a precedent had been set and that this application should be treated as an exception to policy. Ms Gourley asked Members to approve the application as there would be no difference in the area by having it there.

The Planning Manager reminded Members that planning appeals decisions are not case law and are not binding. Members were also reminded that they don't have to follow policy but that if it is not being followed then good reason has to be given. The Planning Manager referred to the personal circumstances cited by the agent and stated that as this had not yet been assessed and case officers had not had the opportunity to verify this information then he would like to give time to consider the issues.

Ms Gourley stated that the planning appeal decisions were still relevant to the case.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan stated he was aware of the site and the family circumstances but that regardless of these issues he felt that the site provided a good opportunity to round off existing development.

Councillor S McPeake stated he also saw the development as rounding off and felt it would integrate. Councillor S McPeake proposed the approval of the application.

Councillor Gildernew stated he agreed with the comments of the Chair and Councillor S McPeake.

The Planning Manager stated that if Members were of that view then he would park the consideration of personal circumstances.

Councillor McFlynn stated that the site would round off development with no adverse effect to character. Councillor McFlynn seconded Councillor S McPeake's proposal.

The Planning Manager stated that the application did not meet Policy CTY2A in that the site is not associated with a focal point however Members were of the view that the application should be treated as an exception as it meets all other criteria and can integrate into the site without any adverse impact.

The Council Solicitor stated that this may explain one of the refusal reasons but not the other refusal reasons.

The Planning Manager stated that refusal reason 1 relates to Policy CTY1 which is a theme which runs through all policies. The Planning Manager stated that as the application was being treated as an exception on the basis of rounding off then refusal reason 1 could be set aside. The Planning Manager suggested that the application be conditioned with a 6m ridge height.

**Resolved** That planning application LA09/2019/1081/O be approved with condition of 6m ridge height.

**LA09/2019/1090/F Isolation shed for animals and storage of machinery at approximately 165m NW of 81 Kinturk Road, Lower Mullan, Cookstown for Eamonn Maynes**

Agreed that application be deferred to allow for submission of further information earlier in meeting.

**LA09/2019/1158/O Dwelling and garage at 50m SE of 8 Scotts Road, Ballyrogully, Moneymore for Thomas McVey**

Ms McCullagh (SPO) presented a report on planning application LA09/2019/1158/O advising that it was recommended for refusal.

The Chair advised the committee that a request to speak on the application had been received and invited Mr Cassidy to address the committee.

Mr Cassidy stated that this application comes on the back of two other applications for the applicant to get a house on his father's farm. Mr Cassidy advised that at a previous office meeting with planning officers several options were discussed and on the basis of advice from the Planning Manager in which Mr Cassidy stated the Planning Manager indicated and wrote on a map where a site could be achieved the applicant transferred lands and submitted the application before Members tonight. Mr Cassidy stated that the site can be visually linked with the farm and that the site is on the lowest part of a field and that little or no boundaries will be removed. Mr Cassidy referred to the separation distances between agricultural buildings and dwellings for health and safety reasons and this was a further reason why the site was chosen. Mr Cassidy again referred to the meeting which took place with planning officers and the advice given at that meeting and that the applicant had an expectation that this application would be approved.

The Planning Manager stated he had never been to this site and had no recollection of the meeting being referred to. The Planning Manager asked if there was a record taken of the meeting as he would not be happy to make a determination on the application until he had a minute of the said meeting.

Ms McCullagh stated that the case officer has no map within the file that the Planning Manager had written on.

Councillor McKinney proposed that the application be deferred until there was a clearer picture of what had occurred at the office meeting.

Councillor S McPeake stated there was some confusion and that Mr Cassidy had stated that there had been an office meeting with the Planning Manager and not a site meeting as picked up by the Planning Manager.

The Planning Manager stated he wanted to confirm what had happened at the meeting as it was not normal practice for him to write on a map and that he would

usually advise the applicant what the options were and ask them to consider these and similarly request the case officer to look at the options.

The Council Solicitor stated that unless an application is delegated to the Planning Manager it has to come before the Committee as the decision maker.

Councillor Brown seconded Councillor McKinney's proposal to defer the application.

Councillor McFlynn referred to the previous two sites which had been refused and that this site was closer to the farm.

The Planning Manager reiterated that during an office meeting he may suggest alternative sites which the applicant can consider but would not mark where these are on a map.

Councillor McKinney stated that he expected this application to be back on next month's agenda.

Councillor McFlynn proposed a site meeting be held.

Councillor Bell seconded Councillor McFlynn's proposal.

**Resolved** That planning application LA09/2019/1158/O be deferred for one month and that a site meeting be held.

**LA09/2019/1177/F 20m telecommunication mast for MPLS microwave link for network connectivity to Davagh Dark Skies Observatory at Davagh Forest, 650m East of Davagh Park Cottages for Mid Ulster District Council**

*Councillors Bell, Black, Brown, Clarke, Colvin, Cuthbertson, Gildernew, Glasgow, Kearney, Mallaghan, McFlynn, McKinney, D McPeake, S McPeake, Quinn, Robinson all declared an interest in this application.*

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2019/1177/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke  
Seconded by Councillor Brown and

**Resolved** That planning application LA09/2019/1177/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

**LA09/2019/1204/O Dwelling and garage on a farm at approximately 100m NW of 12 Lisnagleer Road, Dungannon for Mr Cyril Montgomery**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2019/1204/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Colvin  
Seconded by Councillor Gildernew and

**Resolved** That planning application LA09/2019/1204/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

**LA09/2019/1216/F Retrospective farm diversification scheme (change of use of an agricultural building to a paint work shop) at 325m SW of 75 Moneyhaw Road, Moneymore for Harold and Stephen Hessin**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2019/1216/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor McKinney  
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

**Resolved** That planning application LA09/2019/1216/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

**LA09/2019/1220/F Dwelling and domestic garage 35m N of 25 Annaghmore Road, Annaghmore, Coalisland for Ms Eithne O'Neill**

Agreed that application be deferred to allow for submission of further information earlier in meeting.

**LA09/2019/1232/O Relocation of approved 'off-site' replacement dwelling and garage (LA09/2017/0079/O) adjacent to 103 Tirkane Road, Maghera for Diarmaid Donnelly**

Agreed that application be deferred for an office meeting earlier in meeting.

**LA09/2019/1341/O Single storey dwelling adjacent to 94 Reaskmore Road, Dungannon for Michaela Martin**

Councillor B McGuigan stated the agent for this application had contacted him today and requested that this application be withdrawn.

The Planning Manager stated that as no decision had yet been taken on the application the applicant is at liberty to withdraw their application if they want. The Planning Manager asked that the agent send an email to the case officer to confirm that they want to withdraw the application.

**LA09/2019/1376/O Site for dwelling and garage (gap site) at 50m S of 39 Baladoogh Lane, Cookstown for Patrick McAleer**

Agreed that application be deferred for an office meeting earlier in meeting.

**LA09/2019/1387/O Infill site for dwelling and domestic garage at site approximately 10m S of 11 Reenaderry Road, Coalisland for Sean Robinson**

Agreed that application be deferred for an office meeting earlier in meeting.

**LA09/2019/1402/O Site for dwelling and domestic garage approximately 50m NE of 45 Moneyneany Road, Draperstown for Mr Michael McWilliams**

Agreed that application be deferred to allow for submission of further information earlier in meeting.

**LA09/2019/1415/F Replacement dwelling 60m E of 5 Drumgarrell Road, Cookstown for D Conway**

Ms McCullagh (SPO) presented a report on planning application LA09/2019/1415/F advising that it was recommended for refusal and highlighted addendum which stated that a letter of support had been received in relation to the application.

The Chair advised the committee that a request to speak on the application had been received and invited Mr Gourley to address the committee.

Mr Gourley stated that he believed the application met with Policy CTY3 for a replacement dwelling in that the current building exhibits the characteristics of a dwelling with the internal room arrangements of a former dwelling and that all walls were substantially intact. Mr Gourley advised that the current building had not been lived in for 60-70 years and had fallen into disrepair and in respect of the flat lean to roof it was explained that these were the repairs carried out to the roof following a storm a number of years ago. Mr Gourley advised that the applicant had bought the site on the basis that there had been a dwelling previously there and given the current building demonstrates the characteristics of a dwelling he requested that the application be approved.

Councillor McKinney stated he would support the view that the building had once been a dwelling as it appeared to have all the characteristics of such.

The Planning Manager suggested a site meeting to assess the visual of the building.

The Council Solicitor asked if there was any evidence submitted such as statements or affidavits to support a previous dwelling as there did appear to be quite contrasting information and evidence based on what was in the report which would cast doubt.

Ms McCullagh advised that some letters had been submitted.

Councillor Quinn proposed a site meeting take place.

Councillor Clarke seconded Councillor Quinn's proposal.

The Planning Manager stated that hypothesis were being put forward and stated that in the interim it would be beneficial for the agent to inspect the Tyrone Series of maps which may help to verify the situation.

Councillor Bell stated that the old stone walls would indicate an old dwelling and that there was also evidence of habitation from public records.

Councillor Glasgow stated that a site meeting would be useful to clear up Member's questions.

Councillor Gildernew urged caution on what the Committee passes.

**Resolved** That planning application LA09/2019/1415/F be deferred for a site meeting.

**LA09/2019/1465/O Infill dwelling and detached garage at approximately 28m E of 260 Ballygawley Road, Dungannon for Mr Kevin McCaul**

Agreed that application be deferred for an office meeting earlier in meeting.

**LA09/2019/1466/O Infill dwelling and detached garage at approximately 102m E of 260 Ballygawley Road, Dungannon for Mr Kevin McCaul**

Agreed that application be deferred for an office meeting earlier in meeting.

**LA09/2019/1501/O Site for two storey dwelling and garage on a gap site between 19 and 21 Tirgan Road, Moneymore for Malachy McCrystal**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2019/1501/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor McKinney  
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

**Resolved** That planning application LA09/2019/1501/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

**LA09/2019/1513/O Dwelling and domestic garage opposite 70 Cullenramer Road, Lisgallon, Dungannon for James Morris**

The Head of Development Management presented a report on planning application LA09/2019/1513/O advising that it was recommended for refusal.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan  
Seconded by Councillor Gildernew and

**Resolved** That planning application LA09/2019/1513/O be refused on grounds stated in the officer's report.



**LA09/2019/1551/F Single storey rear extension at 48 Brough Village,  
Castledawson for Paddy Henry**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2019/1551/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake  
Seconded by Councillor Bell and

**Resolved** That planning application LA09/2019/1551/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

**LA09/2019/1601/F Construction of a playpark extension with accompanying wet pour and the installation of an asphalt concrete path around the perimeter at Eglish Play Park at land to the rear (SE) of 12-16 Roan Park and NW of Eglish GAC for Mid Ulster District Council**

*Councillors Bell, Black, Brown, Clarke, Colvin, Cuthbertson, Gildernew, Glasgow, Kearney, Mallaghan, McFlynn, McKinney, D McPeake, S McPeake, Quinn, Robinson all declared an interest in this application.*

*Councillors Clarke, Gildernew, Kearney, McFlynn and S McPeake also declared an interest as Members of LAG.*

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2019/1601/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Robinson  
Seconded by Councillor Quinn and

**Resolved** That planning application LA09/2019/1601/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

**LA09/2019/1602/F Relocation of current goal post and ball net to allow an area for play park to be located and surrounded by a 1.2m high roll top fence and gate at existing open space between 32 and 39 Henderson Park, Stewartstown for Mid Ulster District Council**

*Councillors Bell, Black, Brown, Clarke, Colvin, Cuthbertson, Gildernew, Glasgow, Kearney, Mallaghan, McFlynn, McKinney, D McPeake, S McPeake, Quinn, Robinson all declared an interest in this application.*

*Councillors Clarke, Gildernew, Kearney, McFlynn and S McPeake also declared an interest as Members of LAG.*

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2019/1602/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Robinson  
Seconded by Councillor Quinn and

**Resolved** That planning application LA09/2019/1602/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

**LA09/2019/1603/F Installation of play park with accompanying wet pour and 1.2m high bow top fence around perimeter at existing open space adjacent to Castlebay Centre, 176-186 Mountjoy Road, Dungannon for Mid Ulster District Council**

*Councillors Bell, Black, Brown, Clarke, Colvin, Cuthbertson, Gildernew, Glasgow, Kearney, Mallaghan, McFlynn, McKinney, D McPeake, S McPeake, Quinn, Robinson all declared an interest in this application.*

*Councillors Clarke, Gildernew, Kearney, McFlynn and S McPeake also declared an interest as Members of LAG.*

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2019/1603/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Robinson  
Seconded by Councillor Quinn and

**Resolved** That planning application LA09/2019/1603/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

**LA09/2019/1604/F Installation of play park accompanying wet pour and 1m high timber fence around the perimeter at the Washingbay Centre, Ballybeg Road, Washingbay for Mid Ulster District Council**

*Councillors Bell, Black, Brown, Clarke, Colvin, Cuthbertson, Gildernew, Glasgow, Kearney, Mallaghan, McFlynn, McKinney, D McPeake, S McPeake, Quinn, Robinson all declared an interest in this application.*

*Councillors Clarke, Gildernew, Kearney, McFlynn and S McPeake also declared an interest as Members of LAG.*

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2019/1604/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Robinson  
Seconded by Councillor Quinn and

**Resolved** That planning application LA09/2019/1604/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

**LA09/2019/1605/F Installation of play park with accompanying wet pour, 1.2m high bow top fence and an asphalt concrete path to be installed around the perimeter at lands off Barrack Road and directly adjacent to O'Neill Park, Ballymaguigan for Mid Ulster District Council**

*Councillors Bell, Black, Brown, Clarke, Colvin, Cuthbertson, Gildernew, Glasgow, Kearney, Mallaghan, McFlynn, McKinney, D McPeake, S McPeake, Quinn, Robinson all declared an interest in this application.*

*Councillors Clarke, Gildernew, Kearney, McFlynn and S McPeake also declared an interest as Members of LAG.*

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2019/1605/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Robinson  
Seconded by Councillor Quinn and

**Resolved** That planning application LA09/2019/1605/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

*Councillor Gildernew left the meeting at 9.50 pm.*

**LA09/2016/1654/A Flat screen sign displaying moving and static images at Walshes Hotel, 53 Main Street, Maghera (sign to be displayed on the Coleraine Road side of the building) for Mr Kieran Bradley**

Ms Doyle (SPO) presented a report on planning application LA09/2016/1654/A advising that it was recommended for refusal. The officer also highlighted the addendum which advised that a request for a third deferral had been received.

The Chair advised the committee that a request to speak on the application had been received and invited Councillor Kearney to address the committee.

Councillor Kearney referred to report and further meeting which was to take place with DfI and advised that as this meeting had not yet taken place he requested that the application be deferred for 30 days to allow the meeting to take place.

The Planning Manager stated that officers have held off on bringing this application back to Committee for a long period of time to see if agreement can be brokered however DfI Roads still have their concerns in relation to road safety. The Planning Manager stated that should the Committee be minded to refuse the application then the applicant can proceed to Planning Appeal.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated that the application has been discussed several times with nothing new coming forward and proposed that the application be refused.

Councillor McKinney seconded Councillor Cuthbertson's proposal and stated that there had been a similar application in another town which was refused outright.

Councillor S McPeake referred to Councillor Kearney's request for a deferral and stated that whilst it may not change the outcome he would like to see the meeting with DfI Roads taking place. The Councillor felt that the sign had become part of the norm in Maghera and that it was set back well enough from the road junction.

The Planning Manager asked Members to consider the advice given and that whilst the applicant has done a lot of good in the area in terms of investment every opportunity had been given to overcome issues with the sign.

The Council Solicitor stated that in terms of a further deferral, the planning protocol states that normally only one deferral is permitted.

Councillor Bell asked if it would be possible to reduce the size/brightness of the sign.

The Planning Manager stated that an application had not been received for a reduced sign and that Members needed to consider what was before them.

Ms Doyle stated that a previous deferral had been sought on the basis of the size and brightness of the sign but that this was then taken off the table by the applicant.

**Resolved** That planning application LA09/2016/1654/A be refused on grounds stated in the officer's report.

**LA09/2017/0897/F Part use of existing farm shed to provide internal dry storage in association with the Evergreen Peat business at 100m NW of 213 Washingbay Road, Coalisland for Jim McCuskey, Evergreen Peat**

Application discussed earlier in meeting.

*Councillor Clarke left the meeting at 10.02 pm.*

**LA09/2018/1282/O Dwelling and garage at 110m NE of Tamnymullan Lane, Maghera for Mr Robert Sufferin**

*Councillor McKinney declared an interest in this application and withdrew to the public gallery.*

Ms McCullagh (SPO) presented a report on planning application LA09/2018/1282/O advising that it was recommended for refusal.

Councillor Colvin stated he would hold with the view of DfI Roads and felt there were alternative sites that could be used within the farm. On this basis, Councillor Colvin proposed the officer recommendation to refuse the application.

Councillor Brown seconded Councillor Colvin's proposal.

**Resolved** That planning application LA09/2018/1282/O be refused on grounds stated in the officer's report.

*Councillor McKinney rejoined the meeting.*

**LA09/2019/0357/F Retention of 20 x 8ft container to house vending machines at 42 Main Road, Moygashel, Dungannon for Mr Bryan Turkington**

*Councillor Cuthbertson declared an interest in this application and requested to speak on it. The Councillor withdrew to the public gallery.*

The Head of Development Management presented a report on planning application LA09/2019/0357/F advising that it was recommended for refusal.

The Planning Manager stated that the application was not what he perceived Moygashel to be and would not want to encourage such applications.

The Chair advised the committee that requests to speak on the application had been received and invited Mr & Mrs Salt and Deborah Tate to address the committee in the first instance.

Ms Tate referred to ongoing noise at the premises both day and night and stated that she had videos of anti social behaviour of users of the vending machines.

Mr Salt also referred to noise at night from the premises and stated that he worked shifts and that for instance tonight he would not be home until late and would have to get up again at 5am meaning he would only get a couple of hours sleep. Mr Salt also referred to ongoing anti social behaviour from users of the facility and cars driving recklessly in the village. Mr Salt stated that this had been reported to the Police on numerous occasions however no action had been taken, Mr Salt felt that it would not be until someone was killed that something would be done.

Mrs Salt referred to the letter she submitted which outlined the main nuisances caused by the facility and stated that whilst the letter had been written in August 2019 it was as current today and if anything had got worse. Mrs Salt felt that the biggest nuisance is car doors banging outside the premises and cars/lorries/tractors left running. Mrs Salt stated that her and her husband lived straight across the road from the premises as did Ms Tate and that the ongoing noise at night was doing harm to their health. Mrs Salt also referred to car horns tooting, the anti social behaviour, dangerous driving and sectarian comments shouted and asked the Committee to take this all into consideration before making a decision as she did not believe Members would want to be living beside such goings on.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated that he had been involved in the initial enforcement case in which 4 or 5 complaints had been received (not from the objectors in attendance tonight). The Councillor stated that the area is residential and did not believe this facility was in the right location.

Mr Turkington stated that he had been involved in business in Moygashel for over 50 years and advised that the vending facility was a temporary solution and that he had submitted a PAD application for a mixed use development on the site consisting of a retail unit and 12 apartments however he had been advised that there was not an adequate sewerage connection for the development. Mr Turkington stated it was not his intention to annoy residents and highlighted that there was further housing opposite the premises who had not raised any issues. Mr Turkington advised that there were a number of families in the area who use the facility and that shift workers, care workers and Police also use the machines. Mr Turkington stated that the vending machines on site were not cheap and highlighted that the Police had never been called out to anti social behaviour at the premises. Mr Turkington advised that as soon as a sewerage connection could be obtained then he would be ready to develop the retail unit and apartments.

The Planning Manager stated that the site in question was a brownfield site and that he was aware that it was only sewerage connections on greenfield sites that were being opposed. The Planning Manager asked if the applicant was willing to compromise on the opening hours of the premises.

Mr Turkington replied that the opening hours had to be viable.

The Head of Development Management advised that following consultation with Environmental Health a condition in relation to hours had been suggested from 9am to 11pm however given the concerns it was felt by the case officer that the opening hours should be from 9 am to 10 pm.

Mr Turkington stated that the extra hour was crucial for the operation of his business but that he would be prepared to close at 10 pm Monday to Thursday and at 11 pm on Friday, Saturday and Sunday as a compromise.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan stated that he felt there had been adequate opportunity to discuss opening/closing times and highlighted that the principles of planning had not been met with this application.

The Council Solicitor stated that there appeared to be a suggestion that the anti social behaviour, for example, is down to the vending machine units but that the applicant had appeared to suggest a different angle in relation to the lack of Police complaints in this regard. She advised members to ensure they were basing their decision making on evidence.

The Planning Manager asked what the view of the Committee was in relation to the principle of the application.

Councillor McKinney referred to comments from the applicant that the Police had not received any complaints in relation to anti social behaviour outside the premises and stated that himself along with other Members had heard other information at a recent PCSP meeting. Councillor McKinney stated that the facility was a gathering point and that the health of local residents was at risk due to the operation of this business and that the Committee needed to consider this.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan asked Members for an indicative vote on whether they were for or against the principle of such a facility –

For – 3

Against – 8

The Planning Manager stated that if Members were of a mind to refuse the application then they should discuss the reasons.

It was felt that the application should be refused due to negative impact on visual amenity, neighbouring amenity in terms of noise and nuisance and the hours of operation.

Proposed by Councillor Colvin

Seconded by Councillor Brown and

**Resolved** That planning application LA09/2019/0357/F be refused on grounds stated in the officer's report.

**LA09/2019/1169/O Infill dwelling and garage at lands between 33a & 33b  
Grange Road, Moy for Mr Andrew Smith**

*Councillor Colvin declared an interest in this application and withdrew to the public gallery.*

The Head of Development Management (SPO) presented a report on planning application LA09/2019/1169/O advising that it was recommended for approval.

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake

Seconded by Councillor Kearney and

**Resolved** That planning application LA09/2019/1169/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

*Councillor Colvin rejoined the meeting.*

**P017/20 Receive Report on Tree Preservation Order at former Maghera  
High School**

*Councillors Kearney and S McPeake declared an interest in this item.*

The Planning Manager presented previously circulated report which provided information on a request received by the Planning Department for a Tree Preservation Order on lands formerly Maghera High School, Tobermore Road, Maghera. The Planning Manager also drew attention to the addendum circulated which included an amended Tree Preservation Order Map A dated 27 January 2020 and asked Members to disregard the previous map circulated dated 23 January 2020.

Proposed by Councillor Brown  
Seconded by Councillor Black and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to agree that a Full Tree Preservation Order and associated Map A (as per addendum dated 27 January 2020) be served on lands at Former Maghera High School, Tobermore Road, Maghera and that landowners be formally notified as per s.122 of the Planning Act (NI) 2011 and associated The Planning (Trees) Regulations (NI) 2015.

### **Matters for Information**

#### **P018/20 Minutes of Planning Committee held on 7 January 2020**

Members noted minutes of Planning Committee held on 7 January 2020.

### **Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business**

Proposed by Councillor Brown  
Seconded by Councillor Glasgow and

**Resolved** In accordance with Section 42, Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 that Members of the public be asked to withdraw from the meeting whilst Members consider items P019/20 to P024/20.

#### **Matters for Information**

P019/20	Confidential Minutes of Planning Committee held on 7 January 2020
P020/20	Confidential Minutes of Special Planning Committee (Local Development Plan) held on 13 January 2020
P021/20	Receive Enforcement Report
P022/20	Enforcement Cases Opened
P023/20	Enforcement Cases Closed
P024/20	Recording of Meeting

#### **P025/20 Duration of Meeting**

The meeting was called for 7 pm and concluded at 10.46 pm.

Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_





## ADDENDUM TO PLANNING COMMITTEE AGENDA

### FOR PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING ON: 4<sup>th</sup> Feb 2020

Additional information has been received on the following items since the agenda was issued.

ITEM	INFORMATION RECEIVED	ACTION REQUIRED
4.1	Env Health conditions received 24/01/2020.	Members to note. These would be added to any decision notice.
4.7	<p>Suggested condition 9 refers to the wrong drawing number and should read as follows:</p> <p>“No retained tree/hedgerow vegetation as shown on drawing no 04/1 shall be cut down, uprooted or destroyed, or have its roots damaged within the crown spread nor shall arboricultural work or tree surgery take place on any retained tree to be topped or lopped other than in accordance with the approved plans and particulars, without the written approval of the Planning Authority. Any arboricultural work or tree surgery approved shall be carried out in accordance with British Standard 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction”.</p> <p>Objection letters received</p>	Members to note.
4.9	Solicitor letter received relating to ownership issues.	Members to note

4.29	Letter of support received from Mr Madden.	Members to note
5.1	Request for a third deferral received directly by the Planning Department and applicant was not advised to contact Committees directly	Members to note. This will be considered in the case officer's presentation.
6.0	Amended draft Tree Preservation Order Map A dated 27.01.2020	Members to note. Please disregard previous draft Tree Preservation Order Map A dated 23.01.2020.

Item 4.1  
EHO conditions



## Environmental Health Department

**Our Ref:** GE  
**Planning Ref:** LA09/2017/0318/F  
**Date:** 24<sup>th</sup> January 2020

## Comments on Planning Application

**Proposal:** Proposed 1No. replacement pig shed with 2No. feed bins and an above ground covered slurry store (pig shed to contain 8000 weaner pigs)

**Location:** Land approx. 100m N.E. of 13 Drumard Road Draperstown

Further to our previous comments dated 5<sup>th</sup> September 2017, we have considered the proposal along with the following documents:

- Irwin Carr Air Quality Impact Assessment dated 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2018
- Seven objection letters

The Irwin Carr air quality impact assessment considers the odour impact from the pig shed which includes 18 emission points where mechanical fans are positioned plus odour from a slurry store.

Meteorological data for Aldergrove from 2011-2015 was then used within the Aermod dispersion model to consider the overall impact of odour at the nearest residential properties. This modelling showed that predicted average odour levels for the past 5 years were below the 98<sup>th</sup> percentile of 3 o/u.

Consideration has been given to the objection letters and having reviewed the submissions, we are satisfied that odour from the proposal is unlikely to affect nearby residential amenity.

For this reason, we would ask that the following conditions be attached to any planning approval:

### Conditions

1. The Total Odour Emission Rate (ou/s) shall not exceed 2,667 ou/s when measured at any of the 18 emission points.

**Reason:** To protect residential amenity

2. Within 4 weeks of a written request by the Council following a reasonable odour complaint from the occupant of a dwelling which lawfully exists, the operator shall, at his/her expense, employ a suitably qualified and competent person, to assess the level of odour from the development. The Council shall then be provided with a suitable report detailing findings along with any necessary remedial measures. These remedial measures shall be carried out to the satisfaction of Council within 4 weeks from the date of approval of the remedial report, and shall be permanently retained and

maintained to an acceptable level thereafter, unless otherwise agreed in writing with Council.

**Reason: To protect residential amenity**

3. The applicant should be requested to draw up an odour management control plan which sets out the measures the applicant would propose to take to minimise potential odour emission from the site.

**Reason: To protect residential amenity**

4. The applicant should be requested to draw up a documented Pest Control Management Plan which sets out measures the applicant would propose to take to control potential fly and rodent infestations which may arise from the site. The plan should include details on the routine monitoring for pests, the steps to be taken when identified, chemicals to be used in their treatment and records showing details of monitoring and any treatments carried out.

**Reason: To protect residential amenity**

**Agenda Item 6 - Amended draft Tree Preservation Order Map A dated 27.01.2020**




2 Planning Office  
RECEIVED

27 JAN 2020

File No. TRO/2019/00001/LAB09  
Mid Ulster District Council



MAP A  
MAP REFERRED TO IN TREE  
PROTECTION ORDER DATED:  
LANDS AT: FORMER HIGH SCHOOL,  
MAGHERA, CO. ANTRIM  
Mid Ulster District Council

<b>Dr. Philip Blackstock</b> Independent Arboricultural Consultant	26 Tullynaholmon Road Portlone, Co. Antrim BT44 8EL  Mobile: +44 (0) 7767 303 075 email: phil@blackstocktree.co.uk Website: www.philblackstock.com	Site:  <b>Lands at Former High School, Maghera</b>	<b>KEY</b>  <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="margin-right: 10px;">  </div> <div>Position, number and actual crown spread of tree</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="margin-right: 10px;">  </div> <div>Position, number and actual crown spread of tree to be felled</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="margin-right: 10px;">  </div> <div>Area of Tree Protection Zone (if described as a perfect circle)</div> </div>		
Title: <b>TREE CONSTRAINTS PLAN</b> Plan indicating position, actual crown spread of trees and notional tree protection zones (based on a map produced by the client)		Client: <b>Teague and Sally</b>	Scale: 1:1500    Drawn By: Philip    Date: 05.04.2019		





**Minutes of Meeting of Policy and Resources Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 6 February in the Council Offices, Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt**

**Members Present**

Councillor Molloy, Chair

Councillors Ashton, Buchanan, Elattar (7.13 pm), Forde, Gildernew, Hughes, McFlynn, S McGuigan, McKinney, McLean, S McPeake, Quinn (7.12 pm), Totten

**Officers in Attendance**

Mrs Canavan, Director of Organisational Development  
Mr Cassells, Director of Environment and Property  
Mr Kelso, Director of Public Health and Infrastructure  
Mr Moffett, Head of Democratic Services  
Mr O'Hagan, Head of IT  
Mr JJ Tohill, Director of Finance  
Ms Grogan, Democratic Services Officer

**Others in Attendance**

Mr David Ross – Director of Valuation, LPS

The meeting commenced at 7.02 pm.

**PR026/20 Apologies**

Councillors Colvin and Doris.  
Chief Executive.

**PR027/20 Declarations of Interest**

The Chair reminded members of their responsibility with regard to declarations of interest.

**PR028/20 Chair's Business**

None.

**PR029/20 Deputation – Land & Property Services Non-Domestic Rate Valuation**

The Chair, Councillor Molloy welcomed Mr David Ross, Director of Valuation to the committee and invited him to make his presentation.

Mr Ross provided members with an update on Reval2020 – Revaluing Properties for Business Rates. He said that there were approx. 74,000 non-domestic properties in

Northern Ireland, with a current total Net Annual Value of £1,560m = this has the potential to generate £640 million p.a. rates revenue.

Councillor McLean raised the issue of a business being penalised for being prosperous and this leading to an increase in Rates payable and enquired what happened where a business found themselves in the position of reducing profitability and asked if the Rates payable would decrease accordingly.

Mr Ross agreed that in theory the Rating system generally (for most classes of business property) sought to base Rates on rents paid by the businesses occupying premises as rents were viewed as the best measure to use to equitably distribute the Rate burden between business ratepayers. However, over time, Rates assessed would naturally become based on rents that were determined by LPS a considerable period ago. Consequently, frequent LPS was attempting to increase the frequency of property revaluations. Frequent property revaluations would help ensure that Rates were based on as up to date information as practicable and this should ensure that the distribution of the Rate burden was as equitable as practicable.

In response to a member's query, Mr Ross advised that the last revaluation of properties took place in 2015, with the 2020 revaluation reflecting rents payable in April 2018.

*Councillor Quinn entered the meeting at 7.12 pm.*

*Councillor Elattar entered the meeting at 7.13 pm.*

Mr Ross outlined in his overhead presentation the following: (appendix 1)

- Revaluations
- Net Annual Value Growth
- Changes in NAV – Mid Ulster
- NAV Growth by Sector
- Changes in NAV – Mid Ulster – Retail
- Changes in NAV – Mid Ulster – Offices
- Changes in NAV – Mid Ulster – Industrial
- Changes in NAV – Mid Ulster – Warehouses
- NAV Growth and Rate Liability
- Key Dates
- Draft Values and Valuation List Online
- What's Required from Rate Payers

The Chair thanked Mr Ross for his informative presentation and said that the more information made available, the better.

Councillor Forde advised that she had been approached by a concerned businessman during the week regarding the anticipated increase in his business Rates. She said that previously his rates were £900 per annum and when he performed his own calculation using the new revaluation figures it was £2,941.50 and enquired how this could be justified and whether this was an accurate estimation.

Mr Ross advised that the calculation referred to would not accurately estimate the Rates bill as no regional rate had been struck yet by Government. However, he did accept that some ratepayers could see increases while others might see decreases in their ultimate Rates bill.

Councillor Forde enquired if it was acceptable to inform the gentleman of what was said tonight advising that the rate checker was only giving an estimation and not an accurate figure.

Mr Ross said that the rate checker did not have a business rate number to provide an accurate figure for the businessman, but he also noted that the business could yet face a significant increase in Rates anyway.

Councillor S McGuigan said that it's assumed that valuations were going to increase and not decrease which will reflect a Rate increase to the ordinary businessperson and felt that there was no logic to this.

Mr Ross replied that his department was responsible for assessing the value of the property in accordance with the law, which requires that the valuation is to be based on rental values.

In response to Councillor McGuigan's query, Mr Ross advised that LPS had written to every business to advise of the revaluation process and invited them to provide details such as rents payable in relation to their properties to enable the LPS to ascertain the rateable value of the properties.

Mr Ross stated if more regular valuations were carried out then revaluations and their effects would not be such a surprise to people, but due to resource issues it was not possible to have revaluations as frequent as the LPS would like.

Councillor McFlynn said that the Council and people pride themselves on the business ethic within Mid Ulster and enquired if property revaluation was related to profit or income.

Mr Ross advised that valuations were generally based on rentals. However, other factors would be taken into account to calculate a fair and reasonable net rental value for rating purposes. He said that some sectors, including the hospitality sector would see their rental values being derived from turnover. However, this was how the private sector would value a property in many cases when a business was being sold.

Councillor McFlynn said that Mid Ulster had a huge engineering and agri-food sector and felt that this revaluation could have a detrimental effect on businesses which could yet be hit very hard by the financial consequences of the new valuations.

Councillor McFlynn said that it would be unfair if the revaluation directly contributed to increased Rates as this Council prided itself on helping its businesses prosper within Mid Ulster.

Councillor S McPeake enquired about the average 6.8% growth figure for all non-domestic properties within the North of Ireland and enquired what the growth rate overall for Mid Ulster was.

Mr Ross advised that the growth rate for Mid Ulster was in the region of 9.1%.

Councillor S McPeake enquired if there was any way of using the consequences of the revaluations to help businesses.

Mr Ross advised that this was a question for the Council as LPS only provides information to councils on property valuations. He said that correspondence was issued to all Councils in November of each year in relation to property valuations which should help the officers to understand what was happening.

Councillor S McGuigan said that even if the regional rate went down, this Council struggled with the lack of information at Rate setting time in relation to both Rate Support Grant and regional rate.

Mr Ross advised that although he could not comment in relation to Rate Support Grant, he understood that the regional rate had to be set before the end of March.

Councillor S McGuigan enquired as to the likelihood of the regional rate being reduced.

Mr Ross said that this happened at the last revaluation of properties in 2015.

The Chair referred to Dungannon town and said that rental rates were very high and that some owners had preferred to let properties on a rates only basis rather than not rent them and be faced with paying Rates without any rental income.

Mr Ross said that all types of deals were on the market within the private sector to try and help people overcome these issues. He said that LPS were not there to try and resolve these types of issues.

Councillor McLean said that what he was reading into this was that LPS were looking at a fair and even rateable value for all properties, which would see there being some increases and decreases.

Mr Ross said that this was the case and that they were interested in lease and rent patterns throughout Northern Ireland as this would help them perform their work effectively.

Councillor McLean referred to the previous reduction in regional rate of 2p in the £1 and asked what this purpose of this reduction was and how this figure was reached.

Mr Ross said that the calculation effectively allowed Stormont to raise the amount of income from the regional rate as it had prior to the 2015 revaluation.

The Chair enquired if the regional rate came down, would council ratepayers see a reduction in their Rates bill.

Mr Ross said that in crude terms that this should be the case.

Councillor McLean said that often councils get bad press for the increase in regional rates and suggested that if the Minister for Finance could not make a 2p reduction in regional rate and give the relevant funds back to council so that councils could transparently apply the monies for the benefit of non-domestic ratepayers.

Mr Ross accepted the Member's point but replied that this would be a matter for the Assembly.

The Chair thanked Mr Ross for this attendance tonight at which Mr Ross withdrew from the meeting at 7.41 pm.

## **Matters for Decision**

### **PR030/20 Corporate Plan 2020-2024: Consultation Outcome**

The Head of Democratic Services presented previously circulated report and to provide details of the outcome of the public consultation on the Council's draft Corporate Plan 2020-2024.

The proposed changes to the draft plan as outlined in a series of 6 recommendations listed below:

- 1) The Council's vision is considered robust and should be retained
- 2) The Council's 6 stated values should be retained, with 1 amendment to the wording of 'excellence' to reflect the Council's accountability for its resources
- 3) Given broad agreement, the 5 stated themes should be retained
- 4) Stated priorities should be retained, with suggested amendments to 6 as detailed in the main report
- 5) The final plan's narrative should refer to or reflect certain issues raised by respondents
- 6) Corporate commitments should be retained, with a minor change to the wording of one

Councillor Ashton referred to the commentary reflected in the responses from the 'PUL' community and enquired if the Council's Good Relations section had reflected on same, and if a review had been undertaken in this area of the Council's work.

The Head of Democratic Services said that he would refer the matter back to the Director of Business and Communities to provide an update.

Proposed by Councillor McLean  
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve the final corporate plan 2020-2024 following the consultation exercise, subject to recommendations on the vision, values, themes, priorities, the plan narrative being amended to reflect issues raised and the corporate commitments being retained with some minor wording.

The Director of Business and Committees to provide an update on concerns raised regarding commentary reflected in the responses from the 'PUL' community and whether the Council's Good Relations programme had reflected the same.

**PR031/20 Request to Illuminate Council Property – February 2020**

The Head of Democratic Services presented previously circulated report and advised members that a request had been received from Marie Curie Dungannon Fundraising Group to highlight the start of its flagship campaign the Great Daffodil Appeal by lighting up/illuminating the Burnavon, Cookstown, Ranfurly House, Dungannon and the Bridewell, Magherafelt on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February to 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020 (inclusive).

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn  
Seconded by Councillor Hughes and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve the request to light up/illuminate the designated properties (Ranfurly House & Visitor Centre, Dungannon; the Burnavon Arts & Cultural Centre, Cookstown and the Bridewell, Magherafelt) yellow on the evenings of Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February, Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> February and Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020 to mark the commencement of Marie Curie's 2020 Great Daffodil Appeal.

**PR032/20 Policy (Draft) on Consultation**

The Head of Democratic Services presented previously circulated report and sought approval from elected members on the draft Consultation Policy.

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan  
Seconded by Councillor S McPeake and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve the draft Consultation Policy for Mid Ulster District Council.

**PR033/20 Publication of Strategy and Action Plan 2019 to 2021 by Equality & Diversity in Local Councils**

The Head of Democratic Services presented previously circulated report to provide members with a copy of the Equality & Diversity in Local Councils Strategy and Action Plan 2019-2020 and consider endorsement of the associated Equality and Diversity Framework.

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake  
Seconded by Councillor McKinney and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve the Equality & Diversity in Local Councils Strategy and Action Plan 2019 – 2021 and Equality and Diversity Framework.

## **PR034/20 Mid Ulster District Council Health & Safety Policy**

The Director of Public Health & Infrastructure presented previously circulated report to inform members of minor revisions to Mid Ulster District Council's current Health & Safety Policy.

Proposed by Councillor Buchanan  
Seconded by Councillor Forde and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve the adoption of the attached Mid Ulster District Council Health and Safety Policy.

## **Matters for Information**

### **PR035/20 Minutes of Policy & Resources Committee held on 9 January 2020**

Members noted Minutes of Policy & Resources Committee held on 9 January 2020.

### **PR036/20 Notification of Consultations from NILGA**

Members noted report on Notification of Consultations from NILGA.

### **PR037/20 Corporate Performance Improvements: 9 Months Update 2019-20**

Members noted report on Corporate Performance Improvements: 9 Months Update 2019-20.

## **Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business**

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan  
Seconded by Councillor Quinn and

**Resolved** In accordance with Section 42, Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 that Members of the public be asked to withdraw from the meeting whilst Members consider items PR038/20 to PR051/20.

### **Matters for Decision**

- PR038/20 2020/21 Insurances
- PR039/20 Rate Estimates 2020/21
- PR040/20 Treasury Management Report
- PR041/20 Capital Programme 2020 – 2024
- PR042/20 Contract for the Collection and Processing of Mixed Dry Recyclates (Blue Bin Contract)
- PR043/20 Land Acquisitions and Disposal
- PR044/20 Finance System (Totalmobile) Contract Renewal
- PR045/20 Mobile Network Choice for Contract 2020-2022
- PR046/20 Full Fibre Project

**Matters for Information**

PR047/20 Confidential Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee  
held on 9 January 2020  
PR048/20 Staff Matters for Information  
PR049/20 Planning System Replacement Update  
PR050/20 Finance Report for 9 Months ended 31 December 2019  
PR051/20 Contracts and DAC

**PR052/20 Duration of Meeting**

The meeting was called for 7 pm and concluded at 9.35 pm.

Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



# Reval2020

Revaluing properties  
for business rates

**Non Domestic Revaluation Presentation – 6 February 2020**  
to Mid Ulster District Council – Policy & Resources Committee  
by **David Ross**, Director of Valuation, LPS

Reval2020 data in this presentation is correct as at 18 November 2019



Land & Property Services  
Seirbhísí Talún & Maoine

Page 69 of 248



Department of  
**Finance**

An Roinn  
**Airgeadais**

## Background

- 74,000 non domestic properties
- Current Total Net Annual Value = £1,560m
- £640 million p.a. rates revenue
  
- Previous Revaluation was in 2015
- Work on 2020 Revaluation started in mid-2017
- April 2018 – Rent and Lease Questionnaires
- **Net Annual Value** = Rental Value at 1 April 2018



## Revaluations

- A property tax system requires frequent revaluations to be fair and to minimise excessive adjustments.
- NI - 1976, 1997, 2003, 2015 and now in 2020.
- Revaluations are about redistributing the rate burden.
- A revaluation does not increase or decrease total NI rates revenue

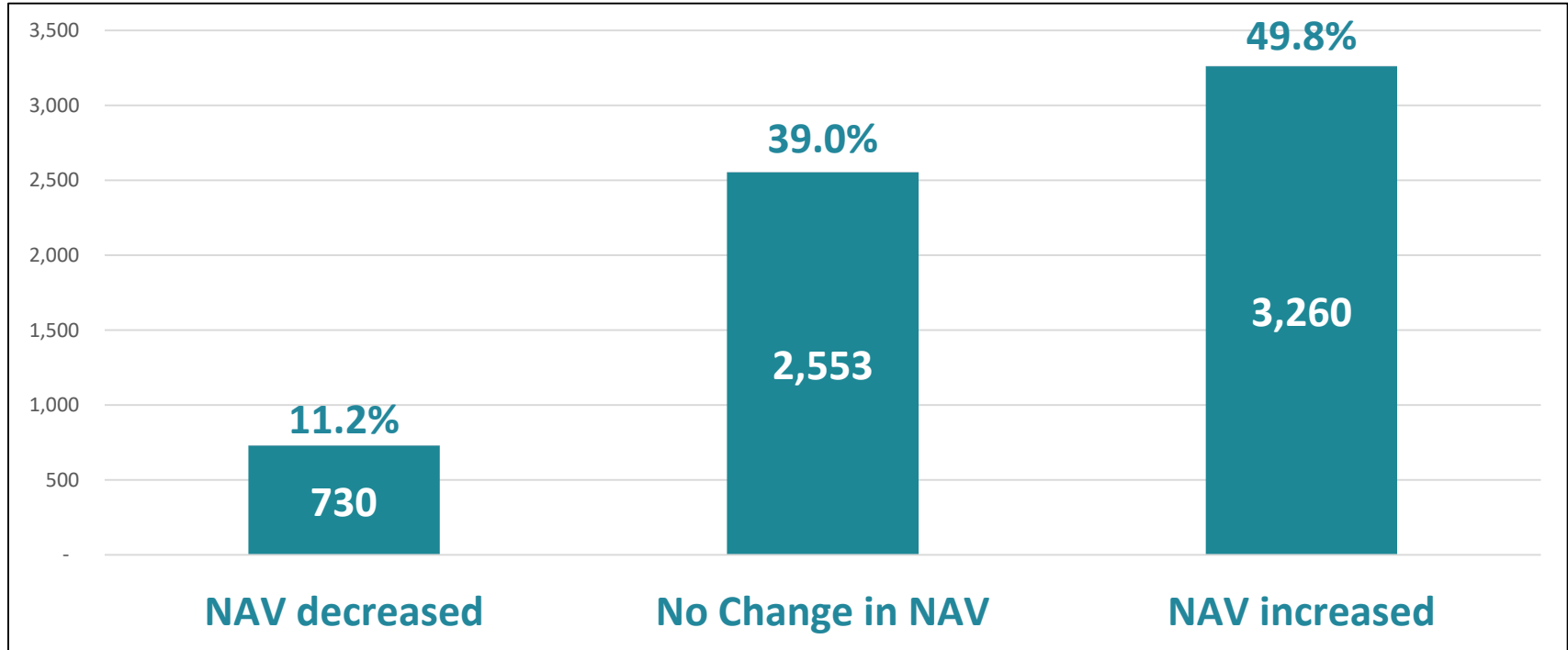


# Reval2020

## Net Annual Value Growth

	2015	2020	Overall NI Growth
Total NAV	£1,560m	£1,667m	1.068 (6.8%)

	2015	2020	Overall Mid Ulster Growth
Total NAV	£93.3m	£101.8m	1.091 (9.1%)

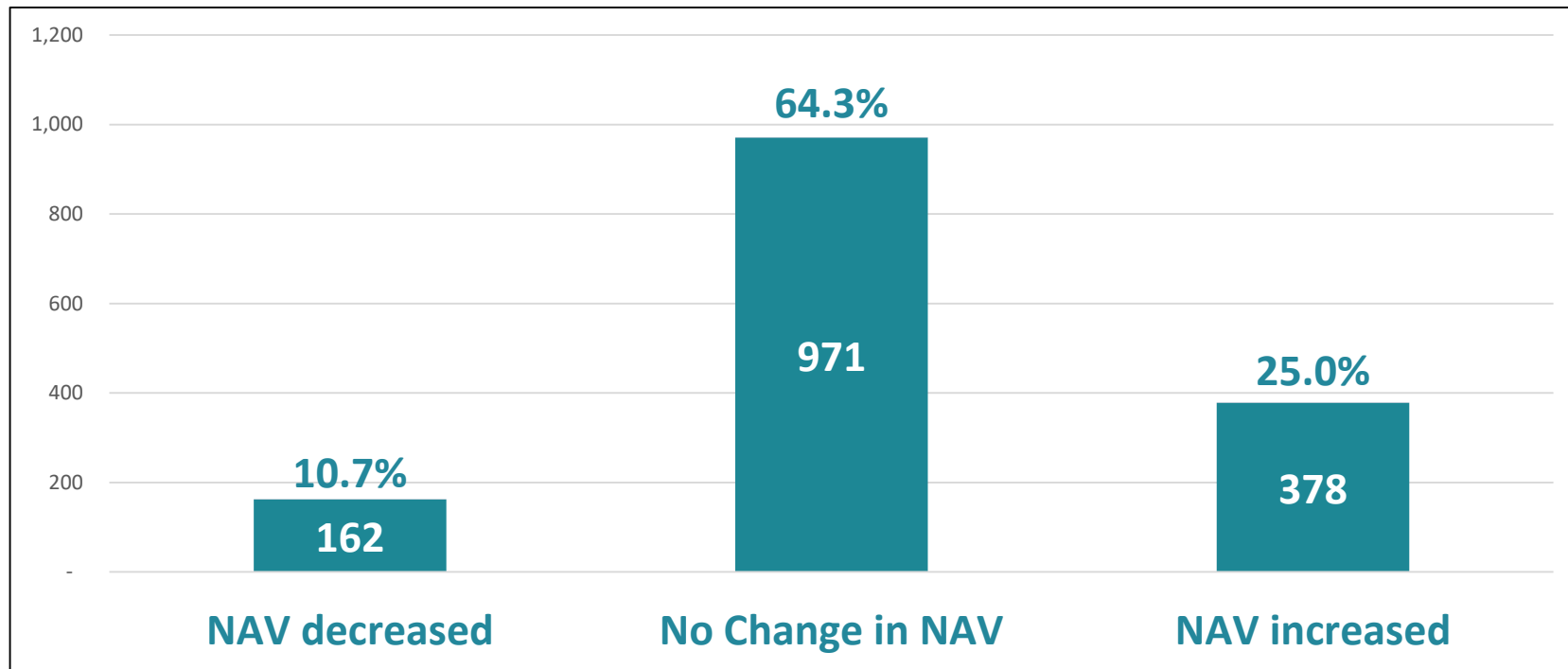


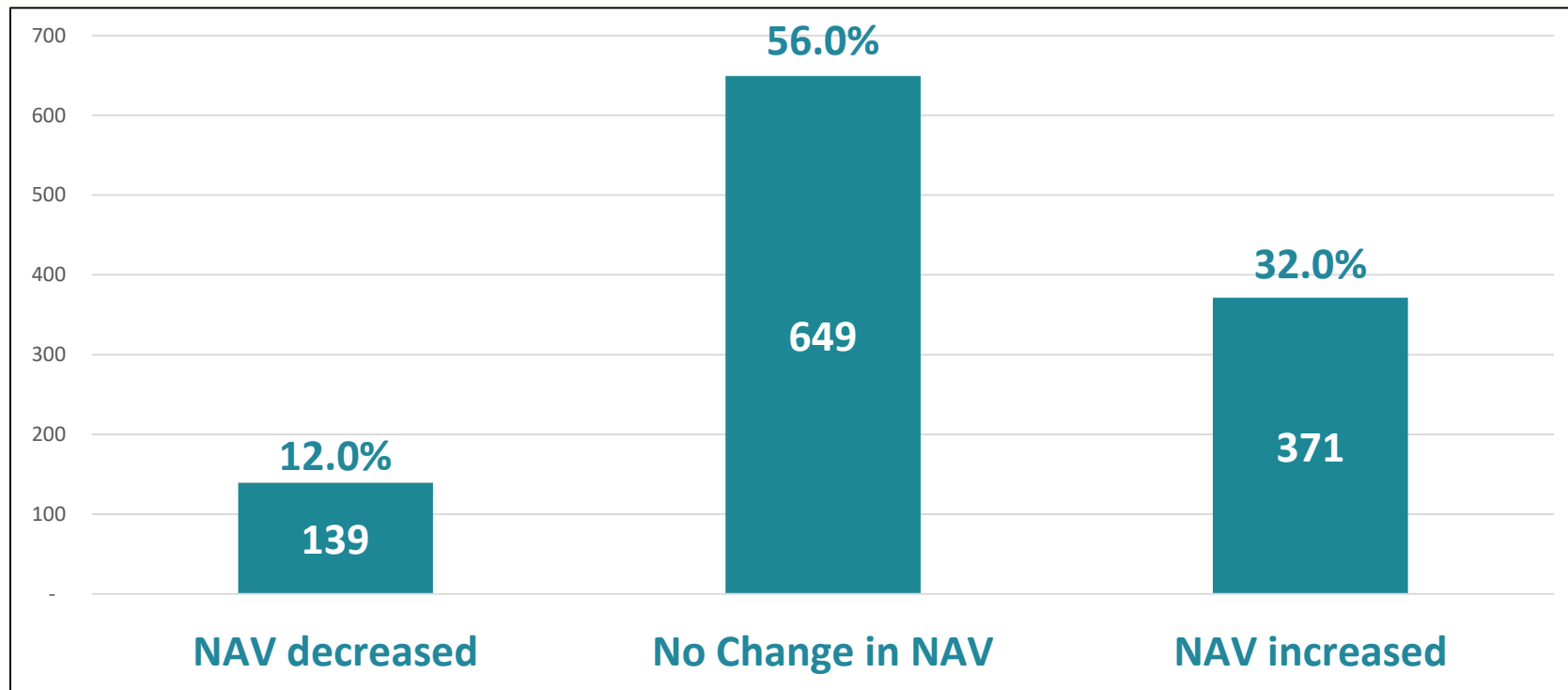
## NAV Growth by Sector

Sector	NI	Mid Ulster
Retail	0.98	1.01
Offices	1.09	1.05
Industrial	1.03	1.11
Warehouses	1.02	1.11
<b>All Properties</b>	<b>1.068</b>	<b>1.091</b>

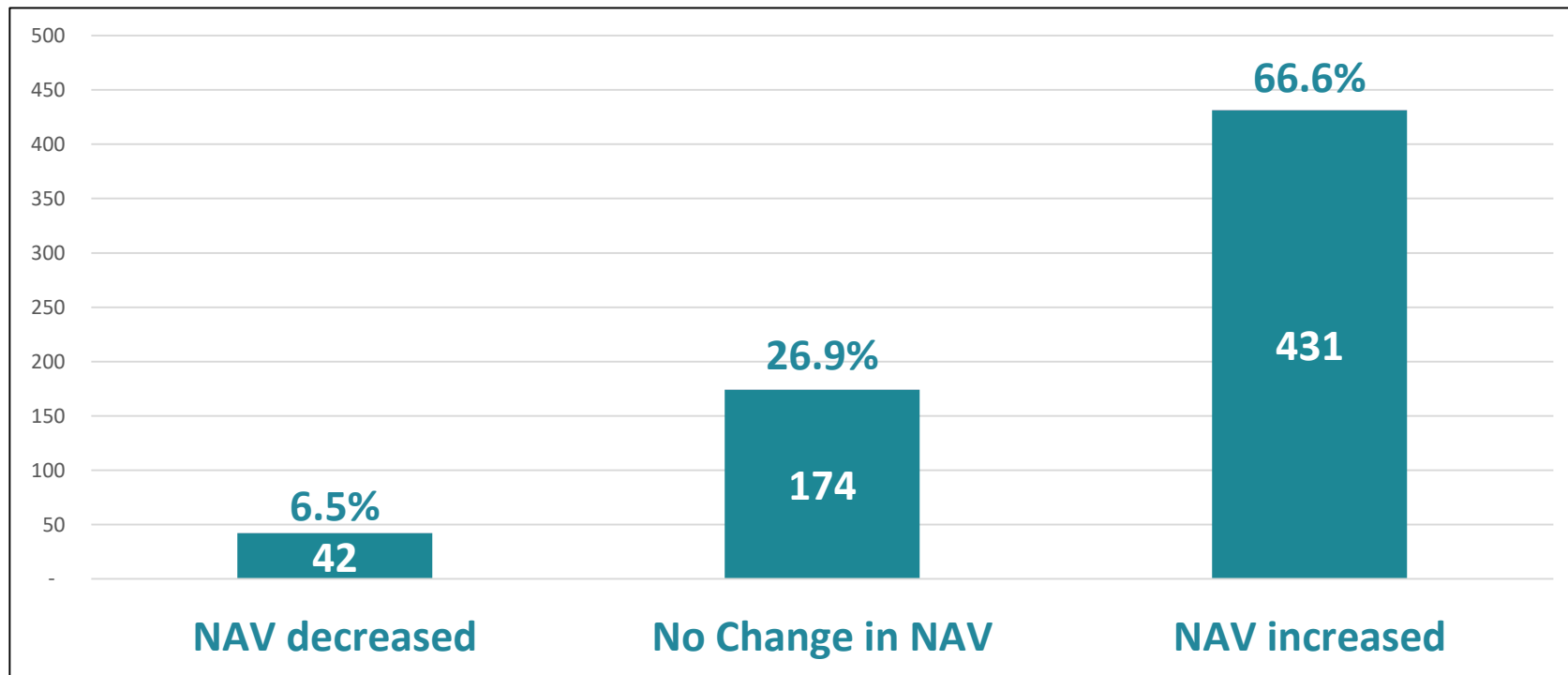


# Reval2020 Changes in NAV – Mid Ulster - Retail

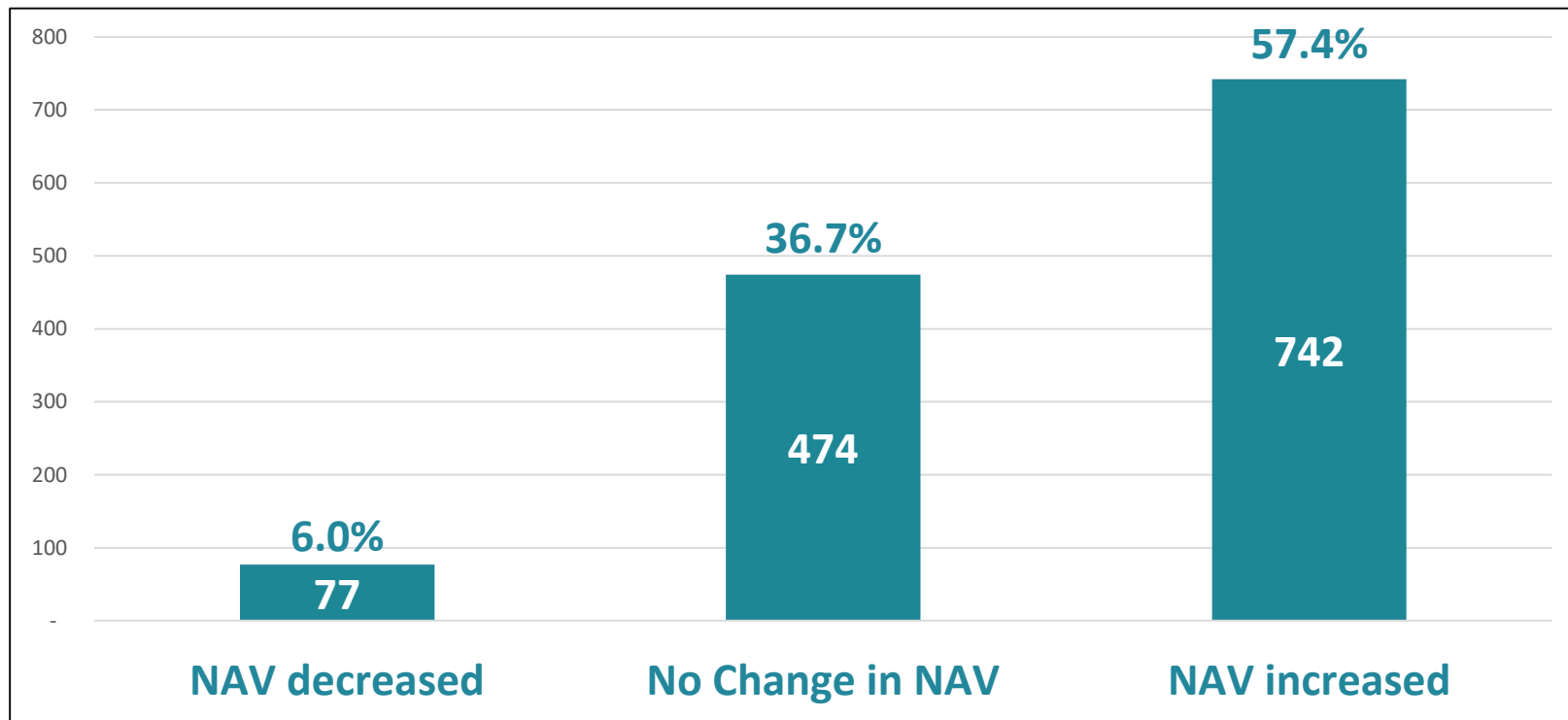








# Reval2020 Changes in NAV – Mid Ulster- Warehouses



## NAV Growth and Rate Liability

- 6.8% Growth at NI level adjusts the Regional Rate downward
- After the 2015 Revaluation -
  - 2003-2015 – Growth 8.1%
  - Regional Rate 2014-15 - £0.3391
  - Regional Rate 2015-16 - £0.3186
- Different Growth for each District Council will result in different adjustments to each District Rate

## NAV Growth and Rate Liability

- Rates can only be worked out when poundages are known.
- **Rate Bill = NAV x (District Rate + Regional Rate) - reliefs**
- Jan-March - changes to an NAV compared to NI and District averages used by LPS to give ratepayers an indication of their new liability.
- Existing reliefs and exemptions are unchanged.
- **SBRR**



# Reval2020 Key Dates

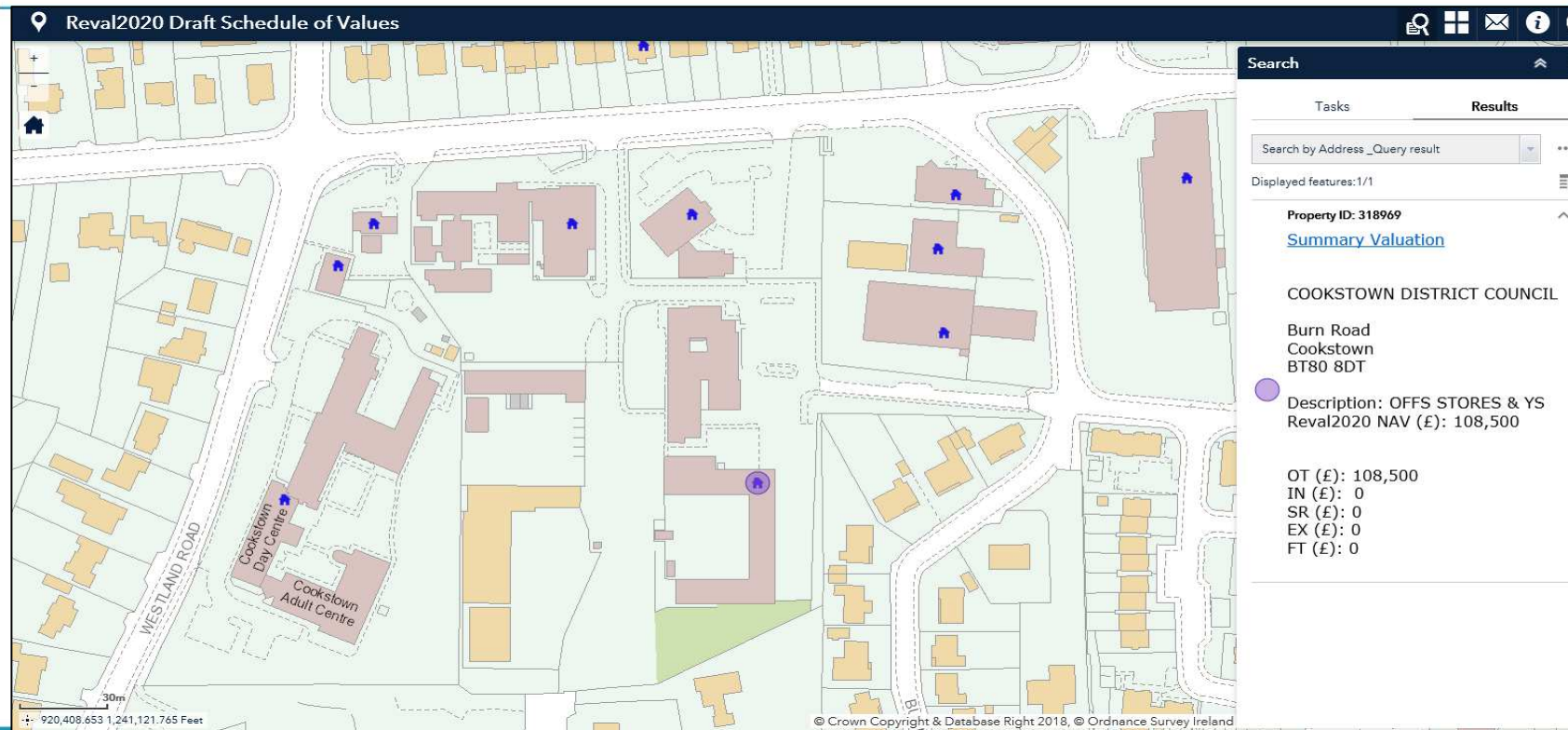
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- Nov 2019: New values with Councils for District Rate setting.
- 7 Jan 2020: Draft values online – “informal review”.
- Mid-Feb 2020: District Rate poundages struck.
- By mid-March: NI Budget & Regional rate struck.
- By 31 March 2020: New Valuation List published online.
- April 2020: Rate bills issued.



# Reval2020 Draft Values and Valuation List online

Reval2020 Draft Schedule of Values



Search

Tasks Results

Search by Address\_Query result

Displayed features: 1/1

Property ID: 318969

[Summary Valuation](#)

COOKSTOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Burn Road  
Cookstown  
BT80 8DT

Description: OFFS STORES & YS  
Reval2020 NAV (£): 108,500

OT (£): 108,500  
IN (£): 0  
SR (£): 0  
EX (£): 0  
FT (£): 0

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# Reval2020

Revaluing properties for business rates

## NON-DOMESTIC REVALUATION DRAFT SUMMARY

THIS IS NOT A VALUATION CERTIFICATE.

THIS IS NOT A

Prop ID	318969
Address	COOKSTOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL, Burn Road, Maloor Cookstown, Cookstown, BT80 8DT
Primary Class	Offices(Includes Banks and Post Offices)
Current NAV	£110,500
Reval2020 NAV	£108,500
NAV Change £	-£2,000
NAV Change %	-1.81%

### Summary Valuation

Floor	Description / Use	Area (m2)	Rate (£ per m2)	Total (£)	Distinction
GF	WRHSE	485	22.00	10,663	
GF	STO	781	18.70	14,603	
GF	WRHSE	476	18.70	8,903	
GF	WRHSE	109	18.70	2,035	
NA	YARD	1,680	1.87	3,142	
NA	YARD	1,488	1.87	2,783	
GF	OFF	470	68.75	32,313	
GF	STO	62	68.75	4,269	
GF	CANTN	26	68.75	1,801	
GF	STRNG	14	68.75	976	
GF	KITCN	13	68.75	880	
1F	OFF	251	60.50	15,155	
1F	STO	28	60.50	1,700	
1F	KITCN	12	60.50	702	
NA	YARD	1,926	1.54	2,966	
GF	WRHSE	235	24.20	5,677	

## Explanatory Notes

Revaluation	A rates revaluation is the reassessment of the individual Net Annual Values (NAVs) of all 75,000 business properties in Northern Ireland. The new values will be used to calculate rate bills for businesses
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# Reval2020

Revaluing properties for business rates

## Non-domestic Revaluation

Draft rateable values now available

Land & Property Services has now completed the revaluation of all non-domestic properties in Northern Ireland. These values will be used to assess rate bills from April 2020 onwards.

When implemented this will help rebalance business rates.

A schedule of draft rateable values is now available online.

### More information

To view the schedule of draft rateable values and for further information on Reval2020

visit [www.finance-ni.gov.uk/reval-2020-ni](http://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/reval-2020-ni) or Tel: 0300 200 7801

on. Reval2020

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## What do we want ratepayers to do?

- Go online at [www.finance-ni.gov.uk/reval-2020-ni](http://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/reval-2020-ni)
- Find your valuation ..... ask yourself....“could my property have let for this amount in **April 2018**?”
- If yes – nothing further required.
- If any concerns – check your details and similar properties in your locality.
- Remaining concerns? Contact LPS by email / phone or drop in to a **Reval2020** event in Jan-Feb across NI.





# Reval2020


## Find out more

- [www.finance-ni.gov.uk/reval-2020-ni](http://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/reval-2020-ni)
  - About Reval2020
  - FAQs and videos
- NDR Factsheet for Local Councils
- Council Briefing Packs

Thank you. Questions.

### Reval2020

Revaluing properties for business rates



September 2019

#### INFORMATION FOR LOCAL COUNCILLORS


##### What is Reval 2020?

Land & Property Services (LPS) is revaluing properties in Northern Ireland for business rates.

##### Why is LPS carrying out this revaluation?

The last revaluation was held in 2015 based on 2013 rental levels. It's important that we now carry out another revaluation to ensure that business rates stay up to date and reflect local economic changes by distributing rate liability fairly across all sectors in line with changes in rental values.

information in 2018. The data collected has been used to calculate rate bills for November 2019. Rate bills based on the new revaluation will be issued in November 2019. As a result of the revaluation, the rate on individual ratepayers will be. As a result of the revaluation, many will stay almost the same. The revaluation process by striking the district rate (also known as the district rate) is a small part of the overall bill. The revalued value of each business property, also known as the district rate and the regional rate (set by the Department of Finance), will be used to calculate the rate bill.



NAV X

District rate poundage

+

Regional rate poundage

= Rate Bill







## **Minutes of Meeting of Mid Ulster District Council held on Monday 10 February 2020 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon**

**Members Present:** Councillor Kearny (Chair)

Councillors Ashton, Bell, Black, Brown, Buchanan, Burton, Clarke, Colvin, Corey, Cuddy, Cuthbertson, Doris (7.11pm), Elattar, Forde, Gildernew, Glasgow, Graham, Hughes, Kerr, Mallaghan, N McAleer, S McAleer, McFlynn, B McGuigan, S McGuigan, McKinney, McLean, McNamee, D McPeake, S McPeake, Milne, Molloy, Monteith, Quinn, Robinson, Totten and Wilson

**Officers in Attendance:** Mr A Tohill, Chief Executive  
Ms Campbell, Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation  
Ms Canavan, Director of Organisational Development  
Mr Cassells, Director of Environment and Property  
Mr Kelso, Director of Public Health and Infrastructure  
Mr McCreesh, Director of Business and Communities  
Ms Mezza, Head of Communications  
Mr Moffett, Head of Democratic Services  
Mr JJ Tohill, Director of Finance  
Mrs Forde, Member Support Officer

The meeting commenced at 7 pm.

### **SC001/20 Apologies**

Councillors Mullen and O'Neill

### **SC002/20 Declarations of Interest**

The Chair reminded Members of their responsibility with regard to declarations of interest

### **SC003/20 Chair's Business**

Councillor Mallaghan advised that following notification from the Chief Electoral Officer on Friday 7 February 2020 that Councillor Niall McAleer had replaced former councillor, Ronan McGinley and welcomed him to the meeting. Councillor Mallaghan nominated Councillor N McAleer to the Environment Committee and the Audit Committee. Councillor Mallaghan nominated Councillor B McGuigan to the Chair of Audit Committee for the remainder of the year.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney welcomed Councillor N McAleer.

Councillor S McGuigan advised that both he and Councillor Gildernew had attended a recent meeting of the A5/N2 Cross Border Group at which it had been recommended that each Council send a letter regarding the A5 Dual Carriageway

Scheme Public Inquiry 2020 to advise that they are unanimous in their support for progressing the development of the A5 Western Transport Corridor.

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan  
Seconded by Councillor Gildernew and

**Resolved** That the Council send a letter of support for progressing the development of the A5 Western Transport Corridor to the Planning Appeals Commission as aforementioned.

## **Matters for Decision**

### **SC004/20 Minimum Revenue Provision Policy**

The Director of Finance drew attention to the previously circulated report regarding the 2020/2021 Minimum Revenue Provision Policy and sought approval that the policy as detailed for year 2019/20 be retained for the incoming year.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan  
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

**Resolved** That the 2019/19 Minimum Revenue Provision Policy be amended as described in the previously circulated report and adopted as Council's Minimum Revenue Provision Policy for year 2020/21.

### **SC005/20 Robustness of the Estimates**

The Director of Finance, on behalf of the Chief Executive, referred to the previously circulated report on the robustness of the Rate Estimates for 2020/21 and drew attention to key issues outlined within the report.

Proposed by Councillor McLean  
Seconded by Councillor B McGuigan and

**Resolved** That the report and associated comments of the Director of Finance in relation to the robustness of the Rate estimates be noted

### **SC006/20 Adequacy of Council's Reserves for 2020-21**

The Director of Finance, on behalf of the Chief Executive, referred to the previously circulated report on the adequacy of Council's reserves drawing attention to the key issues outlined in the report.

Proposed by Councillor M Quinn  
Seconded by Councillor Gildernew

**Resolved** That Members note the report Adequacy of Council's Reserves for 2020/2021.

## **SC007/20     Estimates of Income and Expenditure for financial year 1 April 2020**

The Director of Finance drew attention to the previously circulated report regarding the Estimate of Income and Expenditure for financial year 2020/2021. He referred to previous Committee and party group meetings held in recent weeks to explain the Rate estimates' process and to discuss financial pressures, etc facing Council in 2020/21. The Director highlighted that the officers had been challenged at the recent meeting of Policy and Resources Committee to endeavour to explore the potential for further savings with a view to reducing the (then) officer recommendation that Council strike a district domestic Rate, which would represent a 3.95% increase from the previous year. He further advised that, having done this, the officers had identified an additional £290k of savings, which could be applied to reduce the officers' recommended 3.95% Rate increase. If Council accepted the officers' recommendation to recognise these additional savings, the officers would now recommend that Council confirm the revised Rate estimates and strike a district domestic Rate of 0.3373, which would reflect a 3.24% increase in the district domestic Rate from the previous year.

Councillor Mallaghan thanked the senior management team for their diligence through the various meetings in which Members had challenged them to ensure there was enough money to deliver Council services and provide sufficient resources to enable Council to deliver upon its ambitious plans.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan  
Seconded by Councillor S McPeake and

That Council accept the officers' recommendation to recognise the additional £290,000 savings, and approve the revised expenditure, which would result in Council's district domestic Rate being 0.3373 thereby reflecting a 3.24% increase in the district domestic Rate.

Councillor McLean said that it was his understanding that, between the legacy Magherafelt District Council and the new Council, he was the longest serving Member. He further stated that this year's process was the most robust process he had been through when striking a Rate. He put on record the hard work and diligence the senior management team had applied to the process and their openness in making practically everything possible available to the Members to give them every opportunity to arrive at a robust figure for Council's 2020/21 projected expenditure and associated district domestic and non-domestic Rates. Councillor McLean concluded by complimenting the robustness of the Rate estimates process.

Councillor Wilson concurred with previous comments and stated that striking an affordable Rate was not an easy decision for Council because, as well as needing to provide services, Council must not stand still and need to invest accordingly. He concurred with the recommended Rate increase and also complimented the robustness of the process.

Councillor Quinn concurred with previous speakers also and thanked the senior officers for both their availability and engagement in working through the process.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney called for a vote on the proposal

For	34
Against	0
Abstained	3

**Resolved** That Council strike a district domestic Rate of 0.3373 reflecting a 3.24% increase in the district domestic Rate and, in particular, in accordance with the relevant legislation:

- (1) Strike non-domestic and domestic Rates of 23.4749 and 0.3373 respectively, which will reflect a 4.57% decrease and 3.24% increase respectively from the 2019/20 district Rates;
- (2) Authorise the associated expenditure of £45,999,245
- (3) Authorise the Chief Executive to vire such amounts between budget headings as he deems necessary to secure Council's objectives in 2020/21.

*Councillor Doris entered the meeting at 7.11pm*

*The press and public withdrew from the meeting at 7.11 pm*

**Items restricted in accordance with Section 42, Part 1 of Local Government (NI) Act 2014 - Confidential Business**

**Resolved** That the meeting move into confidential business

**SC009/20 Duration of Meeting**

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 7.15pm

Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Minutes of Meeting of Environment Committee of Mid Ulster District Council  
held on Tuesday 11 February 2020 in Council Offices, Ballyronan Road,  
Magherafelt**

<b>Members Present</b>	Councillor Buchanan, Chair  Councillors Burton, Cuthbertson, Graham, N McAleer, S McAleer, McFlynn, B McGuigan, S McGuigan, McNamee, Milne, O'Neill, Totten, Wilson
<b>Officers in Attendance</b>	Mr Cassells, Director of Environment and Property Mr Kelso, Director of Public Health and Infrastructure Mr Lowry, Head of Technical Services Mr McAdoo, Head of Environmental Services Mrs McClements, Head of Environmental Health Mr Scullion, Head of Property Services Mr Wilkinson, Head of Building Control Miss Thompson, Democratic Services Officer
<b>Others in Attendance</b>	<b>Agenda Item 27 – Application for the Renewal of a Mobile Street Trading Licence</b> Mr Carton (applicant)

The meeting commenced at 7.02 pm

The Chair, Councillor Buchanan welcomed Councillor N McAleer to his first meeting of the Environment Committee.

**E026/20      Apologies**

Councillor Glasgow.

**E027/20      Declarations of Interest**

The Chair reminded Members of their responsibility with regard to declarations of interest.

Councillor McFlynn declared an interest in Agenda Item 20 – Projects funded by Northern Healthy Lifestyle Partnership.

**E028/20      Chair's Business**

Councillor Cuthbertson stated he had been advised of a broken window at the rear of Gardiner's Hall and that there was some anti social behaviour taking place in this area.

The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure stated that the Councillor's comments were noted.

## **Matters for Decision**

### **E029/20      DfI Roads Proposals to Mid Ulster District Council – No Waiting At Any Time – Ballyreagh Industrial Estate, Cookstown**

Members considered previously circulated report which sought agreement in relation to proposal from Department for Infrastructure Roads with regard to proposed No Waiting At Any Time at Ballyreagh Industrial Estate, Cookstown.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee  
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

**Resolved**      That it be recommended to Council to endorse the proposal submitted by Department for Infrastructure Roads in relation to proposed No Waiting At Any Time at Ballyreagh Industrial Estate, Cookstown.

### **E030/20      DfI Roads Proposals to Mid Ulster District Council – No Waiting At Any Time – Tamnamore Close, Dungannon**

Members considered previously circulated report which sought agreement in relation to proposal from Department for Infrastructure Roads with regard to proposed No Waiting At Any Time at Tamnamore Close, Dungannon.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee  
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

**Resolved**      That it be recommended to Council to endorse the proposal submitted by Department for Infrastructure Roads in relation to proposed No Waiting At Any Time at Tamnamore Close, Dungannon.

### **E031/20      Street Naming and Property Numbering**

The Head of Building Control presented previously circulated report regarding the naming of new residential housing developments within Mid Ulster.

Site off Killymeal Road, Dungannon

Proposed by Councillor Cuthbertson  
Seconded by Councillor Graham and

**Resolved**      That it be recommended to Council to name development off Killymeal Road, Dungannon (Street 1) as Sycamore View and (Street 2) as Sycamore Heights.

### **E032/20      Dual Language Signage Survey – Ferny Ridge, Castlecaulfield**

The Head of Building Control presented previously circulated report which provided the result of survey undertaken on all applicable residents of Ferny Ridge, Castlecaulfield in response to Dual Language Signage Nameplate requests.

Councillor McNamee stated that this item should not be on the agenda as the result of the survey did not meet the criteria required for erection of signage. The



Councillor stated that this was the second time a report like this had been brought to Committee for decision.

The Head of Building Control stated that, going forward, if the results of a survey did not meet with criteria then a report would not be brought for decision if that was the desire of the Committee.

Members were in agreement.

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council –
- (I) To note the result of the survey for the application of Dual Language Nameplates in Irish for Ferny Ridge, Castlecaulfield and not approve the erection of signage in Irish as 51% of the respondents were not in favour.
  - (II) That if the results of a survey does not meet with criteria then a report would not be brought for decision.

### **E033/20 Property Certificates**

The Head of Building Control presented previously circulated report on the fees in relation to the submission of Property Certificates to Mid Ulster District Council.

Proposed by Councillor B McGuigan  
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council –
- (I) To agree the increase in fees for Property Certificate Applications as detailed below and as negotiated with The Law Society –

Nature of Search	Current Fee	Revised Fee from 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2020
Standard 10 year search	£60	£70
Search back to 1973	£85	£95
Specified 10 year search	£60	£70
Follow-up 10 year search	£25	£30

- (II) To agree to the introduction of a £10 administration charge on Property Certificate applications submitted in paper form commencing on 1 April 2021.

### **E034/20 Consultation on the Regulation of Gambling in Northern Ireland**

The Head of Environmental Health presented previously circulated report which outlined Members about the Department for Communities' Consultation on the 'Regulation of Gambling in Northern Ireland' and agree a Mid Ulster District Council response to same.

Councillor McNamee stated that he believed there was already some prohibition in relation to the use of credit cards and that whilst Council should do what it can with regard to gambling and its regulation there were unfortunately bigger players dictating the industry.

Councillor Wilson stated that he accepted that everyone would have different views in relation to gambling but that he would have concerns with regard to online gambling and felt that there should be a limit on how much can be put into a machine at one time. The Councillor further stated that he felt that bookmakers themselves had a moral responsibility to have a limit in place on how much can be gambled at one time. Councillor Wilson stated that he felt the response was balanced and proposed that the response be submitted.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated he shared the views of Councillor Wilson and referred to previous consultation in relation to fixed odds gambling and asked if this was covered in this consultation.

The Head of Environmental Health stated that legislation was updated in England in 2005 but had not been updated in Northern Ireland since the 1980's.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated he clearly remembered discussion in relation to consultation on fixed odds gambling previously and asked that some commentary on this should be included in the response being put forward now.

The Head of Environmental Health stated there may already be some limits in place with regards to fixed odds gambling but that she would check and add in further points to the response if that was the desire of the Committee.

Councillor Wilson requested that further comments be added in respect of duty of care for online gambling and having more robust support in place.

Councillor McFlynn seconded Councillor Wilson's proposal.

Councillor Burton asked who monitors a limit on online gambling as there needed to be some protection for those who are vulnerable.

The Head of Environmental Health stated that there were no online gambling sites which originated from Northern Ireland and advised that the Gambling Commission will regulate sites originating from England and that sites originating from overseas will be regulated through the Independent Commission.

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to agree the draft Mid Ulster District Council response to the Department for Communities' consultation on the 'Regulation of Gambling in Northern Ireland' as set out at appendix 3 of report and that the response be submitted with the Department under delegated authority from the Council with further commentary to be added in respect of duty of care in relation to online gambling, having robust support in place and having limits in place on the amount that can be gambled at one time.

## **E035/20      Public Analyst Scientific Services**

The Head of Environmental Health presented previously circulated report which provided the list of Public Analysts working on behalf of Public Analyst Scientific Services Limited, the company currently appointed by Mid Ulster District Council to provide Public Analyst services to Council.

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan  
Seconded by Councillor O'Neill and

- Resolved**      That it be recommended to Council that Mid Ulster District Council appoints the below additional person as a public Analyst to the Council under Article 27 (1) of the Food Safety (Northern Ireland) Order 1991 with immediate effect –
- Donna Hanks BSc, MChemA, MRSC employed by Public Analyst Scientific Services Limited

## **Matters for Information**

### **E036/20      Minutes of Environment Committee held on 14 January 2020**

Members noted minutes of Environment Committee held on 14 January 2020.

Councillor McNamee referred to previous discussion in relation to cemetery management and asked if Council had contacted families in relation to the change to the timeframe for erecting a headstone from 6 to 12 months. The Councillor stated that he had discussed the matter with undertakers and it was advised that there were cast iron crosses which can be bought which are more permanent. Councillor McNamee also referred to the ongoing surveys being carried out on headstones and asked for an update on this.

The Head of Property Services advised that the proposed amendments to Council policy in relation to cemetery management were still at consultation stage and, once adopted, officers would be in contact with families to advise of the amended timeframe for erection of a headstone. In respect of memorial safety surveys the officer advised that this process is ongoing but to date less than 3% have been deemed unstable, it was advised that an update report would be brought to the next Environment Committee.

In response to question from Councillor B McGuigan the Head of Property Services advised that old historic cemeteries were also being surveyed and this detail would be included in the update.

Councillor S McGuigan asked what happened when there was no family member to contact in respect of an unstable memorial.

The Head of Property Services stated that when there was no family member or deed holder for the memorial Council would have to make a decision as to how to make the memorial safe again.

The Director of Environment and Property stated that there have been issues with memorial safety for years and reminded Members that people had been killed in the past by falling headstones. The Director advised that the ultimate liability lies with Council.

Councillor Milne asked that when someone is buried if a contract is signed between Council and the family which requires the family to keep a memorial up to standard.

The Director of Environment and Property advised that this is covered by the Cemetery Rules.

Councillor Wilson asked if there was an update in relation to the waste compactor in Cookstown.

The Director of Environment and Property stated that there were some ongoing issues in relation to the waste compactor and it was hoped these would be resolved in the near future and before the end of the financial year.

Councillor O'Neill referred to Coalisland Recycling Centre and that there were concerns regarding the gates to the site being closed and users not being able to access skips. The Councillor stated that there was a fear in the community that the site is going to close and asked that a report be brought back to Committee regarding the plans for the site.

The Director of Environment and Property advised that Council does not own the site at Coalisland Recycling Centre and that negotiations were ongoing regarding the lease of the site with the current owner. The Director advised that the green skips at the site had been locked due to health and safety reasons and that this was not restricted to the Coalisland site but included a couple of other centres as well. The Director stated that the requested report would be brought back to Committee.

Councillor Cuthbertson advised he had been contacted in relation to disposal of grass cuttings at the Coalisland centre and that this was more difficult than previous years as the cuttings had to be lifted into the skip.

The Director of Environment and Property stated that this matter would be addressed in the future report.

### **E037/20      Bin Ovation App Update**

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on the usage of the Bin-Ovation App and Report It function.

Councillor McFlynn stated that some refuse collections have moved to different days and asked if the Bin Ovation app had been updated to reflect this.

The Head of Environmental Services stated that the Bin Ovation app is linked to the Council website which is updated regularly.

#### **E038/20      Food Waste Recycling Communications Funding**

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on extra funding received for Food Waste Recycling Communications.

