



10 January 2018

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Development Committee to be held in The Chamber, Cookstown at Mid Ulster District Council, Council Offices, COOKSTOWN, BT80 8DT on Wednesday, 10 January 2018 at 19:00 to transact the business noted below.

Yours faithfully

Anthony Tohill
Chief Executive

AGENDA

OPEN BUSINESS

1. Apologies
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Chair's Business
4. Deputations - Rural Broadband Action Group based in Auhadarragh, Augher, Co Tyrone

Matters for Decision

- | | |
|---|---------|
| 5. Economic Development Report | 3 - 32 |
| 6. Community Development Report | 33 - 36 |
| 7. Grants Review 2017/18 and Grants Policy 2018/19 | 37 - 50 |
| 8. Heartland: A heritage and literacy project for primary schools in Mid Ulster | 51 - 54 |
| 9. Northern Ireland Forest Schools Scheme | 55 - 56 |
| 10. Recommendations on allocation of Schools' Sports Facilities Access Grants | 57 - 60 |
| 11. Davagh Forest/Dark Skies Observatory | 61 - 64 |
| 12. World Travel Market, Excel London 6-8 November 2017 | 65 - 70 |

Matters for Information

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|---|---------|
| 13 Minutes of Development Committee held on 6 December 2017 | 71 - 78 |
| 14 The Heart of Ancient Ulster Landscape Partnership Scheme (THoAULP) – Update on Community Consultations | 79 - 82 |
| 15 NISRA Tourism Statistics 2016 | 83 - 96 |

16	Parks Service Update Report	97 - 102
17	Leisure Services Update Report	103 - 124
18	Culture and Arts Progress Report	125 - 170

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

19. Proposal for the Delivery of the Fusion Pilot Project
20. Proposal to identify Improvement Works to Events Space at Hill of The O'Neill Dungannon

Matters for Information

21. Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 6 December 2017

Report on	1) Research Study into the Engineering Sector in Mid Ulster 2) Rural Development Programme Business Plans – Select List 3) Mid Ulster Digital Seminars Report 4) NIBSUP (NI Business Start Up Programme) Update 5) Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme 6) Village Renewal Project 7) Coalisland Public Realm 8) Market Square Improvement Project, Dungannon 9) Magherafelt Town Centre Forum Minutes 10) Ofcom NI Broadband Discussion Forum 11) Mid Ulster Skills Forum Minutes 12) Irish Central Border Area Network 13) LED Outdoor Mobile Screen – Amendment to Purchasing Arrangements 14) Dungannon Branded Bags
Reporting Officer	Fiona McKeown, Head of Economic Development

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To provide Members with an update on key activities as detailed above.
2.0	Background
2.1	Research Study into the Engineering Sector in Mid Ulster Upon receipt of Council approval a specification was prepared to recruit an organisation to carry out a 'Research Study into the Engineering Sector in Mid Ulster'. Six organisations were invited to provide quotations for this work. By the deadline of 12 noon on 30 November 2017, two quotations were received.
2.2	Rural Development Programme (RDP) Business Plans – Select List Quotations A key issue impacting on the success of applications to the Rural Development Programme has been identified as the quality of Business Plans submitted with applications. To assist applicants to develop high quality Business Plans to support their applications, on 3 November 2017, the Council invited 10 organisations to provide quotations to be part of a Select List for the provision of approximately 40 Business Plans

	for existing businesses invited to apply to the RDP between November 2017 and March 2019. By the deadline of 12 noon on 14 November 2017, three quotations were received.
2.3	<p>Mid Ulster Digital Seminars Report</p> <p>Following the success of the three Digital Seminars delivered in February and March 2017, Council recommended a further three to be delivered in Autumn 2017. Following a procurement exercise, 42Digital were appointed to co-ordinate and deliver three seminars (in Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt) supported by Council staff on 4 October, 25 October and 22 November 2017. These seminars demonstrated in practical terms how businesses in Mid Ulster can integrate and maximise the use of digital media in their companies to help them generate greater growth potential.</p>
2.4	<p>NIBSUP (NI Business Start Up Programme) Update</p> <p>From 1 September 2017, the Contract for the Programme is being delivered by Enterprise NI (ENI) and managed regionally by Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council (LCCC) on behalf of the 11 Councils. In Mid Ulster, Workspace Enterprises is the lead co-ordinator for the programme locally.</p>
2.5	<p>Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme</p> <p>Council approval has been granted to deliver Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme to offer businesses/commercial properties grant aid of up to 75% per property for eligible works, capped at £5,000 per property. The villages eligible to apply are based upon the proposed Mid Ulster Settlement Report as per the development of the Area Plan 'strategic settlement evaluation – position paper', with the additional village of Moygashel.</p>
2.6	<p>Village Renewal Project</p> <p>Council is leading on the Village Renewal Scheme included within the Rural Development programme 2014-2020.</p> <p>Council will make an application to the Local Action Group for the village renewal programme and will lead on development and delivery. The LAG has allocated a budget of £2.15m in grant aid to the Village Renewal Scheme for the implementation of strategic and minor works within agreed villages. Council will contribute match funding of 25%, to complement the funding from RDP.</p>
2.7	<p>Coalisland Public Realm</p> <p>A design team has been appointed for the £2.75 million redevelopment of Coalisland town centre. The scheme will include works to The Square, Main Street, Lineside, Dungannon Road, Stewartstown Road, Barrack Street, Barrack Square, Station Rd and Washingbay Road. The overarching aim of the project is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create a safe, high-quality pedestrian-friendly environment; ▪ Revitalise and reinvigorate the town to help encourage more visitors and shoppers into the town centre; ▪ Be accessible to pedestrians and vehicles; ▪ Have free flowing traffic and retain most on-street car parking. <p>The works will include the provision of new high quality natural stone paving, street furniture, tree planting, signage, lighting and drainage and will be developed in compliance and co-operation with the Department for Infrastructure and to current DDA standards.</p>

2.8	<p>Market Square Improvement Project, Dungannon Mid Ulster District Council has been working with a number of stakeholders in a bid to resolve problems which arose from the first phase of Public Realm works in the town in 2012. This scheme sets out to address pedestrian safety, traffic flow and parking in the Market Square.</p>
2.9	<p>Magherafelt Town Centre Forum Minutes Magherafelt Town Centre Forum was re-established in January 2017. The forum meets on a quarterly basis to act in an advisory capacity, playing a fundamental role in the development and delivery of key town centre initiatives.</p>
2.10	<p>Ofcom NI Broadband Discussion Forum This is a key forum whereby the Private Sector (BT, Virgin Media, B4B etc) and the Public Sector (Department for the Economy, NILGA and BDUK) are invited to discuss the future roll out of broadband in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Northern Ireland is now at a cross roads regarding broadband. The rollout of Fibre to the Cabinet (FTTC) model is almost at an end. It is now time to take this opportunity to consider how best to reach those people who still don't have decent broadband speeds. This is the purpose of the Forum.</p>
2.11	<p>Mid Ulster Skills Forum Minutes In recognition of the importance of skills to the economic development of this sub-region, Mid Ulster District Council has identified this as one of the four Strategic Priorities in its Economic Development Plan 2015-2020. To further progress this the Council had previously requested that initial research is undertaken into the potential skills issues affecting the District. A Mid Ulster Skills Forum was set up to help drive forward this work.</p>
2.12	<p>Irish Central Border Area Network In July 2017, the Council recommended the provision of an annual contribution towards ICBAN of up to £10,000 for the financial year 2017/18.</p>
2.13	<p>LED Outdoor Mobile Screen - Amendment to Purchasing Arrangement Approval was granted to make provision of £50,000 for the procurement of a large LED Outdoor Mobile Screen to be used widely at events across the Council area. During the Christmas, Halloween and Summer periods, Council organised numerous events where an LED Mobile screen was hired in. Following a very successful series of Christmas events where screens and related equipment were used it has now come to light that there are many hidden costs and issues related to LED mobile screens which Council staff were unaware of. Therefore we have some concerns around the outright purchase of an LED mobile screen, and as a result other options have been explored.</p>
2.14	<p>Dungannon Branded Bags A total of 7,000 new Dungannon branded bags were distributed to businesses and shoppers in Dungannon during November/December 2017 to launch the new town brand. These were extremely well received in the town and provide an excellent way to communicate and embed the brand in the local community.</p>

3.0	Main Report																				
3.1	<p>Rural Development Programme (RDP) Business Plans – Select List Quotations</p> <p>By the deadline of 14 November 2017, three organisations had submitted Quotations for the work: BD Consultancy, Bernie Teggart Consultant and Mid Ulster Enterprise Partnership.</p> <p>These were assessed on 15 November 2017 by a Panel consisting of Council’s Rural Development Programme Manager, Programmes and Policy Officer and Project Officer.</p> <p>Following assessment of the Stage 1 Eligibility Criteria, two of the submissions were deemed to have met the criteria and proceeded to the next Stage of Technical Evaluation with 50% allocated to quality weighting with the Financial Section carrying a weighting of 50%.</p> <p>Results are detailed in the table below:</p> <table><tr><td></td><td>Stage 1</td><td>Stage 2</td><td>Financial</td><td>Total</td></tr><tr><td>BD Consultancy</td><td>Pass</td><td>46.00</td><td>50</td><td>96</td></tr><tr><td>Bernie Teggart</td><td>Fail</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>Mid Ulster Enterprises</td><td>Pass</td><td>42.00</td><td>50</td><td>92</td></tr></table> <p>The Panel recommended the appointment of BD Consultancy and Mid Ulster Enterprises to the Select List to undertake the provision of Business Plans for Rural Development applicants at a cost of £500 per Plan (including expenses and excluding vat).</p>		Stage 1	Stage 2	Financial	Total	BD Consultancy	Pass	46.00	50	96	Bernie Teggart	Fail	-	-	-	Mid Ulster Enterprises	Pass	42.00	50	92
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Bernie Teggart	Fail	-	-	-																	
Mid Ulster Enterprises	Pass	42.00	50	92																	
3.2	<p>Research Study into the Engineering Sector in Mid Ulster</p> <p>By the deadline of 30 November 2017, two organisations had submitted Quotations for the work: Cogent Management Consulting LLP and Locus Management.</p> <p>These were assessed on 5 December 2017 by a Panel consisting of Council’s Funding and Investment Manager, Programmes and Policy Officer, Community Development Officer and Project Officer.</p> <p>The two submissions passed the Stage 1 criteria and proceeded to the next Stage of Technical Evaluation with 80% allocated to quality weighting, with the Financial Section carried a weighting of 20%. Results are detailed in the table below:</p> <table><tr><td></td><td>Stage 1</td><td>Stage 2</td><td>Financial</td><td>Total</td></tr><tr><td>Cogent MC LLP</td><td>Pass</td><td>80</td><td>19.96</td><td>99.96</td></tr><tr><td>Locus Management</td><td>Pass</td><td>37</td><td>20.00</td><td>57.00</td></tr></table> <p>The Panel recommended that Cogent Management Consultancy LLP should be appointed to conduct the Study at a cost of £27,500 (including expenses and excluding vat).</p>		Stage 1	Stage 2	Financial	Total	Cogent MC LLP	Pass	80	19.96	99.96	Locus Management	Pass	37	20.00	57.00					
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Locus Management	Pass	37	20.00	57.00																	
3.3	Mid Ulster Digital Seminars Report																				

	<p>Mid Ulster's Digital Seminar series was attended by 142 people from local businesses, and feedback from delegates was extremely positive. An overview of the three Seminars, and their respective Workshops, is provided at Appendix 1.</p>
3.4	<p>NIBSUP (NI Business Start Up Programme) Update The delivery of the new Programme has now completed month 3 (November 2017) and based on cumulatively figures for the 3 months, Mid Ulster is currently the strongest performer, delivering 71 new Plans during that period against a target of 54.</p> <p>ASG were appointed to deliver the Regional Marketing Contract and they are currently finalising a new regional marketing campaign (TV, radio, and outdoor media), using the 'Go for It' brand, to be rolled out from January 2018. In addition to this and also to maintain Mid Ulster's current position of 'most entrepreneurial region', the Council will work with Workspace (lead partner in Mid Ulster) to strongly promote and raise the profile of the Programme's success at a local level.</p>
3.5	<p>Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme A further 16 Letters of Offer were issued on Monday 27 November 2017, numbers 56-71 on the ranked reserve list detailing their award of funding and advising that works must commence by Monday 8 January 2018. A total of 71 Letters of Offer have been issued to date.</p>
3.6	<p>Village Renewal Project A number of Village projects are currently in the procurement process to appoint construction companies as outlined below -</p> <p>Maghera – PQQ currently being assessed Ballygawley – Application submitted to LAG and Letter of Offer received Upperlands – ITT documents issued with closing date mid-December</p> <p>Playparks – Caledon, Granville, Augher and Tobermore – Application and Business Case submitted to LAG on 5th December 2017.</p> <p>Legal agreements are being processed through the legal team. Economic Development staff are currently compiling all the leases and completing the application forms and business cases to be submitted to the LAG.</p> <p>Economic Development staff are also currently working on the next phase of Villages which indicatively at this stage includes – Ardboe, Newmils, Castlecaulfied, Clady, Gulladuff, Swatragh, Churchtown & Lissan, Benburb, Moortown, The Loup, Desertmartin, Clonoe, Clogher, Ballinderry & Ballylifford, Orritor and Broughderg.</p>
3.7	<p>Coalisland Public Realm Consultations are now complete with submissions from members of the public, all interested parties and stakeholders in the area. Consultation included public information sessions with public display of the draft plans. Sessions have also being held with the Town Traders, Neighbourhood Renewal, Residents and the Mid Ulster Special Disability Forum. The Design Team will now review and report on all responses.</p>
3.8	<p>Market Square Improvement Project, Dungannon</p>

	<p>Work has completed on the scheme to address pedestrian safety, traffic flow and parking in Market Square, Dungannon. The scheme has been driven forward by the Public Health and Infrastructure Department with support from the Business & Communities section. This scheme has resolved the key issues arising from the first phase of public realm works commissioned by Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council in 2012.</p> <p>Northstone (NI) Ltd, the appointed contractor, delivered the most recent improvement works to Market Square during a 10 week period, completing the scheme within the agreed timeframe, ie, 23rd November 2017.</p>
3.9	<p>Magherafelt Town Centre Forum Minutes</p> <p>The minutes of Magherafelt Town Centre Forum Meeting held on Monday 7 August 2017 are attached at Appendix 2.</p>
3.10	<p>Ofcom NI Broadband Discussion Forum</p> <p>The starting point for this Forum was agreement that FTTC is now almost exhausted as a model of providing broadband in Northern Ireland. This model has also contributed to widening the urban – rural divide. 17% of premises in Northern Ireland don't have access to Superfast broadband (ie, 30mbits+). In the Mid Ulster area, 18% of premises cannot receive 10mbits.</p> <p>It is expected in the near future that 10mbits will be the new Universal Service Obligation (USO) which is the minimum broadband that premises must be able to avail of. 10mbits is regarded as an important threshold.</p> <p>The significant point from the Forum was that Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) is now the key objective. It is reliable and faster than any other solution. This solution provides future proofing further developments and has lower maintenance costs than FTTC or Wireless. Satellite is no longer regarded as a solution to broadband problems, according to Ofcom.</p> <p>BT, as the main provider, agreed that FTTC will no longer be the model for broadband rollout. They see FTTP as the way forward. Virgin Media provides coverage to approximately 30% of Northern Ireland using FTTP. They admitted that they are not in the rural areas at present but under a new 5 year plan being drafted they may consider it. B4B4 stated that they were an alternative provider for niche type of networks e.g. Business Parks.</p> <p>The Department for the Economy (DfE) stated that in terms of the announcement of the £150m broadband fund from the UK Government, they don't as yet know who the lead Department will be to take this forward and to date have been given no clear direction.</p> <p>Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK), part of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, who are delivering superfast broadband and local full fibre networks agreed with DfE that it will be impossible to spend this funding in a 2 year period as indicated. It is expected that the £150million funding will leverage in further substantial funding from the private sector.</p> <p>The policy to date for delivering broadband in Northern Ireland is "Best value for money", as directed by the former Minister. To ensure a rural proofing policy is implemented, this will require a directive from any future Minister.</p> <p>NILGA also advised they are frustrated at the lack of a joined up approach to broadband in Northern Ireland. They indicated it is time for a new Broadband Strategy to be</p>

	<p>produced. The current situation has left the Councils holding back in many regards, especially in relation to using the Rural Development Programme funds until it is clear where the £150million funding will be spent.</p>
3.11	<p>Mid Ulster Skills Forum Minutes</p> <p>The Mid Ulster Skills Forum is made up over 40 industry representatives from across all sectors including; Manufacturing, Construction, Food & Drink, Retail, Public Sector and Education Providers. The minutes of the Mid Ulster Skills Forum meeting held on 27 September 2017 are attached on Appendix 3.</p>
3.12	<p>Irish Central Border Area Network</p> <p>ICBAN has submitted a Report on work completed during the period April – December 2017 (Appendix 4), and approval is requested to release the second (and final) 50% instalment of the contribution. A Final Report will be submitted for the year in April 2018.</p>
3.13	<p>LED Outdoor Mobile Screen - Amendment to Purchasing Arrangements</p> <p>In the process of engaging with several suppliers of LED screen technology, it has come to light that ownership of this technology requires more than an outright purchase. We have been informed that the maintenance of a large LED Screen will be very expensive as there are regular issues with screen panels which are easily damaged and constantly needing repair. That extra warranty for 3 years is available but at a price.</p> <p>It has also come to light, that the ongoing skill set to configure and operate the LED screen the way we want it, is likely to be beyond the skills of our in house teams. In addition to this we have also discovered that this technology is moving at a rapid speed and the shelf life of a current product maybe up to 24 months.</p> <p>With further probing of providers we discovered that the industry have a terminology called “Cost of Ownership” which includes the maintenance and servicing costs including set up. For items such as large LED screens the cost of ownership is 25% over a three year period, which in the case of the proposed screen is an extra £12,500.</p> <p>Taking all this new information into account, it is now recommended that a more prudent solution for Council is to lease or contract hire this equipment and to do so, the following accounting treatment has been discussed with the Director of Finance and agreed, subject to Committee and Council approval.</p> <p>Council has identified funding of £50,000 in 2017/18, which in accordance with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting 2017 and the Department for Communities Accounts Direction may be reserved for application in 2018/19 and beyond. Reserving the funds in this manner will result in Council technically having a £50,000 underspend in 2017/18 in its year end accounts which will be matched by a technical overspend in subsequent years when the funds are released. Council’s management reports, however, will show neither an under or overspend but will apply the reserved funding in the financial period in which the screen is hired and Council derives economic benefit therefrom.</p>
3.14	<p>Dungannon Branded Bags</p> <p>To maintain Dungannon’s brand longevity post launch, there is a need to sustain its current high profile within the town, and therefore it is recommended to allocate a budget of up to</p>

	<p>£25,000 from Council's existing economic development budget to purchase a further batch of jute bags which can be distributed throughout 2018 at key events in the town.</p> <p>Once the updated town brands are finalised for Cookstown and Magherafelt in January 2018, an order for bags for both towns will be placed also, with funds emanating from Council's existing economic development budget for 2017/18.</p>
	Other Considerations
4.1	<p><u>Financial & Human Resources Implications</u></p> <p>Financial:</p> <p>Research Study into the Engineering Sector in Mid Ulster Budget of up to £27,500 is available from the economic development budget</p> <p>Provision of Rural Development Programme: Business Plans Budget of approximately £20,000 available from the economic development budget.</p> <p>LED Outdoor Mobile Screen - Amendment to Purchasing Arrangement Council has identified funding of £50,000 in 2017/18, which in accordance with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting 2017 and the Department for Communities Accounts Direction may be reserved for application in 2018/19 and beyond. Reserving the funds in this manner will result in Council technically having a £50,000 underspend in 2017/18 in its year end accounts which will be matched by a technical overspend in subsequent years when the funds are released. Council's management reports, however, will show neither an under or overspend but will apply the reserved funding in the financial period in which the screen is hired and Council derives economic benefit therefrom. This accounting treatment has been discussed with the Director of Finance and agreed subject to Committee and Council approval.</p> <p>Irish Central Border Area Network Provision of second (and final) 50% payment of £5,000 is included in Council's economic development budget.</p> <p>Dungannon Branded Bags Provision of up to £25,000 to purchase a further batch of new branded jute bags for Dungannon town from Council's economic development budget.</p>
4.2	<p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u> N/A</p>
4.3	<p><u>Risk Management Implications</u> N/A</p>

5.0	Recommendation(s)
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5.1	<p>Research Study into the Engineering Sector in Mid Ulster Members to note the appointment of Cogent Management Consultancy LLP at a cost of up to £27,500 (including expenses and excluding vat) to deliver the Research Study to be completed by March 2018.</p>
5.2	<p>Rural Development Programme Business Plans – Select List Members to note the appointment of BD Consultancy and Mid Ulster Enterprise Partnership at a cost of £500 per Plan (including expenses and excluding vat) to the Select List to deliver high quality Business Plans for applicants to the Rural Development Programme until 31 March 2019.</p>
5.3	<p>Mid Ulster Digital Seminars Report Members to note Report on Digital Media Seminars.</p>
5.4	<p>NIBSUP (NI Business Start Up Programme) Members to note progress</p>
5.5	<p>Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme Members to note progress.</p>
5.6	<p>Village Renewal Project Members to note progress</p>
5.7	<p>Coalisland Public Realm Members to note progress</p>
5.8	<p>Market Square Improvement Project Members to note progress</p>
5.9	<p>Magherafelt Town Centre Forum Minutes Members to note minutes of Magherafelt Town Centre Forum, dated 7 August 2017</p>
5.10	<p>Ofcom NI Broadband Discussion Forum Members to note progress.</p>
5.11	<p>Mid Ulster Skills Forum Minutes Members to note minutes of Mid Ulster Skills Forum, dated 27 September 2017</p>
5.12	<p>Irish Central Border Area Network Members to approve release of 2nd (and final) 50% payment of £5,000 for 2017/18 to ICBAN.</p>
5.13	<p>LED Outdoor Mobile Screen - Amendment to Purchasing Arrangements Members to approve that instead of using the budget of £50,000 to outright purchase the LED Outdoor Mobile Screen that it be more prudent to lease/contract hire the screen over a three year period. The following accounting treatment has been discussed with the Director of Finance and agreed subject to Committee and Council approval.</p> <p>Council has identified funding of £50,000 in 2017/18, which in accordance with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting 2017 and the Department for Communities Accounts Direction may be reserved for application in 2018/19 and beyond. Reserving the funds in this manner will result in Council technically having a £50,000 underspend in 2017/18 in its year end accounts which will be matched by a technical overspend in subsequent years when the funds are released. Council's management reports, however,</p>

5.14	<p>will show neither an under or overspend but will apply the reserved funding in the financial period in which the screen is hired and Council derives economic benefit therefrom.</p> <p>Members to also approve the tender of an LED Outdoor Mobile Screen lease/contract hire for key events over the next three year period.</p> <p>Dungannon Branded Bags</p> <p>Members to approve a budget of up to £25,000 towards purchase and procurement of a further batch of new branded jute bags for Dungannon town.</p>
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix 1 – Mid Ulster Digital Seminars Report
6.2	Appendix 2 –Magherafelt Town Centre Forum Minutes – 7 August 2017
6.3	Appendix 3 - Mid Ulster Skills Forum Minutes – 27 September 2017
6.4	Appendix 4 – ICBAN Report (April – December 2017)

Mid Ulster Digital Seminars Report

Series of Three Free Business Breakfast Seminars (8am – 10am)

Funded by Mid Ulster District Council and delivered by Daryl Conway (42Digital)

Helping Mid Ulster Businesses Maximise Digital Media Opportunities

Over **October and November 2017**, three highly successful Breakfast 'Digital Media' Seminars were delivered (in Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt areas) to promote the use of Digital Media to Mid Ulster businesses. The Seminars were designed to demonstrate, on a practical level, through workshops within each event, how businesses should use this to maximise their potential. These were funded by the Council and hosted by Daryl Conway (42 Digital) and proved extremely popular with 142 people attending in total; feedback from businesses completing the Evaluation Form included:

"A well organised event that covered extensive information from a panel of speakers who excelled in their field"

"This workshop really opened my eyes on how to capture and maintain new business through my website".

"Instead of spending £2,500 on a trade show I am now spending it on SEO, web, blogging and online".

Below is a synopsis of what was covered by each of the three Seminars and the workshops, along with pictures of the Chair, the guest speakers at each event and those attending.

All three events followed a similar structure, commencing with an informal Q&A session with the expert panel of 2 digital specialists and a guest business to share their digital journey and success story, followed by two interactive workshops, led by the two digital experts.

Seminar 1: Wednesday 4 October 2017 – Burnavon Centre, Cookstown

Topic: Achieving Online Growth with Your Website



The workshops were facilitated by digital experts Barry Adams (Digital Polemic) and Richard McKnight (Groundswell Ecommerce and Digital Consultancy), who covered:

- Driving Traffic to your Website through local Search Engine Optimisation
- Essential Elements of an Effective Website

Business guest speaker was Clara Maybin of BA Components who shared her experiences of how the company achieved digital success.

Seminar 2: Wednesday 25 October 2017 – Ranfurly House, Dungannon

Topic: ‘Achieving Online Growth with Advertising’



The workshops were facilitated by digital experts Niamh Taylor (Digital 24) and Emma Gribben (Digital by Emma) and topics covered included:

- Using Pay Per Click to Grow Your Business
- Facebook Advertising

The key focus of this seminar was to provide businesses with guidance and advice on different methods of online advertising and how these could be used to maximise customer engagement and drive sales.

Daniel McDonnell from Style Boutique NI, shared the experiences of their digital journey and success story and provided insights into their digital advertising techniques to achieve online growth.

Seminar 3: Wednesday 22 November 2017 – The Elk, Toomebridge, Magherafelt

Topic: ‘Achieving Online Growth with Content Marketing’



The workshops were facilitated by digital experts Peter McNicholl (Flying on Facebook) and Kathryn Pyper (KP Digital Marketing) who covered topics of:

- Creating a Content Strategy
- Facebook Video Marketing

Local businessman Pete Campbell ‘Find Your Body with Pete’ offered an insight into his creative use of content marketing techniques to drive his business reach and growth.

