

<b>Report on</b>	Corporate Performance Improvement Plan 2021-22 to 2022-23
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2021
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	P Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
<b>Contact Officer</b>	L Jenkins, Performance & Quality 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 consider Council's Corporate Performance Improvement Plan for period 2021-2022 to 2022-2023.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	The 2014 Local Government Act places a general duty on the Council to " <i>....make arrangements to secure continuous improvement....</i> " in the exercise of its functions.
2.2.	Each year the Council develops an annual Performance Improvement Plan (PIP), containing improvement objectives, associated activity and outcomes for citizens and local communities. The plan also includes the statutory performance indicators and standards as outlined in the Local Government (Performance Indicators and Standards) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015, as well as Council's Corporate health indicators (measures).
2.3	Senior management previously undertook a workshop to look at areas for improvement, moving forward, with a focus on current and future issues for Mid Ulster citizens, the contextual issues relating to current Council operations and short to medium term Council priorities (in relation to the newly developed corporate plan 2020-2024). The outworking's from this session were analysed and four draft improvement objectives developed, with supporting rationales, which were due to go out for public consultation running from March through to early May 2020. The proposed improvement objectives would form the basis of Council's two-year performance improvement plan for 2020/21 to 2021/22.
2.4	By the 23 <sup>rd</sup> of March 2020, the COVID-19 Pandemic required the Council to divert resources and attention to support the emergency response in order to help and protect the most vulnerable in society and ensuring the continued delivery of our essential services. In recognition of these circumstances, the Department for Communities (DfC) proposed that Councils were not required to publish a Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) for 2020-21. This was confirmed in a letter sent by the Department for Communities (DfC), to Chief Executives on 11th June 2020 (refer to December 2020 Policy and Resources

	Committee report). Council did not develop a Performance Improvement Plan or consult on the improvement objectives based on the departmental guidance in line with COVID responses.
2.5	<p>Subsequently, the Department has engaged with the Local Government Performance Improvement Working Group, chaired by a SOLACE representative, to discuss the arrangements to secure continuous improvement moving forward into 2021/22 year (short term) as well as medium to long-term issues. During meetings in January 2021 a DfC representative outlined that;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councils proceed with a Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) for 2021/22</li> <li>• during discussions it was mooted by the Department that it would; in light of the pandemic, understand that performance plans may require a “broader definition”, as they would likely include both recovery and improvement objectives for each Council</li> <li>• The department and the Local Government Performance Working Group recognised that all Councils would be in different stages of recovery and have various contextual issues/factors unique to their areas</li> </ul>
2.6	<p>The Local Government Performance Working Group corresponded with DfC in January on issues discussed. Further issues were highlighted in the correspondence such as Councils’ flexibility in terms of publication dates of performance improvement plan (PIP plan usually published by June 30<sup>th</sup> each year), as well as the risk that the standards for the statutory performance indicators would not be met this year owing to the pandemic. Again, flexibility was sought in terms of achieving the standards and that this be built into the audit process so that local government would not be negatively impacted upon as a result of not meeting the targets. In addition, standards for the 2021/22 year need to be confirmed as soon as possible for all statutory performance indicators.</p>
2.7	<p>Subsequent to the letter of the 20<sup>th</sup> of January forwarded to DfC by the Working Group, Council received correspondence from DfC, dated the 8<sup>th</sup> of June, (refer to Appendix One). The Department has confirmed that it will bring forward legislation to regularise and ease council Performance Improvement duties, which includes setting aside the requirement for councils to publish a Performance Improvement Plan (PIP plan) for 2020-21. Following on from that decision, the Department has determined that whilst councils will have to produce a Performance Improvement Plan for the current 2021/22 year, <b><i>“the requirement to publish the plan has been extended to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021”</i></b>.</p> <p><b>Developing Council’s new PIP plan - Review of Improvement Objectives for 2021/22 to 2022/23</b></p>
2.8	<p>A self-analysis exercise was undertaken by Council to review the previous year’s draft improvement objectives to establish their continued relevancy for</p>

2.9	<p>the period 2021/22 to 2022/23. The exercise was undertaken in order to ensure that the improvement objectives were based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A thorough, evidence-based understanding of the communities Council serves,</li> <li>• Local needs and Council's capacity to address those needs.</li> <li>• Improvement objectives correspond directly with the council's priorities for improvement in the hierarchy of plans, and</li> <li>• The context of the Covid-19 pandemic</li> </ul> <p><b>Proposed Draft Performance Improvement Objectives 2021/22 to 2022/23</b></p> <p>Senior management were content with the review of the proposed improvement objectives, which are outlined below in table one. Each improvement objective has an assigned Head of Service acting as a Senior Responsible Officer (SRO), along with a project team, to develop and embed a body of work to deliver improvement outcomes for citizens specific to the improvement objectives. Each project will undertake an annual review.</p> <p><b>Table One - Proposed Improvement Objectives 2021-22 to 2022-23</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="240 999 1370 1630"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Proposed Improvement Objectives 2021/22 to 2022/23</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td><td>Mid Ulster District Council will seek to reduce the environmental impacts of our own activities and will contribute to the improvement of the wider environment through local action</td></tr> <tr> <td>2</td><td>We will ensure a more connected Mid Ulster where new technologies and ways of working, empower citizens to get the best services that matter to them</td></tr> <tr> <td>3</td><td>To create cleaner neighbourhoods, where everyone takes responsibility for their waste and environment</td></tr> <tr> <td>4</td><td>We will contribute to the on-going regeneration of our district by delivering a capital investment programme, enhancing facilities and opportunities for local people</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Proposed Improvement Objectives 2021/22 to 2022/23		1	Mid Ulster District Council will seek to reduce the environmental impacts of our own activities and will contribute to the improvement of the wider environment through local action	2	We will ensure a more connected Mid Ulster where new technologies and ways of working, empower citizens to get the best services that matter to them	3	To create cleaner neighbourhoods, where everyone takes responsibility for their waste and environment	4	We will contribute to the on-going regeneration of our district by delivering a capital investment programme, enhancing facilities and opportunities for local people
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3.0	<b>Main Report</b>										
3.1	Statutory Guidance issued by the Department for Communities to Councils on taking forward the general duty on improvement, requires that the council consult on a yearly basis on their improvement objectives. This requirement on consultation falls from section 87 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014.										
3.2	There is no statutory duty to consult on the improvement plan, but rather the improvement objectives. The four new improvement objectives proposed for										

3.3	<p>2020-21 to 2021-22 went out for public consultation from Thursday the 11<sup>th</sup> of March to Thursday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April 2021 - 55 responses were received. The consultation told us that each objective received significant support (scores ranged from 94% to 98% agreement for the draft improvement objectives). When reviewed, respondent commentary did not warrant the removal, amendment to or addition to the objectives proposed.</p> <p>Together with additional commentary provided, the council has developed its 2021-2022 to 2022-2023 Corporate Performance Improvement Plan around them (refer to Appendix Two).</p>
<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><u>Screening &amp; Impact Statements</u></b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	That members consider and approve the Council's Corporate Performance Improvement Plan 2021–2022 to 2022-2023.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
	<p>Appendix One: Department for Infrastructure letter dated 8<sup>th</sup> June 2021</p> <p>Appendix Two: Corporate Performance Improvement Plan 2021-22 to 2022-23</p>