#### **E039/20      Northern Ireland Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Management (LACMW) Report for July – September 2019**

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on Council's performance in relation to recycling and landfill diversion targets as outlined in the NIEA Northern Ireland Local Authority Waste Management Statistics Report for Quarter 2 of 2019/20, July to September 2019.

#### **E040/20      Building Control Workload**

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on the workload analysis for Building Control.

Councillor Wilson stated that there appeared to be some confusion in relation to the future of the Building Control office in Cookstown and asked for some clarification on this as architects had been in contact with him on the matter.

The Chair, Councillor Buchanan and Councillor McNamee stated they had also received similar phonecalls in relation to the Building Control office in Cookstown.

The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure stated there was an ongoing review in relation to Building Control staffing complement across council offices and that a report would be brought to Committee on the matter in due course. In the meantime, if Members continue to receive phonecalls on this issue these should be directed to the Director of Public Health and Infrastructure or Head of Building Control.

#### **E041/20      Entertainment Licences**

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on Entertainment Licensing Applications across the Mid Ulster District.

#### **E042/20      Dual Language Signage Requests**

Members noted previously circulated report which advised of requests for Dual Language Signage from residents on streets/roads in the District.

#### **E043/20      Dual Language Signage Surveys**

Members noted previously circulated report which advised on the results of surveys undertaken on all applicable residents on the streets/roads in response to Dual Language Signage nameplate requests. Where more than 51% of occupiers that respond indicate that they are in favour of the erection of Dual Language Signage, nameplates will be erected. Where less than 51% of occupiers that responded indicate that they were not in favour of the erection of a Dual Language street nameplate, then the Dual Language nameplate will not be approved or erected.

## **E044/20      Entertainment Licensing - During Performance Inspections**

Members noted previously circulated report which advised of During Performance Inspections carried out on Entertainment Licensed Venues over the Christmas and New Year period.

## **E045/20      Projects funded by Northern Healthy Lifestyle Partnership**

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on current gardening/wellbeing projects that received funding from the Northern Healthy Lifestyle Partnership (NHLP).

## **E046/20      Bus shelter collaborative workshop**

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on the current bus shelter status following the recent bus shelter collaborative workshop held on 14 January 2020.

In response to question from Councillor B McGuigan the Head of Technical Services advised that the planned meetings would involve Officers and statutory authorities (DfI Roads and Translink). The officer advised that Members would be provided with a regular update through the Committee.

The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure advised that the meeting had been productive but if it is felt that not enough progress is being made then a further member/officer meeting will be called in six months.

## **Local Government (NI) Act 2014 - Confidential Business**

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan  
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

**Resolved**      In accordance with Section 42, Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 that Members of the public be asked to withdraw from the meeting whilst Members consider items E047/20 to E061/20

### **Matters for Decision**

E047/20	ESPO Framework for Purchase of Refuse/Recycling Products
E048/20	Tender for collection, processing and recycling of hard plastics
E049/20	Dog Trading - Data Sharing Agreement
E050/20	Application for Temporary Street Trading Licence
E051/20	Application for the Grant of a New Amusement Permit at 12 Union Road, Magherafelt
E052/20	Application for the Renewal of a Mobile Street Trading Licence
E053/20	Age Friendly Framework
E054/20	Protect Life 2 2019-24

- E055/20 Villages Programme Capital Project – IST Appointment (Group 6)
- E056/20 Villages Programme Capital Project – IST Appointment (Group 7)
- E057/20 Cookstown Gateway Revitalisation project- A29 Roundabout IST Appointment

**Matters for Information**

- E058/20 Confidential Minutes of Environment Committee held on 14 January 2020
- E059/20 Off Street Car Parking: Quarter 3 2019/2020
- E060/20 Capital Projects Update
- E061/20 Mid Ulster Travellers Working Group Update

**E062/20 Duration of Meeting**

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 8.33 pm.

CHAIR \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_





**Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council  
held on Thursday 13 February 2020 in the Council Offices, Ballyronan Road,  
Magherafelt**

**Members Present**

Councillor Wilson, Chair

Councillors Ashton, Burton, Clarke, Corry, Cuddy, Doris,  
Elattar, Kerr, Hughes, Kearney, McNamee, Milne, Molloy,  
Monteith

**Officers in  
Attendance**

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

**Others in  
Attendance**

**Agenda Item 4 – Boom Foundation**  
Leona Rankin

The meeting commenced at 7.02 pm.

**D024/20      Apologies**

Councillor Black

**D025/20      Declaration of Interests**

The Chair reminded members of their responsibility with regard to declarations of interest.

**D026/20      Chair's Business**

The Chair advised that there were two matters to be raised tonight under Chair's Business.

Councillor Kerr thanked the Chair for allowing him to raise this issue tonight as he had originally intended to bring it too the full Council Meeting.

He advised that Helen Sweeney had been in contact with him, she originally was from Coalisland but was residing in England. He said that due to the highly unfortunate circumstances she had lost her father Noel to an accident involving a tree hitting his car just before Christmas which ended Noel's life, which left Helen and her family naturally devastated. He stated that a few weeks later another tree had fallen on the same stretch of road which greatly concerned Helen and she contacted all the

relevant agencies, but she was told that responsibility with potential liable trees on a road was down to the owner's discretion to remove them.

Councillor Kerr advised that Helen and himself had several conversations about highlighting her campaign and she has now launched an online petition for people to sign and share their concerns about the lack of clarity regarding her issue. She also spoke to local and national media organisations regarding her campaign.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr

To issue an invitation to Ms Sweeney to a future meeting to help highlight her campaign and to educate Councillors throughout the district about this potential life changing ordeal.

Seconded by Councillor Monteith

Councillor Burton said that she would fully support Councillor Kerr's proposal as this was a very important issue. She said that a lot of the time when concerns were raised about overgrown trees and hedges people were being told that it's the responsibility of the local landowner which was very difficult to get them to do anything about it.

The Chair said that the occupants of a car in Cookstown had a lucky escape after a tree fell on their car before Christmas. He said that the landowner was very proactive as he had all the trees removed the very next day.

The Head of Economic Development advised that the circulated Response to Consultation on the New PEACE PLUS Cross Border EU Funding Programme for the period 2021-27 was being brought tonight for decision.

The Director of Business and Communities updated members on the contents of the report and advised that this had to be submitted by 24 February 2020. He said that Mid Ulster Council welcomed the opportunity to respond to SEUPB's consultation exercise with respect to the plans for the new PEACE Plus Programme which would succeed both of the current 2014-20 PEACE IV and INTERREG VA Programmes.

He said that the combination of the PEACE and INTERREG type activities in a single programme was reflected in the name of the programme where "PLUS" represents the inclusion of wider economic, social and environmental activities. He said that the PEACE PLUS Programme would be delivered within a significantly changed landscape in NI with Brexit, new Stormont agreement and the implementation of Council led City/Growth Deals aimed at super changing economic growth.

The Director of Business and Communities advised members that this was the last chance to avail of hundreds of thousands of Euro funding. (appendix 1)

Councillor Wilson advised that he sits on PEACE IV and was a great opportunity.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy  
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to proceed with the submission of the response to SEUPB consultation exercise in respect to plans for the new PEACE PLUS Programme as at appendix 1.

Councillor Wilson referred to the closure of Dungannon Leisure Centre last Sunday and enquired what was the reason for doing so.

He also referred to the re-opening of the new look Dungannon Leisure Centre and said that he was very unhappy regarding the short notice Councillors received in relation to this.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation advised that last Sunday was a stormy day with wind and rain, resulting in a sheet around the skylight being blown off and water getting into the electrics in the communications room and alarms constantly going off. She said that management had made the decision to close the building for safety reasons until the roof was repaired. She stated that this was down to the consequences of the weather and no other reason.

She referred to the invitation to Councillors for the re-opening and said that she was aware that invitations should have been issued within a reasonable timeframe which was an admin error and would ensure that this does not happen again.

Councillor Molloy said he was a user of Dungannon Leisure Centre and felt that there were still a lot of teething problems as there were long queues at reception and issues around swimming lessons etc and advised that there should be procedures in place to handle these types of concerns. He also stated that there were a number of pieces of gym equipment out of use and felt that this was a poor reflection as these items were all newly purchased.

Councillor Cuddy agreed with Councillor Molloy's concerns and said that he had also been contacted by members of the public about long queues amongst other things and felt that this was unprofessional but hoped that these types of issues would ease off in time.

He said that he would have a real concern about the lift in Dungannon Leisure Centre as it was very old and not fit for public use. He felt that money should have been put into installing a new one as customers will go elsewhere where there are modern facilities.

The Chair asked that a report be brought back to the next meeting on concerns raised tonight.

Councillor Ashton said that management made the right call to close the leisure centre last Sunday due to health and safety concerns but felt that members should have availed of an email advising them of the situation to keep them up to date on matters before being contacted by the public.

Councillor Monteith said that he agreed with previous members comments as the public were of the opinion that Dungannon Leisure Centre was going to be a state of the art, with a 2020 swimming pool and it's humiliating for this Council that this was

not the case. He felt the Council should have been at the top of their game and better prepared as it was anticipated that a large crowd would be arriving to view the new look Leisure Centre. He also agreed with comments regarding the closure last Sunday and said that Councillors had got it in the neck about how the public felt that they were being treated like second class citizens in Dungannon.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation to bring a report back on concerns raised by members tonight and the issue regarding invitations being issued at short notice to members for the reopening.

## **D027/20      Deputation – Boom Foundation**

The Chair, Councillor Wilson advised that a presentation was being made tonight on behalf of the Boom Foundation, but firstly he wanted to acknowledge that the Chairman of the Council, Councillor Kearney had hosted a reception for Ms Shannon Whitehouse and her family regarding their fundraising for the organisation. He said that Shannon was an inspiration and that off her family also.

The Chair welcomed to the committee Ms Leona Rankin and invited her to make her presentation on behalf of the Boom Foundation.

Ms Rankin thanked the committee for giving her the opportunity to address the meeting tonight and wanted to firstly say how grateful she was to Shannon and her family as they were so inspirational and said that the organisation would support them every step of the way.

Ms Rankin said that the Boom foundation was set up in memory of her fiancé Philip Wilson who lost his battle from sarcoma on 8 March 2013. She said that Philip sadly passed away only 7 weeks before his wedding day and following a ten-year battle with sarcoma. Without complaint, Philip lived with sarcoma and the side effects of the countless periods of treatment and surgery.

The impact of losing Philip has been unimaginable but despite his passing, Philip's presence is as strong as ever through the Boom Foundation. The word 'Boom' was always used by Philip when he was enjoying something (most likely on the golf course, his favorite place) and it was never without a high five (hence their hand logo)! Boom was the perfect name because it will forever link the charity with this outstanding person whilst also signifying the impact the charity will make on the lives of those living with sarcoma every day.

She said that the money raised by Boom would be split between practical help and vital research, 50% will remain in Northern Ireland to be used by us here at Boom for the benefit of sarcoma patients in NI, whilst the remaining 50% of our funds will be sent to Sarcoma UK to try to achieve the best possible standard of treatment and care for patients with sarcoma.

She stated that sarcoma was uncommon cancers which affect any part of the body, on the inside or outside, including the muscle, bone, tendons, blood vessels and fatty tissues.

Ms Rankin provided a breakdown of issues relating to sarcoma (appendix 2):

- 15 people are diagnosed with sarcoma every day in the UK
- 100 cases in Northern Ireland each year
- 100 different sub-types of sarcoma
- Almost 8 in 10 people (78%) diagnosed with sarcoma in the UK will live up to a year
- The average percentage of people living 3 years after being diagnosed with sarcoma in the UK is 64.5%
- The five-year survival rate for sarcoma is 55%

The Chair thanked Ms Rankin for such an informative presentation and said that by watching Councillors around the room tonight, this had struck a chord with everyone and felt that this Council lobby the Health Minister on behalf of the Boom Foundation. He said that if a Notice of Motion was brought to the Council to seek a meeting with the Health Minister that consideration be given to issuing an invite to Ms Rankin also.

Councillor Kerr said that firstly he would like to thank the Whitehouse family and Leona for accepting the Council's invitation. He said that he would like to pay extreme high regard to Shannon, Pierce, TJ and all the Whitehouse family for the charity work they have carried out raising a great deal of money in such a short space of time. He stated that their noble, selfless actions and particularly Shannon thinking about others before herself was something that should be commended. He said that he would also like to praise Maurade and all her friends for the great work they have done in helping Shannon organise the recent event.

Councillor Kerr said that he would also like to thank Leona for attending tonight to make her presentation and travelling all the way to highlight the Boom Foundation to help highlight the Foundation.

He said that he would like to propose that Mid Ulster Council writes to every other Council in the North of Ireland highlighting the work carried out by Leona and the Boom Foundation and to ask each of them to consider issuing an invite for a deputation to meet them to publicise the fantastic work that is being carried out by Boom Foundation and the possibility of running a themed week on behalf of Boom.

Councillor Ashton thanked Ms Rankin for her presentation and said that she would have no difficulty bringing this forward as she wasn't aware of the issue and would certainly support the major concerns patients face in Northern Ireland.

Councillor Kearney said that everyone was humbled by Shannon and also by Ms Rankin as the Boom Foundation had achieved so much in the last 7 years and wanted to wish them well in the future.

Councillor Milne said that he wanted to wish everyone every success going forward in this campaign and enquired about the issue regarding concerns around Mobility car modifications for patients and the matter of the car being used for the carer of the dependent.

Ms Rankin referred to a patient that the organisation was currently working with and said that this patient took sarcoma in her fingers but when she went to Birmingham for

surgery, they removed her arm. This patient was a classroom assistant and has a young son and when she applied to get a specially adapted car, she was refused by PIPs system because she could walk unaided and ineligible for the mobility element. She currently drives a manual car as she cannot afford an automatic one and by the time you pay for modifications it would be impossible. Ms Rankin said that it was bazaar that a person who has lost their complete arm was deemed unsuitable to receive an specially adapted car even though she had prosthetic hand and arm and very frustrating as she wished to return to work to support her young son.

Councillor Monteith said that it may be worthwhile contacting the Law Centre as they would be only too willing to take on this kind of challenging case. He stated that the PIPs system was a complete farce which didn't show any empathy towards the vulnerable people within our society.

Ms Rankin said that it was a difficult situation for this lady as she was told that if she appealed the decision, she may lose all her benefits.

Councillor Monteith said that the Law Centre should be an option for this lady to try and seek a way forward.

The Chair thanked Ms Rankin for her attendance tonight and said that the Council would try and support the Foundation in any way they could.

He said that Shannon was an inspiration and was a very brave girl and wished to thank her and her family for attending tonight. He also wanted to thank Councillor Kearney for hosting the reception and to Councillor Kerr for suggesting the invite.

The Chair said that although he acknowledged what Councillor Kerr had previously proposed, he felt that it may be more beneficial if the proposal was brought forward as a Notice of Motion to the full Council as he didn't foresee any objections being made and would like to include that an invite be issued to meet the Health Minister or a delegation to meet him.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr

Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to provide a Notice of Motion to full Council after tonight's deputation of the Boom Foundation, that Mid Ulster Council writes to every other Council in the North of Ireland to highlight the good work they carry out, and ask for each Council to extend an invitation to the Boom Foundation for a presentation to raise awareness around Sarcoma.

That Mid Ulster District council also provides further ways of Highlighting the Booms Foundation tremendous work to the wider public.

## **Matters for Decision**

### **D028/20      Draft Response to Foras na Gaeilge Consultation Document – Strategic Direction for Foras na Gaeilge 2020 – 2025**

The Head of Culture & Arts presented previously circulated report and sought approval to issue previously attached submission (appendix 2) to Foras na Gaeilge in response to the Public Consultation on the Strategic Direction for Foras na Gaeilge 2020-2025 (draft document).

Councillor McNamee said that he was aware of an increase in Irish Language speakers but a decline in teaching in mainstream schools and was glad that this was being highlighted within the response.

Councillor Monteith referred to the response at C2 of the document and said that he welcomed the increase in Irish language but felt that Foras na Gaeilge should have a more strategic focus in this regard. He said that within his own area the local GAA was developing the language. Consideration should be given to the support of urban Gaeltachts and to signposting within the Irish Language Sector. He felt that there needs to be a more strategic direction provided by Foras na Gaeilge, towards something more stable and sustainable.

Councillor Monteith also referred C5 of the document regarding courses/classes and said there was a need for a more strategic approach, to make it easier for people to avail of refresher courses as there seemed to be a flatline once you go so far and no further option or no easily identified option for progression. There was a need for an easier identified path to follow for this wishing to develop their Irish language.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee  
Seconded by Councillor Milne and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council, subject to the above amendments, to approve the draft response to the Strategic Direction for Foras na Gaeilge 2020-2025 (Draft) on behalf of Mid Ulster District Council.

### **D029/20      Heart of Ancient Ulster Landscape Partnership Update**

The Head of Tourism presented previously circulated report to update on the Heart of Ancient Ulster Landscape Partnership project and sought approval to submit a Stage 1 development application to Heritage Lottery Funding.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke  
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to contribute a maximum of £3,000 to Fermanagh and Omagh Council towards the preparation and submitting a stage 1 development application to Heritage Lottery Fund.

In response to Councillor Clarke's query regarding Future Search Programme, the Director of Business and Communities advised that he had been in discussions with

the Director of Derry City Council regarding the recruitment of an Officer which was unsuccessful. He said that it was anticipated to re-advertise for a candidate one last time, but it could be difficult as staff wouldn't want to give up their job for a seconded post for a year. He concluded by saying that Causeway Coast and Glens, Derry City and Strabane, Mid Ulster and Fermanagh and Omagh made a commitment to this but if needs be it may be an issue of moving forward without certain Councils.

## **D030/20      Economic Development Report – For Decision**

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

- **Business Improvement District Feasibility Study (Final)**

Councillor Molloy said that the recent engagement with Reval 2020 and the impact for businesses within Mid Ulster, he would be happy to support the recommendation of not proceeding.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy  
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

**Resolved**      That it be recommended to Council to approve the Mid Ulster 5 Towns BIDS Feasibility Study (Executive Summary) recommending that Council do not pursue BIDs in any of its 5 towns at this juncture.

- **Renewal of Membership with NI Chamber of Commerce**

Proposed by Councillor McNamee  
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

**Resolved**      That it be recommended to Council to approve the Corporate Membership of NI Chamber of Commerce costing £2,500+Vat for the period of 1 January to 31 December 2020.

In response to member's query, the Head of Economic Development advised that within item 3.2 of the report, it highlighted a variety of supports provided by the Chamber to organisations who subscribe. She said that Council Officers are in regular engagement with the Chamber to promote events and programmes that are available to businesses in Mid Ulster. Council also works alongside the Chamber every year to host a large business event in Mid Ulster which draws upwards of 100 business briefings and updates Council on upcoming funding opportunities.

Councillor Molloy referred to an email from traders in Moy in relation to the lack of carparking facilities which was having a major impact on the village. He stated that Moy was one of the busiest villages within Mid Ulster and was outstripping other small towns by 95% and said that it was up to us to try and help with this issue.

He proposed that the Council request that engagement takes place with Department of Infrastructure and CAMDA group within the village to try and find a favourable outcome.



Councillor Monteith seconded Councillor Molloy's proposal and said that it was important to take the lead and a launching pad as DEA Councillors. He said that Moy needed urgent attention as the village had received little to nothing from this Council and needed a long term vision as this would create an opportunity to try and move things forward, otherwise it would just seem as if the village was being left behind and an afterthought. He said that this was also failing strategic transport groups also.

Councillor Cuddy said that he supported the comments from the previous two Councillors and stated that Moy had great character and was a very attractive village which was always at the front within the previous Dungannon Council. He stated that it was up to this committee to try and get the issue of appropriate carparking facilities out of the starting blocks as Moy was a village to be proud of and deserved all the help it required.

### **D031/20      Community Development Report**

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

- **Rolling Grant Awards – Good Relations and Local Community Festivals**

Proposed by Councillor McNamee  
Seconded by Councillor Milne and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve the Rolling Grant Awards – Good Relations (£960) and Community Local Community Festivals (£3,460) as per grant recommendations at Appendix 1 of report.

- **Community Support Plan 2020 – 2021**

Proposed by Councillor Clarke  
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve the Community Support Plan 2020 - 2021.

- **Good Relations Plan 2020 – 2021**

*The Chair, Councillor Wilson declared in interest in Augharan Pipe Band as a member of Mid Ulster Pipe Bands Association.*

Proposed by Councillor Corry  
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve the Good Relations Plan 2020 – 2021.

- **Community Development Update**

Members noted the Community Development update.

Councillor Monteith advised that there was a need for further follow through for larger grants that include support for facilities, and to look at pricing structures for user groups which the Council is indirectly contributing towards. He said that it was vital that pricing for community usage was within a reasonable cost comparable between community locations/facilities.

The Chair agreed with Councillor Monteith's comment and said that it was important that there was equality for community accessing facilities supported by Council and pricing provided for value for money.

*Councillor Milne left the meeting at 8 pm.*

### **D032/20      Leisure and Outdoor Recreation Service Level Agreements 2020/21**

The Head of Parks presented previously circulated report and sought approval to agree proposals on Service Level Agreements (SLAs) for the financial year 2020/21.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee  
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

**Resolved**      That it be recommended to Council to approve the:

- 1) Proposal to extend the scope of Muintor na Mointeach Ltd current Service Level Agreement and associated payment increase of £2,000 per annum.
- 2) Proposals on Leisure and Outdoor Recreation SLAs for the 2020/21 financial year only.

*Councillor Ashton left the meeting at 8.01 pm.*

### **Matters for Information**

#### **D033/20      Minutes of Development Committee held on 16 January 2020**

Members noted Minutes of Development Committee held on 16 January 2020.

Councillor Kerr referred to item D011/20 – Cappagh issues and enquired if there was any further update regarding discussions with Fermanagh and Omagh District Council and if not, could a meeting be set up with them and make it a DEA wide meeting, with consideration being given to Councillors working full time.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation advised that Officers had met with 3 official representatives from the Water Service who agreed that it would be good to work together to develop the area to include recreational activities. She said that over the next few weeks it was anticipated to organise a meeting with DEAs and

Fermanagh and Omagh Council to take this issue forward. She stated that the Water Service would not commit to handing the reservoirs over to the Council due to new legislation around reservoirs and the management around water matters. Councillor Cuddy advised that there was a short distance between the two reservoirs and enquired if funding was available, could consideration be given to turning them into a hydroelectric facility. He said that it was disappointing that this initiative was never progressed as it was discussed at length in the legacy Dungannon Council and was seen at the time as having great potential to generate free electricity.

#### **D034/20      Mid Ulster District Tourism Development Group**

Members noted previously circulated report which provided Minutes of Tourism Development Group meeting held on 20 November 2019.

#### **D035/20      Economic Development Report – For Information**

Members noted previously circulated report which provided an update on matters related to Mid Ulster Skills Forum Update, Mid Ulster Skill Forum – OECD Workshop, Cookstown Bypass Scheme Minute 07.01.20, Chinese Consul General's Visit to Mid Ulster, Cypriot Business Delegation Study Visit to Mid Ulster, US Consul General's Visit to Mid Ulster, Christmas Trade in Mid Ulster Towns.

Councillor Monteith requested that a DEA meeting in relation to Ann Street Development be facilitated as a matter of urgency as this was raised before Christmas by Councillor Molloy.

The Director of Business and Communities agreed that this would be arranged.

### **Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business**

Proposed by Councillor Molloy  
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

**Resolved**      In accordance with Section 42, Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 that Members of the public be asked to withdraw from the meeting whilst Members consider items D036/20 to D043/20.

#### **Matters for Decision**

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| D036/20 | Review of Culture & Arts Facility Hire Charges   |
| D037/20 | Development of Business Plan and Branding Review at Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House Arts and Visitor Centre |
| D038/20 | Regional Minority Languages Bursary Programme 2020/21 and Irish Language Activity Funding Programme 2020/21      |
| D039/20 | Provision of Seasonal Security Guarding Services at Dungannon Park and Additional Sites as Required              |

**Matters for Information**

- D040/20 Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on  
16 January 2020
- D041/20 Dark Sky Observatory Davagh – Brand Update
- D042/20 Seamus Heaney HomePlace International Linkages  
Update
- D043/20 Procurement of a Contractor to Deliver the Mid Ulster  
Gearing for Growth Programme

**D044/20 Duration of Meeting**

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

Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



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### RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION ON THE NEW PEACE PLUS CROSS BORDER EU FUNDING PROGRAMME FOR THE PERIOD 2021-27

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February 2020

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Mid Ulster District Council (the Council) welcomes this opportunity to respond to SEUPB's consultation exercise with respect to the plans for the new Peace Plus Programme, which will succeed both of the current 2014-20 PEACE IV and INTERREG VA Programmes.

The combination of the PEACE and INTERREG type activities in a single programme is reflected in the name of the programme where "PLUS" represents the inclusion of wider economic, social and environmental activities.

The PEACE PLUS Programme will be delivered within a significantly changed landscape in NI with Brexit, new Stormont agreement and the implementation of Council led City / Growth Deals aimed at super charging economic growth.

#### 2.0 OVERVIEW OF MID ULSTER

Mid Ulster is generally characterised by:-

- Its dispersed rural location in NI that straddles the border
- Rising young and elderly population
- Several pockets of acute deprivation exist in both its urban centres and rural areas
- Critical need for investment in both roads and digital infrastructure
- Little to no foreign direct investment
- Key local sectors of employment (manufacturing and engineering, construction, agri-food, hospitality, retail and ICT) which require targeted support to drive competitiveness
- A private sector led economy with a high dependency on SMEs.
- Skills and labour shortages in key local sectors
- Average weekly earnings below the NI average
- Below average employment in the public sector
- Town and villages struggling economically and socially
- Little / no cross border service cohesion both in delivery and development terms

The area represents a population of more than 145,000 across 1,714 km<sup>2</sup>, i.e. 14% of the NI land mass and is the fastest growing Council area in Northern Ireland (NI) - its population is expected to grow to 165,000 by 2030. The Mid Ulster region is home to over 9,000 small businesses, which is the largest concentration of small businesses outside of the Belfast Metropolitan area.

With circa 700,000 people within a one-hour commute of the district boundaries, the area supports approximately 50,000 jobs, which are mainly concentrated within micro businesses and Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs). As the most entrepreneurial region in Northern Ireland, the Mid Ulster area contributes towards producing 7.3% of the region's total economic output (Gross Value Added is £2.075 billion). Its business base provides the lifeblood of the local

economy, whilst the skills and capabilities of its workforce are vital to its sustainability and growth.

### 3.0 CONTEXT

Mid Ulster District Council is one of eight Member Councils of the Central Border Region, which include Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon; Fermanagh and Omagh; and the counties of Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan and Sligo. Moreover, the Council is one of eleven local authorities who occupy the Ireland/Northern Ireland border corridor, which is recognised as the sub-regional economic driver for NI within the Regional Development Strategy for NI.

The Council in partnership with Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Council and Fermanagh and Omagh Council are currently in the process of developing a Regional Economic Strategy (RES) for the Mid South West region. The RES will underpin the case for significant Growth Deal funding to the region announced by the UK government in October 2019 as well as complimentary economic initiatives. The Mid South West region (relative to the other City/Growth Deal regions in NI) has the longest proportion of the Border Corridor. As a result there are significant existing cross-border co-dependencies in our region (e.g. in areas such as trade, movement of people/ labour, agri-food tourism, inward investment and funding) which presents opportunities, risks and issues to consider, particularly in a post-Brexit era which is largely unknown in terms of impact in the short and medium term. Clearly, increasing the prosperity of the Border Region will consequently bring about a much wider regional multiplier effect.

In this context, it is the Council's view that the new PEACE PLUS programme should afford a central role for local government located along the border region and should seek to address dilapidation, poverty and unemployment in border areas through targeted economic regeneration activity and investment in infrastructure, which is essential to enhance mobility and strategic regional connectivity. Councils have a critical role in responding to and mitigating the impacts of Brexit on the Border Corridor; and driving the Border Corridor's longer-term growth and development in a transformative way, which is designed to address the specific challenges and opportunities that this brings for both Governments and the communities of the Border Corridor.

Councils on both sides of the Border are the key stakeholders in determining area-based priorities and therefore the PEACE PLUS Programme should be designed and aligned with locally led development plans/strategies and Growth Deals that can contribute to and support North/South cooperation on economic, social and environmental areas of mutual interest. Indeed the 'Community-Led Local Development' principle should be advocated across all policy objectives in the new PEACE PLUS Programme. Such an approach is crucial towards addressing the key disparities that exist within Northern Ireland and the Border Region and in particular the specific needs of the Mid Ulster region and cross border partners in the ROI.

The Council believes that the current INTERREG V Programme has been very much 'institutional' in being dominated by projects which are driven by central government departments on both sides of the border and there have been few opportunities for local delivery as a result. It is imperative that PEACE PLUS is not used by governments to finance their mainstream service and similarly that funding is not directed predominantly towards universities. By way of example, €198M of ERDF investment by the last Interreg Programme was channelled through academic institutions and government departments and agencies, rather than directly into struggling border towns, villages and communities that need it the most.

The Council was a partner in one project - Renewable Engine Programme (Total project cost: €6.1M) which was led by South West College. ICBAN secured funding for one project; Literary Tourism Project €1.9M and was a partner in a Digi2market project at €1.6M.

The Council's current Peace IV budget is £3.2M and an additional £5M was secured towards the Connecting Pomeroy Project.

#### 4.0 THEMATIC FOCUS

The Council would comment on each of the draft policy objectives as follows:-

**Policy Objective 1: Smarter Europe by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation** – *this objective focuses on boosting the capacity of the region, the uptake of advanced technology, the growth and competitiveness of the SME Sector and improving digital services.*

The Mid Ulster region straddles the border and is a highly entrepreneurial, private sector led economy and the Council welcomes the focus of this particular policy objective. Despite the area's high concentration of SMEs and above average concentration of activity in advanced manufacturing, there is a need to foster higher levels of innovation, R&D and enabling advanced technologies e.g. AR and VR.

Assistance in the form of business support mechanisms such as training and mentoring programmes at a local level to help SMEs grow and develop is required, as well as building the capacity of others to take the first step towards entrepreneurship.

Sectors such as manufacturing, engineering, agri-food, construction, retail, hospitality and ICT contribute significantly to the economy of Mid Ulster. Going forward therefore, it is critical that a broad range of SME's from these sectors receive support to consider ways of becoming more innovative and export orientated, thus driving growth and productivity. The Council believes that a key component of driving economic development and growth is the provision of assistance for capital programmes to acquire and develop modern business support infrastructure (Business Parks, Innovation Centres and Digital Tech Hubs).

The support and further development of the SME sector will address issues of economic inequality and enable sustainable economic and social development within the Border region, through increased opportunities for people to obtain employment, in a post Brexit era.

Moreover, future proofing the skills base in Mid Ulster is a top priority as skills and access to labour are both a major current and future constraint to growth and competitiveness.

**Policy Objective 2: A greener, lower carbon Europe** – *this objective focuses on promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate adaption and risk prevention and management.*

Electricity supply and the cost of energy is a real constraint for businesses in Mid Ulster and the border region and interventions are needed to incentivise green energy, perhaps via localised and shared green energy production at new business parks referenced above in policy one.

The focus of this policy objective should be inclusive of all opportunities for green innovation and target support to promote resource efficiency among SMEs. This would provide an opportunity for the private sector across Mid Ulster and the border region to make a positive impact on the environment.

The potential exists under this policy to improve water and waste treatment which is a major constraint on housing and on the development of serviced industrial land in Mid Ulster. This issue poses potential threats to the environment and delivery of the 'green agenda'.

There is a need for enhanced support for the development of renewal/alternative energy sources drawing on the assets of the region. For example, Mid Ulster with its natural landscape has the potential to be sustainable through utilising its natural assets. Therefore, investigating

and harnessing the potential of hydro-electric power as an alternative source of energy is one which should be strongly considered for inclusion within this policy objective.

**Policy Objective 3: A more connected Europe** – *this objective focuses on enhancing mobility and strategic regional connectivity*

Following decades of underinvestment in infrastructure across the border region, there is potential under this objective to address key roads transportation infrastructure priorities including improved connections between the border region and key urban centres north and south. This includes upgrading roads as appropriate to facilitate necessary cross border linkages and access to services.

In particular, there is a clear need for providing connections and the development of a number of new roads, including the A29 Dungannon and Cookstown bypasses to ensure the border region is connected on an East-West axis and North-South basis.

Mid Ulster has the second worst broadband coverage in NI and therefore, the Council would support broadband enhancement across the region – with an emphasis on fibre and addressing key deficits in high speed broadband provision across the border region ensuring that existing limitations in provision do not become barriers for future provision.

The potential also exists for ‘innovation projects / hotspots’ in selected areas with higher capacity (e.g. 5G networking) which have the potential to bring higher connectivity benefits to a larger critical mass of economic activity. These hotspots will help make locations ‘technology ready testbeds’ capable of attracting a cluster of companies and related investment.

This policy objective should offer scope to improve access to services to allow businesses to operate more competitively, on a local, national and international level.

In addition, investment in environmentally friendly solutions including the establishment of additional cross-border Greenways and connected Blueways would have multiple benefits including increased community cohesion.

**Policy Objective 4: A more social Europe** – *this objective implements the European Pillar of Social Rights and supporting quality employment, education, skills, social inclusion and equal access to healthcare. Actions on community and social cohesion would also be supported under this Policy Objective. N.B. All of the PEACE activities must be within this objective.*

Our research has shown that skills and access to labour are both a major current and future constraint to growth and competitiveness in Mid Ulster. However, the Council is in a strong position to target skills needs of priority/emerging growth sectors through the industry-led Mid Ulster Skills Forum, which have been established to bring a collaborative dynamic between local businesses, colleges/universities and industry sectoral bodies. The Council believes that skills and labour shortages can be addressed to meet the European Pillar of Social Rights through providing opportunities for equal access to skills training, apprenticeships and leadership development. This will add value by improving labour mobility and having better gender opportunities, equal rights, social protection and working conditions.

The Council understands that the European Social Fund (ESF) will be implemented under the new Programme at 100% funding which will reduce the need for match funding.

There is potential to develop key cross border quality healthcare initiatives to address health inequalities and maximise use of existing resources and buildings could include the delivery of joint health clinics, shared GP facilities and Outpatient clinics. It will be important that the programme seeks to deliver sustained health and well-being improvements, particularly to those “hard to reach” disadvantaged groups in areas of high deprivation. Such actions would



contribute to the promotion of social, economic and regional stability in NI and the ROI border region.

Specific comments in relation to greater peace and reconciliation through community and social cohesion:

**At a local community level**

The Council believes that community and social cohesion at a local level would be best facilitated and delivered through the existing Good Relations Programme (Council partner with Executive Office). Good Relations has been very successful in delivering on TBUC (Together Building a United Community) under the themes of: Shared Space, Children and Young People, Cultural Expression and addressing hate crime. These are central to building positive relations and creating shared space within our communities. The delivery through the Good Relations Programme would provide value for money and add value with regards to targeting need and engaging vulnerable communities with low capacity, whilst still meeting the regional policy of TBUC (and PEACE PLUS principles).

In learning from Peace IV it is important that the new PEACE PLUS Programme give consideration to key principles and outcomes and not setting restrictive targets regarding engagement and contact time. Whilst it is important to bring people and communities together, it is still recognised that there are times when communities are clearly demonstrating they are moving forward and particularly in relation to the development of shared space. For example if a community is prepared to develop shared space through removal of graffiti, emblems, bonfires and reimaging art pieces; these are key outcomes for peace without the need to have cross community contact hours. Local delivery should concentrate on changing places and space for wider society.

**Children and young people**

The Council is of the view that peace building activities for children and young people should be delivered through our schools and Education Authority (EA) Youth Division. There are existing projects such as the Signature project and EA Youth cross community leadership programme, where PEACE PLUS could add real value. Delivery within school time is important to give as many children and young people as possible the opportunity to develop cross community friendships.

**Education and Social Mobility**

It is important under PEACE PLUS to consider the wider implications of people and society when engaging in peace building. Bringing people together has a role; however, a greater priority is social mobility through economic opportunity; through creating the environment and conditions to develop such opportunities.

The Council is of the view that the new Programme needs to give consideration to the overall outcome of what it is seeking to achieve and a more strategic direction is required. PEACE PLUS should concentrate on the strategic issues impacting on peace; including social mobility and poverty, which are impacted by education (including skills) to access economic opportunities. The wider environment to support people in education and long-term impact on change is also important including housing, environment etc. Delivery should be through a number of strategic organisations through co-design via community planning and focus investment on priorities and in particular education (education not just formal but education through skills development).

The new Programme should not seek to tinker at the edges of society in terms of addressing a peaceful society through small programmes, but focus on establishing a society where all people have the best opportunity in life through education (and skills) to access job opportunities alongside the creation of an environment where our services and spaces are shared and open to all (developing shared spaces and services).

There is evidence to that if you change the social mobility of people through interventions to support greater opportunities and life choices both for the individual and through a shared environment this opens up to new opportunities and a more peaceful society.

### **A Shared Environment**

Similarly cross border connections cannot be about bringing people together on programmes it is the larger strategic infrastructure that will create sustained contact and real engagement between areas and communities. Examples include: the Ulster Canal, road links, shared services, creating shared spaces at our border communities.

**Policy Objective 5: A Europe Closer to its citizens** – *this objective seeks to foster the sustainable and integrated development of urban, rural and coastal areas and local initiatives. (These initiatives can focus on Tourism, Cultural Heritage, community facilities and security in urban areas).*

The Mid Ulster region is facing challenges with the declining health of our town centres and villages as a result of online shopping and out of town shopping. These urban and rural centres play an important role in bringing citizens together and providing a social and community focal point for people all ages. However, they need urgently to adapt, transform and find a new focus in order to survive. The PEACE PLUS Programme provides an opportunity to enable the development and reimagination of these centres as multi-functional places with a diverse offer, which contribute to the economic performance of the area as a whole. Investment in developing 'shared spaces' will contribute to peace and reconciliation.

It is noteworthy that local government is requesting the transfer of "Regeneration" powers and budgets from the Department for Communities. Such powers would enable Councils to maximise the potential funding under this particular policy objective.

The Council welcomes the inclusion of Tourism and Cultural Heritage focused initiatives under this proposed policy objective. Consideration of Tourism and Cultural Heritage initiatives under PEACE PLUS will allow for greater scope to develop cross border strategic Tourism and Cultural Heritage focused projects and initiatives that would include linkages of heritage product and marketing and promotion of tourism and cultural heritage product, on a cross border basis. This will further enhance and develop the tourism potential of the region and foster learning and cooperation between areas within the region that share common tourism and cultural heritage product.

Significant work has been undertaken over the last several years in terms of the development of linkages and partnerships within the recognised main Ancient Clans of Ulster. Under Policy Objective 5 of the PEACE PLUS Programme, these partnerships should be further enhanced and developed to ensure strong linkages between clans and areas within the region that will work together to develop projects and initiatives on a cross border basis, within the nine Counties of Ulster which will enhance and develop the Tourism and cultural Heritage product that is unique to the region.

Literary Tourism is a rapidly developing market and Ireland is fortunate to be blessed with four literary giants. The development of the Literary Tourism offering within the region and connecting and celebrating the legacy of the four Nobel Laureates of Ireland – William Butler Yeats (1923), George Bernard Shaw (1925), Samuel Beckett (1969) and Seamus Heaney (1995) should be further developed through tourism and Cultural Heritage initiatives supported under Policy Objective 5 of the PEACE PLUS programme. By enhancing the visitor experience, bringing the writers works to life, placing visitors in the landscape, in the communities, that inspired so much of their work, will further enhance and support the development of Literary Tourism and the Cultural Heritage offering on the island of Ireland and will contribute significantly to the social and economic stability of the region.

The focus of this policy objective should also allow for further consideration of significant cross border strategic tourism and cultural heritage projects such as the restoration of the Ulster Canal. The Ulster Canal is one of the last major waterway projects awaiting restoration on the island of Ireland. Most major waterway routes have been restored or are undergoing restoration. The Ulster Canal is a 93km (58 mile) stretch of disused waterway running north east from lower Lough Erne in south Fermanagh to southern Lough Neagh. Historically, the Ulster Canal linked the Erne system and the Lough Neagh basin. It originally passed through, or close to, Clones, Smithborough, Monaghan, Middletown, Tynan, Caledon, Milltown, Benburb, Blackwatertown, Moy and Charlemont. Along the way it also passes through counties Cavan, Monaghan and Tyrone, and its total route is about evenly split between the two parts of the island. The re-opening of the Ulster Canal is seen as a major cross-border infrastructural project with broad political, Government and community support on both sides of the border.

The Ulster Canal has been characterised as the “missing link” in Ireland’s canal systems, allowing passage between Coleraine, Limerick, Dublin and Waterford. The original route of the Ulster Canal ran for 93km linking the Erne system and the Lough Neagh basin. The Council believes that the inclusion of Tourism and Cultural Heritage under this policy objective would allow for consideration of this and other significant cross border projects particularly those with a broad reaching strategic value and which contribute to the promotion of social, economic and stable society within the region.

There is also an opportunity to deliver cross border tourism projects by co-operatively branding the Sperrins and Donegal highlands.

Finally, the Council identifies this policy objective as an opportunity to allocate sizeable funding towards local and regional programmes and projects.

## **5.0 Programme Administration**

It is important that future funding has a shorter ‘lead-in’ time from Application submission to provision of funding to facilitate a longer period of preparation and delivery, which will maximise the impact and benefit of projects.

Further efforts to reduce the administrative burden on beneficiaries are necessary. A more simplified appraisal and decision-making system reducing unnecessary bureaucracy should be agreed.

Accountability is very important and there must be the proper safeguards in place. However, a balance needs to be found between enabling an initiative to be implemented more efficiently and the administrative procedures required from an accountability perspective.

## **6.0 RESPONSE SUMMARY**

The design and development of the new PEACE PLUS Programme provides what may be the last opportunity to learn from previous programmes and develop an improved programme that will produce real and sustained economic growth to underpin a peaceful society post Brexit. The new Programme should be innovative and help to ensure delivery of key local investments into the region using a strategic, collaborative approach with local government at the forefront of its delivery. The Council is willing to work with other partners in central government and transnationally to develop a regional approach to securing Peace Plus investment in the region.