MINUTES OF MAGHERAFELT TOWN CENTRE FORUM
MONDAY 7 AUGUST 2017 AT 6PM
MAGHERAFELT OFFICES,
MID ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL

Present:

Councillor Clarke	Mid Ulster District Council (Chair)
Councillor McFlynn	Mid Ulster District Council
Councillor McLean	Mid Ulster District Council
Councillor Shiels	Mid Ulster District Council
Councillor Totten	Mid Ulster District Council
Patrick Anderson	Department for Communities
Andy Archibald	PSNI
Dr Jack Keatley	Magherafelt Town Trustee
Ursula Marshall	Disability Forum
Shauna McCloskey	Community Development / PCSP

In Attendance:

Fiona McKeown	Mid Ulster District Council
Michael Browne	Mid Ulster District Council
Colin McKenna	Mid Ulster District Council
Davina McCartney	Mid Ulster District Council
Lynn Shiels	Mid Ulster District Council
Chris Boomer	Mid Ulster District Council
Andrew Cassells	Mid Ulster District Council

Apologies:

Adrian McCreesh	Mid Ulster District Council
Gareth Thomas	Meadowlane Shopping Centre
Maoliosa Tate	PSNI

	DISCUSSION	ACTION
1.	WELCOME The Chairman, Cllr Clarke welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
2.	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING Minutes of previous meeting were agreed as accurate. Proposed by: P Anderson Seconded by: J Keatley	

3.	<p>MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING</p> <p>D McCartney reported that a Spruce Up Scheme is being developed for villages in the Mid Ulster District Council area.</p> <p>DfI Roads have provided figures on the traffic flows in Magherafelt since the opening of the By Pass which shows a 40% reduction in traffic.</p>	
4.	<p>PRESENTATION – A6 PROJECT</p> <p>Gareth McLaverty, Contracts Manager and Vicky Johnston Public Relations Officer from Graham Farran’s Joint Venture delivered a presentation on the A6 Project.</p> <p>Cllr McFlynn noted that the community welcomed the A6 project and looked forward to the reduction in travelling time this dual carriageway would bring. Cllr McFlynn asked if there would be an increase in the number of spaces at the Park & Ride at Drumderg Roundabout. Gareth McLaverty stated that the Park & Ride would be relocated to the opposite side of the road and would have over 100 spaces. A foot bridge would be developed at this site as a linkage to the town and the bus stop.</p>	
5.	<p>PRESENTATION – MID ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL OFF STREET CAR PARKING STRATEGY</p> <p>Andrew Cassells, Director of Environment and Property delivered a presentation on the Off Street Car Parking Strategy.</p> <p>Councillor Shiels stated that the presentation was very comprehensive. He indicated that in his view people mostly paid £1 as it was more convenient.</p> <p>Ursula Marshall stated that there were a number of all-day parkers using spaces close to the Town Centre’s and pointed out that parking needs to be more accessible for shoppers.</p> <p>Andrew Cassells assured Forum members that all comments and suggestions received during the consultation periods will be taken on board.</p> <p>F McKeown enquired if there were any public consultation events planned for businesses and residents. Andrew Cassells advised that if requested, these could be accommodated.</p> <p>Councillor McLean asked if it was possible to find a solution to fit all three Town Centre’s. A Cassells noted that it was important to get a clear and consistent approach across the Town Centre’s.</p>	

	<p>M Browne noted that Technology will provide more convenience when paying for parking and that these options needed to be promoted appropriately.</p> <p>A Cassells stated that free parking was trialed in Dungannon Town Centre in December 2014 and resulted in all day parkers utilizing the most convenient spaces for shoppers. The Forum agreed that free parking would not be favorable. An increase in Disability Spaces and Parent/Child Spaces will also be considered.</p>	
6.	<p>TOWN CENTRE EVENTS</p> <p>M Browne informed the Forum that the Events Team and Town Centre Officers were currently working in partnership with various Town Centre stakeholders to plan and organize a number of events throughout the Mid Ulster District.</p> <p>In Magherafelt the recent Never Felt Better Day was held on Saturday 16 June 2017. The event was a huge success with over 300 children participating in an Urban Canvas Chalk Art workshop on the main Civic Space. Various other performers and entertainers provided entertainment throughout the town centre.</p> <p>The second Never Felt Better Day is planned for 23 September 2017 and will have a Music theme with a number of workshops taking place throughout the Town Centre.</p> <p>The Magherafelt Christmas Market will take place from Friday 24 – Sunday 26 November 2017. Planning for this event is currently underway.</p>	
7.	<p>TOWN CENTRE FORUM MEMBERSHIP</p> <p>D McCartney stated that the Terms of Reference for the Town Centre Forum stated that, “If a member misses two consecutive meetings they lose their place on the Town Centre Forum and a replacement from within the same sector will be nominated to take their place.” D McCartney stated that there were a number of members who have fallen into this category. She proposed writing to these members to inform them that as they have missed two consecutive meetings they have lost their place on the Town Centre Forum and will be replaced by someone from the same sector. The members agreed.</p>	

<p>8.</p>	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>C Boomer, Planning Manager delivered a presentation on the Control of Advertisement.</p> <p>The Forum discussed the legislation around advertisement and agreed that each application would be examined on a case by case basis. It was also noted that if appropriate a design guide could be developed for each Town Centre to guide applications being submitted.</p>	
<p>9.</p>	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>Monday 6 November 2017 at 6pm.</p>	

Meeting ended 7.55pm

APPENDIX 3

Mid Ulster Skills Forum

Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 27th September 2017 at 10.00am
Venue: Mid Ulster Council Offices Magherafelt

Present:

Manufacturing	Liz Kearns – Copeland Ltd
Sectoral Bodies	Stephen Kelly – Manufacturing NI
Engineering	Sharon Cain – Edge Innovate (NI) Ltd, Sinead Gaynor – Mallaghan Engineering
Food & Drink	Brian McElroy Genesis Crafty, Tracy Blacker Dunbia Ltd.
Retail	Colin Conway – Newell Stores Ltd
Public Sector	Ciara Kilpatrick – Invest NI
Education Providers	Michael McAlister - South West College, Clare O'Neill – Northern Regional College, Maria Hackett – South West College, Catherine Devlin - CAFRE
Elected Members	Cllr Sharon McAleer, Cllr George Shiels

In Attendance:

Guest Speakers	John McGuigan Deputy Director of Further Education, Dept. for the Economy; David Hughes Curriculum, Qualifications & Standards Director, Dept. of Education
Council Officers	Marissa Canavan Director of Organisational Development Colin McKenna – Economic Strategies Manager Paul McCreedy – Funding & Investment Manager Pauline Gallagher – Project Officer

Apologies:	Alan McKeown – Dunbia Ltd, Harry Hamilton – NI Food & Drink Association, Martin McKendry – CAFRE (Greenmount Campus), Paula Coney – Lafarge Cement, Jennifer Cruickshank – Henry Brothers Ltd, Karen Trainor – Specialist Joinery Fittings Ltd, Ethna McNamee -Invest NI, Michael Gould – Dept. for the Economy, Gareth Hetherington – Ulster University, Denise Falls – Queens University, Claire O'Hare – Northern Trust, Angela Givan - Linden Foods , Jane Millar - SDC Trailers Ltd Anthony Tohill, Chief Executive (MUDC), Adrian McCreesh Director of Business & Communities Fiona McKeown Head of Economic Development
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1. Welcome and Introductions

- 1.1. Brian McElroy agreed to act as Chair in the absence of Alan McKeown. B McElroy welcomed all to the meeting with an extended welcome to John McGuigan, Deputy Director of FE, Department for the Economy and David Hughes Curriculum, Qualifications and Standards Director, Department of Education. Papers for meeting were circulated prior to the meeting commencing these included; an Agenda, Minutes from the previous meeting and Presentation on Education and Skills.

2. Apologies

- 2.1. Apologies were noted on behalf of those who could not attend.

3. Minutes of the last meeting (29th June 2007)

- 3.1. B McElroy referred to minutes of meeting held on 29th June 2017. Minutes proposed by Marissa Canavan and seconded by Clare O'Neill.

4. Matters arising

No matters arising.

5. Presentation: Development of the 14-19 Strategy - John McGuigan Deputy Director of Further Education, Dept. for the Economy; David Hughes Curriculum, Qualifications & Standards Director Dept. of Education.

B McElroy invited J McGuigan and David Hughes to make their presentation. J McGuigan thanked Forum members for the opportunity to present. The briefing included:

5.1 The Executive's Draft Programme for Government & Draft Industrial Strategy – Areas of Responsibility

- **Dept of Education**
 - Pre-schools & childcare
 - Primary & Post-primary School Education
 - Youth Services
- **Dept for the Economy**
 - Further Education Colleges
 - Youth Training
 - Apprenticeships

5.2 The School Sector Delivery Profile: Key Stage 4, ages 14-16:

- Compulsory, general education
- Statutory curriculum defines minimum content
- Entitlement Framework (EF) entitles learners to access at least 21 courses, including at least one third leading to 'general' and one third to 'applied' qualifications
- For the EF, a general qualification is one where knowledge, understanding and skills are developed within a subject context; whereas with an applied qualification, the knowledge, understanding

and skills can be developed through practical demonstration and /or within a context related to employability

- Level-1 and level-2 qualifications, including GCSEs
- Education in school, with access to FE colleges for specific courses

5.3 **School Sixth Form, ages 16-18:**

- Not compulsory; admission determined at school level
- No statutory curriculum
- Entitlement Framework entitles learners to access at least 21 courses, including at least one third leading to 'general' and one third to 'applied' qualifications
- education in school, with access to FE colleges for specific courses (not normally more than one)
- Level-3 qualifications, including A levels
- But also some sitting level-1/2 qualifications

5.4 **Key Data**

- Around 22,000 learners finish KS4 every year
- 65% go into VI Form
- 32% go into FE College: level-1/2 and level-3 courses
- 2% start work without further education or training
- 1% are unemployed
- Around 14,000 learners finish Sixth Form every year
- 71% go on to Higher Education
- 16% go into FE College
- 1.5% enter training
- 10% start work without further education or training
- 2% are unemployed

5.5 **The Further Education Sector Delivery Profile**

- Delivers high quality, economically relevant, professional and technical provision
- Engages with 90,000 learners annually
- Works with over 10,000 businesses across Northern Ireland
- Norbrook – HLAs – professional & technical pathway
- High Wire Press FDI Silicon Valley – bespoke skills intervention
- Fin Tru financial services company – graduates
- Assured Skills – 6,632 jobs with £156m into economy
- Advanced Cyber Security - intervention
- Critical role in developing a globally competitive economy

5.6 **Key Data**

- 34.4% of School leavers in 2015/16 went into Further Education
- 2,525 Starts (16-19 age group) on ApprenticeshipsNI in 2015/16
- Of the 16-19 age group enrolments in FE in 2015/16:
 - 42.8% undertook level 2 qualifications
 - 27.1% undertook level 3 qualifications
 - 1.0% undertook level 4 qualifications

5.7 The new Strategy for Further Education in NI, was published 12 January 2016 and has 21 policy commitments across 9 themes. The Implementation Plan was published on 15 March 2016 with 8 projects and 37 milestones which provides an opportunity to think differently. Locked firmly into the (draft) Programme for Government (PfG) and (draft)

Industrial Strategy and being implemented through eight interlinked projects. Objectives:

- Review 14-19 policy agenda
- Revised Essential Skills qualifications and assessment
- Revised English and Maths GCSEs
- Identify and address barriers to social inclusion
- Enhanced and responsive business engagement solution
- College specialisms and regional capacity
- Understand future skills needs and develop relevant training
- Secure the future of National Occupational Standards
- Agree policy on the future of Qualifications and Awarding Bodies
- Industrial Placement for lecturing staff
- Framework for revised Initial Teacher Education and CPD
- Revised inspection model – standardised approach to learner feedback
- New planning and performance model for colleges as NDPBs
- New funding model to support policy priorities
- Promote the sector and professional and technical education
- College Systems, Technology and Services project – PLR /ULN/C2K

5.8 **14-19 Strategy work programme**

- Steering Group chaired by Deputy Secretaries (DE and DfE)
- Five Working Groups
- Pathways
- Careers
- Literacy and Numeracy
- Qualifications
- Resources and Planning

All directly contributing to a future Programme for Government and Industrial Strategy.

- Aligned to Draft PfG:
 - Strategic Outcome 3 “We have a more equal society”
 - Strategic Outcome 5 “We are an innovative, creative society, where people can fulfil their potential”
 - Strategic Outcome 6 “We have more people working in better jobs”
 - Strategic Outcome 12 “We give our children and young people the best start in life”
 - Linkage to Industrial Strategy: Pillar 2 “Enhancing Education, Skills and Employability”

5.9 **Challenges**

The main challenges to the realisation of the vision appear to be:

- Too many young people do not progress from Level 1 to Level 2, or from Level 2 to Level 3 courses at 16, but continue their education at the same level as before;

- Too many young people choose courses that do not prepare them for employment in the NI economy, and end up having to enter the labour market over qualified or under qualified, or to re-train;
- Too many young people enter the labour market without the fundamental skills that employers expect/require them to have, including functional literacy, numeracy and ICT skills; and
- There is insufficient public recognition of the value of professional and technical qualifications.

5.10 **Recent reforms**

- Revision of GCSE English and Maths specifications to capture functional literacy and numeracy
- Publication of a joint Careers Strategy, and establishment of the Careers Advisory Forum
- Skills Barometer setting out the areas of over-supply and under-supply in different sectors and at different skill levels
- Introduction of A levels designed to meet skills pipelines in priority sectors – life and health sciences, software systems design – and revision of GCSE and A level Digital Technology qualifications to meet changing requirements of industry

5.11 **Q&A opportunity:**

Both speakers were thanked for their informative presentation. Forum members suggested that training needs should focus on industries that are lagging behind in this region for example manufacturing, as oppose to the larger thriving industries and ensure local colleges are fully aware of industry needs and address the skills gaps identified. It was highlighted that a challenging factor in attracting young people into alternative routes of education and training is the lack of knowledge or understanding of what is available along with parental pressures to progress into upper level education.

Forum members raised the question to department reps as to how the Mid Ulster Skills Forum could impact on policy. Department representatives responded indicating that the department would welcome recommendations from industry that would help shape and improve policy and that the Forum should contact the Department at any time.

6. **Update on Mid Ulster Skills Report and Action Plan 2017 – 2020 (Sub Group lead)**

- 6.1. In the absence of Harry Hamilton nominated sub group lead, C McKenna provided an update from Cogent, the Consultants appointed to undertake the Skills Reports and Action Plan;

6.2 **Desk Research**

- Collated information on the key support provisions that are currently available for each of the six sectors identified by the Council.
- Reviewed various labour market interventions for each of the six sectors within the Mid Ulster District Council area.

- Reviewed Government Plans, Strategies and Policies impacting upon each sector's employment, skills and training needs.
- Reviewed best practice examples from Northern Ireland, GB, ROI, Europe and internationally.
- Undertaken in-depth research on the external factors that are having, or have the potential to have, an impact on the anticipated growth and future skills needs across all sectors (including new emerging and weaker sectors).
- Undertaken in-depth research into the issues of attracting and retaining employees and employers within Mid Ulster area.

6.3 **Consultation and Engagement**

- Undertaken in-depth consultations with the owners or HR Managers of 33 businesses across the MUDC area.
- Prepared, in conjunction with the Council support, issued an online survey. As of 26 September 2017, circa 116 online surveys have been completed.

6.4 **Skills Report & Action Plan (2017-2020)**

Started to draft the Skills Report & Action Plan, along with a detailed statistical appendix document, based on the evidence and research undertaken to date. This includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Full write-up of the findings from the in-depth consultations with the owners or HR Managers of 33 businesses across the MUDC area (to be augmented by the findings of the online survey), which will, where appropriate, disaggregate findings by sector.
- The context within which the Action Plan will be implemented, including some of the potential implications of the UK's vote to leave the EU, as well as other broader economic trends that have relevance.
- Details on the Mid Ulster economy and in particular its position relating to skills availability, and its performance in comparison to the rest of NI.
- The current and future key skill gaps that exist (both in skill area and skill level) and the nature and level of support or intervention required and key actions needed to deliver and make substantial progress towards the identified targets.
- A robust, practical Action Plan to increase skill levels now and into the future.

- 6.5 C McKenna informed Forum members that Council's contract with Cogent requires an extension due to the extended deadlines provided for the online skills survey. Forum members agreed to this request.

**7. Update on Education Engagement & Linkages
(Sub-Group Lead : L Kearns)**

L Kearns nominated sub group lead, advised that the first meeting of the Education Engagement & Linkages sub group took place on 19th September 2017. In summary, the group agreed that there needs to be a structured approach in linking up with education providers, and in particular careers teachers and principals. It was agreed that the sub group should concentrate on Short to Medium Term Actions, with a focus on greater engagement with career advisors. Possible avenues to explore included the Area Learning Communities or Careers Advisory Forum. It was agreed that the next sub group meeting should take place once data from the consultation process has been analysed and made available to Forum members, and at this point next steps can be agreed.

**8. Update on Community Plan Education & Skills Thematic Group
(Liz Kearns, Forum representative)**

L Kearns advised that the Thematic Group have met and agreed to focus on Short to Medium Short Term Actions. Again, it was identified that greater linkages between industry and education providers is essential and that linkages with the Area Learning Partnership should be established. It was reported that a lack of resources is an issue with a 40% cut in the Framework. Evidence also indicates that there is a duplication of resources between Post Primary Schools and FE establishments with BTEC qualifications being offered to students at post primary level.

Members referred to the 1% of unemployed people who are 16yrs+ (post primary school students) who don't follow on in education, along with post university graduates, and noted the importance of following up on where they go.

9. DfE Connect to Success

It was agreed that representatives from the Dept for the Economy would come to the next Forum meeting to update members on the DfE Connect to Success Portable now available for industry to use in conjunction with Schools and Colleges.

10. Position Paper on Membership

P McCreedy tabled a Position paper on the Forum's membership. Following discussion the following actions were agreed:-

- 1) That a decision on the requests from the Dungannon Learning Partnership and Mid Ulster Food Cluster is deferred until the Forum has reviewed and considered its membership in February/March 2018 (on completion of the Skills Report and Action Plan);
- 2) That a report on members' attendance at Forum Meetings is presented in February/March 2018 for monitoring purposes;

- 3) That Council officers continue to seek representation from the local Digital Sector.

11. **Any other Business**

None noted.

12. **Date of next meeting**

Next Forum meeting to take place on Wednesday 13th December 2017 at 10am in Ranfurly House Arts and Visitor Centre, Dungannon.

APPENDIX 4

ICBAN Progress against Action Plan (01 April 2017 – 31 March 2018) PROGRESS REPORT FOR PERIOD 1 APRIL 2017 – 31 December 2017

ICBAN TARGETS/OUTPUTS 2017-18	ACTIVITIES	PROGRESS
Platform for Cross Border Cooperation in the ICBAN Region.	<p>Facilitate and service Board Meetings, CEO/CM Meetings, other Sector Specific / Thematic Meetings</p> <p>Facilitate and service meetings with key stakeholders and assist in establishing better cross border working relationships and arrangements.</p>	<p>ICBAN Management Board Meetings were held on: 26 April 2017, 21 June 2017, 20 September 2017, 17 October 2017, 15 November 2017</p> <p>ICBAN Annual General Meeting was held on: 15 November 2017</p> <p>Officer Group Meetings: 20 September 2017, 08 November 2017, 12 December 2017</p> <p>Meetings/Events from 01 April 2017 – 31 December 2017</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dundalk Chamber of Commerce Cross-Border Tourism Conference (04 April 2017) - Director of the Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade's Reconciliation Fund (24 April 2017) - Sustainable Development Officer with Leitrim Development Company (25 April 2017) - NI Rural Development Programme reps from Mid Ulster District Council, Armagh City Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council & Fermanagh & Omagh District Council. Meeting also attended by reps of the Rural Development Council & DAERA (27 April 2017) - Funding Seminar facilitated by Mid Ulster District Council in Ranfurly House (28 April 2017) - Rol Rural Development Programme reps from Sligo & Donegal County Councils (03 May 2017) - 'Models of Cross-Border Cooperation for a post-Brexit Context' in Leinster House, (16 May 2017) - Northern Ireland Tourism Conference 'A Game of Two Halves' in Enniskillen (18 May 2017) - Verbal Arts Centre (24 May 2017), Ofcom Summit (May 2017) - Invest NI regarding the COSME Programme (12 June 2017) - SEUPB & the Rol Country Contact Point for the Interreg Atlantic Area Programme (13 June 2017) - Western Development Commission on the Northern Periphery & Artic Programme (13 June 2017) - Attendance at Northern Periphery & Artic (NPA) Programme Annual Conference in Galway (21 September 2017) - Lough Erne Partnership regarding water based ecology & tourism projects (25 September 2017) - Mid Ulster District Council Officers re EU Interreg & RDP Cooperation project opportunities (06 October 2017) - Sligo County Council regarding RDP Cooperation and NPA Projects - NI & Rol EU Interreg Country Contact Points re NPA Literary Tourism Project (10 October 2017) - Attendance at the 'Brexit and the Irish Border Corridor' report launch at the NI Executive Offices in Brussels with a Councillor from Leitrim County and Mid Ulster District (10-11 October 2017) - Attendance at NPA Programme Lead Partner Workshop in Copenhagen, Denmark (23 Nov 2017) - NPA Partnership Meeting (12 December 2017)

<p>Contribute to the effective and efficient running of ICBAN.</p>	<p>Ongoing operation of Internal Control System. Annual Financial Statement / Accounts. Supporting the employment of an Administrator.</p>	<p>Internal Control System: The agreed Internal Control System is fully operational. The Accounts for 2017/18 were ratified at the AGM held on 15 November 2017.</p> <p>Executive Assistant employed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting the development and implementation of ICBAN's corporate aims and objectives, through the provision of administration and secretarial services. • Providing competent, reliable and efficient secretarial, administrative and support services for ICBAN. • Corporate Administration: arranging appointments and service meetings for the ICBAN Management Board and Sub-Committees, Working Groups and others as required. • Financial & Company Administration: including banking, payroll, Assets Register, procurement etc. • Project Administration: maintaining a management information system for all project related documentation.
<p>Support the employment of the ICBAN CEO to lead the organisation moving forward.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership, management & development of ICBAN. • Develop strategic focus of ICBAN in partnership with Member Councils. • Maintain and grow ICBAN's position in cross border development and promote cross border cooperation. • Communicating the benefits, successes and awareness of ICBAN within the region and beyond. • Establish, develop & maintain robust structures and systems to ensure effective and efficient delivery of agreed outcomes. • Report to the ICBAN Management Board. 	<p>CEO Principal Accountabilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Acting as a figure head for ICBAN. ▪ Developing and managing new relationships with Councils (elected representatives & officials). ▪ Working with Partner Council Chief Executives and County Managers. ▪ Maintaining ICBAN's position in cross border development through effective influencing at community, local and central government level. ▪ Providing leadership, managing and developing the ICBAN operational team. ▪ Contributing to the development and implementation of strategic, operational and project plans, in partnership with ICBAN member Councils and other stakeholders as appropriate. ▪ Overseeing systems and procedures to ensure effective and efficient delivery of agreed outcomes. ▪ Facilitating collaboration between stakeholders in the field of strategic regional development in the cross border area. Reporting to the Management Board. ▪ Managing public relations and maximising exposure to and awareness of ICBAN's work throughout the central border region. <p>Promoting cross border cooperation through - activities included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meeting F&O District Council Chief Executive regarding the National Planning Framework (liaison with the Mid Ulster District Council Chief Executive on same) (12 April 2017) - Presentation on Broadband to NILGA Conference in Craigavon (25 April 2017) - Meeting with QUB regarding the 'Bordering on Brexit' project (02 May 2017) - Attendance at the Ofcom Summit (May 2017) - Attendance at Brexit & the Ireland-Northern Ireland Border Corridor Conference (04 May 2017) - Attendance at 'Models of Cross-Border Cooperation for a post-Brexit Context' in Leinster House, Dublin (16 May 2017) - Attendance at the All Island Brexit Dialogue Event in Letterkenny (22 May 2017) - Attendance at Brexit Focus Group sessions in Monaghan & Enniskillen (04 & 05 July 2017) - Meetings with the CEOs of the RoI Education & Training Boards (26 & 27 July 2017) - Attendance at 'Customs & Cross-Border Issues Post-Brexit: Assessing Challenges & Finding Solutions' organised by the European Conservatives & Reformists and the UUP (25 August 2017) - Presentation to Cavan County Council on the National Broadband Plan (11 September 2017)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Attendance at the Ofcom Board Reception (18 September 2017)- Speaker at the NILGA Event: 'Broadband: Local Needs, Local Solutions' on NI Broadband in Reality (27 September 2017)- Attendance at the All Island Civic Dialogue Event in Dublin (28 September 2017)- Presentation to Sligo County Council on broadband (02 October 2017)- Meeting with Ms Jemma Dolan, MLA to discuss regional issues (02 October 2017)- Meeting with Sinn Féin on Broadband policy at Parliament Buildings, Stormont (04 October 2017)- Meeting with NI Audit Office Senior Officials re Fibre At A Crossroads Part II report (18 Oct 2017)- Meeting with Telecoms Unit, Department for the Economy (18 October 2017)- Meeting with Ofcom in Belfast (18 October 2017)- Meeting with ComReg Commissioner in Dublin with ICBAN delegation (19 October 2017)- Presentation to Armagh City Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council Community Planning Committee (02 November 2017)- Presentation to Monaghan County Council (06 November 2017)- Presentation to Cavan County Council SPC & meeting with Cavan County Council CE (07 Nov 2017)- Presentation to Monaghan County Council SPC (14 November 2017)- Attendance at the General Consumer Council Brexit Event in Belfast (30 November 2017)- Attendance at the Ofcom Broadband Forum in Belfast (06 December 2017)- Presentation on the National Broadband Plan to Sligo County Council (07 December 2017)- Presentation at the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council Brexit Event in Omagh (13 Dec 2017)- Presentation to the Leitrim County Council Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee on broadband (14 December 2017)						
Sustain Existing Jobs	Support the provision of a staff complement to enable ICBAN to achieve its goals: 3 Full time staff	ICBAN Secretariat: <table><tr><td>Shane Campbell</td><td>CEO</td></tr><tr><td>Joanne Breen</td><td>Executive Assistant</td></tr><tr><td>Andy Hallewell</td><td>Innovation Officer</td></tr></table>	Shane Campbell	CEO	Joanne Breen	Executive Assistant	Andy Hallewell	Innovation Officer
Shane Campbell	CEO							
Joanne Breen	Executive Assistant							
Andy Hallewell	Innovation Officer							
ICBAN Strategic Development Function	1. Telecoms/High Speed Internet Provision	<p>ICBAN continues to pursue a range of actions designed to improve digital connectivity in the Central Border Region. The 'Fibre At A Crossroads' Part I report examines technological infrastructure solutions to deliver quicker, more reliable telecommunications & includes case studies from the Mid Ulster District.</p> <p>The 'Fibre At A Crossroads' Part II report was completed in June 2017. This report focuses on the need to confirm BT's capital contribution in Northern Ireland's subsidised broadband infrastructure. References and statistics relevant to Mid Ulster are included in the report.</p> <p>As a continuation of ICBAN's telecoms work, a proposal for the £150 million for broadband infrastructure has been completed.</p> <p>The report for RoI entitled 'The National Broadband Plan: Delivering on the Promise' was completed in June 2017 & a request to meet the Minister responsible for delivery of the National Broadband Plan has been relayed. This report has been shared with Mid Ulster District Council & the Council's attention has been drawn to a section on mobile broadband in the border region.</p>						

