

<b>Report on</b>	1. Caledon Regeneration Partnership 2. NI Apprenticeship Week 3. Launch of Mid Ulster's New Suite of Business Programmes
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> January 2020
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Head of Economic Development
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Funding & Investment Manager and Programmes & Policy 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>
	To receive updates on the matters detailed below;
1.1	Caledon Regeneration Partnership
1.2	NI Apprenticeship Week
1.3	Launch of Mid Ulster's New Suite of Business Programmes
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	<p><b>Caledon Regeneration Partnership</b></p> <p>In January 2019, the Council agreed to provide financial support to the value of £5,000 to Caledon Regeneration Partnership towards exploring the viability of a day-care facility in the former Wool Store building at Mill Street, Caledon. CRP secured match funding from the Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF) which enabled the group to appoint professional support to complete a feasibility study and condition report and business plan. The project has been identified by AHF as a priority project under DAERA's Village Catalyst Programme. Members received a presentation from CRP on the Wool Store project at the Development Committee meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2019.</p>
2.2	<p><b>NI Apprenticeship Week</b></p> <p>The Department for the Economy is facilitating the first Apprenticeship Week in NI from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at which there will be an opportunity to promote events and promotional activity to demonstrate how apprenticeships work for individuals, businesses, communities and the wider economy.</p>

2.3	<p><b>Launch of Mid Ulster's New Suite of Business Programmes</b></p> <p>Members will be aware that Council resources of £237,580 has levered 80% grant of £950,320 from the ERDF Investment for Growth and Jobs Fund and Invest NI to achieve a total investment of £1.187m in the following 4 business programmes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Tender Ready</li> <li>2) Digital First</li> <li>3) Transform and</li> <li>4) Gearing for Growth</li> </ol> <p>These programmes are planned to support 690 businesses and contribute to the creation of 900 jobs by December 2022.</p> <p>Council is also investing £90,000 in a three year Mid Ulster Social Enterprise Programme to be delivered during the years 2020-22.</p>
3.0	<p><b>Main Report</b></p>
3.1	<p><b>Caledon Regeneration Partnership</b></p> <p>Caledon Regeneration Partnership (CRP) have been progressing plans to bring the historic former Wool Store building (dated to 1823) back into productive use a rural childcare facility. The re-purposing of the Wool Store into this much needed facility will conserve an important heritage building while delivering very positive economic and social benefits for the local community. The project will also include a new build extension that will create additional space for the facility as well as offices and a kitchen. Considerable work has been made by CRP in respect of the project as outlined below:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Feasibility study and Condition report has been completed with funding from Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF) and Mid Ulster District Council</li> <li>• A Project viability report has been completed</li> <li>• A Business plan has been completed</li> <li>• A planning application has been submitted to the Planning section.</li> <li>• The majority of funding/finance is now in place.</li> </ul> <p>The overall project has been costed at £520,000. CRP have to date secured £470k funding and therefore require £50,000 (9.6%) from Council to close the funding shortfall to allow the project to proceed.</p> <p>The Development Committee received a presentation from CRP on the Wool Store project on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2019 and the group has since submitted an Expression of Interest to the Council's Capital Discretionary Grant; this is a competitive grant process for community capital projects across the District.</p> <p>Subject to obtaining the necessary statutory approvals and securing gap funding from Council, it is anticipated that the project will commence March/April 2020 and be completed in April 2021.</p>

3.2	<p><b>NI Apprenticeship Week</b></p> <p>There will be a number of events taking place right across Northern Ireland as part of the first Apprenticeship Week NI from Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> to Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2020. One of the main objectives within the Mid Ulster Skills Action Plan is to increase the quantity of apprenticeships in Mid Ulster. To this end, Council officers will be working in collaboration with the Mid Ulster Skills Forum, MEGA Network and other stakeholders to host a meeting of the key employers in the above network groupings to promote awareness of the benefits, value and importance of apprenticeships.</p>
3.3	<p><b>Launch of Mid Ulster's New Suite of Business Programmes</b></p> <p>Members are advised that a 'press launch' will take place to formally launch Mid Ulster District Council's new suite of business programmes on 4 February 2020 at a time and business venue to be confirmed.</p>
4.0	<b>Other Considerations</b>
4.1	<p><b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b></p> <p>Financial: N/A</p> <p>Human: Officer Time</p> <p>Risk Management: N/A</p>
4.2	<p><b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b></p> <p>Equality &amp; Good Relations Implications: N/A</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications: N/A</p>
5.0	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
	It is recommended that Members;
5.1	<p><b>Caledon Regeneration Partnership</b></p> <p>Note progress.</p>
5.2	<p><b>NI Apprenticeship Week</b></p> <p>Note information.</p>
5.3	<p><b>Launch of Mid Ulster's New Suite of Business Programmes</b></p> <p>Note details of press launch.</p>
6.0	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
	None