# The Boom Foundation



Support and Information  
close to home



# Is it Sarcoma?



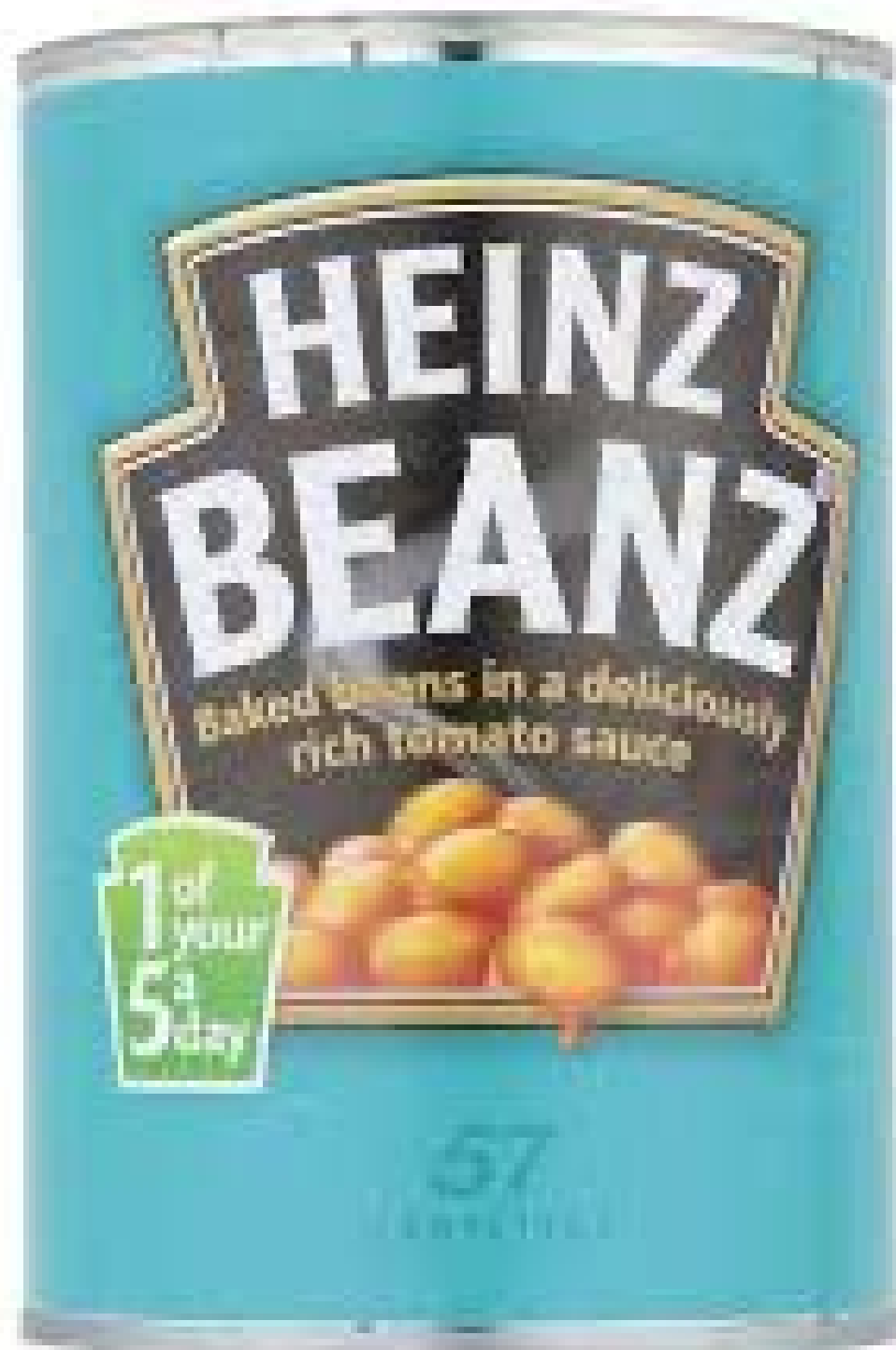
**Uncommon** cancers that can affect **any part** of the body, on the **inside or outside**, including the muscle, bone, tendons, blood vessels and fatty tissues.

**15** people are diagnosed with sarcoma every day in the UK.

**100** new cases in N.I. each year

**100** different sub-types of sarcoma





Almost **eight in 10 people** (78%) diagnosed with sarcoma in the UK will live up to a year.

The average percentage of people **living three years** after being diagnosed with sarcoma in the UK is **64.5%**.

The **five-year survival rate** for sarcoma is **55%**.



# Boom - who are we?



- ❖ Established April 2013
- ❖ The only charity in N.I. dedicated to sarcoma patients
- ❖ Small group of trustees and volunteers
- ❖ Raise money through voluntary donations only



# Boom - what do we do?

- ❖ Provide support and information close to home through our unique **referral system**
- ❖ Liaise with medical professionals to fill the “gaps” in support for sarcoma patients and their families
- ❖ Hold the only dedicated sarcoma support group in N.I.
- ❖ Fund vital research through Sarcoma UK
- ❖ Raise awareness of Sarcoma through N.I.





# Funding

How do you help?

Your £ goes....

50p to **vital research**



50p to **support those in NI affected by sarcoma**

- ❖ We raise money through voluntary donations only
- ❖ From March 2013 - March 2019 - we have raised in excess of **£600,000**
- ❖ **50% stays here in N.I.**
- ❖ **50% funds vital research**



# What support?



- Financial support (e.g. travel expenses, private tuition for children, help with car modifications etc.)
- Annual winter fuel payments
- Boom 'Pack a Punch Day'
- Emotional support (e.g. counselling)
- Practical support (e.g. travel insurance)



# Future of Boom

- ❖ Support for patients with upper limb amputation
- ❖ Striving for equality of treatment for N.I. patients
- ❖ Increased awareness throughout N.I. to help with early diagnosis
- ❖ Funding for further sarcoma specialist nurse
- ❖ Increase levels of support in rural communities - specialist end of life care
- ❖ Supporting research programmes to help find better treatment options ....and a cure!



# Thank you for listening



<b>Report on</b>	Conferences, Seminars & Training
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	27 February 2020
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Philip Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Eileen Forde, Member Support Officer

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	Provide an update on seminars and conferences received. To seek approval for (i) elected member attendance and the payment of registration/ attendance fees and associated costs, as incurred and, (ii) council officer approvals.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	Costs associated will be set against 2019-20 member Conference, Seminar and Training allocations.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<b>Approval for Consideration of Attendance by Elected Members</b>  There are occasions when it is beneficial to Members to attend training, conferences and seminars to better equip them in their role as elected representatives. Approval for attendance as detailed in Appendix A to this report is sought.
3.2	<b>Officer Approvals</b>  There are occasions when it is beneficial to the council for Officers to attend conferences and seminars. Approval for attendance as detailed in Appendix B to this report is sought.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
4.1	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>  Financial: Costs to be set against Members 2019/20 conference/seminar/training allocation. Any costs incurred above annual allocation to be incurred by Member

	Human: not applicable
	Risk Management: not applicable
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: not applicable
	Rural Needs Implications: not applicable
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	Approval for attendance at the conferences, seminars and training by members and council officers as required.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
	Appendix A    Member Conferences, Seminars & Training Appendix B    Officers Approvals

## Appendix A

### Member Training

Provider/Course	Date & Time	Location	Costs	Attendee Requests

### Conferences

Provider/Course	Date & Time	Location	Costs	Attendee Requests
Lough Neagh Conference – The Way Forward	Tuesday 10 March 2020 9.30am-4.30pm	Lough Neagh Discovery Centre	Travel and subsistence	
Building the Cross Border Economy: Post Brexit	Wed 11 <sup>th</sup> March 2020 9am - 1.30pm	Carrickdale Hotel, Dundalk, Co. Louth		
The Computer says No: How 'Welfare' Algorithms Punish the Poor."	Wednesday 25 March 2020 5.30pm	Conor Lecture Theatre, Belfast Campus, Ulster University, York Street, Belfast	Free Travel and subsistence	Cllr Molloy
NI Housing Conference	Thursday 26 March 2020 am-2pm	Titanic Belfast	£195+VAT travel and subsistence	
NILGA - Caring Councils: A local government response to poverty, addiction and improving mental health	Friday 27 March 2020	Girdwood Community Hub Belfast	Travel and subsistence	
Cross Border Tourism Conference 2020	Wednesday, 22nd April	Four Seasons Hotel,	€30 plus VAT travel	



Be part of Ireland's Ancient East Brand Growing your visitors - Learning from the best	2020, 8.30am to 2.00pm	Carlingford, Co. Louth	and subsistence	
NI Local Partnership on Travellers Issues 'Pioneering a brighter future together with the Travelling Community'	Thursday 14th May 2020	Corick House Hotel & Spa, 20 Corick Road, Clogher BT76 OBZ	To be confirmed	Cllr D McPeake





The **Lough Neagh Partnership** invites you to an upcoming conference to discuss the main issues associated with Lough Neagh. It is a full day conference with all of our local parties giving their policy perspective on the Lough, representatives from the main government departments and local stakeholders explaining their present roles and responsibilities.

I intend to use the conference as a **tool** to find new agreed cross-party policies which can help address the real social, economic, safety and environmental **needs of the Lough**.

I would be grateful if you could put the date in your diary and we will follow up with details of the order of the day (9.30am - 4.30pm). You can confirm attendance now by clicking the registration link below.

I look forward to seeing you there.

**Conor Jordan**

Chairperson

Lough Neagh Partnership

# BUILDING THE CROSS-BORDER ECONOMY POST-BREXIT CONFERENCE

**DATE:** Wednesday 11th March 2020

**TIME:** 9am – 2pm

**VENUE:** Carrickdale Hotel & Spa, Co. Louth

**PRICE:** FREE

Secure your place at this high-profile conference at:  
[www.dundalk.ie](http://www.dundalk.ie)



## PROGRAMME

### **11<sup>th</sup> March Carrickdale Hotel**

#### **BUILDING THE CROSS-BORDER ECONOMY – POST BREXIT.**

The UK's Exit from the EU will present new challenges for businesses operating within the cross-border economy. This cross-border conference will provide a timely update for businesses on the challenges and support available for Businesses post Brexit.

#### **Programme**

**MC** Mark Simpson, Broadcaster and Journalist

**08:30** Registration

**09:00** Welcome by Cathaoirleach of Louth County Council

**09:05** Welcome by Chair of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

**09:10** Address by Government Spokesperson(s)

#### **THE FUTURE FOR EUROPE AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR BUSINESS**

**9:40** Cross Border Trade. What are the future challenges and opportunities – Intertradelreland speaker

**10:00** EU Future thinking – What are the practical issues and opportunities for your business. Emma Kerins, Head of Policy and Public Affairs, Chambers Ireland

**10:20** Local Enterprise Office Louth, Thomas McEvoy, Head of Enterprise, Louth Local Enterprise Office.

**10:40** Q&A

**10:55** Tea/Coffee – Networking

#### **THE UK/EU CHANGING RELATIONSHIP**

**11:15** The Economic Outlook and what a Future EU – UK Trade Deal would mean for your business. Oliver Mangan, Chief Economist AIB

#### **SUPPORT TO GROW YOUR BUSINESS**

**11:45** The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Workplace. – The Development and Upskilling of Your People - Paul Healy CEO Skillnet Ireland

**12:05** Accessing Finance to Grow Your Business. David McComb Full Circle Management Solutions

**12:25** Support for Cross Border Businesses – Deirdre Maguire, Brexit Manager at InterTradelreland

**12:45** Changing Migration Rules and what it means for your business.

**13:05** Lunch & Networking

# Northern Ireland Housing Conference 2020

New decade, new approach for social housing



Thursday 26th March 2020  
Titanic Belfast

Media partner

[www.agendaNi.com/events](http://www.agendaNi.com/events)

**agendaNi**  
magazine



## Housing conference

As we begin a new decade, the challenges that faced the social housing sector in the previous ten years are continuing. The number of households in priority need of social housing in Northern Ireland is at the highest level ever recorded. At the end of March 2019 there was 37,859 households on the social housing waiting list, of which 26,387 are considered to be in housing stress and 19,629 are deemed to be homeless.

At the root of the crisis is the disparity between supply and demand. With a shortage of housing, we must find new ways to supply housing for people in need. Welfare reform has also had a huge impact on the lives of many. As we move forward, we must continue to prioritise the most vulnerable. There must also be a broader range of affordable housing options both for rent and for purchase. The challenge is to provide housing for every stage of life to include student accommodation, affordable long-term rental, family homes, dwellings for one or two persons and accessible homes suitable for older people and people with disabilities.

### A new decade

Having no functioning Assembly or Executive in Northern Ireland for the past three years added considerably to the difficulties facing the social housing sector. On 9 January 2020 the **New Decade, New Approach** deal was published to restore a functioning Northern Ireland Executive. Among other priorities, it is hoped that by introducing legislation to reclassify housing associations, the Executive will enable housing associations to continue building new social housing and intermediate housing, including the Co-ownership Housing Scheme after March 2020. Housing will also be included as a specific priority in the Programme for Government. The Executive will also enhance investment and agree a target for new social and affordable home starts and tackle the maintenance backlog for Northern Ireland Housing Executive properties. The Executive also intends to extend existing welfare mitigation measures beyond March 2020, when they are currently due to expire.

These measures would certainly go some way to reducing the number of households in housing stress, however at the time of writing the proposed financial package has still to be agreed.

In the absence of a functioning devolved government, organisations in the sector continued to forge ahead. Housing Associations continue to provide more than just housing – regeneration and community investment are more important now than ever before alongside care services and skills and providing training.

This conference will bring together key stakeholders with an interest or role in housing in Northern Ireland and look at how we can fulfil the need for secure, affordable housing both now and in the future.

### A high level panel will examine key issues including:

- ✓ **Social housing policy** in Northern Ireland
- ✓ The impact of **welfare reform**
- ✓ Creating **sustainable communities**
- ✓ **Embracing Housing First** on the journey to ending homelessness
- ✓ **Fire safety** post Grenfell
- ✓ **Community investment** to transform lives
- ✓ Delivering **sustainable** social housing
- ✓ The shape of the **future social housing provider**
- ✓ **Better tenant engagement** to empower residents in social housing
- ✓ **Collaboration** for better results
- ✓ **Political panel:** The future of social housing in Northern Ireland
- ✓ Lessons from **elsewhere**

## Visiting experts



### Margaret Ann Brünjes

Margaret Ann Brünjes is Chief Executive of **Housing First Scotland**. Maggie has been in the housing and homelessness sector in Scotland for over 20 years, holding various data, policy and programme

management positions before taking up the chief officer role at Homeless Network Scotland in 2010. With a special interest in evidence-based and participatory approaches to policy and delivery, she co-founded Housing First Scotland in 2016 and the UK-wide Centre for Homelessness Impact in 2018. Maggie was a member of the Scottish Minister appointed Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Action Group in 2018.



### John Hannigan

John Hannigan is Chief Executive Officer of **Circle Voluntary Housing Association** in Ireland. He has worked in social housing for over 25 years. He took up his current position in September 2017. John

previously held the position of Managing Director of Sunbeam House Services since 2010. Prior to that, he worked as Finance Director with Respond Housing Association. John is currently the Vice Chair of The Housing Alliance, an alliance of six of the largest Housing Associations in Ireland.







### Matt Parsonage

Matt Parsonage is Head of Communities at **Clarion Futures**, the charitable foundation of Clarion Housing Group. Clarion Futures plans to invest £150 million over ten years to provide support, skills and

opportunities to more than 360,000 social housing residents across the UK. Matt has worked in the Social Housing Sector for the last 10 years. He gained a Masters in Urban Regeneration from the University of Westminster during his time working on a New Deal for Communities programme in London. His specialisms include neighbourhood regeneration, partnership development and community engagement – just three themes of which he currently puts theories into practice in his role as Head of Communities at Clarion Futures.

# Programme

- 0830 Registration and morning coffee
- 0900 Chairman's welcome and introduction:  
**Jamie Delargy**, Business Broadcaster
- Policy**  **Social housing policy in Northern Ireland**  
**Louise Warde-Hunter**, Deputy Secretary  
Department for Communities
- Transformation**  **Transforming services to create sustainable communities**  
**Jennifer Hawthorne**, Regional Manager for  
Belfast, Northern Ireland Housing Executive
- Community investment**  **Clarion Futures: Community investment to transform neighbourhoods and lives**  
**Matt Parsonage**, Head of Communities  
Clarion Futures, Clarion Housing Group
- Welfare reform**  **Protecting the most vulnerable: Measures to avert the welfare crisis**  
**Kevin Higgins**, Head of Policy, Advice NI and  
Welfare Reform Mitigations Working Group
- Housing First**  **Housing First in Scotland and the journey to ending homelessness**  
**Margaret Ann Brünjes**, Chief Executive  
Housing First Scotland

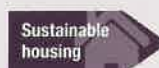
Questions & answers / Panel discussion

- 1100 Morning coffee / networking break

1120



**The future social housing provider**  
**Professor Paddy Gray**, Chair  
Connswater Homes



**The challenge of delivering sustainable social housing**  
**Diana Fitzsimons**, Chair, Radius Housing



**The Housing Alliance: Collaboration for better results**  
**John Hannigan**, CEO, Circle Voluntary Housing  
Association, Ireland



**Fire safety post Grenfell**  
**Geoff Somerville**, Group Commander, Northern  
Ireland Fire and Rescue Service (invited)

Questions & answers / Panel discussion

## POLITICAL PANEL: The future of social housing in Northern Ireland

The conference will finish with a political panel with representation from all parties to discuss the future of social housing in Northern Ireland. Delegates will be able to put questions to the panel and hear their priorities and views.

1330

Chairman's summary and conference close followed by networking lunch



## Sponsorship and exhibition opportunities

There are a number of opportunities for interested organisations to become involved with this conference as sponsors or exhibitors. This is an excellent way for organisations to raise their profile with a key audience of senior decision-makers from across the housing sector in Northern Ireland. For further information on how your organisation can benefit, contact **Jillian Wallace** on 028 9261 9933.



I wish to:

☐ **Reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places at the Housing Conference**

Delegate fee £195 + VAT @ 20% = £234

☐ **NIFHA members discounted rate**

£175 + VAT @ 20% = £210

### Delegate details

Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr): \_\_\_\_\_

Job title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Payment options

☐ I enclose a cheque for £ \_\_\_\_\_

Payable to 'bmf Business Services'

☐ Please invoice me

☐ Please debit my Visa / Mastercard

Card number

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Name of card holder \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry date \_\_\_\_\_

Security code \_\_\_\_\_

(Please provide card billing address if different from company address)

### Terms and conditions

\* For those unable to attend, a substitute participant may be sent at any time for no additional charge. Alternatively for cancellations received in writing, by fax or email, the following charges will apply:

- More than 14 days before the conference: 25% fee
- Less than 14 days before the conference: 100% fee
- Failure to attend: 100% fee.

You can unsubscribe from receiving information at any time, please let us know by emailing [info@agendani.com](mailto:info@agendani.com) or phoning 028 9261 9933.

## Who should attend?

The conference will be of interest to all stakeholders involved in aspects of housing, funding and management including senior managers in the public, private and third sectors in Northern Ireland. The conference will be of particular interest to:

- Professionals in housing policy and delivery;
- Government departments and agencies;
- Those providing benefits advice;
- Housing associations;
- Policy / public affairs advisors;
- The construction industry;
- Project funders;
- Legal advisors;
- Housing and planning consultants;
- The community / voluntary sector / NGOs;
- Local elected representatives.

## Networking opportunity

The conference is structured in a way to provide a high level of interaction between speakers and delegates.

There will be plentiful opportunities for questions as well as discussion in each of the sessions. In the breaks and margins of the event there will also be ample scope for business development.

## Benefits of attending

Delegates attending the conference will:

- ✓ Look at the future of housing policy in Northern Ireland
- ✓ Discuss the impact of welfare reform
- ✓ Analyse all the key issues
- ✓ Hear about innovative solutions being applied elsewhere

## How to register



Online

[www.agendani.com/events](http://www.agendani.com/events)



By telephone

028 9261 9933



By email

[registration@agendani.com](mailto:registration@agendani.com)

### Acknowledgement of registration

Confirmation of registration will be sent to all delegates. Joining instructions will be sent out following receipt of registration details. If you have not received your acknowledgement seven days prior to the start of the conference, please contact Ashley Green at [registration@agendani.com](mailto:registration@agendani.com) to confirm your booking.



## **DRAFT AGENDA**

**Caring Councils: A local government response  
to poverty, addiction and improving mental health**

**27th March 2020  
Girdwood Community Hub  
Belfast**





*Following on from the Fermanagh and Omagh DC conference “The Struggle is Real” in February 2020, the NILGA Health, Social and Well-being Network would like to invite members and officers from all 11 councils - **particularly NILGA ‘full’ members** - to the ‘Caring Councils’ conference on 27th March 2020.*

**We will be exploring the links between poverty, poor mental health and addiction, and discussing how councils can have a positive impact in communities.**

**Speakers Include:**

**Helen Barnard** Joseph Rowntree Foundation (invited)

**Prof. Siobhan O’Neill** Professor of Mental Health Science, Ulster University (confirmed)

**Sam McCullough** Addiction NI (confirmed)

**Ed McClean**, Public Health Agency NI (invited)

**Kim Weir**, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council (confirmed)

**Ryan Black**, Belfast City Council (confirmed)

**Lisa McIlherron**, Inspire Well-being (confirmed)

**Jackie Patton**, Mid and East Antrim Borough Council (confirmed)

**Caring Councils: A local government response  
to poverty, addiction and improving mental health**

**27th March 2020**

**Girdwood Community Hub**

**Belfast**

## Draft Agenda

### Caring Councils: A local government response to poverty, addiction and improving mental health 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020, Girdwood Hub, Belfast

Time	Topic	Speaker
10.00—10.30	Registration, tea and coffee	
10.30 – 10.35	<b>Welcome to Belfast</b>	Belfast City Council—Lord Mayor (invited)
10.35 – 10.40	<b>Welcome from NILGA and outline of the day</b>	Cllr John Coyle, Chairperson - NILGA Health, Social & Environmental Well-being Network
	<b>Poverty and Health</b>	
10.40 – 11.10	<b>Poverty in Northern Ireland: A crisis situation?</b>	Helen Barnard Joseph Rowntree Foundation (invited)
11.10 – 11.20	<b>The Struggle is Real: from debate to action</b>	Kim Weir, Fermanagh & Omagh DC
11.20—11.40	<b>The Impact of Poverty on Health in NI: A Public Health Approach</b>	Ed McClean, Public Health Agency (invited)
11.40 – 12.00	<b>Poverty and Mental Ill-Health: Addressing the high levels of suicide in NI</b>	Prof Siobhan O'Neill, Ulster University
12.00 – 12.20	<b>The links between poverty and addiction - and how to break them</b>	Sam McCullough, Addiction NI
12.20—12.40	<b>Panel Debate/Q&amp;A</b>	
12.45 – 1.30	Lunch and networking	
	<b>Community and Council Response</b>	
1.30 – 1.50	<b>The 'Change Your Mind' campaign: Tackling stigma and discrimination around mental health</b>	Lisa McIlherron, Inspire Wellbeing
1.50 – 2.10	<b>What can a council do? <i>The Belfast City Council experience</i></b>	Ryan Black, Director of Neighbourhood Services, Belfast City Council
2.10 – 2.30	<b>What can a council do? <i>The Mid and East Antrim Borough Council experience</i></b>	Jackie Patton, Head of Community Planning, Mid & East Antrim BC
2.30—2.45	<b>What can a councillor do? - developing the local government response</b>	Round table discussion
2.45—3.00	<b>Feedback and Next Steps</b>	Karen Smyth

This event is **FREE** for NI Elected Members and Officers.  
Places are limited hence early registration is recommended.  
Email [events@nilga.org](mailto:events@nilga.org) by the 13th March 2020,  
quoting NILGA: Caring Councils 27.03.2020

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## **The Computer says No: How ‘Welfare’ Algorithms Punish the Poor.”**

by Imagine! Belfast Festival of Ideas & Politics

Date: Wednesday 25 March 2020

Time: 5.30pm

Location: Conor Lecture Theatre, Belfast Campus, Ulster University, York Street,  
Belfast, BT15 1ED

Rob Booth, the social affairs correspondent for the Guardian, will outline the Guardian’s global and domestic investigation into how the tech revolution is transforming welfare systems worldwide while penalizing the most vulnerable. He will discuss how Artificial Intelligence decision-making is being developed by UK government departments and public authorities with limited discussion of its use and the ramifications for transparency, redress and oversight.

The Guardian investigation involved publishing a series of articles looking at how government departments and public authorities in (among others) Britain, the United States, Australia and India, are radically reshaping the delivery of social security and other public services behind closed doors.

The presentation will be followed by a panel discussion and Q and A with local academics.

Jointly sponsored by the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission and Legal Innovation Centre, Ulster University.

Tea and coffee available from 17:00.

# Cross Border Tourism Conference 2020

Learn from the best



22nd April 2020  
Four Seasons Hotel  
Carlingford, Co. Louth  
8.30am - 2.00pm



A destination worth investigation

#cbtc2020

## Registration Form:

### Cross Border Tourism Conference 2020

Be part of Ireland's Ancient East Brand  
Growing your visitors - Learning from the best

**Date:** Wednesday, 22nd April 2020, 8.30am to 2.00pm

**Venue:** Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth

Please reserve ..... places.

€20 plus VAT p.p. .... Non-member at €30 plus VAT p.p. ....

Company: .....

Contact: .....

Tel.: ..... Email: .....

Please tick payment method:

☐ I enclose a cheque for € .....

☐ Send Invoice € ..... Purchase Order Number .....

☐ Payment made by credit card.: .....

☐ Payment made by booking online

<https://www.dundalk.ie/event/cross-border-tourism-conference-2020>

Please return booking form and accompanying payment to:  
Dundalk Chamber of Commerce, Unit 4, Partnership Court, Park Street, Dundalk,  
Co. Louth.

For further information please contact Brenda McGeeney, Dundalk Chamber of  
Commerce: Tel: 042 9336343, email: [brenda@dundalk.ie](mailto:brenda@dundalk.ie), [www.dundalk.ie](http://www.dundalk.ie)

### Accommodation:

Should you wish to book accommodation for the event, you may avail of the special  
conference rate at the Four Seasons Hotel:

Single Room: €85 B & B

Double Room: €115 B & B (2 people sharing)

Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth

t: +353 (0)42 937 3530 - e: [info@fshc.ie](mailto:info@fshc.ie) - [www.4seasonshotelcarlingford.ie](http://www.4seasonshotelcarlingford.ie)



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## Conference Programme

**Conference Facilitator Chair:** Brendan McSherry - Heritage Office Louth County Council

**8.30am -9am** Registration & Tea/Coffee and Networking

**9am – 9:10am** **Welcome: Pat McCormick,**  
President Dundalk Chamber of Commerce

**9.10am – 9.40am** **“What slow food can do for me”**  
Hermione Winters- President Slow Food Ireland

**9.40am – 10.10am** **“ World of Tourism Talks: Deeper Connections with Podcasting”**  
Wayne Denner

**10.10am – 10.40am** **“Boyne Valley Food Trail”**  
Grainne McKeown

**10.40am – 11.00am** **“Questions and Answers”**

**11.00am – 11.20am** **Coffee Break and visit trade stands**

**11.20am – 11.50am** **“Ballyhoura and how to be different.”**  
John Fitzgerald – Chairman Ballyhoura Failte Development Group

**11.50am – 12.20am** **“Why Not!”**  
Cillian Murphy- Loop Head Tourism

**12.20am – 12.50am** **'2020 Vision: 10 things your visitors want this year'**  
Pól Ó Conghaile - Travel Editor with The Irish Independent

**12.50am – 1.15pm** **“Questions and Answers”**

**1.15pm – 2.00pm** **“Networking Lunch”**  
This session gives attendees the opportunity to meet the speakers on a one to one basis and visit all the trade exhibits at the event. Key stake holders include:  
DKIT School of Hospitality  
Southern Regional College  
Local Enterprise Office Louth  
Louth Leader Partnership  
Louth County Council Planning Office



## Your Speakers



Cillian Murphy believes a sustainable tourism industry can only be created through prioritizing community involvement in destination development. Co-founder of Loop Head Tourism, a multi award winning Irish responsible tourism destination, he has spoken many times on this topic including at World Travel Market and The World Bank Group Tourism Forum in Washington. Holding an MSc in Responsible Tourism, he has developed a practical, place based, methodology which puts the host community at the very centre of the destination development process, empowering and building them to better understand the role tourism plays, what assets they have and are happy to sell, and to whom and when it is appropriate. Cillian has provided advice to many communities, local authorities and destination management organisations throughout Ireland and internationally, including Visit Lofoten, Central Counties Tourism, Canada, and is currently working with The National Trust Northern Ireland delivering the community engagement lens of the Giants Causeway Capacity Study.



Hermione Winters is the current President of Slow Food Ireland, having taken over from Darina Allen in March 2017. She has been a member of Slow Food since 1999. In 2000, she established The Garden Convivum, a local branch of Slow Food covering South Dublin/North Wicklow. As Slow Food Ireland is a volunteer organisation, Hermione works full-time as the Company Secretarial Manager in the Asset Management and Investment Funds Division of a leading Dublin law firm. In 2003, Hermione left law to set up her own business "Passion for Food", a retail outlet specialising in Irish artisan foods. She sold the business in 2008, returning to law. Hermione is still passionate about food dedicating all her spare time to promoting Slow Food and organising events, both national and local. She is currently working on a number of projects for Slow Food: the setting up of a Fresh Blood Pudding Presidia; the introduction in Ireland of the Slow Food Chefs' Alliance and, in conjunction with Trinity College, "Food Smart Dublin" a project to promote sustainable seafood consumption. Hermione loves cooking, enjoys foraging and is experimenting with hedgerow brewing.



Pól Ó Conghaile is Travel Editor with The Irish Independent and a regular contributor to National Geographic Traveller. He has been voted Travel Writer of the Year in both Ireland and the UK, has been published all over the world, and as a travel expert features regularly on national TV & radio. Pól is the author of Secret Dublin: An Unusual Guide (Jonglez) and a speaker at travel, media and food events, including the National Geographic Traveller masterclasses. He is a father of two, husband of one, and continues to travel widely throughout the island... and beyond. Follow him on Twitter at @poloconghaile.



Wayne Denner author of 'The Student's Guide to an Epic Online Reputation...and parents too,' Coach, Educator, Speaker and Trainer, set up Ireland's first Social Network platform in the early noughties before Facebook, Twitter, Myspace and Bebo!. After 23 years in this space Wayne is now internationally regarded as a thought leader and influencer on online safety and reputation, online behaviour, community engagement and emerging trends in social media in today's rapidly changing online environment. Wayne inspires and motivates young people and adults to protect their well being online, take control and maximise their individual talent in today's digital world. Wayne tells his story and provides sound advice on protecting personal, professional and organisational reputation online and using social networks, the internet and smartphones to your advantage



John Fitzgerald has over 20 years experience as Event Management Consultant and Project Manager. Previously spent over 14 years as Facilities, Engineering and Project Manager for major US Multinational IT Business. Has led Teams as PM on numerous major Construction Projects and Event Concepts and now specifically designs and Builds unique Event Designs and Experiences for Corporate and Private clients. John has also created the Kennedy Rooms Venue concept in Bruff Co Limerick as a multi room event space and specialised venue, converting an old disused Convent into a unique location for all aspects of Events and the Film Industry. John works with Rebecca on creating themed and high end Events at the Kennedy Rooms and numerous Hotels and locations around Ireland. John is Chairman of Ballyhoura Failte and is working to continue the Development of the Ballyhoura Tourism concept



Northern Ireland  
Local Government Partnership  
*On Traveller Issues*

Ref: 03Conf

Councillor Robert Irvine  
The Cornmill  
24 Farnamullan Road  
Mullybritt, Lisbellaw  
BT94 5BL

**Tel: 028 6638 7780**

**Mob: 078346 56788**

**Email: robert.irvine@fermanaghmagh.com**

21<sup>st</sup> January 2020

Mr. Anthony Tohill,  
Mid Ulster District Council,  
Ballyronan Road,  
MAGHERAFELT  
BT45 6EN

Dear Anthony,

The Partnership is holding a half day conference, on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May in Corick House Hotel & Spa, 20 Corick Road, Clogher BT76 OBZ. The theme is 'Pioneering a brighter future together with the Travelling Community'.

We will be issuing invitations to all councils and other relevant bodies in late February/early March. Prior to the conference we intend holding a brief session the evening before, commencing around 5/5.30 pm. followed by a networking dinner and an overnight stay for those nominated representatives and officers from your council.

As with the conference there is no cost for this, the only cost to individual councils will be associated travelling expenses.

The nominees from your council are:

1. Councillor Donal McPeake
2. Dr. Chris Boomer (officer)

We would ask that you confirm, as soon as possible, the names of those attending so that the necessary arrangements can be put in place with the hotel. We do not wish to have substitutes should one or more of the nominees be unavailable.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Robert Irvine  
Secretary & Treasurer



## Appendix Approval Sought –FEBRUARY COUNCIL

### Retrospective Approval

Conference & Seminar	Date	No. of Attendees	Location	Attendance Fee (Yes/ No)
BCNI Fire Safety Conference	6/2/20	2	Armagh	Yes
The Future of Local Government – NILGA Conference	20/2/20	1	Belfast	Yes
NI IOT & Industry 4.0 Expo Conference & Exhibition	27/2/20	1	Belfast	No

### Approval

Conference & Seminar	Date	No. of Attendees	Location	Attendance Fee (Yes/ No)
VAT Conference	4/3/20	1	London	Yes
Climate Change – Our Challenge Conference	12/3/20	2	Killeavy, Co Down	No
Lough Neagh Conference	10/3/20	1	Lough Neagh	No



<b>Report on</b>	Consideration of Requests for Civic Recognition
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Thursday 27 February 2020
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	P Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
<b>Contact Officer</b>	E Forde, Member Support Officer

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

1.0	Purpose of Report				
1.1	To consider approval of request(s) for civic recognition from members, in line with council's <i>Civic Honour and Receptions Policy</i> .				
2.0	Background				
2.1	The policy was reviewed and subsequently agreed at April 2018 Council. All requests for recognition are to be submitted with Democratic Services using the pro-forma, <i>Request for Civic Recognition: Civic Honour &amp; Civic Reception</i> . Requests for recognition are reviewed against the categories and associated criteria contained within the policy as detailed at 2.2.				
2.2	<p><b><u>Recognition</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Civic Honour:</b> recognition will be permissible when the following has been achieved at an All-Ireland, European, International, or National level:<table><tr><td>Have won first place at a competition in their relevant field at the highest level of competition</td></tr><tr><td>Have received an outstanding achievement award at the highest level. Outstanding achievement relates to when a participant or group has not been involved in a competition</td></tr></table></li><li><b>Civic Reception:</b> will be permissible for individual, groups or organisations when:<table><tr><td>Representing their country at International, European, All-Ireland or National level at the highest level</td></tr><tr><td>Winning first place at a competition at the highest level at a Northern Ireland or Provincial level in the relevant field at the highest level of competition</td></tr></table></li></ul>	Have won first place at a competition in their relevant field at the highest level of competition	Have received an outstanding achievement award at the highest level. Outstanding achievement relates to when a participant or group has not been involved in a competition	Representing their country at International, European, All-Ireland or National level at the highest level	Winning first place at a competition at the highest level at a Northern Ireland or Provincial level in the relevant field at the highest level of competition
Have won first place at a competition in their relevant field at the highest level of competition					
Have received an outstanding achievement award at the highest level. Outstanding achievement relates to when a participant or group has not been involved in a competition					
Representing their country at International, European, All-Ireland or National level at the highest level					
Winning first place at a competition at the highest level at a Northern Ireland or Provincial level in the relevant field at the highest level of competition					

	<div> <p>Receiving an outstanding achievement award at the highest level at a Northern Ireland or Provincial level. Outstanding achievement relates to when a participant or group has not been involved in a competition</p> </div>
2.3	<p><b><u>Processing the Request</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reviewed against the policy/criteria</li> <li>• Reviewed to identify if recognition provided for similar achievement within 3 years prior to this</li> <li>• Requests meeting criteria will be recommended to Council for Civic Honour or Civic Reception</li> <li>• Requests not meeting criteria will be recommended to Council to receive letter from Council Chair</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p>Implementation of the policy facilitates the Council in acknowledging the achievements of organisations and persons from the district, as put forward by members and external requests made.</p> <p><b>Member Requests for Recognition</b></p>
3.2	<p>Recognition requests received from members since the last meeting of council have been categorised, details of which are set out within appendix A to this report.</p> <p><b>Requests from External Bodies</b></p>
3.3	<p>Correspondence has been received from the County Tyrone Super Cup Football Association requesting that the Council host the launch of the Supper Cup in early July 2020.</p>
3.3	<p>The Council Chairperson last hosted a reception for the launch for the Tyrone teams participating in the Super Cup NI tournament in 2017 costing in the region of £400. Refer to appendix A for the request from the Secretary of the County Tyrone Super Cup Football Association.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	Financial: not applicable
	Human: not applicable
	Risk Management: not applicable
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>

	Equality & Good Relations Implications: not applicable
	Rural Needs Implications: not applicable
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	That consideration be given to approving request for civic recognition requests
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
	<p>Appendix A: Civic Recognitions Recommended for Approval</p> <p>Appendix B: Requests from External Bodies (County Tyrone Super Cup Football Association)</p>



## Appendix A: February 2020 Requests for Civic Recognition Submitted: For Approval

### Category: Civic Honour

Proposed Recipient	Achievement	Submitted by	Condition/Criteria Met	Recipient Previously Acknowledged
None				

### Category: Civic Reception

Proposed Recipient	Achievement	Submitted by	Condition/Criteria Met	Recipient Previously Acknowledged
St Joseph's Convent Donaghmore	Ulster Championship Girls Under 20	Cllr Kerr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Won first place at a competition level in their relevant field</li> </ul>	For: Sciath Na Nog Ulster Title (Grade A Competition)  Date: Jan 2020
CFM	Best Apprenticeship Scheme UK NHMF Awards	Cllr Totten	Won first place at a competition level in their relevant field	For: N/A  Date: N/A
St Patrick's College Dungannon	BT Young Scientist group secures Best Overall School in Northern Ireland	Cllr Monteith Cllr Kerr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Won first place at a competition level in their relevant field</li> </ul>	For: N/A  Date: N/A
Gaudvile, Goda and Kate (led by Miss O'Neill)	Also awarded 3rd place in their Junior Group category for Chemical, Physical and Mathematical Sciences			
St Patrick's Academy	Ulster College B Father Davies Camogie Cup Final 2019	Cllr Kerr Cllr Monteith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Won first place at a competition level in their relevant field</li> </ul>	For: N/A  Date: N/A

Dungannon Senior Camogie Team				
Nicola Rafferty	Gaelic Life Ulster Club All Star 2019	Cllr Monteith Cllr Kerr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attained an outstanding achievement at a Northern Ireland or provincial level</li> </ul>	For: N/A  Date: N/A
Maeve Maxwell	Gaelic Life Ulster Club All Star 2019	Cllr Monteith Cllr Kerr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attained an outstanding achievement at a Northern Ireland or provincial level Level</li> </ul>	For: N/A  Date: N/A
Colleen O'Boyle	Joint winner of the Higher-Level Apprentice Award  Northern Ireland Apprentice Awards.	Cllr Kerr Cllr Doris Cllr Oneill Cllr McAleer Cllr Molloy Cllr Mallaghan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Won first place at a competition level in their relevant field</li> </ul>	For: N/A  Date: N/A
Daniel Kerr	Gaelic Life Club All Stars  Half Back Gaelic All Star	Cllr Kerr Cllr Monteith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attained an outstanding achievement at a Northern Ireland or provincial level</li> </ul>	Received a letter in Dec 2019 for Team Talk Tyrone Award
Conor Quinn	Gaelic Life Club All Stars  Young Player of the Year Award	Cllr Kerr Cllr Monteith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attained an outstanding achievement at a Northern Ireland or provincial level</li> </ul>	Received a letter in Dec 2019 for Team Talk Tyrone Award



Comfizone	Best Mattress Innovation Award  Irish Furniture and Homeware Show 2020	Cllr Doris Cllr Oneill Cllr McAleer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Won first place at a competition level in their relevant field</li> </ul>	For: N/A  Date: N/A
Yvonne Donnelly Order of Malta, Coalisland	Volunteer of the Year  Order of Malta Ireland	Cllr Doris Cllr Oneill Cllr McAleer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attained an outstanding achievement at a Northern Ireland or provincial level</li> </ul>	For: N/A  Date: N/A

#### Other: Letter from Council Chair

Where it is deemed that conditions/criteria have not been met for a civic reception, civic award or chair & deputy chair reception a letter from the Council Chair is recommended. This may also be in instances where recipients have previously received a reception or award for the same or similar achievement.

Proposed Recipient	Achievement	Submitted by
Bernie Stokes	Won Ulster Open Champion at Boy 4 Category 48Kg	Cllr Kerr  Received Civic award 26 April 2018 IABA 35 kg Boy 2
Coagh Primary School	Best Principal in County Tyrone  Families First Education Awards	Cllr Glasgow Cllr Colvin
Oisin McGee	GAA Liverpool John Moore's University  Team member who won the <b>Corn na Mac Léinn</b> Cup Final 2020	Cllr Dan Kerr

Caellagh Rafferty	Transfer Test success finishing in the top 99 percentile across the whole of the North, making her one of the top performing students	Cllr Quinn
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- **Request to Host Launch of County Tyrone Super Cup**

**From** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 26 January 2020 17:45  
**To:** [chair@midulstercouncil.org](mailto:chair@midulstercouncil.org)  
**Subject:** Tyrone super cup

Dear Chair,

We at County Tyrone Super Cup football Association would like to ask your council to host our annual Super Cup Launch this incoming year. We normally hold the launch around July time.

Each year we ask a different council to host this event. In 2018 fermanagh/omagh hosted this for us and 2019 was Derry/Strabane.

This year the dates we have in mind are Tuesday 21st or Thursday 23rd July and either a Cookstown or Dungannon is fine with us.

We would have approximately 90 people attending. Parents, players plus our managers coaches and committee all attend this event.

It would be appreciated if there could be a buffet supplied for this also.