	<p>2. Roads Infrastructure</p> <p>3. Tourism</p> <p>4. Brexit</p>	<p>The DCMS sought views on the specification for a broadband Universal Service Obligation to be set in secondary legislation. This consultation closed on 09 October 2017 & ICBAN shared its consultation response with Mid Ulster District Council.</p> <p>ICBAN shared a detailed paper for distribution to Member Councils (including Mid Ulster District Council), together with a tailored consultation response to the National Planning Framework.</p> <p>In May and June of 2017, ICBAN formed a partnership arrangement with the Western Development Commission (WDC) in the Republic of Ireland in order to develop a preparatory application to the EU Interreg Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme. The preparatory project will benefit Mid Ulster and the other member Councils by developing a strategic and transnational approach to the strong but as yet not fully realised literary tourism assets of our Region. The preparatory application, which was the result of several weeks of planning and discussion, makes provision for the production of a Literary Tourism Analysis of the Central Border Region, the Northern Periphery and Arctic area as a whole, and will place this in the context of the global market demand, supply and potential for literary tourism as a cultural tourism product. It will also enable ICBAN and WDC to identify and work with a range of new partners from across the NPA to develop a full project application to the NPA by February 2018, likely to be in excess of €1m. The final project will be envisaged to add considerable value to the already well developed literary tourism assets of Mid Ulster including Seamus Heaney and William Carleton, but to gain extra leverage by marketing the cultural tourism product on a transnational scale and by developing a range of innovative practices to further promote the assets to new audiences.</p> <p>The preparatory project application was successful and was awarded €44k to assist in a full project submission by February 2018. Work is underway on the application with two consultants appointed to assist in the submission. ICBAN's Innovation Officer attended a Lead Partner Application Workshop delivered by the NPA Secretariat in Copenhagen, Denmark on 23 November 2017.</p> <p>Since the UK Referendum decision to leave the European Union in June 2016, ICBAN has been examining the consequences and implications of Brexit for those living and working in the Central Border Region; whilst taking on board the opinions of Board Members. ICBAN is continuing to monitor the evolving developments & has engaged with both Governments & submitted responses appropriate consultations. A sub-committee of the Management Board convened in April 2017 to discuss & direct ICBAN's work in relation to Brexit. Recent activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assessment of a survey distributed to Member Councils to gauge the impact on each Council area & across a number of themes; ▪ Development & issuing of a policy document: 'Brexit: The Case for the Central Border Region'; ▪ Attendance at events including the Brexit Dialogue events hosted by the Irish Government (five Dialogue events to date); ▪ Audit of current information, reports & documents on the impact of Brexit to ascertain gaps & direct ICBAN's future work programme. ▪ ICBAN-QUB Online survey 'Have Your Say: Brexit & the Central Border Region' opened 22 May 2017 & closed 30 June 2017 to collate views from rural communities across the Region (13% of respondents were from the Mid Ulster District);
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	7. Other Projects	Application to Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade Reconciliation Fund - An application for the 'Border Compass' project was submitted to the Department on 18 September 2017.
Events / Promotion / Materials	Ongoing implementation of ICBAN's Telecommunications Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Release of 'Fibre At A Crossroads- Part I' report ▪ Updating Facebook, Twitter and the ICBAN website on telecoms developments ▪ 'Fibre At A Crossroads – Part II' report completed in June 2017 ▪ 'The National Broadband Plan: Delivering on the Promise' report for RoI completed June 2017. ▪ The 'Bordering on Brexit' report was published in November 2017. ▪ A new corporate website including a library of information will be launched in the New Year.
Cross Border Linkages Provide opportunities for shared learning & ensure a coherent impact of investment throughout the eligible area.	Continue to strengthen the working relationships with the East Border Region, and North West Region, to share learning and good practice	ICBAN has continued to build effective working relationships with the other Cross Border Groups, sharing information on a range of topical issues relating to cross-border working. ICBAN representatives attended the Brexit & the Ireland-Northern Ireland Border Corridor Conference on (04 May 2017). ICBAN representatives (including a Mid Ulster District Councillor) attended the launch of the Brexit & the Ireland-Northern Ireland Border Corridor Report in Brussels in October 2017.
Role in wider EU Context.		ICBAN has continued to be a member of the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR) and avails of the networking opportunities provided by Membership. AEBR is also listed as a partner in the Border Compass project proposal.

Report on	Community Development
Reporting Officer	Claire Linney

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To seek Committee approval for Good Relations and Community Festivals rolling grant award recommendations.
1.2	To update on Community Development.
2.0	Background
2.1	Community Grants Rolling Programme - The Grant Aid Programme for the 2017/18 financial year facilitates applications being made on a rolling basis for Community Festivals and Good Relations.
2.2	Community Development Update - An update is provided on the following areas: Community Support – Grants, Support, Advice, Village Planning, Community Centres, DSD Neighbourhood Renewal Peace IV and Good Relations PCSP
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Community Grants Rolling Programme There are Community Festival applications recommended for awards totalling £1,860.00. There are no Good Relations applications this month. Please refer to Appendix 1 for detail
3.2	Community Development Update <u>Community Support</u> All grant programmes have been allocated with the exception of the rolling programmes; the discretionary grant will also open in January. Community support is also ongoing across the community groups to support in the delivery of projects and their village plans. Neighbourhood Renewal: A review of all projects was completed by DfC with projects developed and agreed in line with need and outcomes. <u>Peace and Good Relations</u> Peace Regional Shared Space Project; an update has been provided from SEUPB that the project assessment will now not take place to late January or February 2018.

	<p>Good Relations; Projects continue to be rolled out across the District with officers now in the last quarter moving towards project completion and monitoring for the Executive Office in line with the OBA targets and final funding claims.</p> <p>The preschools diversity engagement programme is to roll out with preschools that applied for grants however could not access the grant funding.</p> <p>Additional funding may become available from the NI Executive Office for good relations for projects that are in place and successfully being delivered, to be allocated by March 2018; this funding is available at 100%. It is proposed that if the funding of £15,000 becomes available in January it is allocated to the Speedwell project which is still in development and will provide for inclusion of additional schools to the programme.</p> <p>The development of the action plan has commenced to seek to plan for 2018 – 2019.</p> <p><u>PCSP</u></p> <p>Project development is ongoing as guided by the Partnership, including responding to issues as they arise through a partner integrated approach. The monitoring of interventions is ongoing to seek to inform DOJ and NIPB re OBA targets and final claims for funding.</p> <p>PCSP is currently rolling out is Christmas media campaigns. The “Cost of your Night Out” highlights the on the spot fines for disorderly behaviour. The PCSP will also have the Behind Closed Doors domestic violence media campaign that raises awareness of the DV helpline and support for both male and female victims.</p> <p>PCSP will be launching it’s Domestic Violence Schools project in January. This will be delivered to 16 Post Primary schools across Mid Ulster and educate pupils on recognising, dealing with and getting support for Domestic Violence.</p> <p>PCSP will also be rolling out Internet Safety Programmes to educate students and parents.</p> <p><u>Community Planning</u></p> <p>PCSP, Good Relations and Community Support are currently working alongside the community planning regarding aligning future plans and activity with the strategic actions and outcomes.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p><u>Financial & Human Resources Implications</u></p> <p>Financial:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Local Festival awards £1,860.00. <p>Human: None</p> <p><u>Professional Support</u></p> <p>None.</p>
4.2	<p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>None</p>

4.3	<u>Risk Management Implications</u> None
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	To approve the grant award recommendations under the Community Local Festivals grants as per Appendix 1 £1860.
5.2	To allow consideration for additional Executive funding (pending it becoming available) of up to £15,000 towards the current Speedwell project that is being delivered to allow for additional schools, to be allocated by March 2018. To note the community development update report.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix 1 Rolling Grant Programmes award recommendations

Community Local Festival – January 2018

No	Organisation Name	Aim of Organisation	Title Of Event/project	Requested	Band	Award
1	Friends of St Columba's PTA	Parent/Teacher Assoc	Festive Jumper Walk	£1,100.00	4	£700.00
2	Mark Heagney ABC	Sports	Boxing Tournament	£650.00	5	£390.00
3	Milltown Area Community Assoc	Local Support Group	Christmas function	£530.00	5	£320.00
4	Tobermore Village Hall Development Assoc	Local Support Group	Cultural Celebration	£900.00	6	£450.00
						£1,860.00

Bands	Score	%
7	30-39	40%
6	40-49	50%
5	50-59	60%
4	60-69	70%
3	70-79	80%
2	80-89	90%
1	90+	100%

Report on	Grants Review 2017/18 and Grants Policy 2018/19
Reporting Officer	Head of Community Development Head of Culture and Arts Head of Leisure Services
Contact Officer	Philip Clarke, Eunan Murray

Is this report restricted for confidential business?		
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	Yes	

1	Purpose of Report
1.1	To seek approval for the Grants Policy 2018/19 and grant budgets.
1.2	To seek approval for the Advance payments of micro and small grants to Voluntary and Community organisations.

2	Background
2.1	<p>Council as part of its community grants and community support delivers grant aid across a range of community grant themes as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strategic Event Grant 2. Strategic Community Development Grant 3. Sports Capital Grant 4. Community Venue Grant 5. Good Relations Grant 6. Local Community Festival Grant 7. Arts & Culture Small Grant 8. Community Development Small Grant 9. Sports Development Grant 10. Sports Representative Grants (team and individual) 11. Festive Lights Grant 12. Capital Discretionary Grant 13. Strategic Arts & Culture Development Programme (Arts Performance Spaces) 14. Strategic Sports Development Grant

2.2	To date Council delivers grant funding using a process of award upon final verification of cost receipts.
3	Main Report
3.1	<p>A learning review was undertaken of the grants delivery for 2017- 2018, and the following recommendations are suggested for 2018/19:</p> <p>a) Increase the amount of grant award for all small grants to range from £1200 to £1500. This aligns all small grants to close to the same level and avoids people seeking to make projects 'fit' the larger grant award and also avoids groups having to split their activity across a number of grant areas. This would involve amalgamating the small culture and arts and small community development grants together. From review there are a significant number of the same groups who apply to both the small community development as to the culture and arts for the £600 each. This will allow them to put all activity in one grant.</p> <p>b) Grants will be available per category, with groups only being able to apply from within one category 1-2 only and/or category 3.</p> <p>c) Criteria to remain as per 2017-2018 for the grants with the small community development and culture and arts to amalgamate to 'Small arts, culture, heritage and community grant.</p> <p>d) One Public Advert for all grants and then rolling for good relations, local festivals and sports representative.</p> <p>Timeline Community grants will open in February for a period of 4 weeks. Rolling grants will remain open throughout the year.</p>
3.2	<p>The audit committee of December 12th, discussed a proposal for advance payments for micro and small grants to voluntary and community organisations. This was considered and approved for referral to the Development Committee for decision. It is proposed for advance payments of VCO's of up to 50% for micro grants (up to £1500) and 25% for small grants (between £1500 - £10,000) as an interim measure and to review the process annually. The audit committee consideration states that it is the opinion of Council's internal control environment and governance framework that it should not be significantly weakened by awarding advance payments to VCO's.</p>

4	Other Considerations
4.1	<p><u>Financial & Human Resources Implications</u></p> <p><u>Financial</u> As per agreed plan budgets.</p> <p><u>Human</u> None.</p>
4.2	<p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>N/A</p>
4.3	<p><u>Risk Management Implications</u></p> <p>N/A</p>
5	Recommendations
5.1	To agree the Grants policy 2018 – 2019 for implementation
5.2	To approve the Advance payments of micro and small grants to Voluntary and Community organisations.
6	Documents and Attached References
6.1	Appendix 1 Proposed Grants Policy 2018/2019

Appendix 1 Grants Policy 2018 - 2019

Category 1 Community & Arts Grants One call	Category 2 Sports Grants One call (representative rolling)	Category 3 General Grants Rolling programme ((Strategic event grant on call))
Strategic Community Development Grant Maximum £8,000 Budget £70,000 Small, Arts, Culture, Heritage & Community Grant Maximum £1200 Budget £80,000 (£45,000 community and £35,000 culture and arts) Community Venue Grant (incl. activity) Maximum £3000 80% Community development greater than 10 hours weekly activity Budget 85,000 Strategic Arts & Culture Grant Maximum £20,000 80% arts & culture group with bi weekly arts & culture programme & dedicated performance space Budget £85,000	Small Sports Grant Maximum £1,500 Budget £60,000 (EBA tbc) Sports Representative Grant (Individual & Teams) Maximum £250 & £500 Budget £10,000 Rolling Programme Sports Capital Grant Maximum grant £5000 To be matched 50% One Call April 2017 Budget £165,000 Strategic Sports Development Grant Maximum £20,000 Budget £50,000	Strategic Events Grant Maximum £8,000 Minimum 1000 people Budget £70,000 Good Relations Grant Maximum £1500 Rolling programme Budget £40,000 Community Local Festival Grant Maximum £1500 Rolling programme £65,000

Groups can only apply for funding from Category 1 or Category 2, and or Category 3.

All grants will have a requirement on the application guidance that they must speak with the identified officer before they submit their application to ensure groups are supported.

All grants will have a lead officer who will oversee the grant administration through relevant teams, however to note all grants will be processed under the same guidelines and procedure with overall coordination from the Community Development Section.

Grants (Regional Minority Languages, Discretionary Capital Grant, Festive Lights all have their own separate off line process). To roll these out as per agreed in 2017-2018.

Council also seeks for annual calls for strategic partnership projects in line with PCSP Action Plan and Good Relations Action Plan and partners on Regional Minority Languages support activities. Publicity of strategic partner projects to be issued January/February 2018 in line with plans.

Grants Process

1. Application and criteria set through Committee and Council.
2. Public advertisement for all grants.
3. Applications will be online or if required a hard copy can be requested.
4. There will be points of contact for queries on each grant area.
5. Applications will be submitted on line or returned to one central office which will then oversee the allocation to relevant teams for administration.
6. Eligibility will be confirmed upon receipt of applications, with 2 days' notice for ensuring all documentation is in place, telephone and email notification to Groups recorded.
7. Grants that meet eligibility will proceed to assessment to be carried out by officer teams, all declarations of interest are monitored.
8. Grants will be presented to Committee for consideration and approval, all declarations of interest are monitored.
9. Grants will be presented to Council for ratification.
10. Letters of Offer (standard template) will be issued to all groups.
11. Claims will be received as previous and verification undertaken.
12. Report to Council on investment of grant funding and groups supported.
13. Publicity of Council must be received for grant support in line with the letter of offer.
14. Advance payments will be provided, 50% up to £1500 and 25% up to £10,000.

Grant Eligibility Conditions

1. Groups applying for a grant must be a not for profit constituted community or voluntary organisation with an annual AGM, individuals can apply to the sports representative grant only.
2. Funding cannot be allocated for a project or venue where an existing SLA exists with Council for a project, building or facility.
3. Groups will only be able to apply for a grant as per the categories, this is to maximise the funding allocation to as many groups as possible.
4. The same project cannot be split across different grant categories.
5. Statutory and 'for profit' organisations, activities and recipients (including activities that receive statutory core provision are not eligible for grant)
6. Regional groups/organisations are not eligible to apply.
7. Applications that are not completed accurately and in full will not be considered.
8. Religious or political activity cannot be funded under any grant.
9. All applicants must present a project that will take place within the Mid Ulster District Council area (exception Sports Representative Grant as detailed within this section).
10. Applicants must present a project that will be delivered between 1st April - 31st March each year.
11. Evidence of good management practices/policies, including annual AGM, Group bank account, financial management practice, insurances, etc. will be required.
12. Successful applicants will draw down grants retrospectively based on vouched expenditure, with procurement adhered to. Advance payments will be 50% up to £1500 and 25% up to £10,000 with final verification of all expenditure.

The following items are not eligible for funding:

Hospitality greater than 20% of the total project cost.	Bad debt, loans, bank charges, deficits or arrears in payments of any organisation	Flags or bunting Alcohol.	Groups or activities that discriminate against one section of the community
Activities, equipment or events that duplicate what already exist or that are covered by other funding	Salaries	Retrospective funding applications	Residential courses or training greater than 20% of funding sought
Celebrity appearances	Late applications	Gifts or donations	Reclaimable VAT or other costs

Grant Criteria: Category 1

Small Arts, Culture, Heritage & Community Grant

To support local communities deliver a range of local arts, culture, heritage, community projects for their local area.

1. Arts, Cultural, Heritage, Community activity and participation
2. Contribution to arts, culture, heritage, community development in the area
3. Increase and widen participation, addressing social inclusion and diversity
4. Contribution to volunteering and volunteer development

Strategic Arts & Culture Grant

To support strategic culture and arts organisations that play a key role across the Mid Ulster District Council area in the development and delivery of arts & culture activity through the delivery of their own programmes utilising their own dedicated arts & culture performance spaces. The service must:

1. Provide the structured delivery of an annual culture and arts programme within the organisations own performance space/theatre.
2. Provide accessible culture and arts development opportunities of a strategic nature that is providing for a large number of people across Mid Ulster.
3. Provide 100% dedicated arts & culture activity & be delivered by a dedicated arts & culture group.
4. Provide at least bi weekly culture and arts activities.

Strategic Community Development Grant

To support strategic community development organisations that provide for the Mid Ulster area. Groups delivering to the same area should submit a partner application to avoid duplication.

1. Level of Community Support Activity
2. Level of benefit – number of beneficiaries
3. Targeting of deprivation and social need
4. Quality and level of provision
5. Level of geographic coverage
6. Value for Money

Community Venue Grant

To support local communities to make available their premises and community centres for the use of the wider community. Venues applying to the grant must be used for a minimum 80% community development activities.

1. Community beneficiaries (number of community beneficiaries and groups)
2. Level of community usage per week
3. Level of community activity
4. Shared space usage
5. Value for Money

The venue must be open greater than 10 hours per week and the grant can be used for community development activities and projects at 20% of the funding allocation.

Grant Criteria: Category 2

Small Sports Grant

To support recognised Sports NI sports clubs (affiliated to their governing body of sport) to develop and promote their sports and recreation provision within their club and to seek to increase participation through a range of activity including the Every Body Active Programme target groups; Women & Girls, People with Disabilities and Areas of Social Need complementing general Sports Development.

1. Level of sports activity and beneficiaries
2. Level of benefit targeting of Women & Girls, People with Disabilities & Areas of Social Need
3. Contributes to promoting fitness and wellbeing and sports development
4. Other general activity provided to the community to engage and increase participation

Sports Representative Individual and Team Competitive Grant

To support Individuals who have been selected by their governing body to participate in a representative team or individual sport at provincial, national, all Ireland or international level, with eligible costs (accommodation, travel, food), to a maximum of a £250 grant may be available. Applicants must be resident within the Mid Ulster District Council area for a period of 6 months prior to the period of the grant application.

To assist recognised Sports NI sports clubs (affiliated to their governing body of sport) who are travelling to compete in a recognised (by Governing body) representative (of District/County) sporting competition. A grant for eligible costs (travel, accommodation, food) to a maximum of

£500 may be available. The team must have qualified in a recognised competition by the governing body of this sport, and must be representing the District / County. The event/competition must take place outside of NI.

Sports Strategic Development Grant

To support Governing Bodies that play a key strategic role across the MUDC area in developing their affiliated Clubs. It aims to provide Grant Aid to those Governing Bodies that provide direct support to Clubs across the area in increasing participation rates and improving playing standards through the employment of a Sports Coach. The service must:

1. Provide the structured delivery of an annual sports development programme of a main sport.
2. Be delivered through a recognised NI Sports organisation; through or in partnership with a sporting governing body; with no duplication of coverage within the same area or targeting of the same groups.
3. Provide accessible sports development opportunities of a strategic nature that is providing for a large number of people across Mid Ulster.
4. Provide the programme through a partnership approach with local clubs and groups.
5. Provide a minimum of 50% dedicated sports officer to the area of coverage in Mid Ulster.
6. Provide match funding of a minimum 50% to the sports development programme targeted within the Mid Ulster District.
7. Provide for an active sport within Mid Ulster.
8. Liaise with Mid Ulster District Council Leisure Development Unit.

Sports Capital Grant

To support local sports clubs/groups develop their sporting facilities and provision through capital and equipment funding support. Eligibility:

1. The fund is for not for profit constituted sports groups with the primary objective of providing sports for the Mid Ulster District.
2. All statutory consents and public procurement is in place.
3. Actual project cost quotations are provided with the application.
4. A maximum contribution of £5,000 is available per project, with a minimum match contribution of 50% (e.g. if seeking £5000 it must be a minimum £10,000 project).
5. For sports capital items or a one off piece of equipment of a value greater than £1000.
6. Groups can only apply to this grant once every 2 years.

The Sports Capital Grant is to provide a significant benefit to the local community:

Sports Development– supporting the development and enhancement of sports and sports groups across Mid Ulster.

Sports Wellbeing /Provision– increasing the number of beneficiaries of sport, and contributing to the physical fitness and wellbeing of people across the District.

Social Need/Social Inclusion – targeting those most vulnerable.

Sustainability – supporting the long term sustainability of sporting facilities and groups.

Council Corporate Plan – contributing to the Council's Corporate Objectives.

Grant Criteria: Category 3

Strategic Events Grant

To support a number of strategic events that are providing for the whole of Mid Ulster District and are of a significant nature to bring people to the area and to promote the area at a regional level.

1. Social, Regeneration and Economic Return
2. Event Development
3. Promotion of Mid Ulster
4. Event Management Experience
5. Level of promotion of good relations and Inclusion
6. Value for Money

Note events with a target audience under 1000 people or events that are not receiving regional tourism attendance and coverage would be a local community festival event.

Community Local Festival Grant

To support local communities deliver a local festival in their area bringing people from across the area together.

1. Level of Community Benefit and Participation (number of days, activities)
2. Number of beneficiaries (local and neighbouring areas)
3. Promotion of Good Relations and Social Inclusion
4. Festival Development

Good Relations Grant

To support local communities deliver on good relations in line with the Government Together Building United Communities Strategy.

1. Contribution to the Good Relations TBUC themes : Children and Young People
Our Shared Community, Safe Community, Cultural Expression

2. Contribution to Core Good Relations, addressing sectarianism, racism and prejudice.
3. Level of Community Benefit and Participation
4. Targeting of Social Inclusion and deprivation

Appeals Process

An appeals process will be available for unsuccessful applicants. There will be no right of appeal in relation to the level of funding granted however appeals can be made on the basis of:

- That the stated process has not been followed.
- That the application has been rejected on the basis of eligibility criteria which had been applied incorrectly.
- That the scoring against the criteria for the programme has not been undertaken correctly.

Appeals can be undertaken in two stages if required:

Stage 1—an appeal must be lodged in writing within 10 working days of the date of receipt of a rejection letter. In the first instance the appeal should be submitted to the Grants Unit who will take responsibility for allocating this to the relevant senior officer. In all cases the appeal will be reviewed by the senior officer and a determination reached within one week of receipt of the appeal. If the appeal is upheld the project will be reassessed and an appropriate letter of offer issued. If the appeal is not successful the applicant will be informed and given the right to take the appeal to Stage 2 if required.

Stage 2 – if the applicant is still not satisfied he or she can request a review by the Strategic Development Committee who will review the process and application and present its recommendation to Council for ratification. The decision taken by Council will be final.

Grant Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation seek to ensure that funding delivers the required outcomes, that it is used as agreed and to provide a feedback mechanism to improve decision making.

Monitoring should seek to ensure that;

Value for money is achieved.

The predicted outcomes are delivered.

Council has received adequate communication/promotion

Procurement has been met

Where instances arise where outcomes are not being met, the officer will support the Group to address any issues.

Monitoring will include completion of an evaluation and monitoring form. A visit by an officer will be undertaken to 10% of projects that receive funding over £1500 threshold. This will complement the verification visit and will include the same random selection of groups.

Grants applicable – Strategic grants: culture and arts and sports, Strategic Community Development, Strategic Events, and Venues.

10% of small grants will have a project evaluation upon random sample. This will be undertaken by an officer of the Community Development Team, led by the Community Services Manager.

Capital projects; up to £5000 will have to issue evidence (e.g. photographs) of the capital and equipment investment alongside their expenditure return. A 20% monitoring visit will be undertaken on site to view expenditure items.

Discretionary Capital Grants will all be vouched on site for delivery of the capital development.

Grant Verification

Reference DFP Guidance on Grants and Reducing Bureaucracy in funding the community and voluntary sector - The Code applies to revenue grant funding only.

Micro Grants will be paid when valid receipts are received & checked. A 50% advance will be issued to groups with final verification of all invoices before the balance of the grant is paid.

Small grants £1500 - £10,000 financial verification will take place based on valid receipts being checked against agreed project expenditure. A 25% advance will be issued to groups with final verification of all invoices before the remainder of the grant is paid.