Can you let me know if this is something you would be happy to do for County Tyrone.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Secretary



<b>Report on</b>	Mid South West Region Growth Deal Report
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	27 February 2020
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Anthony Tohill, Chief Executive Adrian McCreesh, Director of Business & Communities

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To approve the 'final draft' Regional Economic Strategy for the Mid South West as endorsed by the Governance Steering Group and to provide an update on the forward work plan.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	<p>The Regional Economic Strategy (RES) for the Mid-South West (MSW) region sets out our vision and ambition for the region and will underpin the case for the Growth Deal funding for the MSW announced by the UK Government in October 2018 and referenced in the '<i>New Decade, New Approach</i>' Deal published in January 2020 by identifying the projects/ interventions most suited to maximising the potential of the Growth Deal funding. In developing the RES and in other work to date, we (i.e. the three Councils that make up MSW – Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon; Fermanagh and Omagh; and Mid Ulster) have led an extensive engagement process across the region.</p> <p><u>Political and Professional Leadership in City/Growth Deals</u></p> <p>In providing political and professional support to the MSW Region, both in the context of the development of a Regional Economic Strategy (RES) and the pursuance of a growth deal for the region, Professor Gordon Matheson, CBE facilitated separate engagements with the respective Councils on 14 and 15 January 2020. The engagements afforded Members the opportunity to find out more about the nature, challenges and benefits of a growth deal in a devolved context.</p> <p>The House of Commons Briefing Paper Number 7158 dated 31 October 2018 provides information on over 31 deals negotiated across England, Scotland and Wales. The Paper can be viewed and or downloaded from <a href="https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN07158/SN07158.pdf">https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN07158/SN07158.pdf</a></p>

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
<b>3.1</b>	<p><b><u>Mid South West Regional Economic Strategy (RES)</u></b></p> <p>Informed by extensive stakeholder consultation and engagement, the ‘final draft’ Regional Economic Strategy for the Mid South West is attached at Appendix 1. Since the update presented to the Committee in November 2019, Oxford Economics (OE) and Morrow Gilchrist Associates (MGA) have facilitated two further engagements with the Governance Steering Group. The first of these engagements on 19 November 2019 was to present the emerging intervention pillars and project areas and the second on 21 January 2020 was to present the draft RES.</p> <p>Having duly considered the draft RES, the Governance Steering Group (consisting of four Party representatives from each of the three Councils) is recommending its approval through the respective Councils. In doing so, the Governance Steering Group has confirmed its support for the vision and ambition of the RES, that is, to ‘supercharge’ the growth of our collective economy and ensure inclusive prosperity for the Mid South West. Four intervention areas or pillars have been identified as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ‘Future Proofing’ the Skills Base</li> <li>• Enabling Infrastructure</li> <li>• Boosting Innovation and Digital Activity</li> <li>• Building a high-performing visitor/tourist economy</li> </ul> <p>The intervention areas or pillars are geared to delivering exponential / long-term benefits including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protecting MSW’s unique sectoral advantages</li> <li>• Increasing productivity levels (closing the productivity ‘gap’)</li> <li>• Driving business growth</li> <li>• Fully realising sectoral strengths and opportunities</li> <li>• Creating more, better paid jobs</li> <li>• Addressing the economic infrastructure deficit</li> <li>• Rebalancing the regional economy</li> <li>• Ongoing internationalisation of MSW (and better internal NI profiling of contribution to NI economy)</li> </ul> <p>The ‘final draft’ RES has been welcomed and endorsed by the Business Reference Group who met for a second time on 5 February 2020. The RES articulates the economic contribution that the MSW Region makes to the local economy and accounts for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £7.7bn of GVA corresponding to one fifth of NI’s economy</li> <li>• 214,000 workplace-based jobs 90% of which are taken by residents</li> <li>• 39% of NI’s manufacturing employment and 23% of its manufacturing GVA</li> <li>• 37% of NI businesses manufacturing machinery and equipment</li> <li>• 31% of all NI’s agri-food businesses</li> <li>• 70% more employment in advanced manufacturing compared to the UK</li> </ul>

	<p>A visual briefing on the content of the RES will be provided at the meeting.</p> <p><b><u>Forward Work Plan</u></b></p> <p><b><u>The Profile of the Growth Deal Investment</u></b>  Growth deal funding is capital and at present, the UK Government's investment is focused on 'innovation and digital'. The RES confirms that the two most significant challenges facing the Mid South West region are skills and infrastructure. In order to address these challenges and meet industry needs, the deficit in physical infrastructure as the result of decades of underinvestment must be addressed. Therefore, structure and flexibility will be required with regards the profile of the UK Government's investment in a growth deal for the Mid South West.</p> <p>Over the coming months, Senior Officers will be engaging with Senior Civil Servants from the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government, the Northern Ireland Office and the relevant Government Departments in relation to the structure and flexibility required.</p> <p><b><u>MP and MLA Information and Engagement Event</u></b>  Planning is underway for an Information and Engagement Event with MPs and MLAs on 28 February 2020. The Governance Steering Group Members will represent the respective Councils at this event.</p> <p><b><u>Strategy Launch Event</u></b>  Subject to approval of the RES by the respective Councils in February 2020, planning is underway for a formal launch event on 27 March 2020. Councils will be represented at this event by the Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor, Chairs and Vice/Deputy Chairs, the Chairs of the relevant Council Committees and the Governance Steering Group.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	Financial: Financial contributions from the three respective Councils have been allocated to develop the growth deal proposition.
	Human: Officer Time
	Risk Management:
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications:

	<p>The RES has been equality screened and it has been screened out. The Equality Impact Assessment is attached at Appendix 2.</p>
	<p>Rural Needs Implications:</p> <p>The Rural Needs Impact Assessment is attached at Appendix 3.</p>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	<p>It is recommended that Members:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Approve the 'final draft' Regional Economic Strategy for the Mid South West as endorsed by the Governance Steering Group.</li> <li>2. Endorse ongoing engagement with central government in Whitehall and Stormont regarding the structure and flexibility required in relation to the profile of the UK Government's investment in a growth deal for the Mid South West Region.</li> </ol>
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
	<p>Appendix 1 - 'Final draft' Mid South West Regional Economic Strategy</p> <p>Appendix 2 - Equality Impact Assessment</p> <p>Appendix 3 - Rural Needs Impact Assessment</p>





**MSW**  
Mid South West  
Economic Engine

# **REGIONAL ECONOMIC STRATEGY**

*Drafting note: in this version it was necessary to compress pictures to make the file size suitable for distribution. Consequently, the resolution on some of the pictures/ maps is less clear than will be the case for future iterations of the document.*

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

This is a Regional Economic Strategy (RES) for the Mid-South West (MSW) region. It sets out the 'direction of travel' to date in relation to our vision and ambition for the region; it identifies the opportunities and challenges we face; and sets out the priority 'pillars' around which future investment and actions to realise our ambitions should be framed. Furthermore, it provides an early, high level indication of potential specific projects/interventions that may sit under each of these 'pillars' - which will be the subject to ongoing development during the completion of the RES.

The RES will underpin the case for the Growth Deal funding for the MSW announced by the UK Government in October 2018<sup>1</sup> and referenced in the '*New Decade, New Approach*' Deal published in January 2020 by identifying the projects/ interventions most suited to maximising the potential of the Growth Deal funding. Importantly, our ambition to 'supercharge' the growth of our collective economy and ensure inclusive prosperity in MSW extends beyond the Growth Deal funding. Accordingly, a core assumption is that other resources/ funding sources and policy changes will come into effect to underpin the full realisation of the RES.

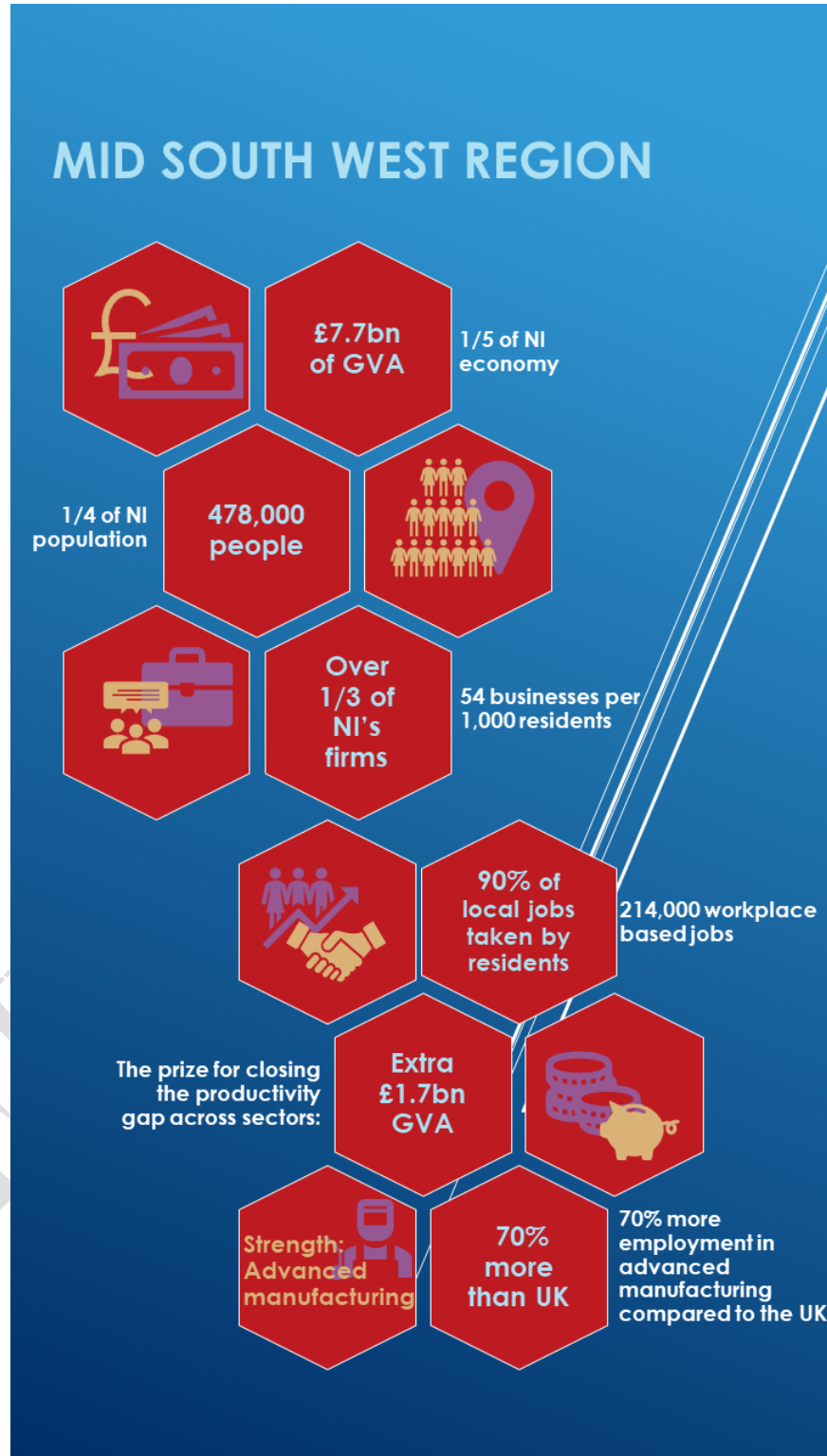
In developing the RES and in other work to date, we (i.e. the three Councils that make up MSW – Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon; Fermanagh and Omagh; and Mid Ulster) have led an extensive engagement process across the region. In effect this RES has been extensively shaped and directed by the industry/ business base within MSW, aligned to the fact that it is their commitment, drive and ambition that have contributed to the growth and success of our region to date and will be instrumental to realising our future potential. Recognising the distinctiveness of MSW as a private-sector led economy, we prioritised engagement with our largest businesses and membership bodies to understand the opportunities and challenges facing them and the interventions needed to unlock further growth in GVA and productivity for our region. In addition, we have consulted with elected officials, Government departments/ agencies, Invest NI, Skills Bodies, Higher and Further Education Institutions, and Universities to ensure buy in and input from key stakeholders across MSW and Northern Ireland.

All of our engagements have been informed through articulation of the 'evidence-base' of the current economy of MSW, future projections for the same and an assessment of 'what works' elsewhere in other regional economies (including via other City/ Growth deals) to tackle similar opportunities and challenges as those presenting in MSW. This evidence-base was compiled through an extensive analysis of socio-economic data and forecasts for MSW and a thorough review of existing strategies and interventions across the UK. Finally, an important consideration in developing the RES is the position of the three constituent local authorities in the MSW region along the Ireland/Northern Ireland Border Corridor - which presents opportunities, risks and issues to consider, particularly in a post-Brexit era.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/growth-deal-funding-announcement-for-mid-south-west-region/>

## 2. OUR REGION - THE 'ECONOMIC ENGINE' OF THE NI ECONOMY



## 2.1 WE CONTRIBUTE AROUND ONE FIFTH (£7.7BN) OF NI'S ENTIRE GVA...

Our region consists of three District Council areas that make up almost half of Northern Ireland's (NI) land mass and which all border the Republic of Ireland.<sup>2</sup> One quarter of NI's population live in MSW (478,000 people), and in 2018 the 214,000 workplace-based jobs generated an estimated £7.7bn of GVA<sup>3</sup> - corresponding to one fifth of NI's economy. The MSW region is also a functional economic geography with 90% of local jobs taken by residents.<sup>4</sup>

Our region is a highly entrepreneurial, private sector led economy. Over one third of the 75,000 NI firms are based in MSW, meaning there are 54 businesses in MSW per 1,000 residents—significantly higher than the NI average (40 businesses). The three District Council areas that make up our region rank 1, 2 and 3 amongst the 10 Council areas in NI for early-stage entrepreneurial activity (TEA)<sup>5</sup>. This converts into a <sup>6</sup>business birth rate for MSW above the NI average (4 versus 3.6 respectively). Furthermore, business survival rates in MSW also outperform the NI average.



MSW is home to many world leading export businesses and as such is a globalised, outward and forward-looking region. This is evidenced by the fact that our businesses accounted for 22.6% of turnover in NI in 2018, 27% of NI exports and 31.1% of NI external sales. Further evidence of our outward and forward-looking ethos is the fact that our businesses have historically been very successful in attracting new labour and skills to our region.

This critical mass of economic activity has been achieved in spite of a deficit of investment in enabling infrastructure in MSW, demonstrating the resilience and determination of indigenous businesses in the region to succeed. Facilitating transport, promoting communication, providing access to land, energy and water are the bedrock of prosperity and well-being in any competitive economy. There are evident gaps in the MSW region in several aspects of this basic economic infrastructure, which if addressed could catalyse significant GVA and productivity growth.

<sup>2</sup> Consisting of the District Council Areas of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon, Fermanagh and Omagh and Mid Ulster.

<sup>3</sup> (in 2016 prices),

<sup>4</sup> Ulster University Economic Policy Centre (UUEPC), "Mid, South & West Region of Northern Ireland: Economic Geography Baselines and Outlook", January 2019

<sup>5</sup> Total Early-stage Entrepreneurial Activity (TEA) represents the percentage of the population aged 18-64 who are either nascent (in process of starting a business) or new entrepreneurs (running a business not older than 42 months)

<sup>6</sup> Business starts per 1,000 residents

As previously noted the positioning of the MSW region along the Ireland/Northern Ireland Border Corridor is a key attribute. The Border Corridor is recognised as the sub-regional economic driver for NI within the Regional Development Strategy for NI. Our region (relative to the other City/ Growth Deal regions in NI) has the longest

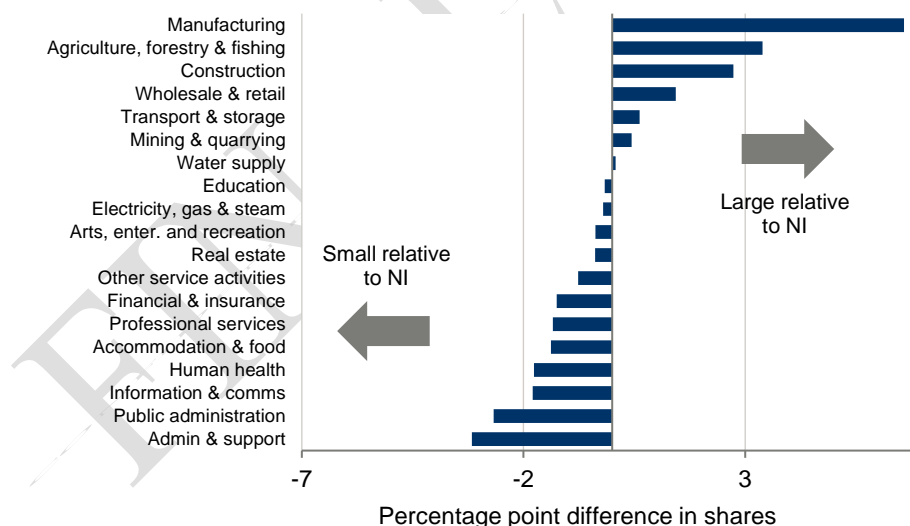


proportion of the Border Corridor – per adjacent schematic.<sup>7</sup> As a result there are significant existing cross-border co-dependencies in our region (e.g. in areas such as trade, movement of people/ labour, agri-food, tourism, shared services such as health and education, and inward investment and funding).

## 2.2 ...WITH STRENGTHS IN MANUFACTURING, ENGINEERING, AGRIFOOD, HEALTH & LIFE SCIENCES, TOURISM AND CONSTRUCTION...

Our region has significant strengths in manufacturing, engineering, agri-food, health & life sciences, tourism and construction (See Fig 2), and mature local supply chains in all of these sectors. A 2019 study by UUEPC<sup>8</sup> highlighted that our regions accounts for two fifths (39%) of NI's Manufacturing employment and a quarter (23%) of its manufacturing GVA. It also noted that MSW accounted for 37% of NI businesses manufacturing Machinery & Equipment and a third (31%) of all NI's agri-food firms.

**Fig. 2. Sectoral employment in MSW relative to NI, 2018**



Source: Oxford Economics

<sup>7</sup> Sourced from Report: Brexit and the Border Corridor on the Island of Ireland: Risks, Opportunities and Issues to Consider, October 2017 authored by Dr Eoin Magennis, Andrew Park and Laura Heery and co-ordinated via East Border Region

<sup>8</sup> Ulster University Economic Policy Centre, "Mid, South & West Region of Northern Ireland: Economic Geography Baseline and Outlook", January 2019.

It is no surprise therefore that we have specialisms in the manufacturing of machinery and equipment and in the manufacturing of food products. For example, employment in the manufacture of machinery for mining, quarrying and construction sector is almost four times the size of the NI average. Indeed, three of six four-digit SIC<sup>9</sup> sectors employing over 500 employees and with the highest Location Quotients (LQs)<sup>10</sup> are in the manufacturing of machinery and equipment sector.

Our agri-food sector in MSW employs nearly 11,500 people. Within it, the processing and preserving of poultry meat sub-sector and the processing and preserving of meat sub-sector employ nearly 3,700 people (3.3 larger than the NI average) and over 2,000 people (2.4 times the NI average) respectively.

Our regional specialisms are even more pronounced when compared to UK. For example, employment in manufacturing of machinery for mining, quarrying and construction in MSW is over 22 times the UK average.

In addition, our region is a global leader in the niche market of the manufacture of tracked mobile stone crushing and gravel screening equipment. Around half<sup>11</sup> of the equipment in this market niche globally is manufactured in NI – indeed NI companies hold the top five positions in this niche market - with the capacity predominantly located in MSW.

In more recent years our region has started to experience the growth of emerging sectors. For instance, a recent study<sup>12</sup> within MSW indicated that in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council there is a particular strength in the Digital Tech sector – IT services, Computing and Advanced Electronics, Software and Communications. This report highlighted that the Digital GVA/ capita therein was 28% more than the NI average and Digital ICT wages 44% above the NI average.

**70%**

More employment in advanced manufacturing compared to the UK

*The manufacturing of basic pharmaceutical products is nearly three times larger than the NI average and 15 times the UK average.*

## 2.3 ... AND SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY IN ADVANCED MANUFACTURING...

Our region also boasts significant levels of advanced manufacturing activity, with 70% more employment in high and medium tech manufacturing than the UK average.<sup>13</sup> For example, employment in the manufacturing of basic pharmaceutical products is nearly three times larger than the NI average and 15 times the UK average.

In addition, 36% of employment in Invest NI supported businesses in MSW are classified as “Advanced engineering and manufacturing”<sup>14</sup>, while NISRA data shows that £121m was spent by our businesses on R&D in 2017 (one fifth of the NI total).

## 2.4 ...AND WE ALSO HAVE AN ECONOMY AT FULL EMPLOYMENT

Our economy is near or at full employment, with high levels of resident employment and relatively low levels of inactivity and unemployment. Broadly speaking, our region does not suffer from excessive

<sup>9</sup> Standard Industrial Classification

<sup>10</sup> Location Quotient (LQ) analysis compares the sectoral share of employment in one economy to the share in another (typically a larger region or nation). An LQ of 1 shows both economies have an identical share of employment in that sector. An LQ above 1 shows the smaller economy has a larger share of employment in that sector relative to the comparator economy. An LQ below 1 shows the smaller economy has a smaller share of total employment in that sector.

<sup>11</sup> Source: Invest NI

<sup>12</sup> Complementing, Advocating, Leading – Digital Strategy ABC Council January 2018.

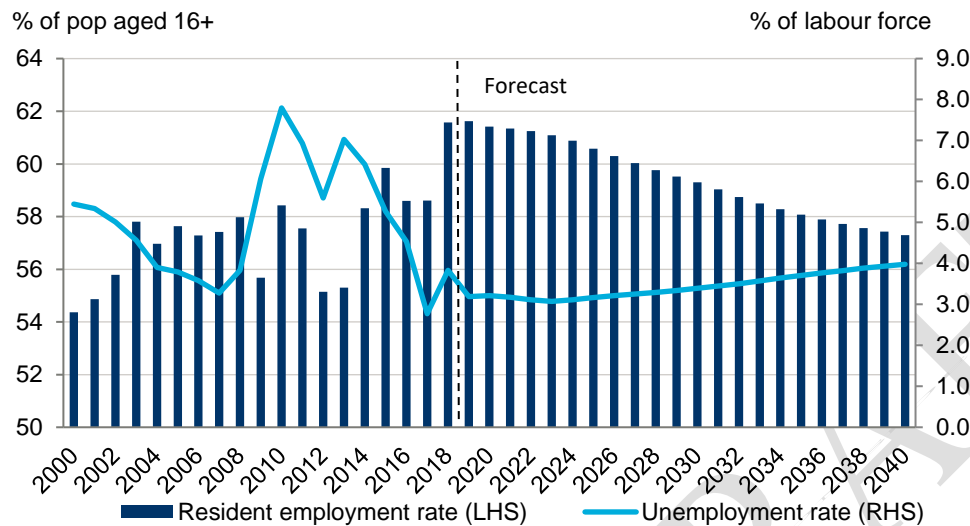
<sup>13</sup> We have used the OECD definition of high and medium tech manufacturing: [https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Glossary:High-tech\\_classification\\_of\\_manufacturing\\_industries](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Glossary:High-tech_classification_of_manufacturing_industries)

<sup>14</sup> Invest NI “Western Regional Briefing”, July 2019. The document also shows that a further 34% of employment in supported businesses were in agri-food, 20% in construction and 7% in life and health sciences.



concentrations of deprivation, albeit that there are 'deep pockets' of deprivation in some localities, which would be within the top 10 percent of most deprived Super Output Areas (SOAs) in NI.

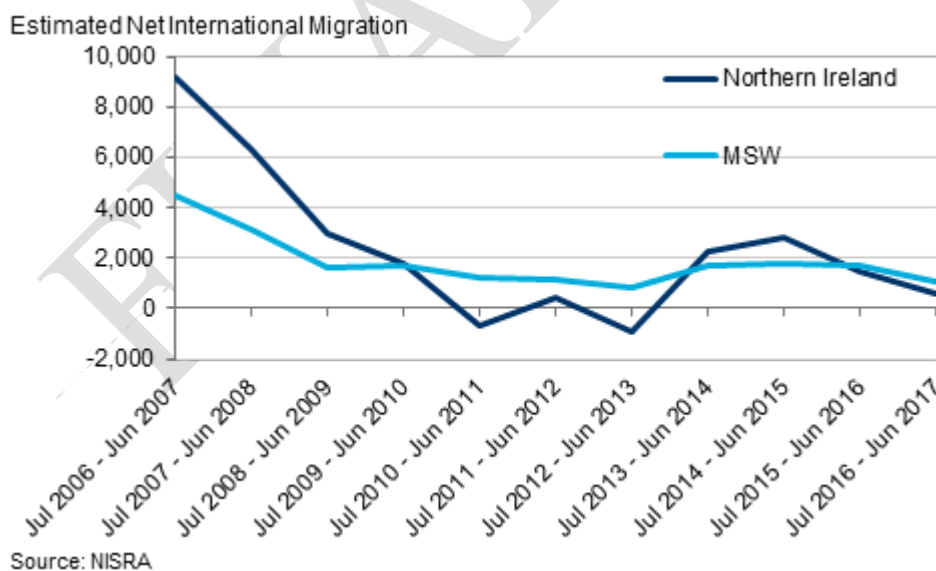
**Fig. 3. Resident employment and unemployment rates, MSW, 2000 to 2040**



Source: Oxford Economics

We also boast an above average share of residents aged under 16, which can support the future growth of our businesses and we have been very successful in attracting new labour to our economy. This has been supported by labour market opportunities, lower house prices and higher levels of housing affordability<sup>15</sup>, and relatively low levels of recorded crime.<sup>16</sup> Indeed our region has consistently enjoyed net inward migration, even when NI as a region was losing people (per Fig 4 below).

**Fig. 4. Estimated Net International Migration 2007-2017 – NI v MSW**



Source: NISRA

<sup>15</sup> The average house in MSW cost £123,900 in 2018, 7% less than the NI average of £133,000.

<sup>16</sup> In 2017/18 there were 39 crime recorded per 1,000 residents, significantly below the NI rate (52 crimes per 1,000) and that of the Belfast City region (59 crimes per 1,000).



## 3. ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN GROWING OUR 'ECONOMIC ENGINE'

### 3.1 INTRODUCTION

Whilst our region as the 'economic engine' of NI, is highly successful in many respects, and we have many evident strengths to build upon, it is vital to understand the nature and scale of some of the remaining issues and challenges that we face. Our ambition and forward proposition as set out in Section 4 of this RES has been framed by research and extensive engagement on the key issues set out below.

### 3.2 PRODUCTIVITY LEVELS

As the 'economic engine' of NI, and with our evidenced strengths in advanced manufacturing we are in a prime position to drive wealth creation, exports and innovation. However, we currently suffer from low levels of productivity. In 2017<sup>17</sup> MSW's productivity was an estimated £8,500 below the NI average. This was an issue across the economy with most 'broad' sectors (except for real estate and administrative & support activities) suffering from below average levels (see Appendix A). However, a number of manufacturing sub-sectors have consistently been strongly outperforming the NI average, including:

- The manufacture of basic metals;
- The manufacture of fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment;
- The manufacture of computer, electronic and optical products;
- The manufacture of electrical equipment;
- The manufacture of machinery and equipment;
- The manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers; and
- The manufacture of other transport equipment.

**£1.7bn**

The prize for closing the productivity gap across sectors

*The equivalent of an additional £7,900 of GVA per job in MSW and 4.3% uplift to the NI economy*

Addressing the productivity shortfall represents a massive opportunity for our region. Doing so would generate substantially more GVA and wealth for our businesses and our residents. For illustrative purposes, if our businesses had closed the 2017 productivity gap (where applicable) with the NI average, productivity would have been approximately £7,900 (22%) higher. This would, in 2017, have increased MSW's GVA by £1.7bn.

To put this in context NI's GVA was estimated to be nearly £39bn in 2017. Therefore, the increase in MSW's potential GVA contributions (by closing the sectoral productivity gaps, where appropriate) would have been the equivalent of a 4.3% uplift to the NI economy. In reality, the actual benefits to the NI economy would be higher again, as additional levels of GVA in MSW would have had additional supply chain and consumer spending impacts across the rest of the NI economy.

Linked to the above, the prevailing productivity gap feeds through to lower wage levels. In 2018 workplace-based wages in MSW were 6.2% below the NI average. Increasing productivity would enable our businesses to offer higher wage rates and subsequently attract greater numbers and higher skilled

<sup>17</sup> The latest year which has published data at the time of writing.

individuals to the MSW. It would also help make our businesses even more competitive, supporting future growth and making the MSW region an even more attractive place to live.

Our engagement with the largest businesses in MSW and business representative bodies all reinforce the massive opportunity in this regard, provided that enabling interventions are in place and actions taken to address barriers and constraints holding them back.

A case in point is the pace of technological progress and increased use of automation, which presents both opportunities and challenges for our businesses. For example, there are opportunities to replace lower skilled and lower paid tasks within our leading manufacturing companies with robotics or cobotic solutions. These minimise the need for labour and speed up the manufacturing process by automating mundane and repetitive processes, thus driving up productivity. There are also opportunities to use 3D printing to speed up supply chains or pilot new products. Furthermore, data analytics can support the movement of products, or how robots work simultaneously within factories. Some of our businesses are already aware of aspects of the above potential and the FE/HE sector is increasingly working to skill<sup>18</sup> up our local residents for this 'new world of work'. However, the expertise in this arena simply does not exist at the scale needed to drive material productivity improvements and our businesses can face barriers in terms of access to the mechanisms/ resources to test and try different approaches to automation to meet their specific needs. Whilst in the short-term greater adoption of technology and automation in manufacturing can be at the expense of lower paid jobs, it will over time create additional demand for higher skilled, higher paid roles in MSW - a key aspiration of our businesses and people.

Also, as set out previously and detailed further at Section 3.3 below, significant barriers exist to improving productivity in MSW because of gaps in several aspects of the basic economic infrastructure for a competitive economy. Facilitating transport, promoting communication, providing access to land, energy and water are the bedrock of prosperity and well-being in any competitive economy. With improved physical connectivity (to entry and exit points in NI and onto overseas markets) and enhanced digital connectivity with customers and suppliers from across the globe, our indigenous businesses in MSW will be in a much better position to realise significant gains in productivity and competitiveness. The potential that exists in this regard is strongly underlined by the fact that despite these constraints our businesses have demonstrated considerable resilience and determination to succeed. We are a highly entrepreneurial, private sector-led economy – the 'economic engine' of NI.

### **3.3 CONNECTIVITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

As home to a third of NI's businesses and amongst them, many world leading export businesses, the MSW needs the infrastructure to move products to market quickly and maintain efficient supply chains. A high-quality transport network is of paramount importance.

However, whilst MSW accounts for half of the land mass in NI the prevailing data from the Department for Infrastructure shows that motorway and A roads account for only 8% of our road network.

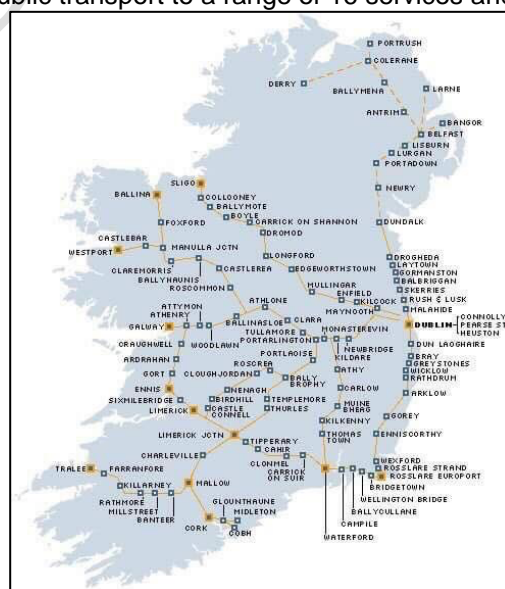
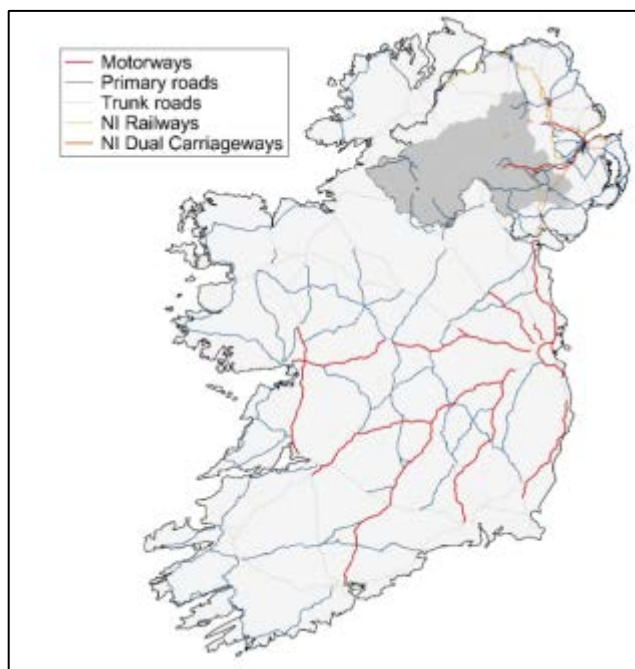
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<sup>18</sup> By way of example through the Higher-Level Apprenticeship/ Foundation Degree in Mechantronic Engineering offered by Southern Regional College and University of Ulster.

The adjacent map<sup>19</sup> provides a stark illustration of this. It shows the coverage of motorways and dual carriageways on the island of Ireland, with an evident gap in coverage out to the West. There is almost no dual carriageway in the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council area - (600 metres only<sup>20</sup>).

Dungannon and Cookstown have no bypass networks and as a consequence these major towns in our region and the road networks that surround them are regularly choked. These towns have been waiting for around 30 years for bypass networks. There is a similar need for bypass networks in Armagh and Enniskillen, through the East-West Link Road in Armagh and the Southern Relief Road in Enniskillen. All of the above schemes exist in concept and are at various stages of development, to be expedited through this RES. Our engagements indicate that industry has been forced to operate with substandard road networks in MSW for a long period of time with consequent constraints on the efficiency of their operations and associated productivity.

Further evidence of the serious gaps in our basic infrastructure in MSW is the fact that data shows that a high proportion (40%) of MSW's SOAs are ranked amongst the most deprived in NI for access to services. This indicator covers travel time by private and public transport to a range of 16 services and the proportion of properties with slow broadband<sup>21</sup>. It reflects that, while the railway network on the island of Ireland provides important links to Belfast and Dublin, it only services the far east of MSW. Indeed, even within the east of MSW there is a gap in connectivity arising from the closure of the Portadown to Armagh rail link in 1957. The adjacent map of the rail network in Ireland shows that the west of our region has a very striking and major gap in accessibility to rail services relative to the rest of the island economy (and expands on the first map above which only includes the NI rail network). This major gap in accessibility to rail in the west is as a result of the reshaping of British Railways/ the 'Beeching Axe' in the 1960's. In GB there has been increasing focus on this issue via a Conservative Party pledge to establish a Beeching Reversal Fund to restore services to many of the towns cut off from the rail through these actions in the 1960s. Whilst the scale of investment needed to address the lack of access to rail into the west of our region would be well in excess of potential available Growth Deal funds announced in October 2019, it is important to reference our longer-term ambition to consider a range of effective sustainable transport solutions to restore some of the connectivity that this rail network previously provided for our region.



<sup>19</sup> Sourced from the The Detail Data.

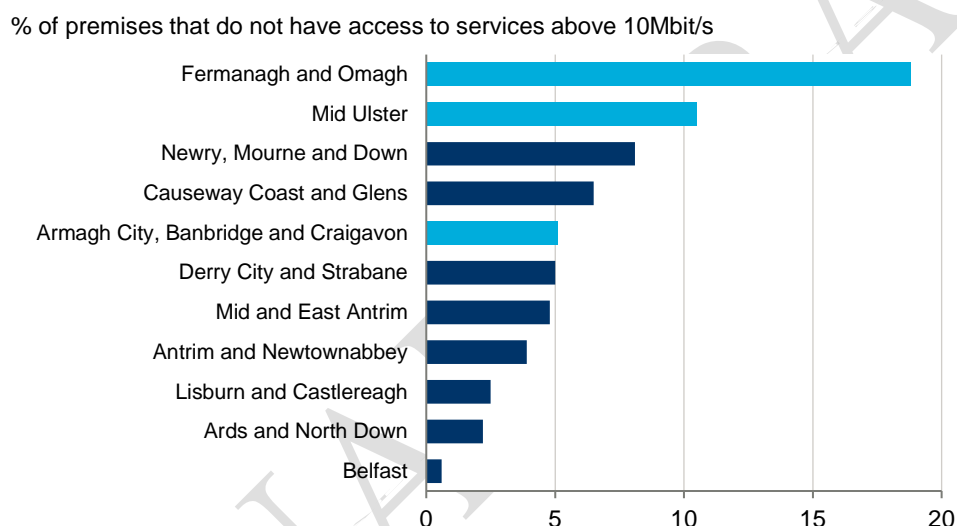
<sup>20</sup> Cherrymount Link Road outside Enniskillen town

<sup>21</sup> The 2017 rankings show that over 40% its SOAs are ranked among NI's 20% most deprived in relation to access to services.

This is unlikely to entail restoration of the rail network as was (for both practical/logistical and affordability reasons) but will examine what effective sustainable transport solutions (e.g. light rail) could potentially be put in place to restore some of the connectivity that previously existed in MSW.

The access to services deprivation referenced above also reflects the fact that much of MSW has relatively poor access to higher capacity broadband service availability (ultrafast and full fibre). As a result, a high proportion of premises do not have access to higher speed connections (Fig 5), which is particularly evident in Fermanagh and Omagh and Mid-Ulster. This is reflected in average download speeds—the three MSW local economies appear in 4 worst performing NI councils by this measure. Our engagements indicate that many of the largest businesses in MSW have had to invest in their own ‘connectivity’ workaround solutions (e.g. high-speed broadband via satellite) again indicating their resilience to constraints and determination to succeed in the face of gaps in the basic economic infrastructure for competitiveness - infrastructure that is more readily available in other parts of NI. Our engagements however indicate that these constraints in digital connectivity remain a barrier to increasing productivity amongst smaller firms/ the SME economy in MSW. The largely rural nature of much of MSW requires almost positive investment onus on service providers in this respect.

**Fig. 5. Percentage of premises that do not have access to broadband services above 10M.bit/s**



Source: Ofcom

In addition to constraints in relation to physical and digital connectivity, our businesses tell us there is an urgent need for access to industrial land to facilitate their expansion in MSW. Mid-Ulster presently has no industrial land available for development. Industrial estates in Banbridge, Granville, Dungannon and Cookstown are at full capacity with no room to expand. However, there is industrial land in public ownership in MSW that could be made available to our indigenous businesses to support their immediate growth plans. There is also a lack of high-quality innovation space for our people to test new ideas and work in emerging sectors (including Digital Tech) and collaborate in research and development. Yet collaboration and the sharing of ideas, is a key ingredient for a successful knowledge economy.

There are also major utility infrastructure deficits in relation to the prevailing wastewater network capacity and state electricity supply in MSW. The deficit in relation to wastewater network capacity is most pronounced in Mid-Ulster but arguably increasingly more prevalent in other parts of MSW. This is a major constraint on housing development (impacting on the ability to attract labour from elsewhere to MSW) and on the development of serviced industrial land, to enable our businesses to expand. In

addition, there is a need for research on a policy agenda change in respect of the regeneration of our towns and rural areas.

Finally turning to state electricity supply, whilst the Tyrone to Cavan Interconnector (also known as the North South Interconnector) is planned it is unlikely to be in place in the short-term. It is urgently required to ensure that there is sufficient access to electricity to meet supply needs in NI. As things stand it is anticipated<sup>22</sup> that the decommissioning of older electricity generating stations means that after 2021 demand will outstrip supply. As well as security of supply it should reduce the cost of electricity by allowing the transmission network to operate much more efficiently, playing a vital role in supporting economic growth and facilitating investment. It will also help facilitate the connection of more renewable energy to the grid – which is essential to achieve Government-led renewable energy targets and to increase energy independence. In the interim our businesses continue to be challenged by supply constraints and the costs of energy in our region and as such it is imperative that SONI/NIE have a positive commitment to invest in infrastructure west of the Bann.

Consequently, actions that we will take through the RES to improve our physical infrastructure and connectivity will have an immediate impact on our productivity and potential for growth, making the MSW a more attractive region to higher skilled individuals and for business investment.

### 3.4 LABOUR AND SKILLS

As set out in Section 1, 90% of local jobs in MSW are taken by our residents. However, our poor road network and shortfalls in accessibility to public transport (particularly by rail) can mean it is difficult for our people to access all of the employment opportunities in the region. A consistent message from our engagements is that journey times from one part of our region to the other are prohibitively long for many workers to consider changing their employment if career opportunities present themselves. In turn this has a negative impact on the ability to best match the skills of our population to the jobs available in MSW.

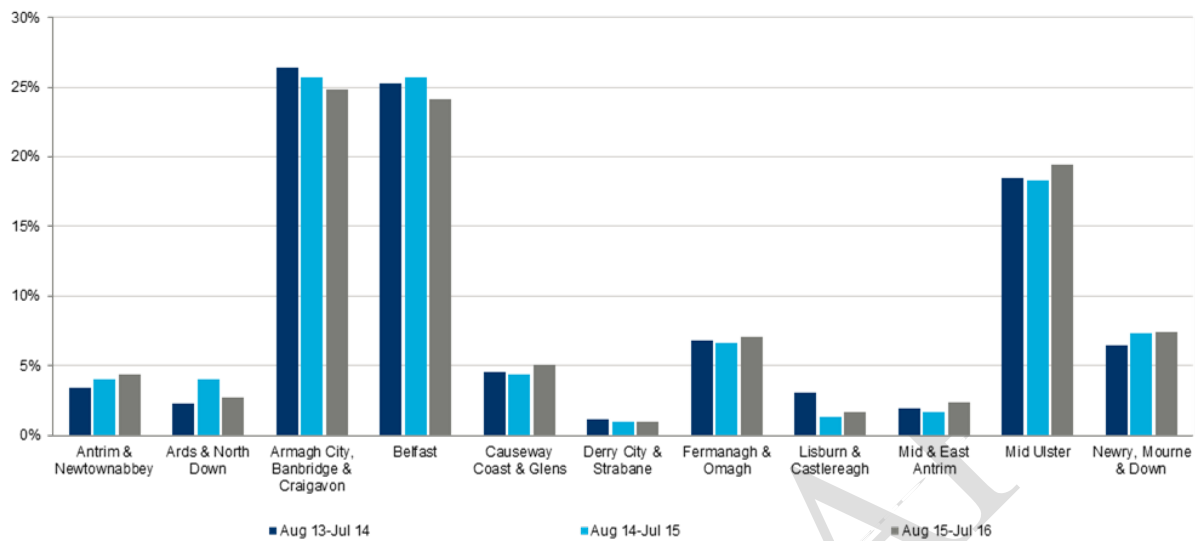
Our businesses have historically been very successful in attracting new labour to the region. As set out previously (Fig 4) our region has consistently enjoyed net inward migration, even when NI as a region was losing migrants. However, this has recently become more challenging as European labour markets have strengthened, Sterling has weakened and uncertainty has increased. Our ability to be able to continue to attract people from elsewhere is becoming increasingly important, given our tight labour market and ageing population. Government policy espoused to date on migration post Brexit, centred on a £30k salary threshold for all non-UK individuals working in the UK is likely to further exacerbate our labour and skills crisis in MSW. Our reliance in MSW on migrant labour as a core component of our 'economic engine' in recent years is well illustrated by Fig 6 overleaf, which charts the proportion of migrant workers by District Council areas in NI in rented housing. Outside Belfast the three MSW District Councils areas stand out, particularly ABC and Mid Ulster.