Verification will include completion of a claim form, signed by relevant people within the organisation, along with valid receipts and invoices.

Report on	Heartland: A heritage and literacy project for primary schools in Mid Ulster
Reporting Officer	Tony McCance
Contact Officer	Tony McCance/Peter Lant

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To seek Council approval to develop a Heritage and Literary Project, Working in conjunction with the NI Children's Writing Fellow, Myra Zepf and the Historic Environment Division of Department for Communities.
2.0	Background
2.1	The Mid Ulster District Council Tourism Strategy recognises the rich and diverse range of heritage sites in Mid Ulster. However, the section of the strategy entitled "Archaeology, History and Heritage" states: "The archaeology, history and heritage theme suffers from issues of lack of visibility, limited understanding by residents and visitors alike of the significance of these assets...resulting in a barrier to visiting."
2.2	In addressing this issue, the Education Officers at Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House and Seamus Heaney HomePlace are proposing to develop an education project, which will enable primary school children from across Mid Ulster to further engage in the significance of our local heritage sites. This project will also draw on the strengths of the education programmes at each of the centres, namely heritage and literacy. This project will be named "Heartland".
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>The "Heartland" project will focus attention initially on ten heritage sites across the Mid Ulster District Council area. A proposed list of the heritage sites have been identified as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knockoneill Court Tomb, Swatragh • Bellaghy Bawn • William Clark Linen Mill, Upperlands • Tirkane Sweathouse, near Maghera • Ballybriest Court Tomb • Ballyclog Bell site, Curglasson, near Stewartstown • Augher: Clogher Valley Railway • Caledon Courthouse • Ennis Flax Mill, Cabragh • Knockmany Passage Tomb <p>This project will have the potential to be further developed to include other heritage sites and working with additional schools, over a period of time.</p>

3.2	For the purpose of helping children, families and local communities to better understand a heritage site, it is anticipated that primary schools which are geographically closest to these sites will be engaged during April and May 2018 in order to ascertain interest in participating in the “Heartland” project.
3.3	The project will involve an archaeologist/historian meeting a class from the relevant school close to the heritage site and will explain the historic significance of the site to the pupils.
3.4	The Children’s Writing Fellow for Northern Ireland, Myra Zepf, will accompany the pupils at the site visit. She will then return to the school with the class, and she will work with the children as they begin to write about what they have experienced.
3.5	This phase of the project will take place between September and December 2018. The children’s writing from each of the schools will then be collated and edited. The Children’s writing will be published in a book, which will be launched at a ceremony for all of the participating pupils, at the end of March 2019. This book will be made available to all of the young writers, and to their schools, and will also be free to members of the public at Council Visitor Information Centres.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p><u>Financial & Human Resources Implications</u></p> <p>Financial: The cost of the project is £8,000 and can be met from within existing resources within Culture and Arts</p> <p>Human: Commitment of Staff time by Education Officers. Myra Zepfs commitment to the project will be free of charge as part of her role as NI Children’s Writing Fellow, Supported by Queen’s University</p>
4.2	<p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>N/A</p>
4.3	<p><u>Risk Management Implications</u></p> <p>None identified at this stage</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	It is recommended to develop and deliver the Heritage and Literary project as proposed, working in conjunction with NI Children’s Writing Fellow, Myra Zepf at a cost of £8,000
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	None

Report on	Northern Ireland Forest Schools Scheme
Reporting Officer	Head of Parks
Contact Officer	Nigel Hill

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To seek approval to register and engage with Northern Ireland Forest Schools Association (NIFSA) to develop a schools programme in Mid Ulster District Council area for a second year 2018-19.
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>Northern Ireland Forest School Awards is an environmental awareness initiative which encourages local schools to visit and take on an ownership of their local Council Park. It has been operating successfully at Hill of The O'Neill Heritage Park since April 2017 as part of the education programme at Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House.</p> <p>As part of the NIFSA programme, pupils and teachers identify an area within the local Council Park (Hill of The O'Neill) that they can develop as their own Forest School site. Here they undertake exciting and innovative activities to help them understand the importance of our natural environment and local heritage. Activities can include making a map of the Council Park using only natural resources, den building, as well as the use of trees to help children better understand maths.</p> <p>The teachers involved undertake a Forest School Leader qualification (OCN Level 3). This gives them the confidence to continue visiting the Council Park year after year and developing more exciting outdoor activities to replace classroom led lessons.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Three local schools have been participating in NIFSA at Hill of The O'Neill Heritage Park:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dungannon Primary School • Gaelscoil Aodha Rua • St. Patrick's Primary School <p>Classes from two of the schools, Dungannon Primary School and St Patrick's Primary School, have completed their programmes, and a class from Gaelscoil Aodha Rua will begin its programme in January 2018. The feedback from the participant schools has been excellent and the staff and pupils have thoroughly enjoyed the NIFSA activities. The staff from Dungannon Primary School have already made plans to return to the park</p>

	<p>to undertake a second programme of Forest Schools, and on this occasion it will led by the teacher who was trained.</p> <p>Interest has been shown in NIFSA by other local schools in the Mid Ulster District Council area and seven have registered an interest in NIFSA by posting on its website.</p> <p>Northern Ireland Forest Schools Awards have proved to be a very popular addition to the education programme at Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House. The continuation of this programme would maintain this connection of environmental awareness and citizenship skills with this Council Park, while extending the learning of ecological and conservation skills to even more pupils and teachers in the Mid Ulster District Council area.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p><u>Financial & Human Resources Implications</u></p> <p>Financial: Year two programme cost £6,000 subject to available funding.</p> <p>Human: Existing staff resources sufficient to coordinate project support.</p>
4.2	<p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>Community ownership and civic responsibility will be positive outcomes of the programme with participating schools adopting an area within their local Council Park. This will become their Forest School site. They will visit their Forest School site on a regular basis every year. Here they will learn about civic responsibility and help manage the site. This will include regular litter lifting, opportunities to help improve its biodiversity, for example, wildflower planting, tree planting for example.</p>
4.3	<p><u>Risk Management Implications</u></p> <p>N/A</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
	<p>Register Mid Ulster District Council with Northern Ireland Forest Schools Association and initiate a year two programme to engage local schools and youth groups to embrace local parks and greenspace where feasible across the district.</p>
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	<p>N/A</p>

Subject:	Recommendations on allocation of Schools' Sports Facilities Access Grants
Reporting Officer:	Oliver McShane (Acting Head of Leisure)

1	Purpose of Report
1.1	To advise Members on the Schools' Sports Facilities Access Grants.

2	Background
2.1	<p>The grant was advertised during week commencing 23rd October 2017. Closing date was Friday 17th November 2017 at 12pm. A total of 3 applications were received and subsequently passed to Williamson Consulting for assessment on behalf of Council. The assessment of the applications was carried out on Tuesday 21st November. This involved three steps: review of all information to check completeness; eligibility check; and scoring the application.</p> <p>The score was carried out using a spreadsheet which automatically produced an indicated grant level.</p>

3	Key Issues
3.1	<p>The spreadsheets used to score each application are attached. The outcome was as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 applications passed the eligibility check and had provided sufficient information and were therefore eligible for funding <p>The total amount of funding to be awarded to the three successful applicants is £12,562.95.</p>

4	Resources
4.1	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>There is no commitment to any funding for the Schools Sports Facilities Grant in 2017/2018 budgets.</p>
4.2	<p><u>Human</u></p> <p>N/A</p>

4.3	<u>Basis for Professional/ Consultancy Support</u>
	N/A
4.4	<u>Other</u>
	N/A

5	Other Considerations
5.1	N/A

6	Recommendations
6.1	Members are asked to agree the recommendations for successful grant applications.

7	List of Documents Attached
7.1	Grant recipients and amount of grants to be awarded.

Appendix 1

GRANT TYPE	Area	Organisation Name	Project Title	Date Assessed	Amount Requested	Score	Amount Awarded	Comments
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Schools' Sports Facilities Access Grant - up to £4,500 plus £500 (if school not previously open to public)

Facility costs	C	Cookstown Hockey Club	Support for school pitch maintenance costs	21.11.17	Up to £13,500	50	£4,500.00	
Facility costs	D	Dungannon Ladies Hockey	Hire of school pitch facilities	21.11.17	£4,080	50	£4,080.00	
Facility costs	D	Fivemiletown College in partnership with: Enniskillen Hockey Club Clogher Valley Junior Hockey Club	Increase use of pitch – purchase of hockey goals.	21.11.17	£3,982.95	50	£3,982.95	

Report on	Davagh Forest/Dark Skies Observatory
Reporting Officer	Michael Browne
Contact Officer	Michael Browne

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To update the Council and seek approval to apply for additional funding from the DEARA Rural Tourism programme (Round 2) for an outdoor interpretation visitor experience for Davagh Forest/Dark Skies Observatory and visitor centre.
2.0	Background
2.1	In the autumn of 2015 officers were advised that DAERA would be opening a Rural Tourism Development fund seeking applications from local authorities for tourism projects. These have to be unique and robust tourism projects in terms of attracting visitors and display economic growth. During this round of funding Councils could potentially apply for up to £500k, which had to match funded at a rate of at least 25%. Mid Ulster Council at the time identified this funding and aligned it to a unique and innovative project in Davagh Forest based around the unique Dark Skies and the rich Heritage offering the area presents.
2.2	On 25 th July 2017 notification was received from DAERA announcing that the Rural Tourism scheme was finally approved, indicating that there would be an open call for full applications will be made on 14 th August, with a closing date of 27 th October 2017 which was extended to the end of February 2018.
2.3	The Mid Ulster Davagh Forest Dark Skies project team have now submitted the round one application along with Economic Appraisal and Business Plan to DEARA Rural Tourism funding programme for £500k and are awaiting a decision early in the new year.
2.4	During this time the Council also applied to the Landfill Tax Fund for additional funds for the interpretation offering inside the building to ensure that the visitor would enjoy a fully immersive and engaging experience.
3.0	Main Report

3.1	In addition to the first round DAERA Rural Tourism and the Landfill Tax funding a second round of the Rural Tourism programme has now been announced by DAERA and Councils have been invited to submit an expression of interest by the end of January 2018.
3.2	In a previous report presented to the Councils Development Committee in October 17, the need to apply for extra funding from the Landfill Tax funding to enhance the visitor experience inside the observatory/visitor centre was identified. The increased visitor experience will present the visitor to the Centre/ Observatory with a unique, immersive visitor experience based around the richness of both the astronomy and the archaeological heritage of the area.
3.3	In October a meeting was held with officers from DAERA and Mid Ulster District Council officers to discuss the current status of this project and to receive updates from DAERA regarding the funding programme. At this meeting the DAERA officers indicated that an additional funding opportunity for this project could also be applied for under the Round 2 DAERA Rural Tourism funding stream. The project team were also advised by DAERA that between £250,000 and up to £500,000 with 25% match funding could be applied for. We have also been advised that we could use £20k-£30k for technical assistance to scope out the project. This presents the Council with a further opportunity to increase the overall attractiveness of the project and subsequently increase potential visitor numbers.
3.4	Currently there is a procurement exercise being carried out to acquire and appoint a company to design and build the indoor element of the visitor experience. We would now recommend submitting an expression of interest for the round two, and if successful we proceed to carry out a scoping study for an outdoor visitor experience.
3.5	With the potential of additional funding the project team are now considering extending the interpretation to the outside of the building, which will present a greater experience to the visitor, taking in and utilising the local environment.
3.6	Officers now feel that by increasing the interpretation both inside and outside, the visitor centre will be an engaging, unique attraction and will broaden both its local and out of state visitor attractiveness.
3.7	This project will be an initial building block that will contribute to “The Heart of Ancient Ulster” developments and seek International Dark Sky accreditation for the area.

4.0	Other Considerations			
4.1	<u>Financial & Human Resources Implications</u> Breakdown of amended budget and funders: -			
	Funders	Amount £000k	Specific	Status
	Mid Ulster District Council	£250,000	Planning, fees, construction.	
	DAERA Rural Tourism Fund, round 1.	£500,000	Construction	Submitted
	Landfill Tax Funding	£250,000	Interpretation and visitor experience, indoor.	Submitted & successful.
	DAERA Rural Tourism Fund, round 2.	£250,000	Interpretation and visitor experience, indoor.	Seeking permission to apply for the scoping study.
4.2	<u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u> N/A			
4.3	<u>Risk Management Implications</u> N/A			
5.0	<u>Recommendation(s)</u>			
5.1	Permission to seek additional funding from the DAERA's Rural Tourism funding programme of up to £250k, with match funding of £62,500 (25%) to Design & Build Outdoor Interpretative that will add to the overall attractiveness and enhance the Davagh Forest Dark Skies Visitor Centre project. Total cost of the project £312,500			
5.2	Permission to engage original ICT team Teague & Sally to contract manage the Interpretative elements and associated works of the build which was not included in their original fee submission. Fees will be basis as per their original tender submission.			


6.0	Documents Attached & References

Report on	World Travel Market, Excel London 6-8 November 2017
Reporting Officer	Michael Brown
Contact Officer	Mary McGee, Mary McKeown, Charmain Bell

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To inform and feedback to Council on Mid Ulster District Council presence at World Travel Market, London on the Tourism Ireland stand.
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>World Travel Market London is the leading global event for the travel industry to meet industry professionals and conduct business deals. Through its industry networks, unrivalled global reach, WTM London creates personal and business opportunities, providing customers with quality contacts, content and communities. According to the WTM site, there was 4,529 exhibitors at WTM and 51,500 visitors. The total number of exhibitors at WTM on the Tourism Ireland stand was 78 and the total number of NI exhibitors was 1. This included representation from Mid Ulster Council. Please find below a list of all NI exhibitors.</p> <p>NI Industry</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Giant's Causeway World Heritage Site 2. Manor House Hotels & Irish Country Hotels 3. Fermanagh Lakeland Tourism 4. Mid Ulster District Council 5. HMS Caroline 6. The Gobbins Coastal Walk 7. Visit Armagh 8. Visit Belfast 9. Titanic Belfast 10. Causeway Coastal Route 11. Visit Derry <p>Additional stand sharers with Visit Belfast:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. Wellington Park Hotel 13. Lough Neagh Partnership 14. Hastings Hotels 15. Belfast Sightseeing 16. J&K Coaches 17. Bullit Hotel



3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Staff worked on the stand for 3 days making contacts with key people, tour operators and travel trade. Staff are continuing to follow up with all contacts made and see below a summary of contacts made and the positive results to date.</p> <p>The most significant result from this work to date has been the fact that Tourism Ireland have announced that one of their key priorities for 2018 in the GB market will be Seamus Heaney. Tourism Ireland GB have tasked Amy Riddell, Head of Scotland and Coman Kenny, Head of PR, GB to work with Mid Ulster Council staff to deliver a multi-faceted marketing and PR campaign into the GB market in 2018.</p>  <p>Other contacts made and successes from WTM to date include:</p> <p>Brendan Griffin, TD Minister of State for Tourism and Sport Niall Gibbons, CEO Tourism Ireland</p> <p>Finola O'Mahony, Head of Europe, TIL Working with staff to target the German educational tours market and has advised on print for the French & German markets. Chris Reubel, Market manager Germany has been in contact and actively pursuing German educational Tour Operators for Mid Ulster product</p> <p>John Healy, Director, Abbey Ireland & UK Abbey are the largest European incoming Tour operator into Ireland, staff have completed a sales call to their Dublin office and post WTM Abbey have sent a team of staff from their Dublin office to visit Seamus Heaney HomePlace . Feedback has been very positive and they plan to programme Seamus Heaney HomePlace for their FIT (free independent travellers) for 2018.</p>



AHI Travel, Chicago

This company are targeting high-end US Smithsonian groups for late 2018 and 2019, and will include SHHP and CS Lewis. Programme combining both has been devised and forwarded to them. Staff following up with meeting with CS Lewis contacts in SHHP in January 2018.

Visit Belfast Mid Ulster businesses currently members of Visit Belfast and new Sales Manager Aoife has post WTM completed a site visit to the region on 29th November.

Hotels & More

This company have recently purchased Irish Welcome Tours and are keen to add to their portfolio in Ireland. They have requested both a group and Fit programme; both programmes have been written and sent on for consideration for 2018 itineraries.

Zatino Travel, Ireland based Chinese operator. Follow up sales call in Dublin completed and programme written. First group of Chinese students scheduled to visit Mid Ulster in late April 18.

The Albatross Group, UK

Follow up FIT programme and emails sent.

EF Tours, USA currently programming Mid Ulster following initial fam trip from Meet the Buyer and plan to expand this in 2018.

Grand Circle Tours, USA

Contacts with Jason Powell NI based rep ongoing, with groups scheduled for late 2018.

365 Global Tickets, International. This company will do a presentation in early 2018 to all Mid Ulster Tourism businesses.

Heather Davies, Davington Events

Destination Management Company

A Delaware University Group coming to Seamus Heaney HomePlace in March 2018

	<p>Contacts are ongoing with the following businesses.</p> <p>The Irish Tourism Group, Dublin</p> <p>AC Group, UK</p> <p>Select Travel Services, UK</p> <p>ECE Europe, UK</p> <p>Irish World, UK</p> <p>Glance Promotions</p> <p>Culture & Heritage Tours, Ireland</p> <p>DK Travel Guides</p> <p>Travco, International</p> <p>MIKI Travel, UK based Japanese Operator</p> <p>Aer Lingus</p> <p>Rachel Sunshine, Dublin. Chinese operator</p> <p>The Mooney Group</p> <p>Jean-Michel Khalife</p> <p>E-Voyages</p> <p>Jules Verne</p> <p>One Stage</p> <p>Excursions in Moscow, Translation, Planning</p> <p>City sightseeing Belfast</p> <p>Cashel Travel</p> <p>Business of Culture</p> <p>EU Chinese Travel</p> <p>Hotels and More</p> <p>The Group Company</p> <p>Wang Mingjie, China Daily – Journalist London Office</p> <p>SHHP article in China Daily featured post Tourism Ireland Fam Trip</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p><u>Financial & Human Resources Implications</u></p> <p>Financial: NA</p> <p>Human: NA</p>
4.2	<p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>NA</p>
4.3	<p><u>Risk Management Implications</u></p> <p>NA</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)



5.1	Return to showcase Mid Ulster Tourism product at World Travel Market 2018 and bring local businesses representatives along to sell alongside staff.
6.0	Documents Attached & References

Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Wednesday 6 December 2017 in the Council Offices, Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt

Members Present

Councillor Wilson, Chair

Councillors Clarke, Cuddy, Doris, Elattar, McAleer, McEldowney, McNamee, Molloy, Monteith and G Shiels,

Officers in Attendance

Ms 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 Forde, Member Support Officer

Others in Attendance

Agenda Item 4 – Lough Neagh Partnership Ltd/Coalisland Great Places Heritage

Meeting commenced at 7 pm.

D247/17 Apologies

Councillors Burton, McFlynn and Milne

D248/17 Declaration of Interests

Councillor McAleer declared an interest in item D250/17 Eskra Community Association Ltd – Knockmany Forest.

D249/17 Chair's business

The Chair, Councillor Wilson stated he had been inundated with issues in relation to Christmas lighting and tree provision in villages. The Chair invited the Head of Community Development to report on the issue.

The Head of Community Development advised that there had been some issues with the transfer from direct provision of festive lighting to community led provision financed by Council grants. The main issues being community groups were reluctant to take on the responsibility in organising the festive lighting through grant support as they felt Council organised the urban areas and should do the same in the villages; there were difficulties in installation of the actual trees; the level of funding versus expenditure; insurance cover and statutory permissions etc; and issues between villages re the content and level of lighting as some had just trees whilst other areas had trees and lights. The Officer advised that Council had assisted where possible in ordering and delivering trees and lights and ensuring power was available at sites.

There was only one instance where Council had to intervene due to a village making an arrangement with a contractor (Council contractor) to put up their tree and lights and were let down at the last minute, and Council provided support in the understanding that the same deduction of funding would be taken from their grant as agreed with the contractor. The Officer did state that there were some issues between communities and areas with regard to perceived support; however Council had sought to give as much support as possible over the period from both community and technical teams in providing assistance.

The Chair, Councillor Wilson thanked the Head of Community Development for the update and commended all officers for work in relation to Christmas lighting. He stressed that where Council had provided assistance costs would be deducted from the grant and stated that there would be a review meeting and report which would highlight this fact and way forward.

Councillor Monteith entered the meeting at 7.07pm

The Chair, Councillor Wilson advised that he had read in the national press that Q Radio had been fined for not fulfilling licences that their Ballymena office had been closed and all reporting was from either Belfast or Coleraine thus the Mid Ulster region was bereft of news cover. The Chair proposed that Council should write to Q Radio asking (i) what steps they were taking to cover the void; and (ii) why they had not informed anyone of the current situation.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to write to Q Radio asking (i) what steps they were taking to cover the void; and (ii) why they had not informed anyone of the office closure.

In response to Councillor McNamee's question in relation to Moneymore the Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation stated it was her understanding that the paperwork was currently being prepared and the advertisement seeking expressions of interest would be progressed in the near future.

In response to Councillor McNamee's question regarding the Saturday market in Cookstown the Director of Business and Communities advised that the Regeneration Manager was endeavouring to secure a date for a meeting and Town Centre Forum members would be informed.

D250/17 Deputation – Lough Neagh Partnership Ltd/Coalisland Great Places Heritage

The Chair welcomed Mr G Darby representative of Lough Neagh Partnership Ltd/Coalisland Great Places Heritage to the meeting.

Mr Darby delivered the presentation detailed at appendix one outlining the proposed project, its benefits to Council by assisting in social and economic projects, the cost of the project and the request for Council support.

Councillor Molloy entered the meeting at 7.13pm

Councillor G Shiels commented on resources at the the time of Mountjoy during the Plantation of Ulster and highlighted that he had been aware of Coalisland's specific relationship to the coal industry but that he had been unaware of its specific relationship to the iron industry. In response Mr Darby advised that it would have been medieval metal work and in relation to comments about Mountjoy and the plantation the resources would have been sand, clay and wood which had had a major impact on the history of today and work would be undertaken as part of a landscape project.

The Chair Councillor Wilson thanked Mr Darby for the presentation. Mr Darby withdrew from the meeting at 7.22pm

Councillor Elattar made reference to the Lough Neagh Partnership application highlighted in the presentation and advised that it was through to stage two.

The Director of Business and Communities advised that Council was endeavouring to use its budget to attract more money into the area and that officers would now look at the request and bring a report back to Council but that in the interim the group required a letter from Council stating that it supported the project in principle.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to issue a letter advising that Council supported the Coalisland Great Places Heritage project in principle.

In response to Councillor Cuddy's question seeking clarity on the area covered the Director of Business and Communities stated that the report would detail the geographical area covered.

Matters for Decision

D251/17 Eskra Community Association Ltd – Knockmany Forest

The Head of Parks drew attention to the previously circulated report with regard to a proposal from Eskra Community Association Limited in relation to Knockmany Forest development and advised that the capital contribution should read £25,000.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that approval be granted to

- (i) Accept the proposal to project manage the programme of works and that the Sports NI grant is assigned to Council at value of £25k;
- (ii) Grant permission to proceed with the procurement and completion of a tender exercise subject to the confirmation of funding from Sport NI;

- (iii) Request be processed through Policy & Resources committee for the release of the funds to undertake aforementioned works.

D252/17 Motorsport Task Force

The Head of Parks drew attention to the previously circulated report to consider a request for a financial contribution towards commissioning of a Motorsport economic research impact report for Northern Ireland. Members were reminded that Council had deferred the decision back to the committee for further consideration. Councillor McNamee advised he had no further information to report and proposed that the recommendation now be not to contribute to the research.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor McAleer and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that a contribution of £1000 not be made on behalf of MUDC towards the Motorsport Task Force report as requested by the Motorsport Task Force.

D253/17 Economic Development

The Head of Economic Development drew attention to the previously circulated report to provide members with an update on key activities as detailed below:

- Department for Communities Funding
- Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme
- Village Renewal Project
- Coalisland Public Realm
- InterTrade Ireland Brexit Conference
- New Dungannon Brand

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy

Resolved: That it be recommended to Council that approval be given to:

1) Department for Communities Funding

The Head of Economic Development advised that Council had now received notification that its funding application to Department for Communities had been successful.

The Head of Economic Development advised that Council had now received notification that its funding application to Department for Communities had been successful,

Resolved (i) As a result of Council's successful application to Department for Communities for £70,000 funding to purchase a street cleansing machine, approval be granted for Council to provide a minimum

- of 20% match funding (£17,500) towards this project from Council's existing budgets.
- (ii) Approval be granted to use a select framework to procure the vehicle which is estimated to cost in the region of £87,500 (DFC funding of £70,000 and a minimum contribution from Council of £17,500).

The Chair, Councillor Wilson congratulated those who had been involved in the Public Realm Scheme in Dungannon.

Councillor Monteith in relation to Car parking in Dungannon spoke of the Off Street Car parking Consultation which Council had hosted the previous evening. He expressed concern that traders had highlighted at the event they had only found out about the event on the day, he also highlighted how embarrassing it was for Members present. The Councillor acknowledged that sometimes one or two people may have missed an information flyer or invitation but it was unlikely that they all would miss it. He also stated that although Car parks was handled by Environment and Property Department that the Economic Development section should be involved and expressed concern in how charges were being attributed and stated that in his opinion if town centres were to survive they needed to be treated like shopping centres. Councillor Monteith made reference to the former Dungannon Masterplan and stated if this document was used in relation to carparking he would have grave concerns. He stated he was flabbergasted were Council was at with the issue.

Councillor McNamee highlighted that Members had expressed concern that the consultation event was scheduled for the same night as the Planning Committee.

Councillor G Shiels stated that he felt the entire parking regime should be less stringent across the district.

Councillor Cuddy stated he had attended the consultation event and stated that when it had been enquired off officers why traders had not been notified the officer present stated that it had been up to the town centre manager to notify them. He stated that it had been a shambles, one carpark had been picked to increase charges in and it was only used 25% of the time. He advised he had not made comparison with other towns.

Councillor Monteith concurred that blame had been apportioned to the Economic Development section.

The Director of Business and Communities thanked Members for raising the issue and advised that car parking does indeed rest with Council's Environment & Property Services. He added that he would investigate where the communication channels had broken down, and advised that if a further consultation event in Dungannon was needed, this could be accommodated and communicated widely to key town centre stakeholders.

2) Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme

Councillor Molloy made reference to the extensive reserve list in relation to the Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up scheme and advised that there were more willing to avail if the opportunity afforded.

Resolved Approval is granted to an additional element of works for grant aid regarding application VSS17/30, to the value of £1,650 and place on the ranked reserve list for funding as appropriate.

3) Village Renewal Project

Resolved Members noted progress on Village Renewal Project

4) Coalisland Public Realm

Resolved Members noted progress on Coalisland Public Realm

5) InterTrade Ireland Brexit Conference

Resolved Members noted conference details

6) New Dungannon Brand

Resolved Members noted new Dungannon Brand and the range of promotional activities in the pipeline to promote it.

D254/17 Community Development

The Head of Community Development drew attention to the two previously circulated reports to:

- Approve Community Grants Rolling Programme Applications;
- Peace IV Local Action Plan 2017- 2020;
- Community Development Update.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Molloy

Resolved: That it be recommended to Council that approval be given to:

1) Community Grants Rolling Programme Applications

Resolved Approve the grant award recommendations under the Community Local Festivals and Good Relations grants ie Local Festival £2235 and Good Relations Grants £600.

2) Peace 1V Local Action Plan 2017-2020

Resolved Approve the grant award recommendations under the Peace IV Children and Young People theme outlined in the report totalling £199,955.72, taking account of eligible costs of all projects and

following this allocating the funding based on a tiered approach of pro rata contribution.

Matters for Information

D255/17 Minutes of Development Committee Thursday 16 November 2017

Members noted Minutes of Development Committee held on Thursday 16 November 2017.

In relation to D237/17 Railway Park and Ballysaggart Lough Project Councillor Monteith proposed that a meeting be convened with members of the Dungannon DEA to discuss the project.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that a meeting be convened with members of the Dungannon DEA to discuss the Railway Park and Ballysaggart Lough project.

Councillor Monteith declared an interest in St Patrick's Primary School Dungannon where he sat on the Board of Governors and also the Gael Scóil Dungannon of which he was a former Governor

D256/17 Invest NI (INI) Collaborative Growth Programme – Seamus Heaney Cluster

Members noted previously circulated report to update Members on the staff support to the Invest NI (INI) Collaborative Growth Programme via the Seamus Heaney Cluster.

D257/17 Tourism Development Group

Members noted previously circulated report to update Members on the work of the Tourism Development Group.

D258/17 Tourism Summer Programme

Members noted previously circulated report to inform of tourism activities over the summer months in accordance with Mid Ulster Tourism strategy.

D259/17 Northern Ireland Forest schools scheme at Hill of the O'Neill, Dungannon

Members noted previously circulated report to provide Members with an update on the Northern Ireland Forest Schools Project at Hill of the O'Neill, Dungannon.

Local Government (NI) 2014 – Confidential Business

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 D240/17 to D245/17

Matters for Decision

D260/17 Portglenone to Newferry Blueway
D261/17 Tender Reprot for the Mid Ulster Peace IV Post Primary School Programme
D262/17 Mid Ulster District Council Culture & Arts Strategy

Matters for Information

D262/17 Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 12 October 2017

D264/17 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7 pm and concluded at 7.42pm.

The Chair Councillor Wilson wished everyone a happy Christmas and peaceful new year.

CHAIR _____

DATE _____

Report on	The Heart of Ancient Ulster Landscape Partnership Scheme (THoAULP) – Update on Community Consultations
Reporting Officer	Michael Browne
Contact Officer	Moirá O'Rourke

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To inform Council of community consultations for the Heart of Ancient Ulster Landscape Partnership Scheme.
2.0	Background
2.1	The purpose of this report is to provide an update on The Heart of Ancient Ulster Landscape Partnership Scheme to December 2017.
2.2	The Heart of Ancient Ulster Landscape Partnership Scheme (THoAULP) is currently developing a Landscape Character Area Plan: a fully-budgeted five year programme which forms the core of the Round 2 application to be submitted to Heritage Lottery in November 2018.
2.3	Ten Councillors, five each from FODC and MUDC, were formally nominated at Council to sit on the Grantee Board of THoAULP in November 2017. The ten Councillors are:
2.4	<p><u>FODC Councillors:</u> Cllr Mary Garrity (SDLP) Cllr Anne Marie Fitzgerald (SF) Cllr Sean Clarke (SF) Cllr Bert Wilson (UUP) Cllr Mark Buchanan (DUP)</p> <p><u>MUDC Councillors:</u> Cllr Denise Mullen (SDLP) Cllr Sean Clarke (SF) Cllr Cathal Mallaghan (SF) Cllr Mark Glasgow (UUP) Cllr Wilbert Buchanan (DUP)</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The first meeting of the Grantee Board was 7th December 2017. Unfortunately, due to a combination of previously scheduled Council committee meetings and adverse weather conditions only three of the ten Councillors were in attendance: Cllrs Denise Mullen, Sean

	Clarke and Sean Clarke. Cllr Bert Wilson met with Development Officer, Moira O'Rourke, prior to the meeting.
3.2	Four officers representing both councils were present: Michael Brown (MUDC), and Kieran McCrory, Ian Davidson and George Bradshaw (all FODC). Both the Development Officer, Moira O'Rourke, and Project Administrator, Gail Lees, were also present.
3.3	Moira delivered a presentation to the Councillors which provided an overview of the project and highlighted the need for community buy-in to ensure the success of the project. Moira informed the board that a series of consultations with community organisations is arranged for January and early February 2018. A mail shot will be sent to all community organisations within and around the THoAULP boundary area inviting them to attend one of six consultations. Included will be an 'Expression of Interest' form, whereby groups provide an outline of heritage projects they wish to be included in the Landscape Character Area Plan and to be undertaken during the Delivery Phase (2019-2023).
3.4	<p>The consultations will be advertised via press release, both councils' websites and community networks, and the Rural Support Networks. The dates and venues for the consultations are as follows and all meetings will take place between 7-9pm:</p> <p>Rowntree Centre, Pomeroy Thursday 11th Jan 2018</p> <p>Broughderg Community Centre Monday 15th Jan 2018</p> <p>Sixmilecross, WF Marshall Centre Thursday 18th Jan 2018</p> <p>An Creagan Visitor Centre Monday 22nd Jan 2018</p> <p>Galbally Community Centre Thursday 25th Jan 2018</p> <p>The Patrician, Carrickmore Tuesday 30th Jan 2018</p> <p>Greencastle Community Centre Thursday 1st Feb 2018</p>
3.5	Moira brought to the attention of the Grantee Board that the first meeting of the Landscape Partnership Board was scheduled for Tuesday 12th December 2017. However, due to previous commitments, only four of the invited community organisations had confirmed attendance by 07-12-2017. It was decided that it would be prudent to cancel the meeting and re-schedule for January 2018.
3.6	The Grantee Board will next meet in March 2018. It was decided that future Grantee Board and Landscape Board meetings be scheduled so as not to conflict with existing committee meetings at Council.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p><u>Financial & Human Resources Implications</u></p> <p>N/A</p>

4.2	<u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u> N/A
4.3	<u>Risk Management Implications</u> N/A
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	For information
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	<p>Key to Abbreviations:</p> <p>THoAULP The Heart of Ancient Ulster Landscape Partnership</p> <p>LCAP Landscape Character Area Plan</p>

Report on	NISRA Tourism Statistics 2016
Reporting Officer	Michael Brown
Contact Officer	Mary McGee

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	<p>Tourism NI has produced a summary Local Government District (LGD) report that contains key data (e.g. overnight trips, nights and spend, reason for visit and origin of visitors) for all 11 LGDs (based on 2012-2016 Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) data) including Mid Ulster.</p> <p>TNI has also produced 11 LGD Fact Cards based on 2012-2016 data released by the (NISRA) on the LGDs.</p> <p>This report will inform members of a summary of these statistics. Full detail can be found by following this link; https://tourismni.com/facts-and-figures/tourism-performance-statistics/local-government-district-tourism-statistics/</p>
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>NISRA is tasked with producing ongoing statistical analysis of the developing tourism picture in Northern Ireland. NISRA staff member Sarah McAuley presented to the council Tourism Development Group in April on their role and work in collating these ongoing and annual statistics for the industry. Council tourism staff have been working closely with NISRA and tourism businesses across Mid Ulster to get a fuller picture of visitor numbers, nights and spend in Mid Ulster. This work sits as one of the key service improvement objectives for the tourism section in terms of economic growth.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>The recently released NISRA statistics make for favourable reading for the Mid Ulster Tourism business sector, with increases reported across the board from 2015.</p> <p>In summary:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Trips made to Mid Ulster have increased by 14% from 156,252 in 2015 to 178,555 in 2016. 4% of trips to Northern Ireland in total. 2. Nights spent in Mid Ulster by visitors has increased by 16% from 614,960 in 2015 to 713,624 in 2016. 5% of nights spent in Northern Ireland in total.

	<p>3. Spend by visitors has increased 36% from £22.4m in 2015 to £30.3m in 2016. 4% of spend in Northern Ireland in total.</p> <p>4. Hotel room occupancy up by 6%.</p> <p>The report also reveals the following for 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average length of stay for visitors to the region is 4 days. • Average spend is £170.00 and average spend per night is £42.00. • There were 775,162 visits made to attraction in Mid Ulster in 2016 • Lough Fea and Ballyronan Marina were the most popular visitor attractions. • 65% of our visitors are VFR (Visiting Friends and Relatives) <p>The market divides down as follows:</p> <p>51% Northern Ireland 27% Great Britain 12% Republic Of Ireland and other 6% Mainland Europe 55% North America</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p><u>Financial & Human Resources Implications</u></p> <p>Financial:</p> <p>Human:</p>
4.2	<u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u>
4.3	<u>Risk Management Implications</u>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Tourism staff continue to engage with tourism businesses and NISRA in terms of statistical reporting.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	NISRA Mid Ulster Fact Card

Antrim & Newtownabbey LGD Fact Card



TRIPS, NIGHTS & SPEND	2014	2015	2016	2016 v 2015	2016 % of NI
Trips	200,582	204,902	217,829	+6%	5%
Nights	730,015	673,876	672,929	/	4%
Spend	£37.1m	£34.3m	£38.4m	+12%	5%
Average length of stay	3.6	3.3	3.1		
Average spend per trip	£185	£167	£176		
Average spend per night	£51	£51	£57		



4,197 tourism jobs in Antrim & Newtownabbey LGD in 2015 – 7.5% of total employee jobs

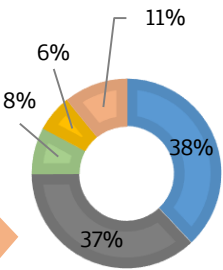


98,480 visits to visitor attractions in the Antrim & Newtownabbey LGD in 2016

Shanes Castle was the most popular visitor attraction in Antrim and Newtownabbey LGD in 2016

ORIGIN OF VISITORS 2014-2016 (3 year rolling average)

The majority of overnight trips taken in Antrim & Newtownabbey LGD can be attributed to the domestic and GB markets (Derry City & Strabane and Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon LGDs attracted similar proportions from these markets)



■ NI ■ GB ■ Mainland Europe ■ North America ■ ROI & Other

REASON FOR VISIT 2014-2016 (3 year rolling average)*

Six other LGDs attracted higher proportions of overnight holiday trips. Antrim & Newtownabbey LGD has the same proportion of overnight business trips as Belfast LGD (16%), higher than any of the other LGDs.



32%

Holiday/pleasure/
leisure



16%

Business




49%

Visiting
friends/relatives

*Other reasons = 2%

ACCOMMODATION STATISTICS 2016

	STOCK			OCCUPANCY	
	Number	Rooms	Beds	Room	Bed-space
 Hotels	10	631	1,295	64%	45%
GH/GA/B&B†	32	111	257	34%	28%
Self-catering	Units	Rooms	Beds	Annual	Peak (Apr-Sep)
	66	149	269	38%	40%

†Guesthouse/guest accommodation /bed & breakfast

7% of the available hotel bed-spaces in NI are in Antrim & Newtownabbey LGD (only three other LGDs have more hotel beds). Antrim & Newtownabbey has the fourth highest hotel room occupancy of all the LGDs (on a par with CC&G)

Antrim & Newtownabbey LGD has the lowest number of GH/GA/B&B bed-spaces all of the LGDs (with a very similar number to Lisburn & Castlereagh)

Fact Card is based on data published by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA).

Tourism performance estimates presented above are based on overnight trips made by Northern Ireland residents and visitors from outside Northern Ireland. Estimates relate to overnight trips only, i.e. exclude day trips.

The full NISRA Report (including background notes) and associated tables relating to Local Government District Statistics can be found at this [link](#)

Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon LGD Fact Card



TRIPS, NIGHTS & SPEND	2014	2015	2016	2016 v 2015	2016 % of NI
Trips	231,852	149,782	144,977	-3%	3%
Nights	769,692	563,238	726,351	+29%	5%
Spend	£28.1m	£22.5m	£25.6m	+13%	3%
Average length of stay	3.3	3.8	5.0		
Average spend per trip	£121	£150	£176		
Average spend per night	£37	£40	£35		



4,266 tourism jobs in Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon LGD in 2015 – 6% of total employee jobs

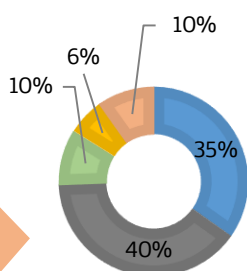


1.8m visits to visitor attractions LGD in 2015

Oxford Island National Nature Reserve was the most popular visitor attraction in Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon LGD in 2016 (excluding country parks/parks/forests/gardens)

ORIGIN OF VISITORS 2014-2016 (3 year rolling average)

The majority of overnight trips can be attributed to the domestic and GB markets. Antrim & Newtownabbey and Derry City & Strabane LGDs attracted similar proportions from these two markets



■ NI ■ GB ■ Mainland Europe ■ North America ■ ROI & Other

REASON FOR VISIT 2014-2016 (3 year rolling average)*

Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon LGD attracted the lowest proportion of overnight holiday trips and the highest proportion of overnight VFR trips of all of the LGDs



20%

Holiday/pleasure/
leisure



6%

Business



72%

Visiting
friends/relatives

*Other reasons = 2%

ACCOMMODATION STATISTICS 2016



	STOCK			OCCUPANCY	
	Number	Rooms	Beds	Room	Bed-space
Hotels	7	206	529	52%	38%
GH/GA/B&B†	44	160	368	43%	31%

This LGD has the lowest number of both hotel bed-spaces and self-catering bed-spaces all the LGDs (similar in number to Lisburn & Castlereagh City LGD)

	Units	Rooms	Beds	Annual	Peak (Apr-Sep)
Self-catering	47	110	231	37%	50%

Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon LGD has the lowest hotel room and bed-space occupancy of all of the LGDs

†Guesthouse/guest accommodation /bed & breakfast

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Ards & North Down LGD Fact Card



TRIPS, NIGHTS & SPEND	2014	2015	2016	2016 v 2015	2016 % of NI
Trips	443,481	378,254	283,229	-25%	6%
Nights	1,575,270	1,401,779	1,087,260	-22%	7%
Spend	£44.0m	£51.3m	£45.9m	-11%	5%
Average length of stay	3.6	3.7	3.8		
Average spend per trip	£99	£136	£162		
Average spend per night	£28	£37	£42		



4,954 tourism jobs in Ards & North Down LGD in 2015 – 13% of total employee jobs (on a par with CC&G LGD and higher than any of the other LGDs)

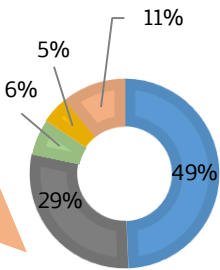


1.6m visits to visitor attractions in this LGD in 2015

Mount Stewart House & Gardens and Pickie Fun Park were the most popular visitor attractions in Ards & North Down LGD in 2016 (excludes country parks/parks/forests)

ORIGIN OF VISITORS 2014-2016 (3 year rolling average)

The majority of overnight trips can be attributed to the domestic and GB markets (similar proportions to Mid & East Antrim and Mid Ulster LGDs)



■ NI ■ GB ■ Mainland Europe ■ North America ■ ROI & Other

REASON FOR VISIT 2014-2016 (3 year rolling average)*

The vast majority of overnight trips taken in Ards & North Down LGD were holidays or trips to visit friends/relatives. Four other LGDs attracted higher proportions of overnight holiday trips



42%

Holiday/pleasure/
leisure



4%

Business



46%

Visiting
friends/relatives

*Other reasons = 8%

ACCOMMODATION STATISTICS 2016



	STOCK			OCCUPANCY	
	Number	Rooms	Beds	Room	Bed-space
Hotels	7	299	606	61%	54%
GH/GA/B&B†	58	209	456	30%	21%
Self-catering	Units	Rooms	Beds	Annual	Peak (Apr-Sep)
	140	321	636	25%	35%

†Guesthouse/guest accommodation /bed & breakfast

This LGD has the fourth lowest number of hotel bed-spaces of all the LGDs (similar in number to Lisburn & Castlereagh, Mid Ulster and Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon LGDs)

Ards & North Down had the second highest hotel bed-space occupancy in 2016 (jointly with Mid & East Antrim LGD), with only Belfast experiencing higher bed-space occupancy levels

Fact Card is based on data published by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA).

Tourism performance estimates presented above are based on overnight trips made by Northern Ireland residents and visitors from outside Northern Ireland. Estimates relate to overnight trips only, i.e. exclude day trips.

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Belfast City LGD Fact Card

TRIPS, NIGHTS & SPEND	2014	2015	2016	2016 v 2015	2016 % of NI
Trips	1,166,907	1,364,115	1,459,760	+7%	31%
Nights	3,685,719	4,241,808	4,433,128	+5%	29%
Spend	£246.4m	£278.7m	£334.1	+20%	39%
Average length of stay	3.2	3.1	3.0		
Average spend per trip	£211	£204	£229		
Average spend per night	£67	£66	£75		



4.7m visits to visitor attractions in Belfast LGD in 2016 – Titanic Belfast, voted the world's leading tourist attraction in 2016, was the most popular (excluding country parks/parks/forests)

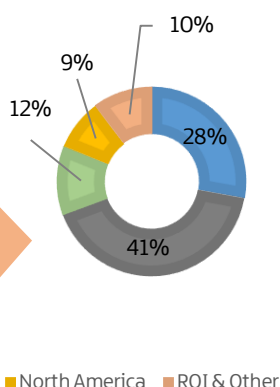


18,607 tourism jobs in Belfast LGD in 2015 – 8.5% of total employee jobs

Belfast LGD attracted the largest number of overnight trips in 2016 followed by CC&G and Newry, Mourne & Down LGDs

ORIGIN OF VISITORS 2014-2016 (3 year rolling average)

Belfast LGD attracted the highest proportion of both European and North American overnight trips (just ahead of Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD) and the second highest proportion of GB overnight trips compared with the other LGDs



REASON FOR VISIT 2014-2016 (3 year rolling average)*

This LGD has the highest proportion of overnight business trips (jointly with Antrim & Newtownabbey) of all the LGDs, just ahead of Lisburn & Castlereagh City



44%

Holiday/pleasure/
leisure



16%

Business



37%

Visiting
friends/relatives

*Other reasons = 3%

ACCOMMODATION STATISTICS 2016



	STOCK			OCCUPANCY	
	Number	Rooms	Beds	Room	Bed-space
Hotels	33	3,437	7,215	79%	64%
GH/GA/B&B†	52	309	631	++	++

Almost one quarter of NI hotels, rising to 41% of available NI hotel bed-spaces, are located in Belfast LGD. Almost four fifths of these bed-spaces were occupied throughout 2016, the highest occupancy of all the LGDs

	Units	Rooms	Beds	Annual	Peak (Apr-Sep)
Self-catering	297	651	1,247	45%	48%



81 cruise ships (with 144,002 passengers on board) docked in Belfast in 2016, significantly up on 2015 figures

†Guesthouse/guest accommodation /bed & breakfast
++Sample size too small to provide a reliable estimate

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Tourism performance estimates presented above are based on overnight trips made by Northern Ireland residents and visitors from outside Northern Ireland. Estimates relate to overnight trips only, i.e. exclude day trips.

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Causeway Coast & Glens LGD Fact Card

TRIPS, NIGHTS & SPEND	2014	2015	2016	2016 v 2015	2016 % of NI
Trips	756,966	916,063	809,851	-12%	17%
Nights	2,708,972	3,156,874	2,471,697	-22%	16%
Spend	£131.3m	£138.0m	£137.6m	/	16%
Average length of stay	3.6	3.4	3.1		
Average spend per trip	£173	£151	£170		
Average spend per night	£48	£44	£56		



4,823 tourism jobs in Causeway Coast & Glens (CC&G) LGD in 2015 – 12% of total employees (a similar proportion to North Down & Ards LGD and higher than the other LGDs)

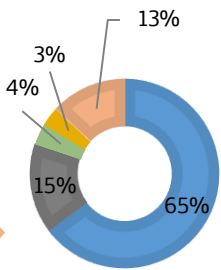


2.2m visits to visitor attractions in Causeway Coast & Glens LGD in 2016

The Giant's Causeway was NI's most popular visitor attraction in 2016 (excluding country parks/parks/forests), attracting almost 1m visitors

ORIGIN OF VISITORS 2014-2016 (3 year rolling average)

CC&G LGD attracted the second highest proportion of domestic overnight trips (after Newry, Mourne & Down) and the second lowest proportion of European overnight trips of all of the LGDs



■ NI ■ GB ■ Mainland Europe ■ North America ■ ROI & Other

REASON FOR VISIT 2014-2016 (3 year rolling average)*

The CC&G LGD has the highest proportion of overnight holiday trips and the lowest proportion of overnight VFR trips of all the LGDs



73%

Holiday/pleasure/
leisure



4%

Business



20%

Visiting
friends/relatives

*Other reasons = 3%

ACCOMMODATION STATISTICS 2016



	STOCK			OCCUPANCY	
	Number	Rooms	Beds	Room	Bed-space
Hotels	20	723	1,942	64%	40%
GH/GA/B&B†	185	829	1,949	38%	32%
Self-catering	Units	Rooms	Beds	Annual	Peak (April-Sep)
	1,084	3,332	6,334	61%	77%

†Guesthouse/guest accommodation /bed & breakfast

47% of the available 13,492 self-catering bed-spaces in NI are in the CC&G LGD (the largest proportion of any LGD by far). Annual self-catering occupancy rates in this LGD are much higher compared with the other LGDs

CC&G LGD also has the largest number of GH/GA/B&B bed-spaces and the second largest number of hotel beds of all the LGDs

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Tourism performance estimates presented above are based on overnight trips made by Northern Ireland residents and visitors from outside Northern Ireland. Estimates relate to overnight trips only, i.e. exclude day trips.

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Derry City & Strabane LGD Fact Card



TRIPS, NIGHTS & SPEND	2014	2015	2016	2016 v 2015	2016 % of NI
Trips	231,027	223,718	282,939	+26%	6%
Nights	810,809	890,527	909,898	+2%	6%
Spend	£39.5m	£42.7m	£50.2m	+18%	6%
Average length of stay	3.5	4.0	3.2		
Average spend per trip	£171	£191	£178		
Average spend per night	£49	£48	£55		



4,685 tourism jobs in this LGD in 2015 - 9% of total employee jobs



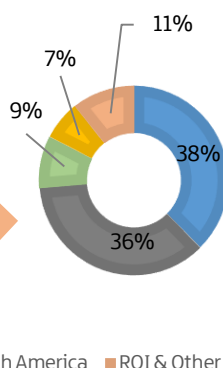
1.1m visits to visitor attractions in Derry & Strabane LGD in 2016

Derry's Walls and the Guildhall were the most popular visitor attractions in Derry City & Strabane LGD in 2016

ORIGIN OF VISITORS 2014-2016 (3 year rolling average)

This LGD attracts the fourth lowest proportion of domestic overnight trips of all the LGDs.

The proportions of European and North American overnight trips were similar to Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon and Antrim & Newtownabbey LGDs



REASON FOR VISIT 2014-2016 (3 year rolling average)*

Derry City & Strabane LGD has the third highest proportion of overnight business visitors (just behind Belfast and Antrim & Newtownabbey LGDs). Three other LGDs attracted lower proportions of overnight holiday trips



30%

Holiday/pleasure/leisure



11%

Business



53%

Visiting friends/relatives

*Other reasons = 6%

ACCOMMODATION STATISTICS 2016



	STOCK			OCCUPANCY	
	Number	Rooms	Beds	Room	Bed-space
Hotels	12	690	1,663	65%	50%
GH/GA/B&B†	68	235	539	29%	20%

Self-catering	Units	Rooms	Beds	Annual	Peak (April-Sep)
	103	254	525	33%	47%

Derry City & Strabane LGD has the third largest number of hotel bed-spaces (after Belfast and the Causeway Coast & Glens) and the third highest hotel room occupancy of all the LGDs



5 cruise ships (with 5,288 passengers on board) docked in Derry~Londonderry in 2016, up on 2014 figures

†Guesthouse/guest accommodation /bed & breakfast

Fact Card is based on data published by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA).

Tourism performance estimates presented above are based on overnight trips made by Northern Ireland residents and visitors from outside Northern Ireland. Estimates relate to overnight trips only, i.e. exclude day trips.