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<sup>22</sup> <http://www.soni.ltd.uk/the-grid/projects/tyrone-cavan/the-project/>

**Fig. 6. Migrant Worker Tenant Households**

Estimated number of Migrant Worker Current Tenant Households by Local Government District (August 2007 - July 2016)



Source: NISRA

Over the last decade (2008-18) the population in MSW increased by 0.87% each year on average — relative to 0.56% and 0.72% across NI and the UK respectively. However, Oxford Economics' forecasts indicate that this trend of MSW outperforming the NI and UK positions will not last. Indeed, the forecasts suggest that our region will experience only a modest increase in population to 2040 i.e. a population rise to 481,000, only 3,000 higher than today (a 0.6% increase). This is notably weaker than the NI (3.5%) and UK (7.3%) equivalents over the same period to 2040.

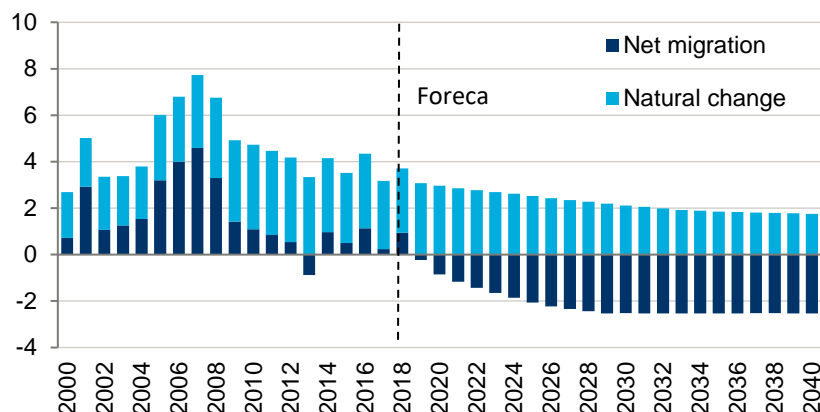
The weaker outlook for population growth articulated above is driven by changes to both net migration and natural change. While both factors have been positive contributors to overall population growth in MSW over recent years, they are expected to change over the forecast horizon. Most importantly Oxford Economics expect a weaker outlook for net migration than previously experienced. This in part reflects the Government's desire to reduce migration numbers substantially and the nature of what a post-Brexit migration policy may look like. The fall in migrant numbers is critical as this group tend to be of working age and a greater share find employment compared to average for NI.

Per Fig 7 below natural change (births minus deaths) will maintain positive overall population growth in the short term in MSW before weakening and eventually being overpowered by net out migration, thereby leading to a contraction in the population level in the longer-term outlook.



**Fig. 7. Components of population change, MSW, 2000 to 2040**

Components of population change (y/y, 000s)



Source: ONS, Oxford Economics

The above trends will result in MSW's working age population falling by 26,000 by 2040. The number of MSW residents aged between 16 and 64 is forecast to fall by 0.42% annually over the forecast horizon—a relatively stronger rate of decline than that expected across NI (0.35%).

**Fig. 8. Working age population change, MSW and comparators, 2008-2040**

	Total population		Working age (16-64s)	
	Change (000s)	22 year % y/y	Change (000s)	22 year % y/y
MSW region	3.0	0.03%	-26.2	-0.42%
NI	66.5	0.16%	-87.1	-0.35%

Source: ONS, Oxford Economics

Drawing on all of the above it is imperative that MSW is able to continue to attract workers from outside the region. This means creating higher paid jobs, improving the quality of our schools, investing in our entertainment and our hospitality offering. At present too many of our jobs in MSW offer minimum wage or below average salaries.

It also points to the need for lobbying in relation to a differentiated migration policy for MSW post Brexit, that keeps our economy open to all levels of international talent otherwise businesses in many of our world leading sectors could be at risk. Whilst of course recognising that the right controls are in place to manage immigration effectively. The rationale for some regional autonomy/ flexibility is based on the economic contribution of our region to NI GVA and the predominance of manufacturing employment within it (as set out previously in Fig 1). In 2017 21.8% of NI's manufacturing employment in 2017 was taken by non-UK workers, a statistic which increases in some sub-sectors of manufacturing in which MSW excels such as food manufacturing. Data from DAERA and the LFS in the same year shows that EU26 migrants accounted for 40% of employees in food manufacturing.

If MSW is to close the productivity gap and grasp the opportunities of increased automation, our economy will become increasingly 'skills hungry'. Therefore, it is also imperative that we reshape our education policy to provide the skills that our businesses need, and continue to upskill many of our residents. At present, the proportion of our labour force that have no qualifications (16.7% compared to

8% in the UK) is too high while the share that have not progressed to NVQ 4+ or above (31.6% compared to 38.4% in the UK) is too low.<sup>23</sup>

Importantly it is already recognised in our region that industry leadership is central to addressing prevailing labour and skills challenges. Initiatives such as Mid Ulster Skills Forum and ABC Local Works Forum have been established to bring a collaborative dynamic between local businesses, colleges/universities and industry sectoral bodies to address labour and skills challenges. Their 'blue-prints' for action recognise many of the prevailing challenges cited above and include a number of 'spade-ready' actions that can be scaled up/ expedited through this RES. These span actions to improve careers education, advice and guidance; actions to promote, inclusive and engaging workplaces to improve the image of priority MSW sectors; actions to develop leadership talent alongside technical and professional skills; and actions to increase the uptake and quality of modern apprenticeships (informed by actions in relation to apprenticeships implemented in other City/ Growth Deals across the UK).

These actions will need to be further developed and 'future-proofed' to enable a longer-term perspective on what the 'world of work' will look like in 10 years+ time, with associated skills implications – consistent with the OECD work underway via the Department for the Economy (DfE) in relation to the future skills needs of NI economy. Increasing application of Industry 4.0 innovation, use of data, and robotics/ cobotics in the workplace will over time increase the demand for higher-skilled roles in our businesses and help to increase wage levels/ attractiveness of employment therein.

### 3.5 LEVELS OF INNOVATION AND R&D

Despite our concentration of manufacturing businesses and above average concentration of activity in advanced manufacturing, we have a need to foster higher levels of innovation and R&D.

In 2017, business expenditure on R&D equalled £543 million in NI (71.4% of all R&D spend in NI).<sup>24</sup> MSW businesses accounted for £121 million or just over a fifth of the overall NI business total. As a result, MSW businesses spent on average just £4,900 on R&D in 2017—significantly lower than both the NI and Belfast city region averages (£7,600 and £10,100 respectively). Our challenge is to address this shortfall.

There are many opportunities to do so. Manufacturing businesses spent nearly £312m on R&D in NI in 2017 (57.5% of all BERD), and 57.3% of manufacturing R&D expenditure was made by engineering & allied industries, sectors of the economy where MSW excels. In addition, HMRC data for 2016-17 showed there were 215 successful claims for R&D tax relief by firms in Mid Ulster; the best performance of any NI Council area,<sup>25</sup> and at 3.49% of all enterprises in Mid Ulster, it was the highest of all UK counties.

Furthermore, our engagements provided much anecdotal evidence of product and process innovation in businesses, despite this not being reflected in formal R&D statistics for our region. There is a broad perception across the private sector that more could be done to encourage collaboration and knowledge sharing with respect to R&D/ innovation in our region.

As such, innovation and R&D activity needs to be formalised more within our businesses and designated as a strategic priority. Although our large base of small businesses will add to the scale of this innovation challenge, given demographic trends and the need to expedite productivity growth, higher levels of innovation and R&D spend are critical to the future performance of our economy.

<sup>23</sup> Data taken from the Annual Population Survey and refers to January to December 2017.

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/archive-publications-rd>

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/business/northern-ireland/mid-ulster-firms-at-top-of-innovation-table-say-hmrc-38069474.html>



### 3.6 SMALL BUSINESS GROWTH

Finally, despite being the 'economic engine' of NI and a highly entrepreneurial economy with favourable survival rates, there is evidence that too many of our indigenous businesses fail to grow. Over 86% of local businesses have less than 10 employees compared to 83.9% in NI. In addition, over a third of MSW businesses have a turnover of less than £50,000 compared to a quarter across NI.

All of the aforementioned remaining challenges in MSW – underinvestment in transport infrastructure; shortfalls in digital connectivity; the lack of incubator, office and light industrial facilities; as well as shortage of labour / skills in more recent years – are contributing factors to the fact that too many of our indigenous businesses fail to grow. In addition, our engagements indicate that there is a requirement for different leadership skills in smaller businesses, and the large share of family owned businesses in MSW could be barriers to growth. There were also suggestions that insufficient technology adoption was hindering productivity, competitiveness and business growth more generally in the SME economy.

Therefore, a key ambition within the RES will be to enhance the leadership skills of our existing business owners and workforce, as well as provide support to our businesses with technology adoption for growth and development. Given the scale of our small business base in MSW the potential for growth is enormous.

### 3.7 TOURISM PERFORMANCE

Our region has particular competitive advantages in terms the quality of our tourism product. The Loughs and Lakes of Lough Erne in Co Fermanagh are a superb recreational and tourism resource and strongly differentiates our region from other destinations in Ireland and Northern Ireland. The Sperrins are a defined Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (one of only eight in NI) and the cross-border Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark is designated by the Geopark Network and UNESCO.

Together with the landscape and mountains the tourism product in the western part of MSW is well defined in terms of attractions; rural heritage (forests, loughs and lakes, countryside, the Sperrins, the Geopark); outdoor activities; cruising; events and history and heritage. That said, there is further scope to position Omagh as more of a tourism destination in its own right, for instance through potential of the Ulster American Folk Park to be maximised as a hub of the 'genealogy/ connections' experience. Furthermore recent <sup>26</sup>research indicates that, despite its appeal, Tyrone & Sperrins is not recognised nor is it functioning optimally as a tourism destination/area in the eyes of the visitor.

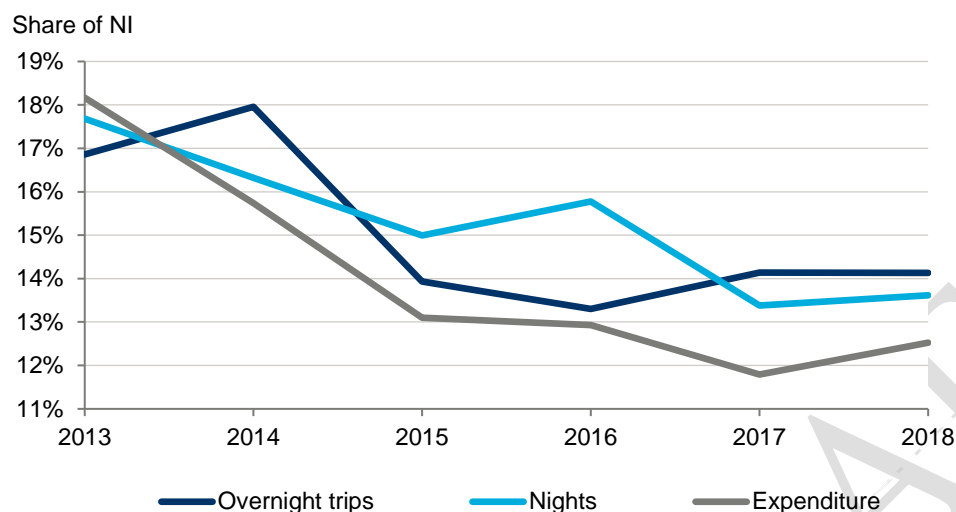
Further east in MSW is the distinctive charm of the majestic city of Armagh, a city that has a unique sense of place with a significance and influence felt across the island of Ireland for 6500 years and at the heart of celebrating the life of Saint Patrick. Visitor attractions include the historic Navan Fort, two Saint Patrick's Cathedrals, Georgian architecture and the Armagh Observatory and Planetarium. In addition to the latter in 2020 a new star gazing experience will also come to Mid Ulster, when a Dark Sky Observatory and Visitor Centre opens at Davagh Forest, near Cookstown.

The opportunity to further grow tourism in MSW, sits in the context of the strong growth in overall tourism activity in NI from 2013-2018. Between 2013 and 2018, overnight trips made in NI and the spend associated with these visits increased by 22% and 35% respectively. This growth however has largely been dominated by the NI tourism 'hotspots' of Titanic Belfast and the Causeway Coast. By contrast the performance of the tourism sector in MSW has lagged behind other parts of NI. Over the same five-year period, overnight trips to MSW are estimated to have increased by 2% and spend reportedly fell by 7%. As a result, the MSW region's share of NI overnight trips fell from 17% to 14% over this period (see Fig 9). Similarly, the MSW region's share of NI bed nights and total spend associated with these

<sup>26</sup> Tourism Development Strategy and Action Plan for Fermanagh and Omagh, 2016  
[<https://www.fermanaghomagh.com/app/uploads/2016/05/Tourism-Dev-Strategy-Action-Plan.pdf>]

trips fell. Furthermore, the average overnight trip to MSW is estimated to have resulted in a visitor spend of £168 in 2018, over 10% less than the NI average.

**Fig. 9. MSW share of tourism, 2013 to 2018**



Source: NISRA

All of the above indicates that despite the evident strengths of the tourism product in MSW, structural barriers to growth exist. Indeed, Tourism NI research confirms that the main barriers to Out of State tourism growth in MSW include the physical accessibility of the region, information and signposting and digital connectivity. Therefore, actions taken to address the deficits in our basic economic infrastructure in MSW will also help to expedite the growth of our tourism sector.

There is also evidence of under provision of hotel accommodation in MSW. In 2018, accommodation in MSW accounted for 11.3% of all rooms and 13.2% of all beds. However, our region only had 9.6% of all hotel rooms in NI and only 10.4% of hotel beds, compared to nearly one quarter of rooms and beds in Guesthouses and Guest accommodation. Furthermore, NISRA data from 2013 shows that our share of NI accommodation has been falling. Indeed, the number of hotel beds and hotel rooms was lower in 2018 in MSW than in 2013. Accordingly, we recognise the need to stimulate investment in tourist related infrastructure including supporting more hotel and accommodation provision, in key locations in MSW where are evident gaps – to underpin our future ambitions for the tourism sector.

The proximity of the west of our region to the Wild Atlantic Way, a tourism trail that straddles the west coast of Ireland from County Donegal's Inishowen Peninsula in to Kinsale, County Cork, on the Celtic Sea coast presents a key opportunity. Connecting our tourism product in the West to the discovery points and attractions along the Wild Atlantic Way will position us to benefit from and contribute to the out-of-state visitor market active on the trail. We will also promote longer term investments in cross-border assets such as the reopening of the Ulster Canal as a strategic tourism opportunity. The original route of the Ulster Canal, links the lowlands around Lough Neagh with the Erne Basin and the River Shannon system. The route traverses all three Council areas in MSW and is the 'backbone' of the historic inland waterway network in Ireland.

Our region will soon be home to the Game of Thrones Legacy project in Banbridge at the site of the Linen Mill Studios. This commitment by HBO and the world-renowned Game of Thrones brand to our region<sup>27</sup> with offers a fantastic opportunity to attract out-of-state visitors to MSW and to help rebalance the visitor economy in NI which, as noted above, in recent years has been dominated by Titanic Belfast and the Causeway Coast. A major tourist attraction such as this has significant potential for job creation and the local economies of MSW. The total investment in the project is expected to be around £23.7m and it is expected to employ up to 200 people and provide a



£400 million tourist spend boost for the NI economy by 2030.

### 3.8 ALIGNMENT WITH ECONOMIC POLICY IMPERATIVES

Our ambition within this RES sits within a wider policy landscape and aligns with the UK Industrial Strategy, the Northern Ireland Programme for Government Framework 2016 to 2021, and the Northern Ireland Economic Strategy – each of which is considered below. These have all been guiding reference frameworks as we have sought to consider and prioritise the issues and opportunities for the MSW in this RES.

The RES will contribute towards the UK Industrial Strategy 5 Foundations (per adjacent schematic) which are focussed on improving productivity. Indeed, the proposed four pillars/ intervention areas of the RES (set out in Section 4) are closely aligned with the UK Industrial Strategy five foundations above. The UK Industrial Strategy recognises that while the UK economy has significant strengths, “the UK has greater disparities in regional productivity than other European Countries,” and “many places are not fulfilling their full potential.” The UK Strategy therefore places a strong emphasis on the development of local industrial strategies that will be, “long term, based on clear evidence and aligned to the national industrial strategy”. This is entirely consistent with our ambition and approach to developing the RES for MSW.



A particular feature of the UK Industrial Strategy is the establishment of four ‘grand challenges’ to put the UK at the forefront of the industries of the future. These are:

- AI & Data Economy- putting the UK at the forefront of the artificial intelligence and data revolution;
- Clean Growth- maximising the advantages for UK industry from the global shift to clean growth;
- Future of Mobility- becoming a world leader in the way people, goods and services move; and

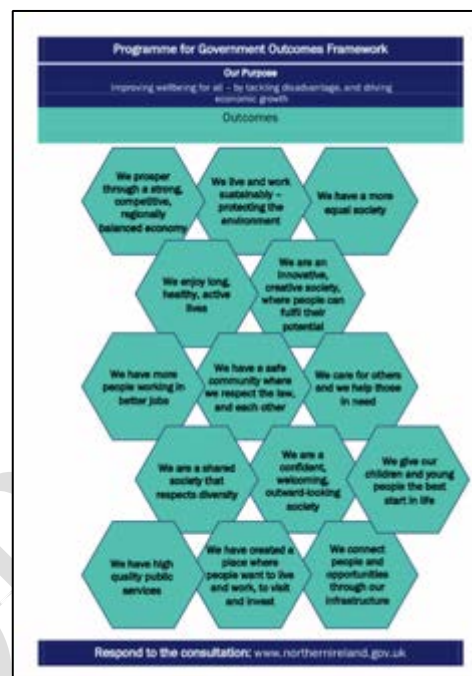
<sup>27</sup> In conjunction with John Hogg and Company owners of the Linen Mill Studios

- Ageing Society- harnessing the power of innovation to help meet the needs of an ageing society.

Our region already has world class companies working in all of the above areas and as such there is an opportunity to build on these strengths, by supporting companies to innovate and grow by removing the prevailing barriers to growth.

The overall aim of the draft Programme for Government (PfG) Framework is, *“Improving wellbeing for all – by tackling disadvantage, and driving economic growth”*. Our RES will contribute to a wide range of PfG outcome areas including but not limited to:

- We are an innovative, creative society, where people can fulfil their potential;
- We connect people and opportunities through our infrastructure;
- We prosper through a strong, competitive, regionally balanced economy;
- We have created a place where people want to live and work, to visit and invest;
- We have more people working in better jobs; and
- We have a more equal society.



The aim of the Draft Industrial Strategy for Northern Ireland Economy 2030 is to improve the competitiveness of the NI economy. It outlines priority pillars of:

- Accelerating Innovation and Research;
- Enhancing Education, Skills and Employability;
- Driving Inclusive, Sustainable Growth;
- Succeeding in Global Markets; and
- Building the best Economic Infrastructure.

It recognises the key sectors of the economy where Northern Ireland has world class capabilities as the following:

- Financial, business and professional services;
- Digital and creative technologies;
- Advanced manufacturing, materials and engineering;
- Life and Health Sciences;
- Agri-food; and
- Construction and materials handling.

Our region already excels at the NI level in the last four of the above sectors and has a strong presence that can be further developed in the others. Accordingly, the targeted actions and investments to expedite gains in GVA and productivity in all of the above sectors that we will prioritise through the RES (introduced in Section 4) will make a major contribution to delivering on the aims of the draft Industrial Strategy and contribute to improving the overall competitiveness of Northern Ireland.

Finally, our ambition is also consistent with the economic imperatives of the '*New Decade, New Approach*' Deal published on January 10<sup>th</sup> 2020 to underpin the restoration of the NI Executive. The text box below sets out some of the relevant economic priorities in the Deal that are wholly aligned to our ambition and many of the areas for intervention/ project concepts set out in Section 4.

Examples of Economic Priorities - '*New Decade, New Approach*' Deal (January 2020)

- Investing for the future to ensure Northern Ireland is equipped to harness opportunities and drive sustainable productivity, including opportunities for future trade as we leave the EU.
- A top priority of the Executive will be to develop a regionally-balanced economy with opportunities for all.
- Investing strategically in ensuring that NI has the right mix of skills for a thriving economy.
- Driving the delivery of essential infrastructure projects to boost the economy ....in order to build a Northern Ireland that is equipped for a prosperous shared future.
- Investing urgently in wastewater infrastructure which is at or nearing capacity in many places across Northern Ireland, including in Belfast, limiting growth.
- In support of both economic and educational objectives, the Executive will develop an enhanced approach to careers advice, curriculum, training and apprenticeships to enhance employability and support economic growth.

The Deal also commits to make it a priority to realise the economic potential offered by the City/Growth Deals in NI, which will be one component of the resources to deliver our RES ambitions. It states that "the Executive will work with the UK Government to develop and deliver the Growth Deals for Mid South West and Causeway Coast and Glens".

## 4. OUR AMBITION: THE OUTLINE PROPOSITION

### 4.1 TO RAISE PRODUCTIVITY AND PROVIDE BETTER JOBS

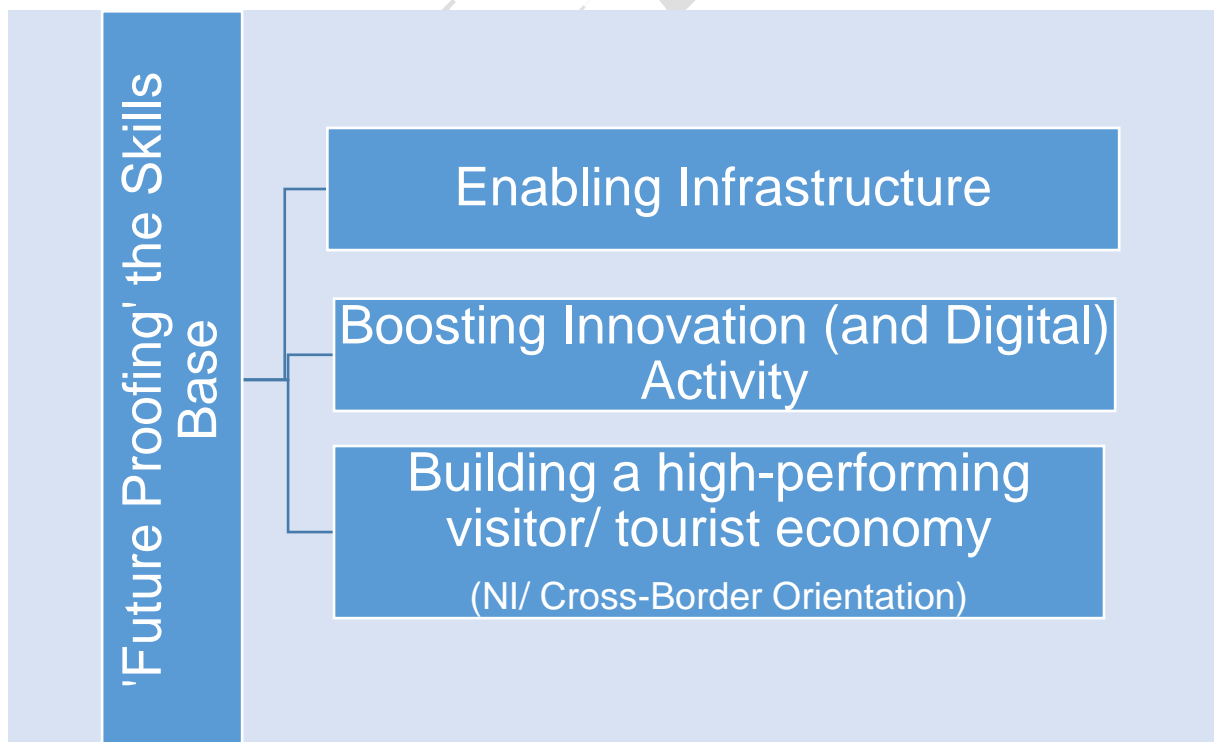
Our headline ambition within the RES will be to raise productivity levels and in so doing create better paid jobs for our residents and close the productivity gap between MSW and the rest of NI. Closing sectoral productivity gaps in MSW has the potential to be equivalent to a 4.3% uplift of the NI economy. In reality, the actual benefits to the NI economy would be higher again, as additional levels of GVA in MSW would have had additional supply chain and consumer spending impacts across the rest of the NI economy.

To achieve this headline ambition, we will prioritise a range of projects and actions across four interconnected intervention themes outlined in Figure 10 below to 'supercharge' the growth of our collective economy and ensure inclusive prosperity for MSW. The exponential growth of our dynamic private-sector led economy that results from these interventions will cement the reputation of MSW as the 'economic engine' for NI and a region that is world renowned for business excellence.

### 4.2 FOUR INTERVENTION AREAS

The development of our RES is structured around four main intervention areas / 'pillars' that will interplay and reinforce each other (Fig 10 below).

**Fig. 10. Four intervention areas**



These 'pillars' are geared to delivering exponential / long term benefits including:

- Increasing productivity levels (closing the productivity 'gap')



- Driving business growth;
- Protecting MSW's unique sectoral advantages (as a minimum) and thereafter fully realising sectoral opportunities;
- Creating more, better paid jobs; and
- Ongoing internationalisation of MSW (and better internal NI profiling).

Through our engagements with the business community of MSW and senior stakeholders a range of project areas / concepts were generated for consideration and further development. It is important to note that the feasibility and affordability of each is not yet tested, therefore what is included in Sections 4.3-4.6 as examples under each of the intervention areas may be subject to change. The next stage of development work on these project ideas/ concepts will also help to refine the economic targets for each - which aggregated together will quantify the scale of our collective vision (e.g. GVA/productivity /job growth etc) for the MSW region as a whole.

It is important to reiterate that our ambition must be framed in the commitment of a Programme for Government (2016-21) outcome of seeking to '*prosper through a strong, competitive and regionally-balanced economy*' referenced previously in Section 3. Furthermore, the '*New Decade, New Approach*' Deal published on January 10<sup>th</sup> 2020 to underpin the restoration of the NI Executive highlights that a '*top priority of the Executive will be to develop a regionally-balanced economy with opportunities for all*'.

Our region thus far has not sufficiently experienced the benefits of policy to 'regionally-balance' the NI economy. As noted in Section 1, our success as the 'economic engine' of the NI economy, has been achieved in spite of a deficit of investment in enabling infrastructure in MSW, demonstrating the resilience and determination of our indigenous businesses to succeed. Accordingly, as a region where FDI has not played a major role to date, we need to ensure, looking ahead, that our indigenous business champions receive sectoral support and focus through the actions of this RES to further grow nationally and internationally.

Furthermore, significant cross-border dependencies exist in our region (having the largest proportion of the Border Corridor relative to the other City/Growth deal regions in NI). Evidence from successive reports and studies<sup>28</sup> all highlight that the impact of Brexit will fall disproportionately on the Border Region and within that on a number of sectors such as indigenous SMEs which are predominant along the Border Corridor.

We have aimed in this RES to ensure that our four main intervention areas/ 'pillars' included in Figure 10 above will drive forward growth and, as such, have the potential to provide a targeted, 'action-learning' response to the challenges of Brexit. That said significant uncertainties and risks remain and a poorly managed Brexit could mean that our economic outcomes may fall behind. Therefore, our interventions in the RES must work in tandem with efforts by the British and Irish Governments to drive economic activity in the Border Corridor and ensure that businesses have additional support in mitigating the impact of Brexit. A key example of which is the <sup>29</sup>economic stimulus package recently announced by the Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation in Ireland for the Southern Border counties i.e. Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Cavan, Monaghan and Louth profiled below.

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<sup>28</sup> Brexit and the Border Corridor on the Island of Ireland: Risks, Opportunities and Issues to Consider, October 2017 authored by Dr Eoin Magennis, Andrew Park and Laura Heery and co-ordinated via East Border Region

<sup>29</sup> <https://dbei.gov.ie/en/News-And-Events/Department-News/2020/January/03012020a.html>

**Border Economic Stimulus Package - (Department for Business, Enterprise and Innovation in Ireland - announced January 2020)**

- €3 million for the six Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) in the border counties for capability development programmes for micro and small firms with ambition;
- An €8.5 million Brexit Transformation Fund to enable firms to transform their businesses and diversify markets;
- €1.5 million for Industry Fellowships targeted at businesses located in Border counties, administered by Science Foundation Ireland (SFI); and
- A €15 million competitive Border Enterprise Development Fund, administered by Enterprise Ireland (EI).
- To help stakeholders investigate the viability of potential projects and prepare final submissions for consideration for the €15m Border Enterprise Development Fund, Competitive Feasibility Funding is also available. This will be a grant of €15,000 or 50% of eligible costs, whichever is lesser, available to eligible applicants.
- The Minister also announced that as part of the next phase of the IDA's Regional Property Programme, three new Advanced Technology Buildings will be built in Dundalk, Monaghan and Sligo in 2020. These buildings will be critical as the IDA seek to attract more Foreign Direct Investment to the Border region.

Our counterparts in the North-West in their <sup>30</sup>City Deal proposition document in recognising that the existence of international border post-Brexit raised many issues about the delivery and impact of their Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan highlighted the need for a NW Enterprise Zone focused on the innovation sectors within their bid proposal and to mitigate the challenges and exploit the opportunities arising from Brexit. We are fully supportive of this thinking and would contend that the entire Border Corridor (of which the MSW region is the majority part in NI) should have the status of a special development/ enterprise zone. This would ensure that bespoke, targeted initiatives will be in place to deliver maximum impact for the Border region as a whole via effectively adapting to the challenges and opportunities that the UK's exit from the EU will bring.

Reflecting on all of the above we reiterate that our ambition must sit within a regional approach to economic growth - rebalancing across NI - and an approach that also recognises the particular considerations that our positioning on the Border Corridor brings.

### 4.3 'FUTURE PROOFING' THE SKILLS BASE

Future proofing the skills base in MSW emerged as the top priority from our engagements and is aligned with the findings from the socio-economic analysis that skills and access to labour are both a major current and future constraint to growth and competitiveness in MSW.

Given that our economy is near or at full employment, there is a need to intervene with actions to ensure that the requisite skills for the future are there in scale and profile (by sector and by levels) to underpin our region's ambitions. Interventions in this area must be strongly aligned to the 'innovation pillar' within the RES in that interventions to embed technology and automation in the workplace (e.g. robotics/

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<sup>30</sup> Delivering Inclusive Growth City Deal for the Derry~Londonderry City Region VISION & OUTLINE BID PROPOSAL September 2018



cobotics, application of AI, data analytics, Industry 4.0 innovation much of which is in its infancy currently) will fundamentally change the skills needed within the workplace of the future.

We are in a strong position to expedite projects/ actions in this theme through the industry-led structures that are already established in our region – the Mid Ulster Skills Forum and the ABC Local Works Forum – which have been established to bring a collaborative dynamic between local businesses, colleges/universities and industry sectoral bodies to address prevailing labour and skills challenges. Structures such as these and the Manufacturing & Engineering Growth & Advancement (MEGA) will provide key governance structures for advancing skills focussed interventions in the MSW.

The table below sets out potential actions/ project concepts for further development and prioritisation. The first four are largely centred on policy changes that would align better with MSW needs – in effect offering MSW a degree of regional autonomy.

Access to labour/ lobbying for a differentiated migration policy/ regional autonomy for MSW post Brexit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lobbying for a differentiated and more flexible migration policy – in regional autonomy for MSW post Brexit, that keeps our economy open to all levels of international talent. With the rationale for this based on the economic contribution of MSW to NI GVA and the predominance of manufacturing employment within our region, which has been highly reliant on attracting EU migrant labour in recent years.</li> </ul>
Policy Changes to the 'Off-the-Shelf' Apprenticeship offer (Short-Term) – regional autonomy for MSW.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The work-based learning route is the priority for MSW and the ambitions / plans of the FE sector offer a good basis to build on. However, there are perceived constraints regarding the 'off the shelf' apprenticeship offer in terms of its ability to meet the prevailing needs of industry in MSW. It is was clear from our engagements that the Apprenticeship Levy has not served the needs of MSW's industry well to date, and a policy change is required to enable businesses to use the Levy in order to provide tailored training support to meet their needs. As it stands it is viewed as a 'tax' on the larger businesses that does not adequately convert to a sufficiently tailored skills development mechanism for our businesses. Businesses in the construction sector also pay a levy to the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) underlining the need for the main levy as above to be more effective. There is interest in exploring solutions that give our employers more control to 'purchase' their own solutions in this regard, which may entail aspects of the voucher system in place elsewhere in GB. Another issue cited was prevailing age restrictions. Short-term therefore there is an immediate need to work with DfE / the FE Colleges to assess what adaptations could be made to better fit with immediate skill needs.</li> </ul>
Extend the range of Higher-Level Apprenticeships and Degree Apprenticeships available in MSW - regional autonomy for MSW.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Extend the range of higher-level apprenticeships and degree apprenticeships as an alternative, and debt-free, route to higher- level qualifications, with greater opportunity to progress into employment. This extended range should be linked to the needs of priority sectors in MSW and aligned with the concept of the Innovation and Skills Academy set out under 6.4/ the Innovation 'Pillar' – which will drive the need for cross-cutting skills in digital futures and automation. In relation to the construction industry there is also an interest/ a proposal to develop a fully employed four-year apprenticeship model.</li> <li>▪ Promotion of the value of this option as a route to higher-level qualifications/ the 'world of work' with parents of young people.</li> </ul>

<p>Greater Focus on Shared Apprenticeship schemes in MSW - regional autonomy for MSW.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In order to increase the uptake of apprenticeships in MSW, there should be greater focus on Shared Apprenticeship models. These are typically targeted at SMEs who may not be in a position to offer apprenticeships to young people due to the economic uncertainty across their sector and the short-term nature of their order books. A Shared Apprenticeship model entails the sequential hosting of an apprentice across multiple companies (e.g. for a minimum of three months), thus removing the long-term risk for individual SMEs but still offering a mechanism to develop requisite skills at a region-wide level. There are established <sup>31</sup> models of good practice in this regard in the construction industry in GB that typically involve a partnership between a regional/ devolved public sector organisation and the CITB. This model rotates individual apprentices through hosted placements within construction companies, and individuals who complete the full three-year apprenticeship achieve an NVQ Level 3 in their chosen trade. This model has been successful in building skills for the construction industry, with around 90% of apprentices who complete the three years securing full time employment in their chosen trade.</li> </ul>
<p>Extend Scale and Scope of Available Management and Leadership Training in MSW.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A range of actions are needed to develop leadership talent and management skills alongside technical and professional skills in MSW. This can be particularly relevant for the SME community and Family Owned Businesses, where succession planning is relevant.</li> <li>▪ Via the ABC Local Works Forum a range of pilot management and leadership programmes have been rolled out in the ABC Council area. The learning from this activity should inform considerations to extend the scale and scope of the leadership and management training offers more broadly in MSW. All future interventions in this area should be underpinned by a focus on innovation, efficiency and improved productivity, consistent with the headline ambition of this RES.</li> </ul>
<p>Initiatives to Promote Career Attractiveness</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A range of initiatives that promote career attractiveness in priority sectors in MSW are needed to retain and build key skills in the region. This will include work experience in industry for school age pupils from age 14 and the education of parents on the value of the work-based learning route, including HLAs and Foundation Degrees (as above).</li> <li>▪ It is also evident that there is an onus on the employers and businesses themselves in MSW to actively promote the development of productive, inclusive and engaging workplaces. Promotion of good practice in this regard will help to improve the image of MSW priority sectors.</li> <li>▪ Furthermore our businesses will be encouraged to increasingly offer different employment models, flexi-working, contract and portfolio working – all of which have the potential to significantly change the way they attract, invest in and develop skills in future.</li> </ul>

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.citb.co.uk/courses-and-qualifications/citb-apprenticeships/take-on-an-apprentice/types-of-apprenticeships/shared-apprenticeship-scheme/what-is-shared-apprenticeship-scheme/>

#### 4.4 ENABLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Investment in this area is a critical enabler to realising growth ambitions in all other areas of the RES, given the significant deficits that exist in several aspects of the basic economic infrastructure for competitiveness in MSW. The table below sets out potential actions/ project concepts for further development and prioritisation.

Physical connectivity/ roads infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ East-West Link, Armagh;</li> <li>▪ A29 Cookstown and Dungannon Bypasses</li> <li>▪ Southern Relief Enniskillen</li> <li>▪ A1</li> <li>▪ A4</li> <li>▪ A6 (Castledawson to Dungiven)</li> <li>▪ M12 Carn/Seagoe</li> <li>▪ Additional Park and Ride and Transport Planning Measures</li> </ul>
Investment in broadband and mobile coverage and reliability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Stratum entails investment to meet the broadband needs of (most of) the MSW region but there will be 'harder to reach' parts of the region for which additional targeted support and investment may be required.</li> <li>▪ In terms of expediting productivity however it is argued that rather than targeting investment to 'fill-in the gaps' left behind by Project Stratum, a more focused approach is needed within the RES. Specifically it is suggested that there is a need to underpin the innovation 'projects / hotspots' in selected localities in MSW with higher capacity (e.g. 5G networking) services. This has the potential to bring higher-connectivity benefits to a larger critical mass of economic activity in MSW - including the SME community - who to date may have lacked the resources to invest in 'workaround' solutions to poor connectivity. These innovation projects/ hotspots are detailed in Section 4.5 and will help to make these locations 'technology ready testbeds' capable of attracting a cluster of companies and related investment.</li> </ul>
Access to industrial land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Purchase of land for industrial activity, zoning of same and development to ensure a ready 'package' of services/ utilities/ road access.</li> <li>▪ In respect of access to utilities above there is an ongoing need to work with NI Water and the Utility Regulator to ensure that investment in additional waste water treatment capacity is prioritised.</li> <li>▪ Freeing-up unused industrial land held in public ownership. In essence, a policy change that recognises the role that Local Government can play in productive</li> </ul>

	<p>development of these assets – which may include Invest NI land-bank held for FDI and elements of health and education estates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A key example of the above being progressed already is in relation to the work that Mid Ulster District Council is doing to seek to acquire a significant land holding for industrial / economic use at Desertcreat, outside Cookstown. This will be critical in attracting new companies and helping indigenous businesses to grow and deliver investment and job creation in the MSW region.</li> </ul>
Investment in electricity supply.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Electricity supply and the cost of energy is also a real constraint for local businesses. Interventions are needed to incentivise green energy, perhaps via localised and shared green energy production at new industrial estates referenced above.</li> </ul>
Physical connectivity/ rail infrastructure (to reduce carbon footprint)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A rail halt at Carn / Seagoe to improve access to the existing rail network. This would have considerable economic benefits given the contribution of this locality to economic output of the MSW region and is identified as a short-term need.</li> <li>▪ A longer-term ambition is to consider a range of effective sustainable transport solutions to restore some of the connectivity that the original rail network in MSW provided. This is unlikely to entail restoration of the rail network as was (for both practical/ logistical and affordability reasons) but will examine what effective transport solutions (e.g. light rail) could potentially be put in place to restore some of the connectivity that previously existed in MSW.</li> </ul>
Opportunities for enabling site development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Strategic and complex sites including, for example, St Lucia Military Base, Omagh; Armagh Gaol.</li> </ul>

With reference to the actions in respect of industrial land noted above it should be highlighted that if lands are not available, previous Article 31 planning powers should be the first line of ensuring land can be designated. Allied to this there is scope to encourage and incentivize private sector provision of lands if the public sector is constrained in this regard (e.g. by way of Joint Ventures with Local Councils based on models elsewhere in the UK). A further lever would be to empower Local Enterprise Agencies to utilize their PED7 planning powers to ensure supply of industrial land for SMEs.

#### 4.5 BOOSTING INNOVATION AND DIGITAL CAPACITY

Given our ageing population and expected slowdown in population growth, increasing productivity will become our most important driver for success – as reflected in both the UK and NI Industrial Strategies.

Consistent with these strategies a key priority in our RES is supporting our businesses to be more productive and to enhance their capabilities in crucial enabling technologies such as data analytics, robotics, automation, Industry 4.0, machine learning, artificial intelligence, augmented reality, advanced materials and production techniques, and to exploit the growth opportunities these technologies hold for our region. There are evolving plans at an NI level for a Manufacturing Innovation Ecosystem embodying much of the above via the City/ Growth Deals. These plans are being co-ordinated by QUB/ the Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Centre project and provide for an integrated skills pipeline, linking FE Colleges and the HE sector to satisfy industry needs. Collaboration at the NI region level in this regard will help 'NI PLC' to build enhanced UK presence and overseas representation leading to increased revenue streams for NI from participation in major national innovation programmes and by attracting FDI. As set out previously, our region boasts significant levels of advanced manufacturing activity, with 70% more employment in high and medium tech manufacturing than the UK average.<sup>32</sup> Consistent with this we will be a major player within the evolving plans at an NI-wide level for a Manufacturing Innovation Ecosystem, with a 'footprint'/ physical innovation facility on the ground in MSW within this ecosystem and reinforcing interventions specific to our RES/ Growth Deal to ensure further success. We envisage that this should be mainly delivered via the auspices of the South West College who were awarded the Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing Curriculum Hub for NI in recognition of their long-standing track record of successful collaboration with manufacturing industry.

Our implementation approach to the above will be tailored to the leading sectors in manufacturing/ industrial economy in MSW (that offer further potential for growth) as set out Section 2 of this paper - working in conjunction with sector partners/ agencies as appropriate. A case in point is agri-food/ food manufacturing, a sector which has a large presence in MSW. Robotic solutions are increasingly being used to automate repetitive tasks in this sector (e.g. for dispensing, food placement, cutting, packaging or casing of food, pick-and-placing products into containers, and sorting) and their further application can bring productivity improvements and help offset labour shortages in a tight labour market such as that present (and forecast) for MSW. In this arena we would work with <sup>33</sup>CAFRE as a partner agency which has a leadership role for stimulating innovation, including the application of enabling technologies automation, within the agri-food sector across NI. CAFRE has a major presence in MSW through two out their three campuses being located in MSW (Loughry and Enniskillen).

Our ambition for boosting innovation is not limited to the manufacturing/ industrial economy in MSW. A recent study<sup>34</sup> within MSW indicated that in ABC that there is a particular strength in the Digital Tech sector – IT services, Computing and Advanced Electronics, Software and Communications. This report highlighted that the Digital GVA/ capita therein was 28% more than the NI average and Digital ICT wages 44% above the NI average. The new SRC campus in Banbridge is also set to become a 'Specialist Centre for Digital Media and Design'. Building on all of this we recognise the opportunity for growth of the Digital Tech sector across MSW, whilst acknowledging that the reach of the Digital Tech sector is much wider than the sector itself (e.g. within financial services, creative industries, medical devices and pharma/bio-technology).

<sup>32</sup> We have used the OECD definition of high and medium tech manufacturing:

[https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Glossary:High-tech\\_classification\\_of\\_manufacturing\\_industries](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Glossary:High-tech_classification_of_manufacturing_industries)

<sup>33</sup> College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise

<sup>34</sup> Complementing, Advocating, Leading – Digital Strategy ABC Council January 2018.

It is also important to recognise health and social care as an 'economic driver', over and above being a core service providing sector in MSW. Our region is home to two leading acute and teaching hospitals, which along with the expertise therein and associated local supply chains are major sources of employment in MSW. With these health care assets, and the leading pharma companies based in MSW, our region has both world class expertise and demonstrable innovation practice that will be consolidated further via the RES to deliver exponential gains in GVA and productivity. We will explore with our two hospitals the specific opportunities that this presents aligning to the evolving plans for the Health Innovation Research Alliance Northern Ireland <sup>35</sup>(HIRANI) at an NI wide-level.

As espoused in Economy 2030/ the Industrial Strategy for NI our ambition is for an economy in MSW where *'innovation is embedded in the DNA of every company and across the public sector'*.

The table below sets out potential actions/ project concepts for further development and prioritisation.

<p>An innovation and skills academy delivered by South West College.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ We will deliver an Innovation and Skills Academy through the South West College. This will be the Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Centre (AMIC) 'physical footprint' for the MSW region. It will provide access for our companies to continue to learn, test and embed enabling technologies and automation to expedite productivity improvements. It will be 'world-beating' in concept and delivery. Aligned with this we will continue to ensure that the proposals will be shaped by our business leaders, active in the advanced manufacturing and engineering sectors in MSW.</li> <li>▪ It will facilitate university collaboration in MSW in this arena, through the AMIC network, building on / scaling up the expertise already in the FE sector within MSW, particularly with respect to product/ process innovation in the SME industrial economy.</li> <li>▪ As a core element of 'NI PLC's' Manufacturing Innovation Ecosystem, it will be networked into an Advanced R&amp;D and Investment Network across the UK and Ireland including the relevant Catapult centres – providing access to revenue streams for our region via participation in major national innovation programmes and by attracting FDI.</li> <li>▪ It will also act as the focal point for the development of higher value-added skills and related apprenticeships for advanced</li> </ul>
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<sup>35</sup> <https://www.hira-ni.com/about>



	<p>manufacturing/ the industrial economy of MSW.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ We will seek to reinforce all of the above by putting in place a 'MSW Industrial Investment Fund' that will build a delivery pipeline of demonstration projects eligible for support – by virtue of their potential to radically address the productivity challenges facing our region and to showcase 'best in class' adoption of enabling technologies. Specifically, this will entail the provision of capital funding to support businesses with in-house innovation and/ or to enable them to introduce new equipment following the conclusion of R&amp;D – including that stimulated via the AMIC network referenced above.</li> </ul>
The development of an NI Agri-food Robotics Centre, at CAFRE Loughry Campus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ We will work with CAFRE, other educational institutions and industry stakeholders to create an Agri-Food Robotics Centre. CAFRE, is an integral part of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Enterprise, with two of its three Campuses (Loughry and Enniskillen) located within the MSW region. The Loughry Campus has lead responsibility for knowledge and technology transfer to the NI Agri-food industry.</li> <li>▪ The proposal is to create a NI Agri-food Robotics Centre, at CAFRE Loughry Campus, focused on education of HE students and technology transfer of robotic automation and enabling technologies to the agri-food sector.</li> </ul>
The development of agri-food incubation space in MSW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Incubation space is required across the region to support food development for smaller SMEs. By way of example this is currently an area being explored by the Southern Regional College within MSW.</li> </ul>
The development of a network of Digi-hubs in MSW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ As noted above we recognise opportunity for growth of the Digital Tech sector across MSW, whilst acknowledging that the reach of the Digital Tech sector is much wider than the sector itself.</li> <li>▪ To this end we will put in place a network of 'state of the art' Digi-hubs in MSW entailing</li> </ul>

	<p>inspiring, digitally advanced co-working spaces. These will be visible locally-based foci for the development of the Digital Tech sector in MSW and will provide a structure for sectoral focus, leadership and networking.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The collaboration that these will enable between individuals/ companies working in the Digital Tech arena and local communities will help to stimulate small scale innovation projects. They will also act as a 'gateway' into training and education for the digital roles in the new economy and for digitally enabled design, leveraging from the expertise and plans of the Southern Regional College in this regard (referenced above).</li> <li>▪ Our ambition in this regard is aligned to the concept of the Regional Innovators Network (RIN) in the Belfast Region City Deal, and accordingly when up and running we would seek to exchange good practice on an ongoing basis with the same.</li> </ul>
Health Innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Explore opportunities with the MSW Region's two acute and training hospitals to align with evolving plans for the Health Innovation Research Alliance Northern Ireland (HIRANI) at a NI-wide level.</li> <li>▪ This could help build support for additional clustering of Life and Health Science (LHS) sector activity in MSW.</li> <li>▪ Supporting the effective delivery of Health Hub provision.</li> </ul>



#### 4.6 BUILDING A HIGH-PERFORMING TOURISM ECONOMY

As set out previously our region has particular competitive advantages in terms the quality of our tourism product. Accordingly, our focus within the RES will be on selective product development only within MSW alongside positioning our region much more within the ‘all-island’ visitor economy. This will be facilitated through connection of our tourism product in the West to the discovery points and attractions along the Wild Atlantic Way and promotion of longer-term investments in cross-border assets such as the reopening of the Ulster Canal as a strategic tourism opportunity. The latter also offers scope to align with the ambition to restore the Lagan Navigation from Belfast Harbour to Lough Neagh. The Lagan Navigation was one of the most successful commercial navigations in Ireland, and the final stretch of navigation route to Lough Neagh, runs through MSW – per adjacent schematic.



Actions taken elsewhere in the RES to address the deficits in our basic economic infrastructure in MSW are crucial to overcoming the structural barriers to the growth of Out of State tourism in our region. We will leverage from projects/ actions that will help to improve the physical accessibility of our tourism product in MSW and improved digital connectivity in our region. These are crucial to help route Out of State visitors to our region from the existing NI tourism ‘hotspots’ and for improved information provision and sign-posting. Improved digital connectivity (and associated digital capacity developed via the Innovation Pillar of our RES) will also help us to innovate in the engagement of visitors with our tourism product (e.g. through the immersive experiences that application of AR/ VR can offer).

Finally, we recognise the need to stimulate investment in tourist-related infrastructure including supporting more hotel and accommodation provision, in key locations in MSW where are evident gaps – to underpin our future ambitions for the tourism sector.

In pursuit of all of the above we will seek to use Growth Deal funding to leverage other funding sources to invest in our tourism economy such as the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Interreg in relation to cross-border ambitions.

The table below sets out potential actions/ project concepts for further development and prioritisation.

<p>Tourism Product Development within MSW</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of the Sperrins Signature Tourism/ Future Search project. This will address the fact that recent <sup>36</sup>research indicates that, despite its appeal, Tyrone &amp; Sperrins is not recognised nor is it functioning optimally as a tourism destination/area in the eyes of the visitor. The <sup>37</sup>report arising from the Future Search Conference contains five action plans in relation to development of environment and heritage; infrastructure; branding and tourism; community and management,</li> </ul>
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<sup>36</sup> Tourism Development Strategy and Action Plan for Fermanagh and Omagh, 2016  
[<https://www.fermanaghomagh.com/app/uploads/2016/05/Tourism-Dev-Strategy-Action-Plan.pdf>]

<sup>37</sup> The Sperrins: Reaching New Heights, Realising Our Potential, Future Search Conference Report, 2017

	<p>collectively geared to realising a co-ordinated vision for the future of the Sperrins AONB summed up in the report title <i>'reaching new heights, realising our potential'</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Further development of MSW as the locus of the 'genealogy/ connections' tourism experience in NI, with the Ulster American Folk Park (UAFP) in Omagh as the hub of the same. The current master-planning exercise underway for UAFP will inform further development of this concept within the RES.</li> <li>▪ Development of a literary trail spanning MSW that could embrace and build upon existing discovery points/attractions and events that celebrate literary giants from the region (e.g. Heaney, Wilde, Beckett).</li> </ul>
Cross-Border Tourism Product Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Promotion of longer-term investments in cross-border assets such as the reopening of the Ulster Canal as a strategic tourism opportunity. The original route of the Ulster Canal, links the lowlands around Lough Neagh with the Erne Basin and the River Shannon system. The route traverses all three Council areas in MSW and is the 'backbone' of the historic inland waterway network in Ireland.</li> </ul>
Actions to stimulate/ de-risk and expedite quality hotel investment in MSW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Relevant only in areas of MSW where there are evidenced 'gaps' in provision and associated market failures across the region. Banbridge is a case in point where there is an urgent need to support the impending Out-of-State visitor traffic to the Game of Thrones Legacy Project. Similar capacity may be needed in the Sperrins to support the planned Sperrins Signature Tourism/ Future Search project.</li> </ul>
Improved infrastructure for routing/ signposting and visitor engagement with the tourism product in MSW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Branding research to best connect/ align the West of our region to the discovery points/ attractions on the Wild Atlantic Way – and implementation thereafter.</li> <li>▪ Support for innovative investment in digital channels and enhancements of visitor experiences in MSW e.g. through use of VR/AR. These could exist at visitor</li> </ul>

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	attractions themselves or be hosted at TICs to inspire visitors to then go to the same.
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FINAL DRAFT

## 5. CONCLUDING REMARKS

This RES sets out the 'headline' vision and ambition for our region; it identifies the opportunities and challenges we face; and sets out the priority 'pillars' around which future investment and actions to realise our ambitions will be framed. It also provides an early, high level indication of potential specific projects/interventions that may sit under each of these 'pillars' - which will be the subject of ongoing development in the months ahead.

The next stage of development work on these project ideas/ concepts will enable us to refine the economic targets for each - which aggregated together will quantify the scale of our collective vision (e.g. GVA/productivity /job growth etc) for the MSW region as a whole.

We are resolute in our ambition to 'supercharge' the growth of our collective economy and ensure inclusive prosperity in MSW through development and delivery of this RES. We would like to acknowledge the input and guidance of our industry/ business base in MSW in shaping our ambition thus far and look forward to ongoing engagement with them and our partners in central Government Departments/ agencies in the months ahead.

# APPENDIX A: SECTORAL PRODUCTIVITY IN 2017

	Productivity (£ 2016 000s)			GVA gap (£ 2016m)
	NI	MSW	Difference	
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	20.3	17.7	-2.6	40.9
Mining & quarrying	94.9	94.3	-0.6	0.9
Manufacture of food products	52.4	50.1	-2.3	28.1
Manufacture of beverages	224.6	214.8	-9.8	0.5
Manufacture of textiles	58.4	55.9	-2.5	2.6
Manufacture of wearing apparel	75.0	71.7	-3.3	0.5
Manufacture of leather and related products	27.3	26.1	-1.2	0.0
Manufacture of wood and of products	42.1	40.3	-1.8	2.6
Manufacture of paper and paper products	77.1	73.9	-3.2	2.0
Printing and reproduction of recorded media	50.1	48.0	-2.1	1.0
Manufacture of coke and refined petroleum products	121.0	115.9	-5.1	0.1
Manufacture of chemicals and chemical products	121.0	115.9	-5.1	0.2
Manufacture of basic pharmaceutical products	78.6	75.3	-3.3	2.5
Manufacture of rubber and plastic products	40.4	38.7	-1.7	3.0
Manufacture of other non-metallic mineral products	63.3	60.6	-2.7	9.0
Manufacture of basic metals	39.4	42.9	3.6	0.0
Manufacture of fabricated metal products	48.9	53.4	4.5	0.0
Manufacture of computer, electronic and optical products	53.0	57.8	4.8	0.0
Manufacture of electrical equipment	73.3	80.0	6.7	0.0
Manufacture of machinery and equipment n.e.c.	70.4	76.8	6.4	0.0
Manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers	53.2	58.1	4.8	0.0
Manufacture of other transport equipment	52.5	57.3	4.8	0.0
Manufacture of furniture	38.3	32.6	-5.7	10.2
Other manufacturing	84.2	71.8	-12.5	2.2
Repair and installation of machinery and equipment	40.3	34.3	-6.0	1.6
Electricity, gas & steam	217.2	136.3	-80.9	13.4
Water supply	92.3	84.8	-7.5	11.6
Construction	51.0	44.1	-6.9	131.9
Wholesale & retail	39.1	31.6	-7.5	273.3
Transport & storage	44.1	35.2	-8.9	90.1
Accommodation & food	19.9	5.8	-14.2	144.8
Information & comms	54.8	45.4	-9.4	17.3
Financial & insurance	80.9	42.4	-38.4	91.7
Real estate	437.9	502.1	64.2	0.0
Professional services	38.4	25.6	-12.8	93.0
Admin & support	17.7	19.3	1.6	0.0
Public administration	63.5	37.1	-26.4	188.1
Education	31.0	21.5	-9.5	165.7
Human health	30.4	19.7	-10.6	298.7
Arts, enter. and recreation	23.7	19.4	-4.3	15.8
Other service activities	34.4	28.0	-6.4	29.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>44.6</b>	<b>36.2</b>	<b>-8.4</b>	<b>1672.4</b>

Source: ONS and Oxford Economics

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## Policy Screening Form

### Policy Scoping

**Policy Title:** Mid South West Regional Economic Strategy

**Brief Description of Policy (please attach copy if available). Please state if it is a new, existing or amended policy.**

The Mid South West Region (MSW) is a collaboration between Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council and Mid Ulster District Council.

Mid South West Regional Economic Strategy is a new strategy.

**Intended aims/outcomes. What is the policy trying to achieve?**

The Regional Economic Strategy (RES) outlines the growth and development vision for the Mid South West region. It focuses on strengths, challenges, specific and targeted economic interventions and investments to drive productivity in the region over the longer term. The ambition is to 'supercharge' the growth of the collective economy and ensure inclusive prosperity in MSW.

MSW RES demonstrates that funding from a Growth Deal and other sources will be required to come into effect to underpin the full realisation of the strategy and subsequent action/implementation plan. Policy changes will also be required. It will build on the region's economic strengths so as to directly deliver on the draft Industrial strategy and contribute to improving the competitiveness of Northern Ireland overall. This means:

- boosting productivity
- delivering more and better jobs
- tackling inequalities
- greater investment in the area
- supporting our businesses to innovate and grow
- improving skills
- ensuring future skills to meet the needs of our growing economy and the resilience of the place.

The MSW Region has significant strengths in the following sectors:

- Advanced manufacturing, materials and engineering
- Agri-food
- Life and Health Sciences
- Digital and creative technologies

- Tourism
- Construction

The strategy addresses the regional economic balance and outlines the key areas of economic, infrastructure and development activity that the MSW region will commit to in developing a regional economic agenda to transform economic performance.

The focus of this economic strategy is to raise productivity levels in the region and in so doing create better paid jobs for residents and close the productivity gap between MSW and the rest of NI. Closing sectoral productivity gaps in MSW has the potential to be equivalent to a 4.3% uplift of the NI economy.

Interventions to be delivered as an outflow of the strategy will be geared to delivering exponential / long term benefits including: increasing productivity levels (closing sectoral productivity NI 'gap'), protecting MSW's unique sectoral advantages (as a minimum) and thereafter fully realising sectoral opportunities; creating more jobs and moving more jobs/employment up the value chain and ongoing internationalisation of MSW (and better NI profiling). Action/implementation plan for interventions to be developed at a later stage.

## Policy Framework

Has the policy been developed in response to statutory requirements, legal advice or on the basis of any other professional advice? Does this affect the discretion available to Council to amend the policy?

The MSW Regional Economic Strategy is ambitious and sits within a wider policy landscape. It aligns with the UK Industrial Strategy, the NI Economic Strategy and the Draft NI Programme for Government Framework 2016-2021.

The proposed four pillars/ intervention areas of the RES are closely aligned with the UK Industrial Strategy's five foundations including:

- Ideas – the world's most innovative economy
- People – good jobs and greater earning power for all
- Infrastructure – a major upgrade to the UK's infrastructure
- Business Environment – the best place to start and grow business
- Places – prosperous communities across the UK.

This strategy is being developed to align the MSW region with the Draft Industrial Strategy for Northern Ireland Economy 2030, which aims to improve the competitiveness of the Northern Ireland economy. It outlines priority pillars of:

- Accelerating Innovation and Research
- Enhancing Education, Skills and Employability
- Driving Inclusive, Sustainable Growth
- Succeeding in Global Markets
- Building the best Economic Infrastructure.



The overall aim of the Draft Programme for Government (PFG) Framework is, “improving wellbeing for all – by tackling disadvantage, and driving economic”. The RES will contribute to a wide range of PFG outcomes areas including but not limited to:

- We are an innovative, creative society, where people can fulfil their potential
- We give our children and young people the best start in life
- We connect people and opportunities through our infrastructure
- We prosper through a strong, competitive, regionally balanced economy
- We have created a place where people want to live and work, to visit and invest
- We have more people working in better jobs, and
- We have a more equal society.

**Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the policy? If so, please outline.**

The focus of MSW Regional Economic Strategy is about making the region a better place to live and work for all citizens. It aims to help MSW businesses be innovative, create jobs and grow in local and international markets, improve physical infrastructure and connectivity, enhance tourism performance, and upskill our people to enable an economy that works for everyone.

‘Future Proofing’ the skills base is one of the four intervention areas and there are potential actions/project concepts for further development that will impact on different section 75 categories. Whilst at this stage the RES is a ‘direction of travel document’, it is anticipated that by extending the range of higher-level apprenticeships and degree apprenticeships and the promotion of same, this will result in a positive impact on younger people and their parents/families of young people.

Initiatives to promote career attractiveness will be important in going forward, resulting in the development of productive, inclusive and engaging workplaces. As well as the workforce environment, businesses will be encouraged to increasingly offer different employment models, flexi-working, contract and portfolio working-all of which have the potential to significantly change the way they attract, invest and develop skills in future. Flexibility will appeal to a range of categories but could benefit in particular men and women with dependants. Inclusive workplaces will benefit many section 75 categories by removing barriers to participation in employment for men, women, persons with different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, sexual orientation, those with a disability and those with dependants. The MSW region has a reliance on migrant labour and it is imperative that it continues to attract workers from outside the region. Further measures may be required in order to achieve this.

**Who initiated or wrote the policy (if Council decision, please state). Who is responsible for implementing the policy?**

Who initiated or wrote policy?	Who is responsible for implementation?
<p>Mid South West Region Councils developed this strategy following extensive engagement with industry/businesses within MSW and business membership bodies across NI, to fully understand the opportunities and challenges facing them and the interventions needed to unlock further growth in GVA and productivity in the region.</p>	<p>Mid South West Councils have responsibility for developing this strategy. It is important to note that the RES is an economic strategy document that sets out the direction of travel for the region and high level indication of potential specific projects/ interventions that may be delivered in the subsequent action plan.</p> <p>The next stage in the process will be to carry out detailed business justification exercises on potential projects. This stage could take approximately 18 months to 2 years to complete.</p> <p>The Implementation Plan will follow the previous stage.</p>

**Are there any factors which might contribute to or detract from the implementation of the policy (e.g. financial, legislative, other)?**

As previously stated, the RES is an economic strategy document that sets out the direction of travel for the region and provides high level indication of potential specific projects/ interventions that may be delivered in the subsequent action/implementation plan.

In achieving the ambition of the RES, it is critical that Growth Deal funding from UK Government and NI Executive is committed to at this early stage.

Financial commitment is also required from other sources including but not limited to the three MSW Councils, Universities/Colleges, Private Sector, Interreg, Prosperity Fund etc.

In addition to the above, effective liaison and engagement with the NIO, Government Departments, UK Treasury, Invest NI and all partner bodies is essential in the longer term for full realisation of the RES and Action/Implementation Plan.

**Main stakeholders in relation to the policy**

Please list main stakeholders affected by the policy (e.g. staff, service users, other statutory bodies, community or voluntary sector, private sector)

Industry / Businesses  
MSW citizens

Councils  
 UK and NI Governments  
 Government Departments  
 Business Membership Bodies  
 Universities / FE Colleges / Schools  
 Skills Bodies

**Are there any other policies with a bearing on this policy? If so, please identify them and how they impact on this policy.**

No

### Available Evidence

Council should ensure that its screening decisions are informed by relevant data. What evidence/information (both qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered to inform this policy? Specify details for each of the Section 75 categories.

Section 75 Category	Evidence																		
Religious belief	<p>The 2011 Census showed that 54.7% of the population in the Mid South West Region were either Catholic or brought up as Catholic and 41.4% belonged to or were brought up in Protestant, other Christian or Christian-related religions. A further 0.6% belonged to or had been brought up in other religions while 3.2% neither belonged to, nor had been brought up in a religion.</p> <table><tr><th>Religion or Religion Brought Up In</th><th>Number</th><th>Percentage</th></tr><tr><td>Catholic</td><td>246,830</td><td>54.7%</td></tr><tr><td>Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)</td><td>187,117</td><td>41.4%</td></tr><tr><td>Other religions</td><td>2,877</td><td>0.6%</td></tr><tr><td>None</td><td>14,620</td><td>3.2%</td></tr><tr><td>All usual residents</td><td>451,444</td><td>100.0%</td></tr></table> <p>Prejudicial attitudes and/or discrimination on the grounds of religious belief may impact on experiences within the workplace. Prejudicial attitudes toward those of different religious beliefs is present in Northern Ireland, particularly sectarianism and islamophobia.</p> <p>Key Inequalities in Employment, (ECNI) 2018</p>	Religion or Religion Brought Up In	Number	Percentage	Catholic	246,830	54.7%	Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)	187,117	41.4%	Other religions	2,877	0.6%	None	14,620	3.2%	All usual residents	451,444	100.0%
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None	14,620	3.2%																	
All usual residents	451,444	100.0%																	
Political opinion	<p>In January 2020, Mid South West Region has 121 elected members. the breakdown of seats by political party is:</p>																		

	<table><tr><th>Party</th><th>Number of Councillors elected</th></tr><tr><td>Sinn Fein</td><td>42</td></tr><tr><td>Democratic Unionist Party</td><td>25</td></tr><tr><td>Ulster Unionist Party</td><td>25</td></tr><tr><td>Social Democratic and Labour Party</td><td>17</td></tr><tr><td>Independent</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>Alliance Party</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>Cross Community Labour Alternative</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td><b>Total</b></td><td><b>121</b></td></tr></table> <p>192,109 votes were polled in the Region from an eligible electorate of 332,528 giving a turnout of 57.8%.</p>	Party	Number of Councillors elected	Sinn Fein	42	Democratic Unionist Party	25	Ulster Unionist Party	25	Social Democratic and Labour Party	17	Independent	7	Alliance Party	4	Cross Community Labour Alternative	1	<b>Total</b>	<b>121</b>																																	
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<b>Total</b>	<b>121</b>																																																			
Racial group	<p>The 2011 Census showed that:</p> <p>98.7% of the usually resident population of the Mid South West Region were white and 1.3% were from minority ethnic groups. The main ethnic minorities were Mixed (1,213 individuals), Chinese (940 individuals) and Other Asian (852 individuals).</p> <table><tr><th>Ethnic Group</th><th>Number</th><th>Percentage</th></tr><tr><td>White</td><td>445,354</td><td>98.65%</td></tr><tr><td>Chinese</td><td>940</td><td>0.21%</td></tr><tr><td>Irish Traveller</td><td>509</td><td>0.11%</td></tr><tr><td>Indian</td><td>763</td><td>0.17%</td></tr><tr><td>Pakistani</td><td>267</td><td>0.06%</td></tr><tr><td>Bangladeshi</td><td>37</td><td>0.01%</td></tr><tr><td>Other Asian</td><td>852</td><td>0.19%</td></tr><tr><td>Black Caribbean</td><td>63</td><td>0.01%</td></tr><tr><td>Black African</td><td>417</td><td>0.09%</td></tr><tr><td>Black other</td><td>374</td><td>0.08%</td></tr><tr><td>Mixed</td><td>1,213</td><td>0.27%</td></tr><tr><td>Other</td><td>655</td><td>0.15%</td></tr><tr><td><b>All usual residents</b></td><td><b>451,444</b></td><td><b>100.00%</b></td></tr></table> <p>88.4% of residents in the Region were born in Northern Ireland. 5.4% of residents (24,470 individuals) were born outside the United Kingdom or Republic of Ireland.</p> <table><tr><th>Country of Birth</th><th>Number</th><th>Percentage</th></tr><tr><td>Northern Ireland</td><td>398,897</td><td>88.4%</td></tr><tr><td>England</td><td>13,792</td><td>3.1%</td></tr></table>	Ethnic Group	Number	Percentage	White	445,354	98.65%	Chinese	940	0.21%	Irish Traveller	509	0.11%	Indian	763	0.17%	Pakistani	267	0.06%	Bangladeshi	37	0.01%	Other Asian	852	0.19%	Black Caribbean	63	0.01%	Black African	417	0.09%	Black other	374	0.08%	Mixed	1,213	0.27%	Other	655	0.15%	<b>All usual residents</b>	<b>451,444</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	Country of Birth	Number	Percentage	Northern Ireland	398,897	88.4%	England	13,792	3.1%
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Scotland	2,748	0.6%
Wales	469	0.1%
Republic of Ireland	11,068	2.5%
Other EU: Member countries prior to 2004 expansion	2,733	0.6%
Other EU: Accession countries 2004 onwards	14,889	3.3%
Other	6,848	1.5%
<b>All usual residents</b>	<b>451,444</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

4.2% of residents aged 3+ years (17,993 individuals) spoke a language other than English or Irish as their main language. The most common other main languages were Polish (6,165 residents aged 3+ years) and Lithuanian (4,201 residents aged 3+ years).

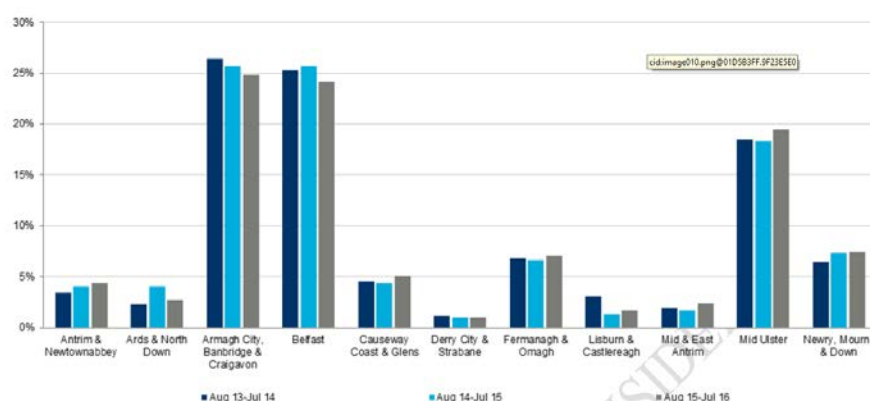
Main Language	Number	Percentage
English	412,094	95.62%
Polish	6,165	1.43%
Lithuanian	4,201	0.97%
Irish (Gaelic)	866	0.20%
Portuguese	1,770	0.41%
Slovak	805	0.19%
Chinese	244	0.06%
Tagalog/Filipino	275	0.06%
Latvian	718	0.17%
Russian	572	0.13%
Malayalam	171	0.04%
Hungarian	448	0.10%
Other	2,624	0.61%
<b>All usual residents aged 3+ years</b>	<b>430,953</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

The region has consistently enjoyed net inward migration, even when NI as a region was losing migrants. Insert fig 4 Estimated Net International Migration 2007-2017 – NI v MSW.

The MSW region’s reliance on migrant labour as a core component of our ‘economic engine’ in recent years is illustrated below.

**Fig. 6. Migrant Worker Tenant Households**

Estimated number of Migrant Worker Current Tenant Households by Local Government District (August 2007 - July 2016)



The proportion of migrant workers by District Council areas in NI in rented housing.

Racial prejudice and discrimination can impact on the ability of minority ethnic groups and migrant workers to participate in employment, sustain employment and progress in employment. Racial prejudice has been identified in accessing employment and in experiences of racial harassment and intimidation in workplaces.

Key inequalities in Employment, (ECNI) 2018

Age

The population of the Mid South West Region was estimated to be 478,317 at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018. The profile by age group is:

Age Group	Number	Percentage
0 to 15 years	107,770	22.5%
16 to 24 years	49,862	10.4%
25 to 49 years	160,022	33.5%
50 to 64 years	87,210	18.2%
65 and over	73,453	15.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>478,317</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

The Region has a growing and ageing population. The population of the Region is projected to increase by 6.8% or just over 32,600 people over the next ten years to 2028. The largest increase is projected in the 65 and over age group (31.3% or just under 23,000 people).

	2028 Population Projection		Change from 2018 to 2028	
Age Group	Number	%	Number	%
0 to 15 years	106,559	20.9%	-1,211	-1.1%

	<table><tr><td>16 to 24 years</td><td>55,013</td><td>10.8%</td><td>5,151</td><td>10.3%</td></tr><tr><td>25 to 49 years</td><td>159,008</td><td>31.1%</td><td>-1,014</td><td>-0.6%</td></tr><tr><td>50 to 64 years</td><td>93,913</td><td>18.4%</td><td>6,703</td><td>7.7%</td></tr><tr><td>65 and over</td><td>96,434</td><td>18.9%</td><td>22,981</td><td>31.3%</td></tr><tr><td><b>Total</b></td><td><b>510,927</b></td><td><b>100.0%</b></td><td><b>32,610</b></td><td><b>6.8%</b></td></tr></table>	16 to 24 years	55,013	10.8%	5,151	10.3%	25 to 49 years	159,008	31.1%	-1,014	-0.6%	50 to 64 years	93,913	18.4%	6,703	7.7%	65 and over	96,434	18.9%	22,981	31.3%	<b>Total</b>	<b>510,927</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>32,610</b>	<b>6.8%</b>
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Marital status	<p>The 2011 Census provides information on the marital and civil partnership status of those aged 16 and over. In the Mid South West Region:</p> <table><tr><th>Marital and Civil Partnership Status</th><th>Number</th><th>Percentage</th></tr><tr><td>Single (never married or never registered a same-sex civil partnership)</td><td>122,247</td><td>34.9%</td></tr><tr><td>Married</td><td>177,708</td><td>50.7%</td></tr><tr><td>In a registered same-sex civil partnership</td><td>220</td><td>0.1%</td></tr><tr><td>Separated (but still legally married or still legally in a same-sex civil partnership)</td><td>11,859</td><td>3.4%</td></tr><tr><td>Divorced or formerly in a same-sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved</td><td>15,799</td><td>4.5%</td></tr><tr><td>Widowed or surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership</td><td>22,645</td><td>6.5%</td></tr><tr><td><b>All usual residents aged 16+ years</b></td><td><b>350,478</b></td><td><b>100.0%</b></td></tr></table>	Marital and Civil Partnership Status	Number	Percentage	Single (never married or never registered a same-sex civil partnership)	122,247	34.9%	Married	177,708	50.7%	In a registered same-sex civil partnership	220	0.1%	Separated (but still legally married or still legally in a same-sex civil partnership)	11,859	3.4%	Divorced or formerly in a same-sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved	15,799	4.5%	Widowed or surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership	22,645	6.5%	<b>All usual residents aged 16+ years</b>	<b>350,478</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	
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Sexual orientation	<p>The 2011 Census did not include a question on sexual identity.</p> <p>The Continuous Household Survey provides results on the sexual identity of persons aged 16 and over. In the Region in 2016/17 – 2018/19:</p> <table><tr><th>Sexual Identity</th><th>Percentage</th></tr><tr><td>Heterosexual/straight</td><td>98%</td></tr><tr><td>Gay/Lesbian</td><td>0*</td></tr><tr><td>Bisexual</td><td>1%</td></tr><tr><td>Other</td><td>0*</td></tr><tr><td>Don't Know / Refusal</td><td>0*</td></tr></table> <p>* Less than 0.5%</p> <p>Results from the 2018 Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey showed that adults aged 18 and over in Northern Ireland overall responded:</p> <table><tr><th></th><th>Percentage</th></tr><tr><td>.</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>I am 'gay' or lesbian (homosexual)</td><td>1%</td></tr><tr><td>I am heterosexual or 'straight'</td><td>94%</td></tr><tr><td>I am bi-sexual</td><td>1%</td></tr><tr><td>Other answer</td><td>1%</td></tr><tr><td>I do not wish to answer this question</td><td>3%</td></tr></table> <p>Lesbian, gay and bisexual employees are subject to prejudicial attitudes in the workplace. Prejudicial attitudes may impact on the ability of lesbian, gay and bisexual people to participate in employment, sustain employment and progress in employment.</p> <p>Key Inequalities in Employment, (ECNI) 2018</p>	Sexual Identity	Percentage	Heterosexual/straight	98%	Gay/Lesbian	0*	Bisexual	1%	Other	0*	Don't Know / Refusal	0*		Percentage	.		I am 'gay' or lesbian (homosexual)	1%	I am heterosexual or 'straight'	94%	I am bi-sexual	1%	Other answer	1%	I do not wish to answer this question	3%
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I do not wish to answer this question	3%																										
Men and women generally	<p>The 2011 Census showed that in the Mid South West Region 49.8% of usual residents were male and 50.2% were female.</p> <table><tr><th>Gender</th><th>Number</th><th>Percentage</th></tr><tr><td>Males</td><td>224,724</td><td>49.8%</td></tr><tr><td>Females</td><td>226,720</td><td>50.2%</td></tr><tr><td><b>All usual residents</b></td><td><b>451,444</b></td><td><b>100.0%</b></td></tr></table> <p>Population estimates as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018 for the Region show that 50.0% (239,049) are male and 50.0% (239,268) are female.</p>	Gender	Number	Percentage	Males	224,724	49.8%	Females	226,720	50.2%	<b>All usual residents</b>	<b>451,444</b>	<b>100.0%</b>														
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<b>Total</b>	<b>478,317</b>	<b>100.0%</b>														
Disability	<p>According to the 2011 Census, one fifth (20.0%) of people (90,213 individuals) in the Mid South West Region had a long-term health problem or disability that limited their day-to-day activities.</p> <table><tr><th>Long-term health problem or disability</th><th>Number</th><th>Percentage</th></tr><tr><td>Day-to-day activities limited a lot</td><td>51,542</td><td>11.4%</td></tr><tr><td>Day-to-day activities limited a little</td><td>38,671</td><td>8.6%</td></tr><tr><td>Day-to-day activities not limited</td><td>361,231</td><td>80.0%</td></tr><tr><td><b>All usual residents</b></td><td><b>451,444</b></td><td><b>100.0%</b></td></tr></table>	Long-term health problem or disability	Number	Percentage	Day-to-day activities limited a lot	51,542	11.4%	Day-to-day activities limited a little	38,671	8.6%	Day-to-day activities not limited	361,231	80.0%	<b>All usual residents</b>	<b>451,444</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
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The Family Resources Survey provides results on disability prevalence by impairment type. In Northern Ireland in 2017/18:

Impairment Type	000's	Percentage
Vision	32	8%
Hearing	39	10%
Mobility	199	51%
Dexterity	99	25%
Learning	40	10%
Memory	43	11%
Mental Health	106	27%
Stamina/breathing/fatigue	140	36%
Socially/behaviourally	36	9%
Other	66	17%
<b>All with at least one impairment</b>	<b>388</b>	

Benefit statistics from the Department for Communities show that in the Mid South West Region as at August 2019:

- 13,680 or 18.6% of 65 and over population claiming Attendance Allowance.
- 33,460 Personal Independence Payment claims in payment (experimental statistics).

There is a persistent employment gap between people with and without disabilities.

In Northern Ireland people without a disability are more than twice as likely to be in employment (80%) than those with a disability (38%).

Around three times the proportion (31%) of disabled people had no qualifications compared to non-disabled people (10%).

Among people with disabilities, people with mental health issues and/or a learning disability are less likely to be employed compared to people with hidden disabilities, progressive or other disabilities and/or sensory disabilities.

People with disabilities are more likely to experience prejudice in employment than those without disabilities.

Key Inequalities in Employment, (ECNI) 2018  
Labour Force Survey January – March 2019

Dependants	<p>The 2011 Census showed that 36.7% or 60,423 households in the Region contained dependent children.</p> <p>For the former local government districts that make up the Mid South West Region the Census 2011 shows:</p>																					
	<table><tr><th>Number of Dependent Children - Households</th><th>Number</th><th>Percentage</th></tr><tr><td>No dependent children</td><td>104,821</td><td>63.3%</td></tr><tr><td>One dependent child</td><td>23,935</td><td>14.5%</td></tr><tr><td>Two dependent children</td><td>21,625</td><td>13.1%</td></tr><tr><td>Three dependent children</td><td>10,592</td><td>6.4%</td></tr><tr><td>Four or more dependent children</td><td>4,578</td><td>2.8%</td></tr><tr><td><b>All households</b></td><td><b>165,551</b></td><td><b>100.0%</b></td></tr></table>	Number of Dependent Children - Households	Number	Percentage	No dependent children	104,821	63.3%	One dependent child	23,935	14.5%	Two dependent children	21,625	13.1%	Three dependent children	10,592	6.4%	Four or more dependent children	4,578	2.8%	<b>All households</b>	<b>165,551</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
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	<b>All households</b>	<b>165,551</b>	<b>100.0%</b>																			
	<p>The 2011 Census also showed that 11.2% of all usual residents (50,390 individuals) in the Region provided unpaid care.</p>																					
<table><tr><th>Provision of Unpaid Care</th><th>Number</th><th>Percentage</th></tr><tr><td>Provides no unpaid care</td><td>401,054</td><td>88.8%</td></tr><tr><td>Provides unpaid care</td><td>50,390</td><td>11.2%</td></tr><tr><td><b>All usual residents</b></td><td><b>451,444</b></td><td><b>100.0%</b></td></tr></table>	Provision of Unpaid Care	Number	Percentage	Provides no unpaid care	401,054	88.8%	Provides unpaid care	50,390	11.2%	<b>All usual residents</b>	<b>451,444</b>	<b>100.0%</b>										
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<p>Of those who provided unpaid support:</p>																						
<table><tr><th>Provided Unpaid Care</th><th>Number</th><th>Percentage</th></tr><tr><td>1-19 hours per week</td><td>28,853</td><td>57.3%</td></tr><tr><td>20-49 hours per week</td><td>8,736</td><td>17.3%</td></tr><tr><td>50+ hours per week</td><td>12,801</td><td>25.4%</td></tr><tr><td><b>Total</b></td><td><b>50,390</b></td><td><b>100.0%</b></td></tr></table>	Provided Unpaid Care	Number	Percentage	1-19 hours per week	28,853	57.3%	20-49 hours per week	8,736	17.3%	50+ hours per week	12,801	25.4%	<b>Total</b>	<b>50,390</b>	<b>100.0%</b>							
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<b>Total</b>	<b>50,390</b>	<b>100.0%</b>																				
<p>Benefit statistics from the Department for Communities show as at August 2019 there were 18,510 claimants or 5.0% of the population aged 16 and over claiming Carer's Allowance in the Mid South West Region.</p>																						
<p>Lone parents with dependants experience barriers to their participation in employment.</p>																						
<p>Key Inequalities in Employment, (ECNI) 2018</p>																						

### Needs, experiences and priorities

Taking into account the information gathered above, what are the different needs, experiences and priorities of each of the following categories in relation to this particular policy/decision?