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Fermanagh & Omagh LGD Fact Card

TRIPS, NIGHTS & SPEND	2014	2015	2016	2016 v 2015	2016 % of NI
Trips	388,235	342,741	305,021	-11%	6%
Nights	1,069,680	1,141,673	954,640	-16%	6%
Spend	£62.8m	£55.1m	£54.2m	-2%	6%
Average length of stay	2.8	3.3	3.1		
Average spend per trip	£162	£161	£178		
Average spend per night	£59	£48	£57		



3,524 tourism jobs in Fermanagh & Omagh LGD in 2015 – 9% of total employee jobs

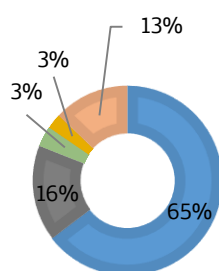


887,804 visits to visitor attractions in Fermanagh & Omagh LGD in 2016

Belleek Pottery Visitor Centre and the Ulster American Folk Park were the most popular visitor attractions in Fermanagh & Omagh LGD in 2016

ORIGIN OF VISITORS 2014-2016 (3 year rolling average)

The proportion of domestic overnight trips Fermanagh & Omagh attracted was among the highest of all the LGDs, while the proportions of both European and North American overnight trips attracted welcomed were the lowest of all of the LGDs



■ NI ■ GB ■ Mainland Europe ■ North America ■ ROI & Other

REASON FOR VISIT 2014-2016 (3 year rolling average)*

Fermanagh & Omagh attracted the third highest proportion of overnight holiday trips of all the LGDs (after CC&G and Newry Mourne & Down LGDs)



46%

Holiday/pleasure/
leisure



7%

Business



44%

Visiting
friends/relatives

*Other reasons = 2%

ACCOMMODATION STATISTICS 2016



	STOCK			OCCUPANCY	
	Number	Rooms	Beds	Room	Bed-space
Hotels	11	415	973	63%	52%
GH/GA/B&B†	74	419	1,003	35%	23%
Self-catering	Units	Rooms	Beds	Annual	Peak (April-Sep)
	336	906	1,942	34%	45%

14% of the available 13,492 self-catering beds in NI are in this LGD, the second highest of all the LGDs (after the CC&G). Fermanagh & Omagh also has the third largest number of GH/GA/B&B beds of all the LGDs (after the CC&G and Newry, Mourne & Down LGDs)

Fermanagh & Omagh LGD has the fourth highest annual hotel bed-space occupancy rate of all the LGDs

†Guesthouse/guest accommodation /bed & breakfast

Fact Card is based on data published by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA).

Tourism performance estimates presented above are based on overnight trips made by Northern Ireland residents and visitors from outside Northern Ireland. Estimates relate to overnight trips only, i.e. exclude day trips.

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Lisburn & Castlereagh City LGD Fact Card

TRIPS, NIGHTS & SPEND	2014	2015	2016	2016 v 2015	2016 % of NI
Trips	117,661	131,121	169,913	+30%	4%
Nights	471,286	715,670	592,198	-17%	4%
Spend	£22.4m	£25.0m	£27.2m	+9%	3%
Average length of stay	4.0	5.5	3.5		
Average spend per trip	£190	£190	£160		
Average spend per night	£48	£35	£46		



3,806 tourism jobs in Lisburn & Castlereagh City LGD in 2015 – 7% of total employee jobs

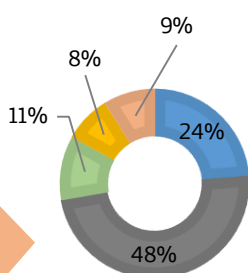


582,789 visits to visitor attractions in this LGD in 2016

Lisburn Bowl and the Irish Linen Centre & Lisburn Museum were the most popular visitor attractions in Lisburn & Castlereagh City LGD in 2016 (excluding country parks/parks/gardens/forests)

ORIGIN OF VISITORS 2014-2016 (3 year rolling average)

Lisburn & Castlereagh City LGD attracted the second highest proportion of European as well as North American overnight trips (just behind Belfast LGD) and the lowest proportion of domestic overnight trips of all the LGDs



■ NI ■ GB ■ Mainland Europe ■ North America ■ ROI & Other

REASON FOR VISIT 2014-2016 (3 year rolling average)*

Lisburn & Castlereagh City LGD has the second lowest proportion of overnight holiday trips and the third highest proportion of VFR trips of all of the LGDs



27%

Holiday/pleasure/
leisure



13%

Business



59%

Visiting
friends/relatives

*Other reasons = 1%

ACCOMMODATION STATISTICS 2016



	STOCK			OCCUPANCY	
	Number	Rooms	Beds	Room	Bed-space
Hotels	4	255	593	++	++
GH/GA/B&B†	29	106	235	48%	36%

Lisburn & Castlereagh City LGD has the third lowest number of hotel bed-spaces and the lowest number of GH/GA/B&B beds of all the LGDs

	Units	Rooms	Beds	Annual	Peak (April-Sep)
Self-catering	50	114	231	35%	47%

This LGD has the highest guesthouse/guest accommodation/B&B room and bed-space occupancy of all the LGDs

†Guesthouse/guest accommodation /bed & breakfast

++Sample size too small to provide a reliable estimate

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Tourism performance estimates presented above are based on overnight trips made by Northern Ireland residents and visitors from outside Northern Ireland. Estimates relate to overnight trips only, i.e. exclude day trips.

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Mid & East Antrim LGD Fact Card



TRIPS, NIGHTS & SPEND	2014	2015	2016	2016 v 2015	2016 % of NI
Trips	322,198	383,861	301,768	-21%	6%
Nights	1,147,683	1,010,302	1,056,020	+5%	7%
Spend	£53.3m	£45.9m	£46.2m	+1%	5%
Average length of stay	3.6	2.6	3.5		
Average spend per trip	£165	£119	£153		
Average spend per night	£46	£45	£44		



505,150 visits to visitor attractions in Mid & East Antrim in LGD in 2016



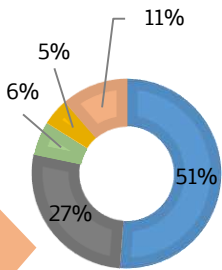
3,959 tourism jobs in Mid & East Antrim LGD in 2015 – 9% of total employee jobs

Carrickfergus Castle attracted the most visitors in this LGD in 2016 (excluding country parks/parks/forests)

ORIGIN OF VISITORS 2014-2016 (3 year rolling average)

The majority of overnight trips can be attributed to the domestic and GB markets (with Mid Ulster welcoming similar proportions)

The proportion of European and North American overnight trips attracted to this LGD were among the lowest



■ NI ■ GB ■ Mainland Europe ■ North America ■ ROI & Other

REASON FOR VISIT 2014-2016 (3 year rolling average)*

Almost half of overnight trips taken in Mid & East Antrim LGD were to visit friends/relatives. Four other LGDs attracted higher proportions of holiday visitors



42%

Holiday/pleasure/
leisure



4%

Business




49%

Visiting
friends/relatives

*Other reasons = 4%

ACCOMMODATION STATISTICS 2016

	STOCK			OCCUPANCY	
	Number	Rooms	Beds	Room	Bed-space
Hotels	12	492	1,104	67%	54%
GH/GA/B&B†	51	158	365	41%	35%
Self-catering	83	186	377	42%	56%

†Guesthouse/guest accommodation /bed & breakfast

Mid & East Antrim LGD has 6% of the available hotel beds in NI, 5% of available guest house /guest accommodation /B&B beds and 3% of the available self-catering beds in NI

This LGD has the 2nd highest room and bed-space occupancy for guesthouses /guest accommodation/B&Bs and the second highest hotel room occupancy of all the LGDs

Fact Card is based on data published by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA).

Tourism performance estimates presented above are based on overnight trips made by Northern Ireland residents and visitors from outside Northern Ireland. Estimates relate to overnight trips only, i.e. exclude day trips.

The full NISRA Report (including background notes) and associated tables relating to Local Government District Statistics can be found at this [link](#)

Mid Ulster LGD Fact Card

TRIPS, NIGHTS & SPEND	2014	2015	2016	2016 v 2015	2016 % of NI
Trips	213,795	156,252	178,555	+14%	4%
Nights	622,592	614,960	713,624	+16%	5%
Spend	£26.4m	£22.4m	£30.3m	+36%	4%
Average length of stay	2.9	3.9	4.0		
Average spend per trip	£123	£143	£170		
Average spend per night	£42	£36	£42		



3,489 tourism jobs in Mid Ulster LGD in 2015 – 7% of total employee jobs

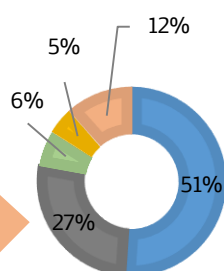


775,162 visits to visitor attractions in this LGD in 2016

Ballyronan Marina and Loughfea were among the most popular visitor attractions in Mid Ulster LGD in 2016 (excluding country parks/parks/forests)

ORIGIN OF VISITORS 2014-2016 (3 year rolling average)

The majority of overnight trips can be attributed to the domestic and GB markets (with Mid & East Antrim attracting similar proportions)



■ NI ■ GB ■ Mainland Europe ■ North America ■ ROI & Other

REASON FOR VISIT 2014-2016 (3 year rolling average)*

This LGD attracted the third lowest proportion of overnight holiday trips and the second highest proportion of VFR trips of all the LGDs



28%

Holiday/pleasure/
leisure



5%

Business



65%

Visiting
friends/relatives

*Other reasons = 2%

ACCOMMODATION STATISTICS 2016



	STOCK			OCCUPANCY	
	Number	Rooms	Beds	Room	Bed-space
Hotels	9	238	588	54%	42%
GH/GA/B&B†	32	139	320	31%	22%

Mid Ulster LGD has the third lowest number of hotel bed-spaces as well as GH/GA/B&B beds of all the LGDs

	Units	Rooms	Beds	Annual	Peak (April-Sep)
Self-catering	63	158	338	48%	57%

This LGD has the second lowest hotel room occupancy of all the LGDs (after Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon)

†Guesthouse/guest accommodation /bed & breakfast

Fact Card is based on data published by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA).

Tourism performance estimates presented above are based on overnight trips made by Northern Ireland residents and visitors from outside Northern Ireland. Estimates relate to overnight trips only, i.e. exclude day trips.

The full NISRA Report (including background notes) and associated tables relating to Local Government District Statistics can be found at this [link](#)

Newry, Mourne & Down LGD Fact Card

TRIPS, NIGHTS & SPEND	2014	2015	2016	2016 v 2015	2016 % of NI
Trips	571,238	406,302	571,400	+41%	12%
Nights	1,490,653	1,060,063	1,562,073	+47%	10%
Spend	£53.6m	£48.1m	£61.0m	+27%	7%
Average length of stay	2.6	2.6	2.7		
Average spend per trip	£94	£118	£107		
Average spend per night	£36	£45	£39		



4,953 tourism jobs in Newry, Mourne & Down LGD in 2015 – 9.5% of total employee jobs



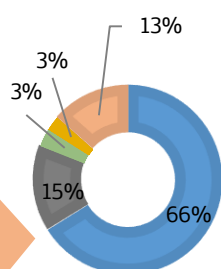
1.2m visits to visitor attractions in this LGD in 2016

Castle Ward House & Demesne was the most popular visitor attraction in Newry, Mourne & Down LGD in 2016 (excluding country parks/parks/forests/gardens)

ORIGIN OF VISITORS 2014-2016 (3 year rolling average)

Newry, Mourne & Down LGD attracts the highest proportion of domestic overnight trips, as well as ROI and other overnight trips, of all the LGDs

This LGD attracts the lowest proportion of Other European and North American trips



■ NI ■ GB ■ Mainland Europe ■ North America ■ ROI & Other

REASON FOR VISIT 2014-2016 (3 year rolling average)*

Newry, Mourne & Down LGD is one of two LGDs (the other being Causeway Coast & Glens) where half or more of overnight trips were for holiday purposes



51%

Holiday/pleasure/
leisure



3%

Business



41%

Visiting
friends/relatives

*Other reasons = 4%

ACCOMMODATION STATISTICS 2016



	STOCK			OCCUPANCY	
	Number	Rooms	Beds	Room	Bed-space
Hotels	12	530	1,231	62%	48%
GH/GA/B&B†	114	483	1,101	17%	15%

Newry, Mourne & Down LGD has the third largest number of self-catering beds (after the CC&G and Fermanagh & Omagh) and the second largest number of GH/GA/B&B beds (after CC&G) of all the LGDs

	Units	Rooms	Beds	Annual	Peak (April-Sep)
Self-catering	275	668	1,362	43%	53%

This LGD achieves the lowest room and bed-space occupancy rates for GH/GA/B&Bs of all the LGDs

†Guesthouse/guest accommodation /bed & breakfast

Fact Card is based on data published by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA).

Tourism performance estimates presented above are based on overnight trips made by Northern Ireland residents and visitors from outside Northern Ireland. Estimates relate to overnight trips only, i.e. exclude day trips.

The full NISRA Report (including background notes) and associated tables relating to Local Government District Statistics can be found at this [link](#)

Key Tourism Destination Area Fact Cards (2014 data)

Click [HERE](#) to reveal key information from Tourism NI's 2014 Visitor Attitude Survey on leisure trips (day and overnight) taken by Northern Ireland (NI) residents and visitors from outside NI in each key tourism destination.

Fact cards include reasons for choosing to visit the destination, profile data, type of accommodation/eateries used in the destination, activities participated in/attractions visited, how visitors rated the different aspects of their destination experience as well as overall satisfaction levels.



For further information on Tourism NI's Key Tourism Destination Fact Cards please contact Anne-Marie Montgomery at Tourism NI (a.montgomery@tourismni.com)

For further information on Local Government District Statistics please contact the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) (tourismstatistics@nisra.gov.uk)

Report on	Parks Service Progress/Update Report
Reporting Officer	Head of Parks
Contact Officer	Nigel Hill

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To update Members of the progress being made regarding activities and associated to Parks Services and highlight events or consultations that will be occurring in the future.
2.0	Background
2.1	Mid Ulster District Council recognises the important role that Parks, Countryside recreation and play has in today's society and the ease of accessible, open space can have on basis quality of life issues and the health and wellbeing of the local community. The facilities and programmes provided in Mid Ulster are designed to maximise participation from all sections of the community and provide opportunities to maximise quality outdoor experiences for our residents across the District.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Round Six of the Ulster Cyclo-Cross event hosted by Island Wheelers with the assistance of Mid-Ulster Council's Parks Service. This annual event was held in Windmill Wood on the 5th of November. This is the 6th year that host club Island Wheelers has run this event.</p> <p>The first race of the day was for the Under 6s, known as the 'fun' race where all competitors receive a goodie bag at the finish. The 9 boys and 7 girls had one lap to complete to the delight of the large crowd of supporters. Next up were the Under 8s who had 3 laps of their own course to complete.</p> <p>The Under 10s course was held over 5 laps of a slightly extended course. Looking at the girls' results first it was Emer Heverin (Kinning Cycles) who took her second win of the series as she finished ahead of Aisling Smyth (Apollo Cycling Team) with Cara Suckling (Maryland Wheelers) third. Curtis McKee (Maryland Wheelers) won the boys' race as he held off Rhys Hepburn (Island Wheelers) with James Armstrong (Dromara Cycling Club) completing the podium.</p>



Reuben Maitland (Killinchy Cycling Club) took the chequered flag in the Under 12 boys' race with Conor Murphy (Rostrevor Mountain Bike Club) second and Karl Rockett (Ards CC) third. Aine Doherty (VC Glendale) had another terrific race taking the win in the U12 girls' race (and finishing third overall). Aliyah Rafferty (Island Wheelers) had another great second place with Cara Moffitt (Phoenix CC) third. After the first of 3 podium ceremonies the next races got underway at 11:45. This was the Women's cyclo-cross and mountain bike support race, the Under 14s (boys and girls) and the Under 16s (boys and girls). Making her first appearance at the Ulster Cyclo-cross series this year, visitor Michelle Geoghegan (Team Jadan-Weldtite) taking the winners spot.



The final races of the day were for the cyclo-cross men's B' race and the men's mountain bike support race. Dean Lockhart (Carn Wheelers) took the win in the men's XC B' race with Barry Kirkland (Island Wheelers) taking second and Chris Cameron (Kinning Cycles) third. Fourth was Ryan Rainey (Keevan CC) with Peter Campbell (Kilbride Cyclists) 5th and Colm Watson (VC Glendale) 6th. In the MTB support race Scott Maitland (Killinchy Cycling Club) took his 3 win of the series with Dean Burnside (Island Wheelers) second and Tony O'Doherty (Carn Wheelers) third.



3.2

Commissioners of Irish Lights

The Commissioners of Irish Lights are the General Lighthouse Authority for the whole of Ireland, both the republic of Ireland, and Northern Ireland. They are one of three lighting authorities with the British Isles and Ireland. They are responsible for lighthouses, buoys, and the other various navigation, warning and direction finding items associated with the sea, and marking of wrecks and the like.

The Commissioners are responsible for the superintendence and management of the Aids to Navigation around the coast of all of Ireland, its adjacent seas and islands. This includes:-

- Provision and maintenance of lighthouses and aids to marine navigation.
- Sanctioning the establishment, alteration, or discontinuation of local aids to marine navigation in ports, harbours and on coastlines which are within the jurisdiction of a local lighthouse authority.
- The periodic inspection of local Aids to Navigation to ensure they comply with International standards and the statutory sanction granted.

Parks Service hosts a meeting with Captain Harry Dougan from the Irish Lights Commission to discuss the inspection and maintenance of the marine lights at Ballyronan Marina & the Battery Harbour. Irish Lights are a maritime organisation delivering an

	<p>essential safety service around the coast of Ireland, protecting the marine environment, and supporting the marine industry and coastal communities. In recent years they have transformed how they deliver their services, putting the emphasis on efficiency, cost-effectiveness and sustainability, while exploiting new technology and new opportunities wherever possible.</p> <p>They are responsible for providing marine aids to navigation (AtoN) under the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) convention.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • they provide and maintain over 300 general aids to navigation • They manage about 4,000 local aids to navigation and • They mark or remove dangerous wrecks outside harbour areas around Ireland <p>Mid Ulster district Council will ensure compliance with current regulatory requirements associated to navigational equipment and schooled inspections/records.</p>
3.3	<p>Blue Flag Application 2018</p> <p>The application for the 2018 Blue Flag awards are to be completed and returned to Keep NI Beautiful by the 16th December. The Blue Flag Award is the definitive international beach award recognised in 49 countries, owned and run by the independent non-profit organisation Foundation for Environmental Education. The programme is designed to raise environmental awareness and increase good environmental practice amongst tourists, local communities and beach and marina operators. With its emphasis on improving environmental impacts, Blue Flags can now be awarded to marinas and even individual boats. The Blue Flag works towards sustainable development of beaches and marinas through strict criteria dealing with Water Quality, Environmental Education and Information, Environmental Management, and Safety and Other Services.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p><u>Financial & Human Resources Implications</u></p> <p>Financial: The cost of the Blue Flag Marina application is £422 plus VAT.</p> <p>Human: Existing staff resources sufficient to coordinate project support.</p>
4.2	<p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>N/A</p>
4.3	<p><u>Risk Management Implications</u></p> <p>N/A</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
	Members are asked to note the above report.

6.0	Documents Attached & References
	N/A

Report on	Leisure Services Update Report
Reporting Officer	Head of Leisure
Contact Officer	Oliver McShane Head of Leisure (Acting)

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To update Members of the progress being made regarding activities in Leisure Services and highlight events that will be occurring in the future.
2.0	Background
2.1	Mid Ulster District Council recognises the important role that leisure plays in today's society and that the equitable availability of accessible, high quality sport and leisure provision can enhance the quality of life, health and wellbeing of the local community. The facilities and programmes provided in Mid Ulster are designed to maximise participation in sport and leisure activities from all sections of the community and provide pathways that enable every resident within the Mid Ulster area to maximise their health, sporting abilities, aspirations and potential.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Full details of key elements of Leisure Service provision in the last quarter is included in Appendix 1. A summary of key highlights is provided below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fergal 10 miler Davagh 14th October with over 500 runners. • Evolve Fitness Challenge Oct – Nov 85 members signed up for 2017 minutes of exercise. • Dungannon Leisure Centre hosted PSNI Road Safety Roadshow with 1250 participants and Cool FM broadcasting live from the centre. • Meadowbank Sports Arena hosted first IFA Halloween Camp Thurs 2nd and Fri 3rd November with 55 participants. • Maghera Leisure Centre organised first ever Halloween Hooley with approx. 1800 people attending and receiving a lot of positive feedback as below,
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p><u>Financial & Human Resources Implications</u></p> <p>N/A</p>
4.2	<p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></p>

	N/A
4.3	<u>Risk Management Implications</u> N/A
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Members are asked to note activities being undertaken in Leisure Services in the last quarter and the events that will be occurring in the future.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix 1 - Key elements of Leisure Service provision in the last quarter.

Every Body Active 2020

Disability Sports

- Autumn saw the second annual Cookstown Insight Group Nordic Walking Day, in conjunction with Mid Ulster District Council Sports Development Unit and Everybody Active 2020 Coach for People with Disabilities.
- Cookstown Superstars Club took part in a 6-week physical activity programme in various sports and activities including, dodgeball, uni-hoc, football and handball as well as trying out the council's new Disability Sports Hub equipment.
- November saw the second successful year of Cookstown Insight Boccia Competition. The competition was a mixed gender event with 8 teams taking part. The participants had physical and sensory disabilities, which included participants with MS, Blind/Visually Impaired, and Arthritis.

Multi Sports

- Autumn also saw the commencement of the Schools Multi Sports Programme which was run in conjunction with local schools and delivered by the Every Body Active 2020 Multi Sports Coach.

School	Numbers
St Marys Primary School, Dunamore	50
Woods Primary School, Ballyronan	22
Tobermore Primary School	20

- The aim of this programme is to introduce the pupils to an activity programme and to improve their general fitness levels as well as introducing the kids to new sports.



- A 6-week recreational netball programme took place at the Royal School in Dungannon. It has now developed to an afterschools club with 25-30 attending each week and a Netball club now being established in Dungannon Leisure Centre.

Pram Fit

- In association with the Public Health Agency a Pram Fit programme aimed at mothers and babies took place for mothers and babies at Eoghan Ruadh Hurling Club and in the Fivemiletown Youth Annex.

- Over 40 women took part in the programmes with many commenting on how great it was being able to take their baby/toddler with them each week.

Halloween

- A series of Halloween schemes were organised across the District. This included EBA multi activity schemes, cheerleading camps, IFA, Tyrone GAA and Ulster Hockey camps all taking place with around 150 children involved.

Schools Cross Country 2017

- This year's Primary and Post Primary Cross Country events took place across the District during 3rd – 5th October with finals taking place on 19th October at Mid Ulster Sports Arena. 750 children took part in events.



Coach Development Programme

- This year's Coach Development Programme was launched in October.
- Courses taking place include Safeguarding, First Aid, Sports Science, Governing Body Coaching Qualifications, Specialist Disability training and Club Development.



- To over 100 volunteers have completed a range of courses from Child Protection, Defib, Specialised Disability courses and sports specific coaching, all taking place within council facilities. The second batch of training will take place at Christmas.

MUDC Disability Hub

- The Disability Hub is now established at Mid Ulster Sports Arena, The Hub has been supplied with £25k of specialist disability equipment provided by Disability Sport Northern Ireland and the Department for Communities. Training of MUDC staff and volunteers in the Hub's equipment took place in December.



- The Hub's specialist disabled equipment includes tandem bikes, various trikes and hand powered trikes, sports wheelchairs and specialist sporting equipment. A delivery programme is currently being designed.

Dungannon Leisure Centre

Dry Classes and Courses

- Dry classes and courses continue to grow in popularity and numbers have increased overall this quarter. Our Spin Classes in particular are very much in demand. The overall numbers for Dry Classes through October and November is 1,284 customers.

Swimming Lessons

- The School of Aquatics programme is as always flourishing with many classes fully booked on the day of release.
- Mid-term 1-1's October
- The centre held a three-day intensive 1-1 block of swimming lessons over the Halloween mid-term break. All lessons were sold.

Swim Ulster Skills Meet

- Swim Ulster held a very successful Skills Meet on Sunday 26th November. Over 120 children took part, with 35 coaches putting them through their paces. More than 200 spectators/parents attended the event.

Wet Classes

- The Aqua Fit class has proved to be very popular with customers since its reintroduction in September.
- Masters Swimming continues to go from strength to strength. Three classes a week regularly attract over twenty swimmers with over forty on many occasions.
- During October and November 534, swimmers attended Masters Classes.
- Rookie Lifeguard class takes place on Friday afternoon and helps children learn the basic skills of water safety and some rescue techniques.
- Ladies Night takes place every Monday night and provides women with the opportunity to swim in a female only environment.
- Swimmer Development Class has gone from strength to strength this quarter and regularly attracts over twenty swimmers on Saturday morning.
- These children travel from as far away as Strabane, Portadown, Omagh, Cookstown and Armagh.

Clubs

- A wide variety of clubs and classes use the centre for training and practice. These include, Ren Bu Ken Judo Club, Kobra Kai Karate Club, Tae Kwon Do Club, 50+ Club, Special Olympics, Irish Dancing and Oksana's Dance Academy.
- Tyrone Towers Basketball play their home games in the centre and train their various adult and junior teams here too.

Road Safety Roadshow

- Dungannon Leisure Centre hosted the Road Safety Roadshow organised by the P.S.N.I.
- The event attracted 1,250 schoolchildren from the local area.
- Important topics covered included, the dangers of speeding, drink driving and the use of phones and other devices while driving.
- Cool FM broadcast the event live from the Leisure Centre.



P.S.N.I Road Safety Roadshow

Men's Health

- Men's Health v DLC staff football match is to take place on Wednesday 20th Dec with both parties having won two matches each, so this will be a winner takes all game to see who is crowned CHAMPIONS for 2017.

Kids First Aid

- DLC held its first parent and toddler first aid course. 5 booked and attended with very positive feedback.

Lifeguarding/Lifesaving

- To complement the NPLQ courses being delivered with DLC, Trainer Assessors are actively engaging with the local community in order to deliver- CPR/Defibrillator Stand Alone Training Courses.

November Gym Challenge

- With over 20 people involved in the short and sharp challenge of 20 air squats and 20kcal row it was won by the fastest male and female.

Public Survey

- Cogent carried out a customer survey in the centre over two days in November. A public meeting was also held. This was to gather opinions on what our customers feel is required in terms of leisure facilities in Dungannon in the coming years.

Greenvale Leisure Centre

Group Swimming Lessons

- The learn to swim programme at Greenvale continues to attract a large volume of children (aged 3.5-12yo) to the Centre for swimming lessons. During the Autumn term, numbers in excess of 1100 children attended weekly group lessons.
- Additionally, private swimming lessons continue to run at full capacity, with over 150 sessions booked per week.

Halloween Camp

- The Halloween Camp ran on Tuesday 31st October and Wednesday 1st November, and was again over-subscribed. Over 150 children, aged between 4-12yo, attended the scheme which included a mix of sports, swimming, soft play and a variety of Halloween themed games.