Section category	75 Needs, experiences and priorities
Religious belief	<p>There is no qualitative or quantitative data to suggest that the Mid South West Regional Economic Strategy will have an adverse impact upon this group. The overall aim of the Strategy is to raise productivity levels for the region, and in doing so create better more and better paid jobs for citizens, and close the productivity gap between Mid South West region and the remainder of Northern Ireland.</p> <p>In developing the RES we have led an extensive engagement process across the region. The strategy has been shaped and directed by industry and relevant stakeholder bodies. Recognising the distinctiveness of MSW as a private sector led economy, we engaged with businesses and membership bodies to understand the opportunities and challenges facing them and the interventions required to unlock economic potential in the region contributing to increased productivity and GVA. In addition, we engaged to determine how spending powers can be used to drive and scale, retain and grow businesses to ensure full economic prosperity is delivered for all.</p> <p>There will be an onus on the employers and businesses in MSW to actively promote the development of productive, inclusive and engaging workplaces.</p>
Political opinion	<p>There is no qualitative or quantitative data to suggest that the Mid South West Regional Economic Strategy will have an adverse impact upon this group. The overall aim of the Strategy is to raise productivity levels for the region, and in doing so create better more and better paid jobs for citizens, and close the productivity gap between Mid South West region and the remainder of Northern Ireland.</p> <p>In developing the RES we have led an extensive engagement process across the region. The strategy has been shaped and directed by industry and relevant stakeholder bodies. Recognising the distinctiveness of MSW as a private sector led economy, we engaged with businesses and membership bodies to understand the opportunities and challenges facing them and the interventions required to unlock economic potential in the region contributing to increased productivity and GVA. In addition, we engaged to determine how spending powers can be used to drive and scale, retain and grow businesses to ensure full economic prosperity is delivered for all.</p>

	<p>There will be an onus on the employers and businesses in MSW to actively promote the development of productive, inclusive and engaging workplaces.</p>
Racial group	<p>There is no qualitative or quantitative data to suggest that the Mid South West Regional Economic Strategy will have an adverse impact upon this group. The overall aim of the Strategy is to raise productivity levels for the region, and in doing so create better more and better paid jobs for citizens, and close the productivity gap between Mid South West region and the remainder of Northern Ireland.</p> <p>In developing the RES we have led an extensive engagement process across the region. The strategy has been shaped and directed by industry and relevant stakeholder bodies. Recognising the distinctiveness of MSW as a private sector led economy, we engaged with businesses and membership bodies to understand the opportunities and challenges facing them and the interventions required to unlock economic potential in the region contributing to increased productivity and GVA. In addition, we engaged to determine how spending powers can be used to drive and scale, retain and grow businesses to ensure full economic prosperity is delivered for all.</p> <p>There will be an onus on the employers and businesses in MSW to actively promote the development of productive, inclusive and engaging workplaces.</p>
Age	<p>There is no qualitative or quantitative data to suggest that the Mid South West Regional Economic Strategy will have an adverse impact upon this group. The overall aim of the Strategy is to raise productivity levels for the region, and in doing so create better more and better paid jobs for citizens, and close the productivity gap between Mid South West region and the remainder of Northern Ireland.</p> <p>In developing the RES we have led an extensive engagement process across the region. The strategy has been shaped and directed by industry and relevant stakeholder bodies. Recognising the distinctiveness of MSW as a private sector led economy, we engaged with businesses and membership bodies to understand the opportunities and challenges facing them and the interventions required to unlock economic potential in the region contributing to increased productivity and GVA. In addition, we engaged to determine how spending powers can be used to drive and scale, retain and grow businesses to ensure full economic prosperity is delivered for all.</p> <p>There will be an onus on the employers and businesses in MSW to actively promote the development of productive, inclusive</p>

	and engaging workplaces. There will be an onus on the employers and businesses in MSW to actively promote the development of productive, inclusive and engaging workplaces.
Marital status	<p>There is no qualitative or quantitative data to suggest that the Mid South West Regional Economic Strategy will have an adverse impact upon this group. The overall aim of the Strategy is to raise productivity levels for the region, and in doing so create better more and better paid jobs for citizens, and close the productivity gap between Mid South West region and the remainder of Northern Ireland.</p> <p>In developing the RES we have led an extensive engagement process across the region. The strategy has been shaped and directed by industry and relevant stakeholder bodies. Recognising the distinctiveness of MSW as a private sector led economy, we engaged with businesses and membership bodies to understand the opportunities and challenges facing them and the interventions required to unlock economic potential in the region contributing to increased productivity and GVA. In addition, we engaged to determine how spending powers can be used to drive and scale, retain and grow businesses to ensure full economic prosperity is delivered for all.</p> <p>There will be an onus on the employers and businesses in MSW to actively promote the development of productive, inclusive and engaging workplaces.</p>
Sexual orientation	<p>There is no qualitative or quantitative data to suggest that the Mid South West Regional Economic Strategy will have an adverse impact upon this group. The overall aim of the Strategy is to raise productivity levels for the region, and in doing so create better more and better paid jobs for citizens, and close the productivity gap between Mid South West region and the remainder of Northern Ireland.</p> <p>In developing the RES we have led an extensive engagement process across the region. The strategy has been shaped and directed by industry and relevant stakeholder bodies. Recognising the distinctiveness of MSW as a private sector led economy, we engaged with businesses and membership bodies to understand the opportunities and challenges facing them and the interventions required to unlock economic potential in the region contributing to increased productivity and GVA. In addition, we engaged to determine how spending powers can be used to drive and scale, retain and grow businesses to ensure full economic prosperity is delivered for all.</p>

	<p>There will be an onus on the employers and businesses in MSW to actively promote the development of productive, inclusive and engaging workplaces.</p>
Men and women generally	<p>There is no qualitative or quantitative data to suggest that the Mid South West Regional Economic Strategy will have an adverse impact upon this group. The overall aim of the Strategy is to raise productivity levels for the region, and in doing so create better more and better paid jobs for citizens, and close the productivity gap between Mid South West region and the remainder of Northern Ireland.</p> <p>In developing the RES we have led an extensive engagement process across the region. The strategy has been shaped and directed by industry and relevant stakeholder bodies. Recognising the distinctiveness of MSW as a private sector led economy, we engaged with businesses and membership bodies to understand the opportunities and challenges facing them and the interventions required to unlock economic potential in the region contributing to increased productivity and GVA. In addition, we engaged to determine how spending powers can be used to drive and scale, retain and grow businesses to ensure full economic prosperity is delivered for all.</p> <p>There will be an onus on the employers and businesses in MSW to actively promote the development of productive, inclusive and engaging workplaces.</p>
Disability	<p>There is no qualitative or quantitative data to suggest that the Mid South West Regional Economic Strategy will have an adverse impact upon this group. The overall aim of the Strategy is to raise productivity levels for the region, and in doing so create better more and better paid jobs for citizens, and close the productivity gap between Mid South West region and the remainder of Northern Ireland.</p> <p>In developing the RES we have led an extensive engagement process across the region. The strategy has been shaped and directed by industry and relevant stakeholder bodies. Recognising the distinctiveness of MSW as a private sector led economy, we engaged with businesses and membership bodies to understand the opportunities and challenges facing them and the interventions required to unlock economic potential in the region contributing to increased productivity and GVA. In addition, we engaged to determine how spending powers can be used to drive and scale, retain and grow businesses to ensure full economic prosperity is delivered for all.</p>

	There will be an onus on the employers and businesses in MSW to actively promote the development of productive, inclusive and engaging workplaces.
Dependants	<p>There is no qualitative or quantitative data to suggest that the Mid South West Regional Economic Strategy will have an adverse impact upon this group. The overall aim of the Strategy is to raise productivity levels for the region, and in doing so create better more and better paid jobs for citizens, and close the productivity gap between Mid South West region and the remainder of Northern Ireland. With an emphasis on extending the range of higher-level apprenticeships and degree apprenticeships and their promotion, this will have a positive impact on younger people and their parents/families of these young people.</p> <p>In developing the RES we have led an extensive engagement process across the region. The strategy has been shaped and directed by industry and relevant stakeholder bodies. Recognising the distinctiveness of MSW as a private sector led economy, we engaged with businesses and membership bodies to understand the opportunities and challenges facing them and the interventions required to unlock economic potential in the region contributing to increased productivity and GVA. In addition we engaged to determine how spending powers can be used to drive and scale, retain and grow businesses to ensure full economic prosperity is delivered for all.</p> <p>There will be an onus on the employers and businesses in MSW to actively promote the development of productive, inclusive and engaging workplaces.</p>

### Screening Questions

#### 1. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy for each of the Section 75 categories?

Category	Policy Impact	Level of impact (Major/minor/none)
Religious belief	The overall aim of the strategy is to impact positively on the life of citizens by creating more and better jobs for all and future proof the skills base to ensure full economic prosperity is delivered for all. There will be an onus on the employers and businesses in MSW to actively promote the development of productive, inclusive and engaging workplaces.	Positive Minor
Political opinion	The overall aim of the strategy is to impact positively on the life of citizens by creating more	Positive Minor



	and better jobs for all and future proof the skills base to ensure full economic prosperity is delivered for all. There will be an onus on the employers and businesses in MSW to actively promote the development of productive, inclusive and engaging workplaces.	
Racial group	The overall aim of the strategy is to impact positively on the life of citizens by creating more and better jobs for all and future proof the skills base to ensure full economic prosperity is delivered for all. There will be an onus on the employers and businesses in MSW to actively promote the development of productive, inclusive and engaging workplaces.	Positive Minor
Age	The overall aim of the strategy is to impact positively on the life of citizens by creating more and better jobs for all and future proof the skills base to ensure full economic prosperity is delivered for all. With an emphasis on extending the range of higher-level apprenticeships and degree apprenticeships and their promotion, this will have a positive impact on younger people and their parents/families of these young people.	Positive Minor
Marital status	The overall aim of the strategy is to impact positively on the life of citizens by creating more and better jobs for all and future proof the skills base to ensure full economic prosperity is delivered for all. There will be an onus on the employers and businesses in MSW to actively promote the development of productive, inclusive and engaging workplaces.	Positive Minor
Sexual orientation	The overall aim of the strategy is to impact positively on the life of citizens by creating more and better jobs for all and future proof the skills base to ensure full economic prosperity is delivered for all. There will be an onus on the employers and businesses in MSW to actively promote the development of productive, inclusive and engaging workplaces.	Positive Minor
Men and women generally	The overall aim of the strategy is to impact positively on the life of citizens by creating more and better jobs for all and future proof the skills base to ensure full economic prosperity is delivered for all. There will be an onus on the employers and businesses in MSW to actively promote the development of productive, inclusive and engaging workplaces.	Positive Minor
Disability	The overall aim of the strategy is to impact positively on the life of citizens by creating more and better jobs for all and future proof the skills	Positive Minor

	base to ensure full economic prosperity is delivered for all. There will be an onus on the employers and businesses in MSW to actively promote the development of productive, inclusive and engaging workplaces.	
Dependents	The overall aim of the strategy is to impact positively on the life of citizens by creating more and better jobs for all and future proof the skills base to ensure full economic prosperity is delivered for all. With an emphasis on extending the range of higher-level apprenticeships and degree apprenticeships and their promotion, this will have a positive impact on younger people and their parents/families of these young people. There will be an onus on the employers and businesses in MSW to actively promote the development of productive, inclusive and engaging workplaces.	Positive Minor

**2. Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 categories?**

Category	If yes, provide details	If no, provide reasons
Religious belief	The overall aim of the strategy is to impact positively on the life of citizens by creating more and better jobs for all and future proof the skills base to ensure full economic prosperity is delivered for all. There will be an onus on the employers and businesses in MSW to actively promote the development of productive, inclusive and engaging workplaces.	
Political opinion	The overall aim of the strategy is to impact positively on the life of citizens by creating more and better jobs for all and future proof the skills base to ensure full economic prosperity is delivered for all. There will be an onus on the employers and businesses in MSW to actively promote the development of productive, inclusive and engaging workplaces.	
Racial group	The overall aim of the strategy is to impact positively on the life of citizens by creating more and better jobs for all and future proof the skills base to ensure full economic prosperity is delivered for all. There will be an onus on the employers and businesses in MSW to actively promote the development of productive, inclusive and engaging workplaces.	
Age	The overall aim of the strategy is to impact positively on the life of citizens by creating more and better jobs for all and future proof the skills	

	base to ensure full economic prosperity is delivered for all. With an emphasis on extending the range of higher-level apprenticeships and degree apprenticeships and their promotion, this will have a positive impact on younger people and their parents/families of these young people. There will be an onus on the employers and businesses themselves in MSW to actively promote the development of productive, inclusive and engaging workplaces.	
Marital status	The overall aim of the strategy is to impact positively on the life of citizens by creating more and better jobs for all and future proof the skills base to ensure full economic prosperity is delivered for all. There will be an onus on the employers and businesses in MSW to actively promote the development of productive, inclusive and engaging workplaces.	
Sexual orientation	The overall aim of the strategy is to impact positively on the life of citizens by creating more and better jobs for all and future proof the skills base to ensure full economic prosperity is delivered for all. There will be an onus on the employers and businesses in MSW to actively promote the development of productive, inclusive and engaging workplaces.	
Men and women generally	The overall aim of the strategy is to impact positively on the life of citizens by creating more and better jobs for all and future proof the skills base to ensure full economic prosperity is delivered for all. There will be an onus on the employers and businesses in MSW to actively promote the development of productive, inclusive and engaging workplaces.	
Disability	The overall aim of the strategy is to impact positively on the life of citizens by creating more and better jobs for all and future proof the skills base to ensure full economic prosperity is delivered for all. There will be an onus on the employers and businesses in MSW to actively promote the development of productive, inclusive and engaging workplaces.	
Dependents	The overall aim of the strategy is to impact positively on the life of citizens by creating more and better jobs for all and future proof the skills base to ensure full economic prosperity is delivered for all. With an emphasis on extending the range of higher level apprenticeships and degree apprenticeships and their promotion, this will have a positive impact on younger people and	

	their parents/families of these young people. There will be an onus on the employers and businesses themselves in MSW to actively promote the development of productive, inclusive and engaging workplaces.	
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**3. To what extent is the policy likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion, or racial group?**

Category	Details of Policy Impact	Level of impact (major/minor/none)
Religious belief	.	None
Political opinion		None
Racial group		None

**4. Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?**

Category	If yes, provide details	If no, provide reasons
Religious belief		No
Political opinion		No
Racial group		No

### **Multiple Identity**

Generally speaking, people fall into more than one Section 75 category (for example: disabled minority ethnic people; disabled women; young Protestant men; young lesbian, gay and bisexual people). Provide details of data on the impact of the policy on people with multiple identities. Specify relevant s75 categories concerned.

The overall aim of the strategy is to impact positively on the life of citizens by creating more and better jobs for all and future proof the skills base to ensure economic prosperity in MSW. As detailed above a range of section 75 categories will benefit from this Strategy.

### **Disability Discrimination (NI) Order 2006**

Is there an opportunity for the policy to promote positive attitudes towards disabled people?

Future proofing the skills base emerged as the top priority and is one of the four intervention pillars. However, businesses may need to take steps to ensure that workplaces are inclusive and can accommodate disabled people.

Is there an opportunity for the policy to encourage participation by disabled people in public life?

N/A

### Screening Decision

#### A: NO IMPACT IDENTIFIED ON ANY CATEGORY – EQIA UNNECESSARY

Please identify reasons for this below

#### B: MINOR IMPACT IDENTIFIED – EQIA NOT CONSIDERED NECESSARY AS IMPACT CAN BE ELIMINATED OR MITIGATED

Where the impact is likely to be minor, you should consider if the policy can be mitigated or an alternative policy introduced. If so, an EQIA may not be considered necessary. You must indicate the reasons for this decision below, together with details of measures to mitigate the adverse impact or the alternative policy proposed.

The focus of the MSW Regional Economic Strategy is about making the region a better place to live and work for all citizens. It aims to help MSW businesses be innovative, create jobs and grow in local and international markets, improve physical infrastructure and connectivity, enhance tourism performance, and upskill our people to enable an economy that works for everyone.

‘Future Proofing’ the skills base is one of the four intervention areas and there are potential actions/project concepts for further development that will impact on different section 75 categories. Whilst at this stage the RES is a ‘direction of travel document’, it is anticipated that by extending the range of higher-level apprenticeships and degree apprenticeships and the promotion of same, this will result in a positive impact on younger people and their parents/families of young people.

Initiatives to promote career attractiveness will be important in going forward, resulting in the development of productive, inclusive and engaging workplaces. As well as the workforce environment, businesses will be encouraged to increasingly offer different employment models, flexi-working, contract and portfolio working-all of which have the potential to significantly change the way they attract, invest and develop skills in future. Flexibility will appeal to a range of categories but could benefit in particular men and women with dependants. Inclusive workplaces will benefit many section 75 categories by removing barriers to participation in employment for men, women, persons with different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, sexual orientation, those with a disability and those with dependants. The MSW region has a reliance on migrant labour and it is imperative that it continues to attract workers from outside the region. Further measures may be required in order to achieve this.

## C: MAJOR IMPACT IDENTIFIED – EQIA REQUIRED

If the decision is to conduct an equality impact assessment, please provide details of the reasons.

N/A

### **Timetabling and Prioritising**

**If the policy has been screened in for equality impact assessment**, please answer the following questions to determine its priority for timetabling the equality impact assessment.

On a scale of 1-3 with 1 being the lowest priority and 3 being the highest, assess the policy in terms of its priority for equality impact assessment.

Priority criterion	Rating (1-3)
Effect on equality of opportunity and good relations	
Social need	
Effect on people's daily lives	

The total rating score should be used to prioritise the policy in rank order with other policies screened in for equality impact assessment. This list of priorities will assist the council in timetabling its EQIAs.

Is the policy affected by timetables established by other relevant public authorities? If yes, please give details.

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### **Monitoring**

Effective monitoring will help the authority identify any future adverse impact arising from the policy. It is recommended that where a policy has been amended or an alternative policy introduced to mitigate adverse impact, monitoring be undertaken on a broader basis to identify any impact (positive or adverse).

Further information on monitoring is available in the Equality Commission's guidance on monitoring ([www.equalityni.org](http://www.equalityni.org)).

Identify how the impact of the policy is to be monitored

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## Approval and Authorisation

A copy of the screening form for each policy screened should be signed off by the senior manager responsible for that policy. The screening recommendation should be reported to the relevant Committee/Council when the policy is submitted for approval.

Screened by	Position/Job title	Date
Helen Gormley	Mid South West Region Project Officer	22/01/2020
Claudine McGuigan	Mid South West Region Programme Manager	04/02/2020
Approved by	Position/Job Title	Date
	Strategic Director	05/02/2020

**Please forward a copy of the completed policy and form to:**

**[mary.hanna@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk](mailto:mary.hanna@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk)**

**who will ensure these are made available on the Council's website.**

**The above officer is also responsible for issuing reports on a quarterly basis on those policies "screened out for EQIA". This allows stakeholders who disagree with this recommendation to submit their views. In the event of any stakeholder disagreeing with the decision to screen out any policy, the screening exercise will be reviewed.**

## APPENDIX 1

### SECTION 1

Defining the activity subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

#### 1A. Name of Public Authority

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council on behalf of Mid South West Region.

Mid South West is a collaboration between Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council and Mid Ulster District Council.

#### 1B. Please provide a short title which describes the activity being undertaken by the Public Authority that is subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

Development of a Regional Economic Strategy (RES)

#### 1C. Please indicate which category the activity specified in Section 1B above relates to

Developing a	Policy		Strategy	X	Plan	
Adopting a	Policy		Strategy		Plan	
Implementing a	Policy		Strategy		Plan	
Revising a	Policy		Strategy		Plan	
Designing a Public Service						
Designing a Public Service						

#### 1D. Please provide the official title (if any) of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service document or initiative relating to the category indicated in Section 1C above

Mid South West Regional Economic Strategy

#### 1E. Please provide details of the aims and/or objectives of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

Approximately two thirds of all residents in Mid South West region, live within rural areas. Therefore, the Regional Economic Strategy seeks to allow for appropriate development opportunities in urban and rural areas, whilst at the same time, protecting our sensitive environmental areas from inappropriate development. This is important if we are to maintain the vibrancy of the rural area and ensure it continues to be a place where



people live and work and also be somewhere which fosters the entrepreneurial spirit, which is a distinct characteristic of the region. Having said that we are custodians of some of the most unique landscapes and internationally important nature conservation sites which must be protected from inappropriate and over dominant development.

The headline ambition of the Mid South West Regional Economic Strategy is to raise productivity levels across the region and in so doing create better paid jobs for residents and close the productivity gap between MSW and the rest of NI. Closing sectoral productivity gaps in MSW has the potential to be equivalent to a 4.3% uplift of the NI economy. This growth will be facilitated via a range of appropriate interventions across the region including the countryside and in the rural settlements, as well as through appropriate rural economic development opportunities.

The strategy outlines the growth and development vision for the Mid South West region. It focuses on strengths, challenges, specific and targeted economic interventions and investments to drive productivity in the region over the longer term. The ambition is to 'supercharge' the growth of the collective economy and ensure inclusive prosperity in MSW.

MSW RES demonstrates that a range of funding sources and policy changes will be required to realise the benefits of the strategy. It will build on the region's economic strengths and contribute to improving the competitiveness of Northern Ireland overall. This means:

- boosting productivity
- delivering more and better jobs
- tackling inequalities
- greater investment in the area
- supporting our businesses to innovate and grow
- improving skills
- ensuring future skills to meet the needs of our growing economy and the resilience of the place.

The MSW Region has significant strengths in the following sectors:

- Advanced manufacturing, materials and engineering
- Agri-food
- Life and Health Sciences
- Digital and creative technologies
- Tourism
- Construction

The strategy addresses the regional economic balance and outlines the key areas of economic, infrastructure and development activity that the MSW region will commit to in developing a regional economic agenda to transform economic performance in both urban and rural areas.

Action/implementation plan for interventions to be developed at a later stage.

#### 1F. What definition of 'rural' is the Public Authority using in respect of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service?

Population Settlements of less than 5,000 (Default definition).	X
Other Definition (Provide details and the rationale below).	
A definition of 'rural' is not applicable.	

*Details of alternative definition of 'rural' used.*

N/A

*Rationale for using alternative definition of 'rural'.*

N/A

*Reasons why a definition of 'rural' is not applicable.*

N/A

## **SECTION 2**

### **Understanding the impact of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service**

#### **2A. Is the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service likely to impact on people in rural areas?**

Yes	X	No	If the response is <b>NO</b> GO TO Section <b>2E</b> .
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#### **2B. Please explain how the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas.**

The default definition of “rural” used in Northern Ireland is those settlements with a population of 5,000 or less together with the open countryside. Therefore, everywhere in the Mid South West region outside of the hub settlements is classed as being rural. This means that Mid South West region is a predominantly rural region with approximately 478,317 residents of which two thirds are classed as rural dwellers and therefore, this strategy will clearly have an impact on what is defined as the rural area.

The strategy sets out the ‘direction of travel’ in relation to our vision and ambition for the region; it identifies the opportunities and challenges we face; and sets out the four priority ‘pillars’ around which future investment and actions to realise our ambitions should be framed. Priority pillars include enabling infrastructure, boosting innovation and digital activity, building a high-performing visitor/tourist economy, and ‘future proofing’ the skills base. Furthermore, it provides an early, high level indication of potential specific projects/interventions that may sit under each of these ‘pillars’ - which will be the subject to ongoing development and delivered through the subsequent action/implementation plan.

The focus of MSW Regional Economic Strategy is about making the entire region a better place to live and work for all citizens in both urban and rural areas. Its primary aims are to support MSW businesses to be innovative, create jobs and grow in local and international markets, improve physical infrastructure and connectivity to harder to reach areas, enhance tourism performance, and upskill our people to enable an economy that works for everyone.

To achieve the headline ambition of the strategy, investment in infrastructure is a critical enabler to realising growth ambitions, given the significant deficits that exist in several aspects of the basic economic infrastructure for competitiveness in MSW. The RES highlights the serious gaps in our basic infrastructure and the data that shows a high proportion (40%) of

Super Output Area's are ranked amongst the most deprived in NI for access to services. This indicator covers travel time by private and public transport to a range of services and the proportion of properties with slow broadband. The access to services deprivation referenced also reflects the fact that much of the MSW region has relatively poor access to higher speed broadband connections. The largely rural nature of the region requires almost positive investment in this respect.

Through investment in our basic infrastructure including: roads, rail, broadband and mobile phone coverage, enhanced electricity supply and site development; this will lead to social benefits for rural areas which are the result of increased wealth and economic prosperity.

Consequently, actions that we will take through the RES to improve our physical infrastructure and connectivity will have an immediate impact on our productivity and potential for growth, making the MSW a more attractive region to higher skilled individuals and for business investment

Whilst at this stage the RES is a strategic framework, it is anticipated that the subsequent action / implementation plan is likely to have a significant positive impact on rural people by supporting the development of interventions that will 'supercharge' the growth of our collective economy and ensure inclusive prosperity.

**2C. If the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas, please explain how it is likely to impact on people in rural areas differently.**

The Regional Economic Strategy aims to target both individuals and businesses across the district in both rural and urban areas, and does recognise the circumstances of 'rural' in terms of the issues that they face. It takes account of access to training and employment and acquirement of skills opportunities as well as looking at infrastructural support for rural areas (broadband, mobile phone coverage, roads network, utilities etc). It will also consider access to services and the ability of rural dwellers to continue to access essential services.

'Future Proofing' the skills base is one of the four intervention areas in the strategy. There are potential actions/project concepts for further development that will impact equally on people living in both urban and rural areas. Extending the range of higher-level apprenticeships and degree apprenticeships and the promotion of these will have a positive impact on younger people and their parents/families of these young people. Initiatives to promote career attractiveness include the development of productive, inclusive and engaging workplaces. As well as the workforce environment itself, businesses will be encouraged to increasingly offer different employment models, flexi-working, contract and portfolio working-all of which have the potential to significantly change the way they attract, invest and develop skills in future. This approach will benefit many people living in rural areas.

**2D. Please indicate which of the following rural policy areas the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to primarily impact on.**

Rural Businesses	X
Rural Tourism	X
Rural Housing	X

Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas	X
Education or Training in Rural Areas	X
Broadband or Mobile Communications in Rural Areas	X
Transport Services or Infrastructure in Rural Areas	X
Health or Social Care Services in Rural Areas	
Poverty in Rural Areas	
Deprivation in Rural Areas	
Rural Crime or Community Safety	
Rural Development	X
Agri-Environment	X
Other (Please state)	

If the response to Section 2A was YES GO TO Section 3A.

**2E. Please explain why the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is NOT likely to impact on people in rural areas.**

N/A

## SECTION 3

### Identifying the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas

**3A. Has the Public Authority taken steps to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas that are relevant to the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service?**

Yes	X	No		If the Response is NO GO TO Section 3E.
-----	---	----	--	---

**3B. Please indicate which of the following methods or information sources were used by the Public Authority to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.**

Consultation with Rural Stakeholders		Published Statistics	X
Consultation with Other Organisations	X	Research Papers	X
Surveys or Questionnaires		Other Publications	
Other Methods or Information Sources (include details in Question 3C below).			

**3C. Please provide details of the methods and information sources used to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas including relevant dates, names of organisations, titles of publications, website references, details of surveys or consultations undertaken etc.**

In developing the RES and in other work to date, we have led an extensive engagement process across the region. In effect this RES has been extensively shaped and directed by the industry/business base within MSW, aligned to the fact that it is their commitment, drive and ambition that have contributed to the growth and success of our region to date and will be instrumental to realising our future potential. Recognising the distinctiveness of MSW as a private-sector led economy, we prioritised engagement with businesses and membership bodies to understand the opportunities and challenges facing them and the interventions needed to unlock further growth in GVA and productivity for our region. Many of the businesses with whom we engaged are based in rural locations.

In addition, we have consulted with elected officials, Government departments/ agencies, Invest NI, Skills Bodies, Higher and Further Education Institutions, and Universities to ensure buy in and input from key stakeholders across MSW and Northern Ireland.

Data produced as part of developing Community Plans, Local Development Plans and Corporate Plans across the three Mid South West Region Councils, has also been used to identify the social and economic needs of people in the region.

**3D. Please provide details of the social and economic needs of people in rural areas which have been identified by the Public Authority?**

Mid South West region is a predominantly rural district with approximately two thirds of its population living in the rural area.

Mid South West region has a vibrant rural area consisting of active communities, a strong entrepreneurial spirit which contributes to the overall employment base and rural villages with considerable character and heritage importance. This vibrant rural area needs to be supported and sustained if it is to remain as a vitally important part of our region. This means that the Rural Economic Strategy needs to deliver a suite of project interventions and policy changes which can allow adequate flexibility to provide for infrastructure, innovation, digital activity, enhanced tourism economy and employment opportunities in rural areas, whilst still protecting the character and heritage of the countryside and rural villages.

As well as the need to sustain the rural area and consolidate its current situation, there are also various elements of rural life which have been identified as needing to be improved. The rural area in Mid South West region suffers from some of the poorest broadband speeds and worst mobile data coverage in Northern Ireland. In addition, parts of the rural area also experience some of the longest journey times to acute hospital services when compared against the rest of Northern Ireland. These issues contribute to social isolation and feelings of exclusion by reducing the levels of connectivity between the rural area and the main urban centres. The Rural Economic Strategy must therefore endeavour to address these needs in order to help reduce the feelings of social isolation and exclusion which are being experienced by many in rural areas.

**3E. Please explain why no steps were taken by the Public Authority to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas?**

N/A

## **SECTION 4**

### **Considering the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas**

**4A. Please provide details of the issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.**

Councils representing the Mid South West region have considered the need for providing enabling infrastructure, enhancing local employment opportunities within the area, diversifying the economy with a particular focus on 'future proofing' the skills base and creating opportunities within all sectors including new and emerging sectors.

In terms of providing infrastructure in order to tackle some of the problems which contribute to rural isolation and social exclusion across the region, the RES must be capable of protecting existing and building new key transport corridors which link the main hub towns in the District to each other and to the wider rural area as well.

Despite the MSW region being recognised as the 'economic engine' of NI, and a highly entrepreneurial economy with favorable survival rates, there is evidence that too many of our indigenous businesses fail to grow. Over 86% of local businesses have less than 10 employees compared to 83.9% in NI. In addition, over a third of MSW businesses have a turnover of less than £50,000 compared to a quarter across NI. The need for continued support for SMEs in both urban and rural areas has been acknowledged.

Underinvestment in transport infrastructure; shortfalls in digital connectivity; the lack of incubator, office and light industrial facilities; as well as shortage of labour / skills in more recent years – are contributing factors to the fact that too many of our indigenous businesses fail to grow. There were also suggestions that insufficient technology adoption was hindering productivity, competitiveness and business growth more generally in the SME economy. Therefore, a key ambition within the RES will be to enhance the leadership skills of our existing business owners and workforce, as well as provide support to our businesses with technology adoption for growth and development. Given the scale of our small business base in MSW the potential for growth in rural areas is enormous.

The strategy recognises that issues of poverty and social isolation exist within the region, and in particular rural areas. Our economy is near or at full employment, with high levels of resident employment and relatively low levels of inactivity and unemployment. Broadly speaking, our region does not suffer from excessive concentrations of deprivation, albeit that there are 'deep pockets' of deprivation in some localities, which would be within the top 10



percent of most deprived Super Output Areas (SOAs) in NI. As two thirds of the MSW region is located in rural areas, deprivation has higher prevalence among rural dwellers.

As previously stated, a key issue for many rural dwellers is that of access to services, health and employment and their associated need for appropriate infrastructure in all areas, those living in rural areas often experience these more acutely due to their geographical isolation, lower density and the dispersed rural nature of many rural settlements across the MSE region. This is further compounded by the limited availability of public transport infrastructure and the blackspots of poor or no broadband provision in the rural areas. The strategy stipulates the need for mitigations to ensure that all dwellers, irrespective of their rurality, have access to good broadband and mobile phone connectivity.

## **SECTION 5**

### **Influencing the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service**

**5A. Has the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or delivery of the Public Service, been influenced by the rural needs identified?**

Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	If the response is <b>NO</b> GO TO Section <b>5C</b> .
-----	-------------------------------------	----	--

**5B. Please explain how the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or delivery of the Public Service, has been influenced by the rural needs identified.**

The aims, objectives, interventions and operational subject policies of the MSW Regional Economic Strategy will encourage sustaining rural communities and ‘supercharging’ the growth of the collective economy to ensure inclusive prosperity for all.

In terms of interventions, policy changes and economic development opportunities the strategy sets out opportunity for all businesses, and in particular SME sector to grow and be more productive. The strategy also seeks to protect and consolidate major areas of existing rural industry by enhancing their capabilities in crucial enabling technologies such as data analytics, robotics, automation, artificial intelligence, augmented reality, advanced materials and production techniques, and exploiting the growth opportunities these technologies provide.

The strategy highlights the major utility infrastructure deficits in relation to the prevailing wastewater network capacity and state electricity supply across the region. The deficit in relation to wastewater network capacity is a major constraint on housing development in rural settlements and on the development of serviced industrial land, to enable business expansion. In addition, it highlights the need for research on a policy agenda change in respect of the regeneration of our rural areas.

Actions that we take through the implementation of the RES to improve our infrastructure, enhance innovation and digital activity, build our tourism economy and ‘future proof’ the skills base will have an immediate impact on our productivity and potential growth, making our rural areas more attractive to higher skilled individuals and for business investment.

**5C. Please explain why the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or the delivery of the Public Service, has NOT been influenced by the rural needs identified.**

N/A

## **SECTION 6**

### **Documenting and Recording**

**6A. Please tick below to confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained by the Public Authority and relevant information on the Section 1 activity compiled in accordance with paragraph 6.7 of the guidance**

I confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained and relevant information compiled.

X

<b>Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by:</b>	Helen Gormley
<b>Position/Grade:</b>	Mid South West Region Project Officer
<b>Department/Directorate</b>	Place
<b>Signature:</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	9 February 2020
<b>Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:</b>	Olga Murtagh
<b>Department/Directorate:</b>	Place
<b>Division/Branch</b>	
<b>Signature:</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	10 February 2020



<b>Report on</b>	Correspondence to Council – February 2020
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Thurs 27 <sup>th</sup> February 2020
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	P Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
<b>Contact Officer</b>	P Moffett, Head of Democratic Services

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	Provide an update on correspondence received for attention of Council.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	This paper refers to correspondence to be brought to the attention of Council. Items are referred to in 3.0 below.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p><b>Correspondence from the Patron of Ancre Somme Association</b></p> <p>The Patron of Ancre Somme Association based at Brownlow House, Lurgan has corresponded with the Council to provide details of its Ribbon of Poppies UK &amp; Commonwealth 2020 Campaign, requesting that Council consider its support for it. Refer to Appendix A.</p>
3.2	<p><b>Correspondence from Northern Ireland Assembly</b></p> <p>The Clerk to the Clerking &amp; Members Support section of the Northern Ireland Assembly (NIA)) has corresponded to confirm that the Councils request that consideration be given to some NIA Committee meetings being held within the Mid Ulster district will be brought to the attention of all Committees. The Committee for Education and Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) have subsequently responded. Refer to appendix B</p>
3.3	<p><b>Correspondence from Chief Executive, Newry, Mourne &amp; Down DC</b></p> <p>The Chief Executive of Newry, Mourne &amp; Down District Council has corresponded with the Council to give notification that it passed a motion regarding the upcoming A1 Junctions Phase 2 Public Inquiry scheduled to commence in March 2020, seeking that Mid Ulster District Council supports same. Refer to appendix C.</p>

3.4	<b>Correspondence from Permanent Secretary, Department for Communities</b>  The Permanent Secretary of the Department for Communities has corresponded with the Council to confirm that it is willing to consider alternative venues for welfare tribunal hearings, such as council facilities and as such will liaise with Council on possibilities. Refer to Appendix D.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>  Financial: not applicable  Human: not applicable  Risk Management: not applicable
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>  Equality & Good Relations Implications: not applicable  Rural Needs Implications: not applicable
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	That Council notes and considers, as necessary, the correspondence received.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
	Appendix A: Ancre Somme Association, Lurgan Appendix B: Northern Ireland Assembly Appendix C: Newry, Mourne & Down District Council Appendix D: Department for Communities

Ancre Somme Association  
Brownlow House  
Windsor Avenue  
Lurgan  
BT67 9BJ

Email: [info@ancresommeassociation.co.uk](mailto:info@ancresommeassociation.co.uk)  
Website: [www.ancresommeassociation.co.uk](http://www.ancresommeassociation.co.uk)  
Patrons: Lt Col Anthony Maher. Lt Col Jules McElhinney.  
Register Charity No: SCO48597

Appendix A



## **RIBBON OF POPPIES UK & COMMONWEALTH 2020 CAMPAIGN**

10 February 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter regarding the Ribbon of Poppies UK & Commonwealth 2020 Campaign. We want to continue our quest to create a "Living Memorial" in memory of our British, Commonwealth and Allied forces combined with educational resources on all conflicts on all fronts. You may well have committed last year to support our campaign and as a result £2000 was raised for the Veterans with Dogs Charity.

Our aim is to raise community awareness, especially that of the younger generation, regarding the impact of conflicts on previous generations through various interactive projects.

We want to continue to recognise the sacrifice made by our British Military and we will endeavour to ensure that their bravery, both past and present, is remembered through our continued support towards our Armed Forces Charities and various Armed Forces legacy projects.

We have this year again a bespoke packet of Remembrance Poppy Seeds and these are available now from our website [www.ribbonofpoppies.org.uk](http://www.ribbonofpoppies.org.uk), for a donation of £1 per packet.

As we commemorate the 75th Anniversary of VE/VJ Day this year's Ribbon of Poppies Campaign has already had pledges from Scout, Cub, Guide, Brownie, Boys Brigade and Cadet groups across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland as well as a number of schools, councils and community organisations. I am writing to you today in the hope that your council will consider supporting this campaign. I would request that this letter be presented to your Council members for discussion.

Joining the campaign is very easy Step One – Pledge your support Step Two – Purchase your Poppy Seeds and finally Step Three – Sow the Seeds. For further information please visit [www.ribbonofpoppies.org.uk](http://www.ribbonofpoppies.org.uk).

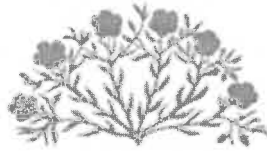
In addition this year we would ask your Council to consider planting out verges and hedgerows with wild flowers, incorporating the poppy, so that people travelling through your Council area will be reminded daily of the sacrifice paid so that we can live in peace. While cutting less, cutting later will save your council money it will also help bring back the multitude of bees, butterflies, birds and bugs that are sadly disappearing from our countryside.

Once again thank you for taking the time to read this letter and we hope that you will look favourably on our request for support towards this worthy cause. If you have any queries or questions now, or in the future, don't hesitate to contact us on 07920746760.

Yours faithfully,

*Ant. Maher*  
Lt Col Ant Maher  
Patron





**NORTHERN IRELAND  
ASSEMBLY**

Appendix B

**Keith McBride**  
Clerk  
Clerking and Members Support  
Room 242  
• Parliament Buildings  
BT4 3XX

Councillor Martin Kearney  
Chair  
Mid Ulster District Council

3 February 2020

Dear Chair,

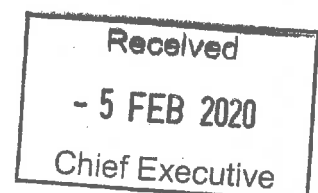
**Accommodation for Committee meetings**

Thank you for your correspondence of 27 January to Mr McGrath outlining the facilities and accommodation available to Assembly Committees within the Mid Ulster District Council area.

I will ensure that all Committees are aware of this information and that they will consider the venues when the need arises.

Yours sincerely

**Keith McBride**



**From:** [McCann, Ed](#)  
**To:** [Eileen Forde](#)  
**Subject:** Committee For Education  
**Date:** 13 February 2020 11:50:58

---

Dear Eileen,

Thank you for your correspondence dated the 5<sup>th</sup> February 2020. The Committee for Education noted your correspondence at their sitting on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

Kind regards

Ed McCann



**ED MCCANN**

*Clerical Officer*

Committee for Education

work: [028 9052 1488](tel:02890521488)

email: [ed.mccann@niassembly.gov.uk](mailto:ed.mccann@niassembly.gov.uk)

428

Parliament Buildings

Ballymiscaw

Stormont

Belfast

BT4 3XX

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## **Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs**

Eileen Forde  
Member Support Officer  
Dungannon Office  
Mid Ulster District Council

17 February 2020

Dear Eileen,

Thank you for your recent correspondence, the Committee welcomed your very kind offer of available accommodation at their meeting of 13 February 2020.

The Committee agreed to add the suggested venues to its list of possible locations to use for external committee meetings. The Committee work programme is currently focused on Brexit legislation and it has asked you to note that it may be some time before it has the opportunity to organise external meetings and visits.

Yours sincerely,

**Stella McArdle**  
**Clerk, Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs**

Marie Ward  
Chief Executive



Comhairle Ceantair  
an Iúir, Mhúrn  
agus an Dúin  
**Newry, Mourne  
and Down**  
District Council

Our ref: C/209/2019

9 December 2019

Mr Anthony Tohill  
CEO  
Mid Ulster District Council  
Council Offices  
Circular Road  
Dungannon  
BT71 DT

Appendix C

Dear Mr Tohill

**Re: A1 Junctions**

At a Meeting of Newry Mourne & Down District Council held on Monday 3 February 2020, the following Notice of Motion was agreed:

*"This Council make a formal written submission to the upcoming A1 Junctions Phase 2 Public Inquiry, which is to begin in March 2020.*

*The submission will reflect the full support of this council for an urgent upgrade of this road as per the DFI proposals, a stretch of road that has brought so much devastation to the families of many local people who have lost their lives while travelling on it over the years. Council will also write to the other local authorities through which the A1 travels, namely Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council and Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council urging them to support our motion and requesting that they too make their own submissions to the inquiry."*

Members of Newry, Mourne and District Council unanimously agreed to this Motion and urge your Council to support it also by making a submission to the inquiry.

Information can be accessed at the following link: <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/publications/a1-junctions-phase-2-departmental-statement-public-inquiry>

Yours sincerely

**Marie Ward**  
**Chief Executive**

/DST



Department for

**Communities**

[www.communities-ni.gov.uk](http://www.communities-ni.gov.uk)

From: Tracy Meharg  
Permanent Secretary

Level 9  
Causeway Exchange  
1-7 Bedford Street  
BELFAST  
BT2 7EG

Telephone: 028 90 823301  
E-mail: [tracy.meharg@communities-ni.gov.uk](mailto:tracy.meharg@communities-ni.gov.uk)  
Our Ref: PSC 0095.20  
Date: 11 February 2020

Martin Kearney  
Chair  
Mid Ulster District Council  
Dungannon Office  
Circular Road  
Dungannon  
BT71 6DT

Appendix D

Via email: [eileen.forde@midulstercouncil.org](mailto:eileen.forde@midulstercouncil.org)

Dear *Martin*

## **COURT HOUSES FOR WELFARE TRIBUNAL HEARINGS.**

I am responding to your letter dated 28 January 2020, regarding the use of Court houses for welfare tribunal hearings.

The Department is willing to consider alternative venues, such as council facilities, if they are deemed suitable for an appeal tribunal hearing.

Therefore, Leslie Millar (Head of the Appeals Service) and Jeff Glass (Head of Local Government Finance) will liaise with Eileen Forde in order to assess your council facilities as a potential venue for tribunal hearings.

Yours sincerely,

*Tracy Meharg*

**TRACY MEHARG  
PERMANENT SECRETARY**



<b>Report on</b>	Consultations Notified to Mid Ulster District Council
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	27 February 2020
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Philip Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Corporate Policy and Equality Officer

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To update members on the consultations notified to Mid Ulster District Council for comment.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	Council is a consultee for many government departments, statutory agencies and other bodies, and as such receives consultation documentation inviting commentary on a wide range of issues that may be pertinent to council services and/or the District.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	Documentation relating to the aforementioned consultations can be accessed via the links provided in the table provided in Appendix A
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	Financial: N/A
	Human: N/A
	Risk Management: N/A
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: None
	Rural Needs Implications: None
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	Members review and note consultations notified to Mid Ulster District Council.

<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
	Appendix A: Details of Current Consultations

### Appendix A: Details of Current Consultations

Organisation	Consultation Title	Issue	Closing Date	Response Currently Being Developed
Department of Education (DE)	Consultation on Update to Nutritional Standards for School Food	The Department of Education in Northern Ireland is consulting on draft updated Nutritional Standards for Food in grant-aided schools. The updated standards will meet current government guidance on healthy eating (as outlined in the Eatwell Guide 2016).	27 March 2020	
	<b>Link to Consultation</b>	<a href="https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/consultations">https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/consultations</a>		
	<b>Delegated Authority</b> required to be granted to a Committee if Council agrees that a response should be made (where an extension is not given)?		Not applicable	
Organisation	Consultation Title	Issue	Closing Date	Response Currently Being Developed
Newry, Mourne & Down District Council	Draft Equality Action Plan and Draft Disability Action Plan 2020-2023	Newry, Mourne & Down District Council is consulting on new Equality and Disability Action Plans for the period 2020-2023. Responses can be provided via an online survey.	10 April 2020	
	<b>Link to Consultation</b>	<a href="https://www.newrymournedown.org/public-consultations">https://www.newrymournedown.org/public-consultations</a>		
	<b>Delegated Authority</b> required to be granted to a Committee if Council agrees that a response should be made (where an extension is not given)?		Not applicable	

Organisation	Consultation Title	Issue	Closing Date	Response Currently Being Developed
Hate Crime Review team	Independent Review of legislation for dealing with hate crime in Northern Ireland	This Review has been commissioned by the Department of Justice to consider whether existing hate crime legislation represents the most effective approach for the justice system to deal with criminal conduct motivated by hatred, malice, ill will, or prejudice, including hate crime and abuse that takes place online.	31 March 2020	
	<b>Link to Consultation</b>	<a href="https://www.hatecrimereviewni.org.uk/news/launch-online-survey">https://www.hatecrimereviewni.org.uk/news/launch-online-survey</a>		
	<b>Delegated Authority</b> required to be granted to a Committee if Council agrees that a response should be made (where an extension is not given)?		Not applicable	