Other swimming programmes

- The swimming programmes at Greenvale continue to perform strongly. Over 14,000 school swimmers attended the Centre for lessons during October, November and December. Other pool activities, such as Rookie lifeguard, Masters Swimming and Adult Swimming Lessons attract a wide variety of users to the Centre, many of whom enrol in other programmes and now use the Centre regularly on a casual basis.

Studio Classes

- The studio fitness programme at Greenvale forms a major aspect of our dry side programme for customers, and continues to be a major selling point for Single and Household memberships. During the reporting period, over 10,000 adults (a mix of Centre members and casual users) attended a wide- variety of fitness classes at the Centre. The recent addition of low intensity classes, such as Pilates and Yoga, have been very well received and allow the Centre to attract a diverse

customer base. This aspect of the programme will be further enhanced with the addition of a new Yoga class on Friday mornings.

National Pool Lifeguard Qualification

- Nine candidates completed their National Pool Lifeguard qualification at the Centre during the November half term school holidays.

Parenting NI exhibition

- Greenvale was delighted to host Parenting NI for an Open Day on Thursday 26th November. This event attracted around 100 local families to the Centre for a wide variety of child-friendly games and activities, whilst also giving the Centre an opportunity to showcase the excellent facilities on offer at Greenvale to a key local market.



Cookstown Leisure Centre

- Cookstown Leisure Centre Drop-In Classes are offered to the general public and also as part of the total “Evolve Membership”. These are continuing to perform well and the new centre programme “Winter Addition” is currently with Marketing. It is hoped to release over the next week.



- The New Year will see opportunities for local sports clubs to avail of additional or pre-season training with our instructors with options of Bootcamps, Hydro Power classes, Spinning, Circuits and Boxercise sessions to supplement their regular training.
- To offer something new for 2018 some additional Drop-In Classes will be trialled to include a Combo Class which will offer a combination of Stability Ball and Khia-Bo exercises, Bump to Pumped class which is for post pregnancy Mothers and their little ones and the re-introduction of a Bums and Tums class.

Evolve Fitness

- During the months of Oct-Dec 2017 inclusive evolve FITNESS ran our very popular Ultimate Members Challenge 2017 where members have to complete 2017 minutes exercise over the 3 month period. This challenge proves very popular each year. It is marketed as the perfect motivation to 'get in shape for the Christmas Party Season'. To accomplish this target it is based on 3 visits per week with each session to be 60 minutes in duration.

Davagh MBT/Forest Trails

Maintenance

- Ongoing checks and minor repairs have been carryout on weekly bases. Tree Felling is currently taking place along the Eagles Rock trails and as a result this section of trail has been closed from September until January 2018. Forestry Service NI will be able to supply a mini digger, order in dust and pipes etc. to help with the repairs of eagles Rock Trail, hopefully this will help in keeping the costs down.

Volunteer day

- Volunteer Day will be planned for January 2017 to help with the repairs of the Eagles Rock section.

Events

- Fergal 10 miler took place on Saturday 14th October at Davagh Forest Trails and this event attracted to up 500 people over the 10 miler run and 2 mile fun run/walk.



MUSA

- Pitches continue to be in demand for bookings by soccer, rugby and GAA Clubs as well as schools during October to December 2017 there were large number schools matches and tournaments. The IFA Elite Performance Centre continues weekly on the 3G Gaelic Pitch and the indoor sports hall.

New Block Bookings

- The new block bookings are in for the New Year with a very high demand for outdoor and indoor facilities booking being processed at present and all bookings have been accommodated to date. There's currently a few training sessions booked onto the grass pitches at night to meet this demand. There's only a few sessions are available during peak times.

Halloween Event

- Huge crowds of up to 6000 enjoyed the Halloween Event at MUSA with a wide range of activities as such: Funfairs, Food, Crazy karts, Face painting, craft station, balloon modelling, Vortex Tunnel, Storey telling, Magic show, Spooky trail and fireworks.



Mid Ulster Schools Cross Country Championships 2017

- This year Schools Cross country events took place during October with 750 children taking part over the heats and finals.



Oisín McGrath Cup and Shield took place at MUSA

- The blitz stages of the Oisín McGrath Cup and Shield took place at MUSA with 11 schools taking part in an exciting tournament of football.



Events during this time:

- Parkrun continues every Saturday morning at 9.30am (100 plus participants weekly)
- Mid Ulster Youth League 9 aside and 11 aside football matches each Saturday
- National League youth 9 and 11 a side football matches each Saturday
- Ballymena Intermediate and Junior League adult football matches
- Couch to 5K Programme on Tuesday and Thursday evenings 80 participants each night.
- CYFC weekly Development Centre – 200+ children
- Usage of the Trim Trail by walkers and runners remains steady especially during the day. Estimated numbers using this facility in the region of 100 per day.
- Mid Ulster District Council & Tyrone GAA Primary School Winter Indoor Blitz
- Ulster Colleges Matches and Tournaments
- Ulster Colleges Camogie Tournament
- Ulster Colleges Football All-star Trials
- Ulster Camogie Weekly Blitzes
- Ulster Ladies Football Blitzes
- Tyrone Hurling Centre of Excellence
- Tyrone Ladies football Academy Trials
- Ulster Ladies GAA Trials
- Ulster Camogie All Star Trials
- Sligo GAA VS Down GAA Senior men's Challenge match (Saturday 16th December 1300)
- Ulster Rugby schools Blitz

Future Events and Activities

- Couch to 5K – new session to begin in January 2016
- Park Run – still taking place every Saturday morning
- Acorns Cross Country event (TBC)

Moneymore Recreation Centre

- **St Patricks Primary School Moneymore & Moneymore Primary School.** On Wednesday 25th October St Patricks Moneymore P/S & Moneymore Primary School held a Sports Diversity Programme at the centre.
- **School Gymnastics.** Moneymore Recreation Centre has offered the 6 local schools the opportunity to attend a 6 week Gymnastics programme within the Centre.
- **Moneymore Gaelic Club.** Moneymore Gaelic club have been given the go ahead to use our outdoor Soccer pitch. This is for only Under 6, 8 & 10's go games. No bookings have yet been made.

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- **Jump Gym Juniors** has booked our Sports Hall (5pm-7pm) to hold a 5 week Jump Gym Programme for School Children. This programme is a fun Fitness programme for kids which include Fitness, Co-ordination & lifestyle by playing fun activity games. Approximately 50 Kids are attending this programme. This programme is from Wednesday 22nd November to Wednesday 20th December 2017.
- **Stronghold Preservation.** Stronghold Preservation booked our Committee Room on Monday 4th & Tuesday 5th December from 8am-4pm. This is a local company and it is great to see that they are supporting us by using our facility. Approximately 20 of their employees attended the programme each day about the building work that they carry out including damp proofing and restoring buildings.

Meadowbank Sports Arena

Autumn/Winter Programme

- The Arena, Pavilion, 3G Pitches and Outdoor Track at Meadowbank have again been well booked and heavily used over the Autumn/Winter period to date. The weekly programme is as follows (Not including Casual and Block Bookings):

Mondays

- MUDC 'Couch 2 5K' - Track 6.30 - 7.30pm
- Pregnancy and Post Natal Yoga – Pavilion 6.30 - 8pm
- Magherafelt Reds & Sofia Farmer FC – 3G 7 – 8pm
- Tafelta Running Club – Track 7.30 – 8.30pm

Tuesdays

- Secondary Schools Hockey U13's & 15's – Indoor Pitch 7 – 9pm
- RSP Fitness – Bootcamp – Top Floor 7 – 9pm
- Sky Blues 2006 & 2010 – 3G Soccer 7 – 8pm
- Mid Ulster Athletic Club – Primary & Secondary Schools 7 - 9pm
- Karate Club – Café Area 7- 9pm
- ROB RFC Senior Training – 3G Rugby 7 – 9pm
- Sky Blues Senior Training – 3G Soccer 8 – 10pm

Wednesdays

- Sky Blues 2011 – Mini Pitch 6 – 7pm
- Sky Blues 2004 – 3G Soccer 6 – 7pm
- Sky Blues 2007 – 3G Rugby 6 - 7pm
- Pregnancy & Post Natal Yoga – Pavilion Hall 6.30 – 8pm
- MUDC 'Couch 2 5K' – Track 6.30 - 7.30pm
- Sky Blues 2009 – Maxi Pitch 7 – 8pm
- Magherafelt Reds & Sofia Farmer FC – 3G Soccer 7 – 8pm
- Acorns AC Training – Track 7.30 – 8.30pm
- Soccer Sixes – 3G Soccer 8 – 10pm

Thursdays

- ROB Youth Rugby Training – 3G Gaelic Pitch 6 – 7pm
- St Colmcille Girl Guides – Café Area 6.30 – 8pm
- ROB RFC Senior Training – 3G Rugby 7 – 9pm
- Sky Blues 2008 – 3G Soccer 7 – 8pm
- Sofia Farmer FC – 3G Soccer 7 – 8pm
- Mid Ulster Athletics Club Secondary School age group – Track 7 – 9pm
- Sky Blues Senior Training – 3G Soccer 8 – 10pm

Fridays

- Sky Blues 2004 – Mini Pitch 6 – 7pm
- ROB Mini Rugby – 3G Rugby 6 – 8pm

Saturdays

- Mother and Toddler Group – Pavilion 10.30 – 11.30am
- Mary Hill Ballet School – Pavilion 3.30 – 6.30pm

Sundays

- NI School Boys Soccer – 3G Soccer 10am – 12pm
- Rossa Ladies – 3G Soccer 12 – 1pm

Special Events September – Present

Moneyglass GFC Hurling Blitz – Sun 17th Sept – 150 players

Magherafelt Free Presbyterian Church Fun Day – Sat 30th Sept – 250 Kids

Moneyglass GFC Underage Gaelic Blitz – Sun 1st Oct – 350 players

O Donovan Rossa GFC Camogie Blitz – Sun 8th Oct – 300 players

O Donovan Rossa GFC Camogie Blitz – Sun 15th Oct – 100 players

Halloween Hockey Camp – Tue 31st Oct – Wed 1st Nov – 36 Kids

IFA Soccer Camp – Thu 2nd – Fri 3rd Nov – 55 Kids

Ulster GAA Gaelic Blitz – Wed 15th Nov – 100 players

Primary School Hockey Blitz – Sun 19th Nov – 200 players

Sky Blues U11's Soccer Tournament – Sun 3rd Dec – 100 players

There were 70 Birthday Parties booked between September and December.

10 Schools took part in our Fit For Life Programme this term.





Maghera Leisure Centre

- Tuesday 31st Oct Maghera Leisure Centre hosted the Halloween Hooley. The event was a resounding success with approximately 1800 in attendance. With Feedback on social media being excellent and very positive, with comments such as;
- "What a well organised event with lots for the kids to do, right on our doorstep. I hope they do this every year".
- "Really impressed with the events and layout. I had expected it to be crazy manic but was so well organised. Special shout out to Lucinda who was an excellent storyteller".



- Halloween Bootcamp 6.30am – 7.15am Mon 23rd Oct – Fri 27th Oct.
- Halloween Scheme Mon 30th, Tues 31 & Wed 1st November 10am – 12.30pm.

Centre Based Classes and Activities

- Facebook – Duty Officers, administrators of the MLC Facebook page continue to promote and utilise this social media to advertise and benefit the growth and development of Maghera Leisure Centre & Tobermore Golf Centre.
- Daily Morning session classes 10am – 11am.
 - Mon -Core Stability.
 - Tues – Spin.
 - Wed - Circuit Training.
 - Thurs - BLT Blitz.
 - Fri Circuit Training.
 - Early morning boot camp 6.30am – 7.15am Wed & Fri.
 - Adult Centre Tuesday and Thursday.
- Evening Classes
 - Circuit Training Mon & Thurs.
 - Kettlebells Tuesday & Thursday.
 - Gymnastics Tues, Wed & Fri.
 - Stomach Shred Wed.
 - Senior Citizen Club Wed 2pm – 4pm.
 - Fit Kids Session Mon & Thurs.
 - Spinning Classes Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri & Sat.
 - Sunday boot camp & Spinning class.

- Halloween Boot Camp.
- Delivery of GP Referral Programme.

Out Door Pitches

- 30 bookings

Clubs at Maghera Leisure Centre

- Ju Jitsu Mon – 7pm – 9.30pm & Sat 10am – 1pm.
- Leo Maguire Taekwondo Club, Main Hall Thursdays 5pm – 6 Karate Friday night.
- Floral Art.
- Womens Institute.
- Gardening Group.
- Culnady Girls Brigade
- Carn Wheelers
- Club Oige Luraigh.
- Carntogher Community Association – An Carn Irish Language – held an Irish language careers day for the local schools, there were 400 school children in attendance.
- Profiles Health & Fitness Suite launched their Christmas Challenge.
- Pre-Christmas Bootcamp Mon 4th Dec – Fri 15th Dec 6.30am – 7.30am.



Tobermore Golf Centre

- Facebook – Fintan Campbell, Darrin Hutchinson and Tony Mulholland administrators of the TGC Facebook page continue to promote and utilise this social media to advertise and benefit the growth and development of Tobermore Golf Centre.
 - Halloween Golf Camp Mon 30th & Tues 31st Oct.
 - Lessons Trackman/ Standard 23
 - Improvers Course.

- Friday Club.
 - Moyola Park Junior Panel.
 - Moyola Girls 4 golf 4 life.
 - Kilrea Ladies Branch.
 - Sat Junior coaching commence 28th Oct.
- Saturday Junior Coaching with Resident PGA Tony Mulholland commenced the last Saturday of October. This Junior coaching session programme runs for 8 weekly sessions. The sessions focus on improving the young golfers technical skills, preparing them for the next incoming golfing season.
 - Local Professional Chris Selfridge will be attending Sat Junior Coaching final day on Sat 16th Dec to offer advice and guidance to our young aspiring Golfers.



Report on	Culture & Arts Progress Report
Reporting Officer	Tony McCance
Contact Officer	Tony McCance

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To update Members on the progress being made across Culture and Arts Services and to highlight events that have taken place during the previous quarter. The report also highlights specific events and activities within Culture & Arts Services that is currently being developed by the officer team and which are planned to take place in the future.
2.0	Background
2.1	Mid Ulster District Council recognises the important role that Culture and Arts plays in today's society and recognises that access to high quality culture and arts performances, events and activities can enhance the quality of life and wellbeing of the local community of Mid Ulster while also showcasing the quality of the Culture and Arts offering to visitors to our District. The Culture and Arts activity delivered, including facility programming is designed to maximise engagement and participation from all sections of the community in the Culture and Arts Service provided by Mid Ulster District Council.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Full details of key elements Culture and Arts Service provision for the previous quarter period is detailed in Appendix 1.
3.2	<p>During the period September through to December highlights of the programme of activity delivered through Arts & Culture Services and across all functions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seamus Heaney HomePlace Celebrates its first 12 months of operation • 1,000 tickets for events over Closing weekend • Receives awards for: Best Local Authority Tourism Initiative- Northern Ireland Local Government Awards (NILGA) Best Visitor and Interpretation Centre by the Association of Heritage Interpretation (AHI) Best NI Visitor Attraction 2017 - Northern Ireland Travel and Tourism Awards

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Links established with Patrick Kavanagh Centre, Monaghan and Linen Hall Library Belfast • Students Participate at third INTO Film Festival at Ranfurly • Niall Hannah - recipient of the Young Musician's platform Award from the Arts Council NI in 2016 performs at Ranfurly • Ranfurly House and Hill of the O'Neill profiled in Visual Artists Ireland Newsletter • 470 participate in the ever popular "Victorian Christmas in Ranfurly House" Schools programme • Successful Winter Craft Fayre at Burnavon attracts in excess of 3,000 visitors • Christmas family fun day at Burnavon attracts over 1,000 visitors • 260 participants take part in Autumn programme of workshops and classes at Burnavon • Burnavon hosts live recording of BBC's Irish Language Magazine show "Blas"
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p><u>Financial & Human Resources Implications</u></p> <p>Financial: Within identified and agreed budgets approved by Council</p> <p>Human: Within identified staffing resources agreed and approved by Council</p>
4.2	<p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>The Culture and Arts activity delivered, including facility programming is designed to maximise engagement and participation from all sections of the community in the Culture & Arts Service provided by Mid Ulster District Council.</p>
4.3	<p><u>Risk Management Implications</u></p> <p>N/A</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)

5.1	Members are asked to note activities undertaken within Culture and Arts Services over the last quarter period and to note planned activities currently being developed by the officer team as detailed under appendix 1.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix 1 - Culture & Arts Service Update Report

APPENDIX 1

September to December 2017: Arts & Culture Report

Seamus Heaney HomePlace

Awards

Best Local Authority Tourism Initiative- Northern Ireland Local Government Awards (NILGA)

Best Visitor and Interpretation Centre by the Association of Heritage Interpretation (AHI)

Best NI Visitor Attraction 2017 - Northern Ireland Travel and Tourism Awards

In the 12 months since opening, Seamus Heaney HomePlace welcomed 42,532 paying visitors. The positive feedback from visitors has been overwhelming and the comments received from visitors exceptionally positive towards the facility and the staff team.

Links with tour operators continuing with a number of FAM trips hosted including sales calls with Abbey, CIE, Adams and Butler and Odyssey International.

Meeting held with Glenn Patterson, Seamus Heaney Centre for Poetry at Queen's regarding future possibilities for programming between HomePlace and Queen's, and linking with the soon to be announced Fellows at QUB.

Two meetings held with the Seamus Heaney Estate, attended by Anthony Tohill, CEO- Adrian McCreesh, Director of Business and Communities, and Brian McCormick, Manager- Seamus Heaney HomePlace.

Submission made to Invest NI under the Collaborative Growth Programme in conjunction with the Seamus Heaney Cluster Group to further develop scope for the Cluster to target and maximise opportunities through a clear roadmap with recommendations for action including required investment and resources.

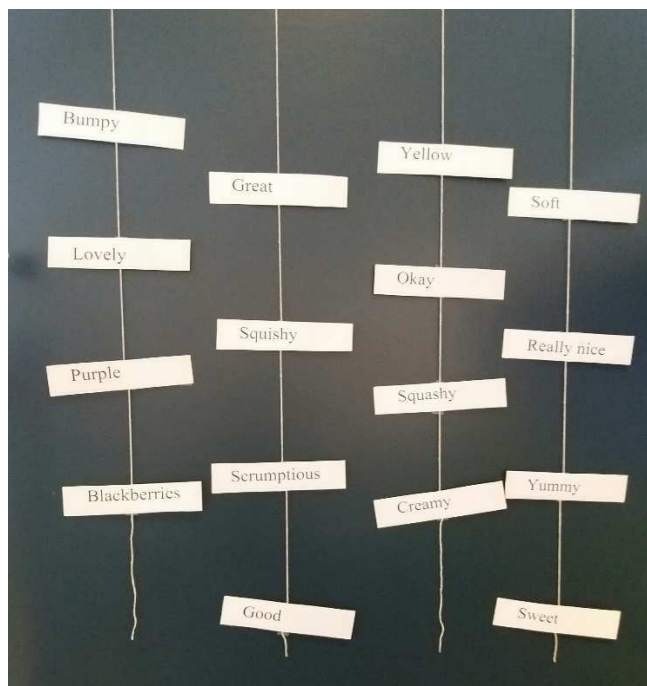
EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Appointment made of Julie Thompson who replaces Sheila Fullerton in the role of Education Officer.

Key Stage 1

In September and October the **KS1 Blackberry Picking** programme was attended by 3 schools and 81 pupils. Pupils created a word hoard of sensory language

describing their response to the picnic which was included in this programme, and this was added to the display in the creative zone.



Key Stage 2

In December St Brigid's and Cloughmills Primary Schools visited HomePlace as part of a shared education partnership. They visited the exhibition and took part in the **KS2 Churning Day** programme. Pupils responded enthusiastically to both and feedback was very positive. The event was also attended by Amelia Deehan from C2KNI Newsdesk, and her article will appear there at the beginning of the new term in January.

Key Stage 3

The **'My Place in the Landscape' programme**, in collaboration with the Lough Neagh Landscape Partnership and RSPB, saw 325 KS3 pupils from five local schools visit Seamus Heaney HomePlace over the course of the week beginning 22/9/17. The schools visited natural heritage sites at Lough Beg and Toner's Bog, and Seamus Heaney's grave on the same day.

In November, a follow-up outreach visit to the schools by project officers took place in order to assist pupils with the compilation of their portfolios and provide support for the creative writing aspect of their projects.

Portfolios and poems produced by pupils are due to be submitted in February 2018, and a celebration day will be held at HomePlace in March.

In November, the **KS3 Alphabets creative writing programme** took place, attended by 583 pupils from six schools. The interactive aspect of the day and the exhibition were particularly welcomed by pupils and staff.

Schools were invited to submit examples of their writing to HomePlace, and a display of this work has been created in the Glanmore room.



FIRST ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND

The **Creative Zone** invited children to decorate the Heaney poetry tree. This was a very successful weekend with large numbers of families attending on both days.

OTHER VISITS

Twenty year 3 **Digital Media students** from the Design department at Letterkenny Institute of Technology visited in October. They have been working on projects based on the life and works of Seamus Heaney and have developed various design / animation / film / fashion / textile representations of Heaney poems following this.

It is hoped to showcase some of this work in the coming year at HomePlace.

There have been a number of **school visits to the exhibition** at HomePlace over this period – 7 schools with 118 pupils.

On 17th December, St Mary's Primary School Choir visited HomePlace and treated visitors to choral singing of Christmas carols.

Call it A Home From Home – Arts Programme

September saw the final programming by Doran Browne and concluded the introductory 12 Books 12 Months programme.

A highlight of the month was undoubtedly the weekend dedicated to the Human Chain collection which was curated by poet Paul Muldoon. Featuring performances by dancer and choreographer Jean Butler and legendary band Horslips and readings by Paul Muldoon, Ciaran Carson and American poet Kevin Young. Throughout the weekend, we welcomed more than 1000 ticket holders to The Helicon.



The season officially ended with a personal lecture by Seamus Heaney's friend Peter Fallon, and a sell-out concert by Lisa Hannigan.

October – December Arts Programme

Our new October – December programme featured a redesign but retained the same high quality literary based programme. Exploring Seamus Heaney's friends and influences, there were events exploring the work of Patrick Kavanagh and Michael McLaverty and an event with Robert McCrum.

A successful partnership programme with the Patrick Kavanagh Centre in Monaghan was established and was supported by the Department for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, with £5000 of external funding.

Other links were made with the Linen Hall Library, the John O'Connor Writing School and Bellaghy Historical Society. Carolan's Welcome, a co-event with the Historical Society was a highlight of the season and was sold out.



Other sell out events included Fintan O'Toole, Ardal O'Hanlon, Ralph McTell and Capturing Seamus, which featured Colin Davidson, Eamonn McCabe and Geray Sweeney.

Future Planning

The new season Arts Programme Brochure has just been released, covering the period from January – April 2018. Containing a wide range of theatre, music and discussion events, along with a workshop programme, the season already includes three sell out events – with all tickets sold for Cara Dillon, Eddi Reader and Marian Keyes. Other events include Jimmy McGovern in conversation, a season of events on Robert Burns and a reading by a selection of up and coming Northern Irish poets.

Planning is already well underway for the May to August programme, which will include a week-long series of events to link in with the Peace IV project between Yeats Sligo and Seamus Heaney in Mid Ulster.

Ranfurly House and Hill of the O'Neill Arts & Visitor Centre

Art Classes/workshops

A wide range of classes were offered from September to December targeting all age groups. Classes for adults ranged from: guitar lessons; pottery; jiving; floral art; acrylic painting; watercolour painting; sewing for beginners; and mindfulness. All classes were fully subscribed and proved very popular with participants.

The Arts & Culture Officer met with Mid Ulster senior citizens forum on Tuesday 19th Sept to advise members of the arts and culture programmes on offer in the Mid Ulster Council area with a view to encouraging more involvement with this age group.



Watercolour painting with George Gourley (4 week class)

Adult one day workshops

Bill Gatt professional artist delivered a portrait masterclass in Ranfurly House on Saturday 2nd September. Bill used a variety of art medium in his demonstration and encouraged participants to do likewise when they had the opportunity to try painting a portrait in the second half of the class.

Participants enjoyed hearing Bill's life story as a professional artist and were very impressed by his artistic skills.

Additional one day workshops on offer this season included: Furniture upcycling; batik painting; makeup workshops and Christmas floral art. All workshops were well received.



Make up workshop
by Saks Design

Children's art activities

Children's art activities this season included: B Dramatic Hip Hop dance; Children's drama; Step by step drawing, Festive candle making; Bath Bombs/soap making. This season's arts activities for children will end with Banyan Puppet Theatre Company's presentation of Goldilocks and the three bears on Friday 29th December.

Schools arts activities

Barking Dog Theatre Company presented Teddy' Day on the Farm to local schools: Sacred Heart Primary Rock; St Mary's Primary Fivemiletown and Derrylatinee Primary on Tuesday 10th October.



Pupils enjoyed meeting the
cast from Barking Dog who
presented Teddy's Day on
the farm.

INTO Film Festival

INTO Film returned to the Square box for the third year in November. Research has indicated film can make a central contribution to children and young people's educational and cultural development, supporting curriculum learning.

Films on offer this year included: Gruffalo and Gruffalo's child on Tuesday 14th November. 26 children from Howard Primary school, 53 from Newmills Primary, 23 from St Mary's Primary, Carland and 4 home schooled children attended.

On Wednesday 15th November Revolting Rhymes was viewed by 28 children from St Malachy's Primary Glencull, 24 children from St Mary's Carland, 32 children from Howard Primary and 10 home schooled children.

On Thursday 16th November 53 children from Fivemiletown Primary and 52 children from Newmills Primary School enjoyed the film Matilda. In total 305 children participated in this year's film festival over the three mornings.



School groups who attended the **INTO film Festival 2017**

The Arts & Culture Officer and the Education Officer met with the foster carers support group organiser and the Autism NI representatives to discuss tailored classes for these groups taking into consideration their special requirements and needs.

History Talks

The season of history talks began on Friday 15th September with a talk on the Wives of Hugh O'Neill by Professor of History at Maynooth University, Ms Marian Lyons.

Local historian and Chairman of the Sheils charity Peter Acheson gave a talk on the Sheils Houses in Dungannon on Friday 13th October. Residents of the Sheils House Dungannon were delighted to receive an invite and were very appreciative of the opportunity to hear the history of the institute. For many of the residents this was their first visit to Ranfurly House Arts & Visitor Centre.

The talk on Friday 17th November featured, Dungannon born, Edgar Harper and his place in Aviation history, Guy Warner presented this talk.

The application for a blue plaque, on behalf of the history forum, to honour Edgar Harper and his marvellous work in aviation history has been successful and will be erected in 2018.

Square Box gigs September to December

The season opened with Dublin born Daoiri Farrell making his first appearance in the Square Box on Friday 8th Sept to a packed audience.

The Mc Peake Band which includes local singer song writer Paul Hughes performed to a full house on Saturday 16th September.

On Saturday 23rd September Brian Kennedy was very well received.

Bridget O'Neill launched her CD Tour on Saturday 30th September, this was her first visit to the Square Box.

Bronagh Broderick attracted a good audience on the first night of her tour on Saturday 7th October. Valley Voices, a local choir opened the evening.

Derryfubble accordion band made a return visit to the Square Box on Saturday 14th October.

Local Theatre group Castle Hill players presented The Memory of Water from Wednesday 18 to Saturday 21st October before touring with this sell out show to other local theatres.

Bardic Theatre presented two short plays by Harold Pinter directed by Sean Faloon: 'One for the road' & 'A Kind of Alaska' on Friday 3rd and Saturday 4th November.

John Colleary comedian, based in Dublin, made his first appearance in Ranfurly House on Saturday 18th November he was supported by Tyrone comedian Terry Mc Hugh from Omagh.



Niall Hanna and his band
23rd November 2017

Local traditional singer and guitarist Niall Hanna launches an album of his version of traditional songs on Thursday 23rd November in the Square Box. Niall was the recipient of the Young Musician's platform Award from the Arts Council NI in 2016.

The biennial awards which are run by the Arts Council in collaboration with BBC NI, aim to showcase and support the development of young musicians from a variety of genres by providing individual funding awards. This funding enables the recipients to spend a sizeable amount of time learning from a master musician, mentor, teacher or composer either in Northern Ireland or abroad. As well as this training opportunity, the awardees receive two professional radio broadcast engagements, including one with the Ulster Orchestra. Performances at this level raise not only the professional profile of the young musicians but also give a boost to their performance experience.

Celtic Soul made a return visit on Friday 1st December as did The 4 of Us on Saturday 2nd December, this was a return visit for both groups and they both operated on a ticket split arrangement.



Celtic Soul in the Square
Box – 1st December 2017

The Christmas Festive celebrations commenced on Friday 8th December with a full house for Karl Mc Guckin's 'Home for Christmas' with special guests the Cantabelles.

The following night, Saturday 9th December, the Bellas three Dungannon ladies continue the Christmas theme with their gig titled Bells and Baubles. Millbrook Entertainments decided to reschedule their gig planned for Thursday 14th December with Cliona Hagan until March 2018, due to other commitments. An evening of Irish traditional music and song on Saturday 16th December with Brid Harper, Tony O'Connell and Cyril O'Donaghue closed the Square Box gigs for the season. It was also an opportunity to promote the first gig for 2018, also a Traditional music night, with the Hayden Brother Cathal and Stephen on stage with Seamie O'Dowd, Saturday 13th January.

Temporary Exhibitions

Exhibitions this season commenced in September with the annual schools art exhibition by the Royal school and St Patrick' Academy. Mid Ulster District Council Chair Kim Ashton opened the exhibition applauding the students on their outstanding artistic talents.

In October art teacher at St Patrick's Maghera, Paddy O'Connor from the Moy, displayed landscapes in mixed media of local scenes. Paddy's artistic creations included: oil, chalk, pastel and charcoal paintings of Ben Bulbin, Lough Gill, Maeve's Grave and other hidden gems of the local landscape as well as scenes from picturesque Sligo.

Three local amateur artists who have been attending the acrylic painting class in Ranfurly House for a number of years, exhibited a selection of their work during the month of November.

The December exhibition was by local astro-photographer Martin Campbell. Martin, a retired teacher from St Patrick's Academy, Dungannon, introduced astronomy as a GCSE subject and established an observatory at the school, St Patrick's Academy is the only post primary school in Northern Ireland to have such a facility.

Our monthly exhibitions are frequently visited by the public, the space is also in much demand with artists with booking up to mid-2019.



Martin Campbell's cosmic connections photographic exhibition – Dec 2017

Halloween

Halloween drop in arts activities were very popular with the peak time occurring from 6pm to 7pm. The mild dry night encouraged a bigger audience than previous years. Children enjoyed making bat sculptures and paper lanterns to take home.

Flying bat sculpture with Hazel Dunne





Halloween Paper Lanterns with Nicola Bernie

Christmas Activities

Christmas drop in Arts activities complemented the Craft fair and proved very popular on Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th November. Children had the choice of three art workshops with different activities.



Christmas tree arts activities



Decorate your own Christmas stocking workshop

Arts & Disability stakeholders Projects

As agreed at the Arts & Disability Stakeholders meetings each group is entitled to an eight week project, some groups have opted to split the number of weeks and offer participants two or more art forms.

The following projects have been delivered in outreach areas in the Dungannon South Tyrone area:

Willowbank Resource Centre, Dungannon, 8 weeks pottery with Ciara Crawford. Coalisland Day Centre (Oakridge) – 8 weeks textiles with Dasalee. McCague Centre (Oakridge), Aughnacloy – 8 weeks dance with Sheena Kelly. Parkanaur College – 8 weeks dance with Sheena Kelly. Oakridge SEC, Dungannon – 8 weeks dance with Sheena Kelly.

Visually Impaired Group – 4 weeks mosaics with Deborah Malcomson delivered in Ranfurly House. Inspire Wellbeing, Dungannon – 8 weeks storytelling with Moninne Dargan. Fiddes Court, Aughnacloy – 8 weeks pottery with Shauna McCann. Ardnaskea Court, Coalisland – 8 weeks arts & crafts with Gwen Stevenson, Chest, Heart & Stroke, Dungannon – 6 weeks glass painting, card making & decoupage with Hazel Busby. Sperrinview Special School, Dungannon – 8 weeks dance with Sheena Kelly.



Ardnaskea Court, Coalisland
Christmas Crafts with Gwen
Stevenson
Christmas Tree Decorations



Visually Impaired Group (VIP)
Mosaic workshop with
Deborah Malcomson

Projects planned for January to March 2018

Oakridge ISU, have requested 8 weeks of general arts & crafts activities.

Dungannon Hospice have also requested 4 weeks of general arts & crafts activities.

The Visually Impaired Group who meet in Ranfurly House Arts & Visitor Centre have requested 4 weeks of Sea grass stool making with Deborah Malcomson

Chest, Heart & Stroke, Dungannon, have requested 2 weeks arts & crafts with Hazel Busby. All project will be completed by March 2018.

Visual Artists Ireland Newsletter

Visual Artists Ireland approached the Arts Officer in Ranfurly House for a regional profile on the Art Centre, this article including an image of the public art piece featured in their November/December newsletter. Their newsletter is distributed to member organisations throughout Ireland.

Events Guide February – May 2018

The Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House Arts & Visitor Centre events guide for the period February to May has been circulated by email and hard copy to an increasing contracts list.



Education Activity

During the period 1st September to 31st December 2017, 1326 pupils/students with 153 staff (total 1479) participated in 57 education events at Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House Arts & Visitor Centre.

Northern Ireland Forest School Awards

Northern Ireland Forest School Awards (NIFSA) is an environmental awareness initiative which encourages local schools to visit and take on an ownership of their local Council Park. It has been operating successfully at Hill of The O'Neill Heritage Park since April 2017 as part of the education programme at Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House.



Three local schools have been participating in NIFSA at Hill of The O'Neill Heritage Park:

- Dungannon Primary School
- Gaelscoil Aodha Rua
- St. Patrick's Primary School



The P2 class from Dungannon Primary School has completed its programme, the P4 class from St Patrick's Primary School will conclude its activities in January 2018 and the class from Gaelscoil Aodha Rua will begin its programme early in the New Year.

Words on the Hill



“Words on the Hill”, poetry writing workshops for Key Stage 2 and 3 pupils which use the historical facts connected to the Flight of the Earls and the Plantation of Ulster as stimuli for writing, took place from Monday 3rd to Thursday 6th October. This programme is facilitated by Liz Weir and the Education Officer.

Four Key Stage 2 and 3 classes from three schools participated in this programme:

- St Ciaran’s College (2 x Year 8 classes)
- Lisfearry Primary School
- St Patrick’s Primary School, Annaghmore
- Total number of pupils and staff: 94

The poems which the pupils began to write during their visits have now been completed and sent to the Education Officer. They will be published in a book which will be available in early 2018.

History on the Hill

“History on the Hill” is a heritage education programme for Key Stage 1 and 2 pupils which combines history, drama and puppetry. It took place in Ranfurly House and the Hill of The O’Neill from Monday 9th to Friday 13th October. It was facilitated by Time Steps Living History and the Education Officer.

Five classes from two local schools, Howard Primary School, Moygashel, and St Patrick’s Primary School, Dungannon, took part in this programme. 133 pupils and staff participated.



Dungannon: Where I Live



“Dungannon: Where I Live” is a learning activity which aims to assist school pupils to participate in learning outside the classroom by exploring their local built environment and heritage. It is currently running as a pilot programme with local schools so that pupil resources can be developed in collaboration with the teaching staff in these schools.

This programme ran from 6th to 9th November with 4 P5 classes from St Patrick’s Primary School, Dungannon, and on 28th November with 1 P6/7 class from Blessed Patrick O’Loughran Primary School, Castlecaulfield. A total of 141 pupils and staff participated in these activities.

Old Time Toys



“Old Time Toys” is an activity for Foundation/Key Stage 1 pupils which runs as part of “A Victorian Christmas in Ranfurly House”. As it is a very popular event and is always overbooked during the Victorian Christmas week (4th-8th December), an extra week of workshops is added in late November.

This programme took place from 21st to 24th November and was facilitated by Time Steps Living History. It was attended by pupils and staff from five schools:

- Gaelscoil Aodha Rua

- Holy Trinity Primary School, Cookstown
- Dungannon Primary School
- Blessed Patrick O'Loughran Primary School, Castlecaulfield
- Gaelscoil na gCrann, Omagh

A total of 126 pupils and staff attended.

A Victorian Christmas in Ranfurly House

During the week 4th to 8th December, “A Victorian Christmas in Ranfurly House” is celebrated. Ranfurly House, originally a Victorian bank which was constructed in 1854, is the setting for three activities in which children can learn about the traditions, games and artwork of a Victorian Christmas. These activities are “Victorian Christmas Customs”, “Victorian Christmas Art” and “Old Time Toys”.



A total of 470 pupils and staff participated in the week of Christmas learning activities. The following schools took part:

- Birches Primary School, Portadown
- Derrylatinee Primary School
- St John's Primary School, Moy
- St Patrick's Primary School, Annaghmore
- St Patrick's Primary School, Dungannon

Other School/College Visits

- South West College, Dungannon Campus: there have been two visits by students and staff from this college during this period. The first visit took place on 20th September when 16 students and staff took part in a tour of Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House which was led by the Education Officer. This tour formed part

of the induction programme for new students to SWC. The second visit took place on 26th October when a group of 7 students and staff took part in a tour that forms a part of their studies.

- St Ciaran's College, Ballygawley: 48 students and staff from St Ciaran's College took part in guided tours of the Flight of the Earls and Plantation of Ulster exhibition and the Hill of The O'Neill on 29th September 2017. All of the students who participated were members of the college choir who were about to take part in a visit to Rome. While in Rome they intended to visit the resting place of Hugh O'Neill at San Pietro in Montorio. The tours of this centre took place at the request of the college so that the students could better comprehend the historical links between Dungannon and Rome.
- Aghnacloy College and St Ciaran's College: 87 students and staff from the two colleges took part in two connected learning visits to this centre, one on the morning and one in the afternoon, on 16th November 2017.
- Drumglass High School: A Year 8 class from this school took part in a Numeracy Trail and tour of the Flight of the Earls and Plantation of Ulster exhibition and the Hill of The O'Neill on 30th November 2017. 24 students and staff participated in this visit.

Other Events

- **The Heartland Project**

This is a proposed heritage and literacy project which has been developed by Peter Lant (Ranfurly Education Officer) and Sheila Fullerton (former Education Officer at Seamus Heaney HomePlace). Up to ten heritage sites across the Mid Ulster District Council will be identified. Children in local schools will find out about the site from an archaeologist/historian and then write creatively about what they have discovered about the heritage site. They will be aided in their writing by Myra Zepf, the first Children's Writing Fellow for Northern Ireland, and the writing will then be published in a book.

Peter Lant met Myra Zepf at Ranfurly House on 15th September, and a further meeting with Myra took place on 29th November in Belfast when Peter Lant and Tony McCance were able to provide more detail on the proposed project. The project is scheduled to begin in September 2018.

- **NIFSA/Tree Planting with the Chair of Mid Ulster District Council**



Northern Ireland Forest School Awards at the Hill of The O'Neill Heritage Park was celebrated on 24th October when Councillor Kim Burton, Chair of Mid Ulster District Council, planted an oak tree in the park. She was assisted by a number of the pupils from local schools who are participating in NIFSA.

- **Digital Technology, Young People and Heritage Conference**

The Education Officer attended this conference at the Ulster Museum on 2nd November. It was a free event and was organised by the Nerve Centre. Much useful information was learned and useful contacts were made.

Burnavon Arts & Cultural Centre

The Autumn programme of performances and workshops are now complete. The programme has attracted a range of audiences and participants.

During this period the following performances were staged:

- Donna Taggart
- Peace Concert
- Stars of Country
- Elvis Spectacular
- Norman Fox Missionary Celebration
- Dirty Dusting
- Andrew Maxwell
- Seann Walshe
- Some Guys Have all the Luck
- Bjorn Identity
- Cookstown Youth Resource Centre
- The Fureys
- Bagatelle
- Legions of American Country
- Sons of William Celebration Concert
- Romeo & Juliet Ballet
- Thomas James Takes a Wife
- More Power to Your Elbow
- Conal Gallen x 2 nights
- Humpty Dumpty x 2 performances
- Carol & Jimmy's Christmas Party
- The Sands Family
- Christmas Country Show
- Christmas Concert Celebration
- Sperrin Choir x 2 nights
- The High Kings x 2 nights
- Santa Claus Goes To Broadway
- The Motown Sensations



In addition the Burnavon hosted numerous workshops and rehearsals to support programmes funded through the Arts & Cultural Development programme as well as extensive use of the exhibition space, meeting and conference facility.



Bagatelle



Stars of Country



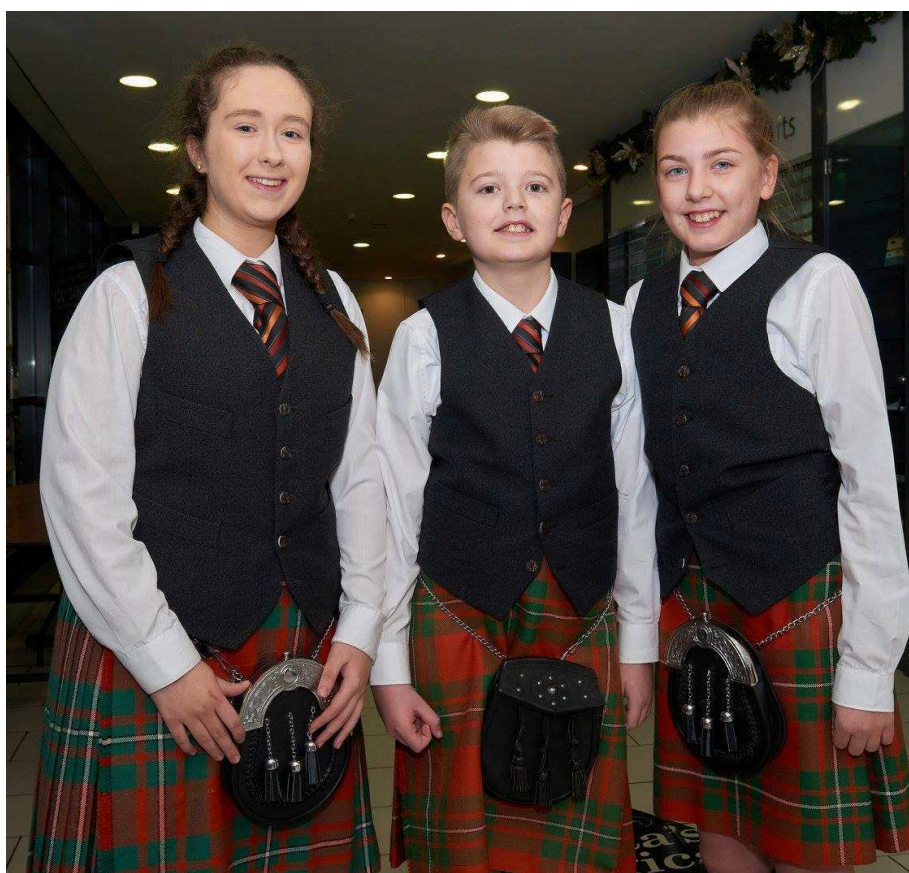
The Fureys



The High Kings



More Power to Your Elbow



Ulster Scots Juvenile Pipe Band



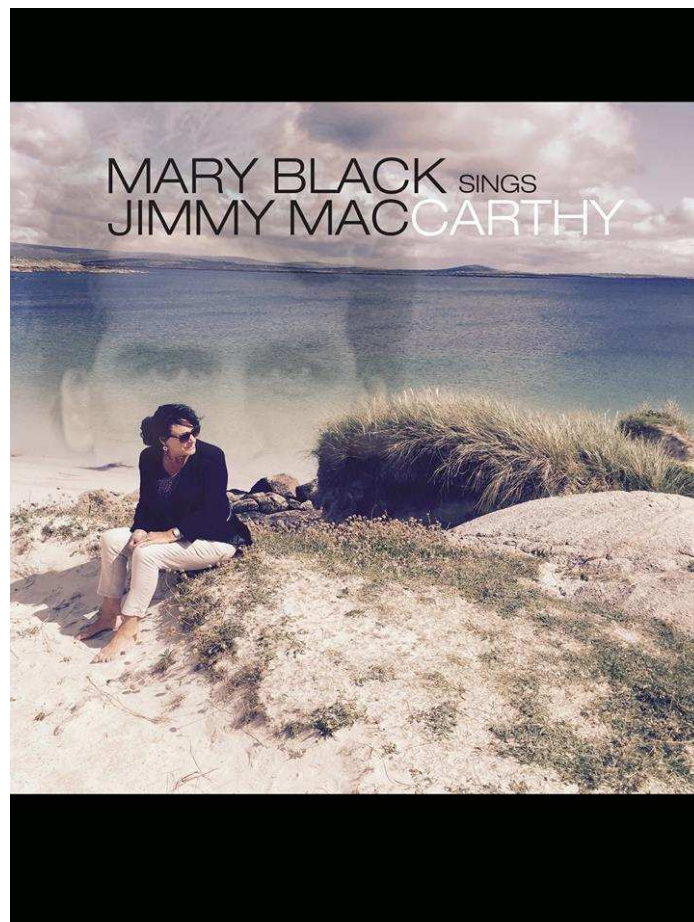
Family Entertainment – Humpty Dumpty & Santa's Magical Grotto



The Spring programme of events has been circulated. The programme is extensive with a variety of performances and workshops to suit all. Some of the highlights:



Derek
Ryan
February
2018



Mary Black
April 2018



Colin Murphy March 2018



Peter Corry April 2018



Ulster Orchestra April 2018

Events

Paul Cookson

As part of our “Links with Schools Programme” the Burnavon hosted poet Paul Cookson on 20th September during his visit to Northern Ireland. The event “Bringing Poetry to Life” included the Poet reciting, discussing and performing to 315 local P5 school children. To promote the theme of Creative Writing, while encouraging the promotion of reading and education, each child was presented with a Paul Cookson book “Dinosaur Poems” from the Burnavon/Mid Ulster District Council.



WW2 Exhibition

An exhibition, ‘Over Here: the U.S Soldier in World War II’, was held from Thursday 21 – Saturday 23 September. This was a very successful exhibition attended by both members of the public and also primary school children. The exhibition looked at the 75th Anniversary of US Forces arriving in Ulster. Everyday bits and pieces of kit, equipment and belongings, so familiar to GIs and many local people, were showcased. This was complimented by a history talk, from local historian John McCann, and also a guided tour of Killymoon Castle.





Student attending exhibition

Winter Craft & Food Fair

The Winter Craft & Food Fair, was held on 25 and 26 November, over 50 stall holders presented a range of quality, hand produced ceramics, wood, craft, textiles, jewellery, artwork, accessories and food. The craft fair attracted an audience of over 3000 and feedback has been very positive.





Christmas Family Fun Day

The Christmas Family Fun Day took place on Saturday 02 December 2017 to compliment Small Business Saturday. There were over 1000 people in attendance, enjoying a day of family entertainment and taster workshops for children.





Christmas Celebrations Concert

The Christmas Celebrations Concert took place on Wednesday 13th December, with over 300 people attending. There was programme of festive entertainment from Cookstown Youth Choir, Traditional Music in Schools Project, Ulster Scots Juvenile Pipe Band and Cookstown Folk Club.

The evening was a celebration of local musical talent in our district.



P7 members of the TMIS programme who performed at the Christmas Celebration Concert

Mid Ulster District Councils Food Bank Appeal

The Food Bank was held on 7th December in the Burnavon to support the local community in need this Christmas.

"1 in 5 are living below the poverty line in the UK"
How can you help?

Mid Ulster Christmas Food Bank Appeal

You can help with a **simple donation** from your weekly shop & make a real difference to the lives of children, families, older people and some of the most vulnerable people in our community.

Bring your donations to
The Burnavon, Cookstown
 Thursday 7th December 2017
 from 10am to 1pm

Vineyard Church, Dungannon
 The Stone House, Car Park
 Food Bank Drop In
Tuesdays 7pm to 8.30pm
Thursdays 10.30am to 1pm

For further information visit
www.midulstercouncil.org/foodbank

Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
 Mid Ulster
 District Council

Exhibitions

We continue to support local artists to display works within the Burnavon Gallery. This season local textile artist Patricia England and Pastel Painting artist Grace Scott have featured.

Patricia England (November)



Fields of Pastel

Art Exhibition by Grace Scott (December)

Grace studied art at school and worked for a number of years before taking a career break to raise her family. Now some years later she has returned to art and started her own business. Having found soft pastels as her preferred medium she now specialises in Pastel painting with a realistic appearance. This exhibition is a great opportunity to view or purchase her latest work.



Workshops

The autumn programme of workshops is now complete with 260 patrons taking part in a range of activities for children and adults.



Watercolours and Basket Weaving





Halloween Crafts for Kids



Gift Wrapping with “Gift Wrap Guru” Jane Means



Jiving



Felt Making

Support Services (weekly)

The following weekly sessions continue to be delivered as part of the Burnavon programme and its associated outreach programme.

- Cookstown Folk Club
- Burnavon Writers Group
- Cookstown Youth Choir
- Superstars Club Musical Theatre Group
- Traditional Music in Schools Project (delivered in local schools)
- South West College

The Traditional Music in School Project, Cookstown Folk Club and Cookstown Youth Choir recently performed at events at the Burnavon.



A member of Cookstown Folk Club providing street entertainment at the Burnavon Christmas Family Fun Day

Outreach

Creative Learning for Teachers – ArtCart Project

This was a development of our recent ArtCart Roadshow project in Mid Ulster which identified the need for further creative learning aimed at teachers so they could continue with the work Wheelworks had previously done with the schools through the roadshow. There were two creative learning sessions provided in the Burnavon Arts & Cultural Centre focusing on animation and Minecraft facilitating 24 teachers from local primary schools in total.



Older Persons Project

Artist Deborah Malcomson is working with residents from Westlands Home on an exciting creative project. All the residents have been hands on in creating many artworks from printing and decoupage to sculpture. This collaboration of work will be exhibited in the Burnavon during February 2018 and then returning to Westlands Home as a permanent piece for everyone to enjoy.

Animation Project

The overall aim of the project is to develop links between Arts and Cultural activity and a number of the key heritage sites within the region, Tullaghoge Fort, Beaghmore Stone Circles, Ardboe Cross and Abbey and The Hill of the O'Neill. Resources will be developed in the form of comic illustrations for Key Stage 2 students that will help interpret the heritage of each of the four sites for a young audience, both engaging the youth in the arts activity while also interpreting understanding and heritage of the regions key sites. The project will link with schools through the use of workshops targeting STEM criteria.

Following a tender process the contract for this was awarded to The Nerve Centre. Draft resources for two of the sites have been received, and workshops will begin with the schools in the New Year.

Strategic Partners

Each strategic partner has been offered the opportunity to work with Audiences NI (now thrive). The purpose of this is to provide a support, guidance and mentorship programme to the strategic partners, helping to establish projects and programmes designed to increase locally led and localised participation in arts and cultural activity. Audiences NI will hold 1-to-1 sessions with each of the groups to look at their specific audience development needs, and create a plan for each organisation.

Blas – BBC Radio Ulster – Irish Language Magazine Show

On Wednesday 6th December the Burnavon was delighted to host the BBC live broadcast of Blas. The live broadcast gave us the opportunity to continue to promote our diverse cultures within the Mid Ulster district area through language. Local musicians and representatives from the Irish Language speaking community attended and were interviewed.





BLASLIVE

Fáilte romhat bualadh isteach am ar bith ó 18.30 fá choinne sóláistí agus comhludair. Nó murar féidir leat a bheith ann, éist sa bhaile ar BBC Raidió Uladh.

**Live radio programme from
Burnavon Theatre, Cookstown
WED 6th DECEMBER 19.00-19.30**

Come along anytime from 18.30 for refreshments and good company. Or if you can't join us, listen at home on BBC Radio Ulster.



CAINTCEOLCRAIC
www.bbc.co.uk/radioulster
www.bbc.co.uk/gaeilge

BLAS BEO

Ie MÁIRE BHREATHNACH

Amharclann an Burnavon ar an Chorr Chríochach
DÉ CÉADAOIN 6ú NOLLAIG 19.00-19.30