

A

Minutes of Special Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Tuesday 21 February 2017 in the Council Offices, Burn Road, Cookstown

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| Members Present | Councillor Molloy, Chair Councillors Burton (7.06 pm), Clarke (7.09 pm), Cuddy (7.04 pm), Doris, Elattar, Forde, McAleer, T Quinn, G Shiels, Wilson |
| Officers in Attendance | Mr McCreesh, Director of Business and Communities Mrs Gallagher, Project Officer Mrs Gilmour, Monitoring Officer Mrs McCullagh, Regeneration Manager Ms McKeown, Head of Economic Development Ms McIntyre, Programmes and Policy Officer Miss Thompson, Committee Services Officer |
| Others in Attendance | Agenda Item 4 – Cookstown Enterprise Centre Jim Eastwood Andrea McGuckin Agenda Item 5 – Global Education (NI) Ltd Janis Simpson-Mahoney Simon Eakin Agenda Item 6 – We are Digital Daryl Conway Niamh Taylor Boyle Agenda Item 7 – Workplace Enterprises Ltd Michelle Clarke Enda Daly |

The meeting commenced at 7.01 pm.

SD001/17 Apologies

Councillor J Shiels.

SD002/17 Declaration of Interests

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

SD003/17 Chair's Business

None.

Deputations

SD004/17 Business Development Programme – Cookstown Enterprise Centre

Councillor Wilson declared an interest in this item.

Mr Eastwood and Ms McGuckin provided a powerpoint presentation in relation to the results achieved by the Business Development Programme which had been delivered by Cookstown Enterprise Centre and Associates. This had been commissioned by Mid Ulster District Council in April 2016 and was designed to increase the sustainability and competitiveness of 20 micro/SME's in the Mid Ulster Council area by December 2016 by providing one to one tailored mentoring assistance in 6 key business areas including: business planning, financial management, human resource management, marketing, quality standards and effective pricing. The presentation highlighted the key achievements of the programme by its completion in December 2016 against the targets set by the Council.

All the Programme targets were either achieved or exceeded, and the delivery agents highlighted the key achievements including 11 new jobs created, against a target of 4, and 80% of businesses have achieved a 5% (or more) increase in turnover (against a target of 5%) to the value of £816,781 (Dec 16) with a further £138,496 generated by those businesses that had an increase in turnover just under 5%; this results in a collective increase of £955,277.

The total economic impact achieved was therefore £1,175,757 equating to an economic return on investment of 43:1. Mr Eastwood also advised that the programme's economic impact was likely to increase as other participating businesses would potentially require more staff in the forthcoming months.

Mr Eastwood stated that Cookstown Enterprise Centre were delighted to have been part of this programme and with its performance. Feedback in relation to the programme included –

- More flexibility in future programmes
- More time needed for evaluation of programme impact
- More mentoring time

Mr Eastwood also took the opportunity to thank Council Officers for their assistance with the programme.

Councillor Cuddy entered the meeting at 7.04 pm, Councillor Burton entered the meeting at 7.06 pm and Councillor Clarke entered the meeting at 7.09 pm during the above presentation.

Councillor McAleer asked how businesses would have been made aware of this programme.

Mr Eastwood advised that the Council had required delivery agents to advertise the programme widely using numerous channels including newspapers, social media,

websites, e-shots to Council's and enterprise agencies' databases and business advisors.

In response to Councillor Forde's question regarding training for bookkeepers Ms McGuckin advised that financial management was one of the support areas of the programme and that mentoring in relation to cash flow of a business is important. It was advised that if this type of support was requested then advice could be given.

Mr Eastwood felt it was important for businesses to be able to access support when it was required and noted that there had been 85 expressions of interest shown in the programme with only 27 applications being returned and felt that the short timeframe for support was a big reason for this difference.

Ms McGuckin also stated that businesses can sometimes be put off by forms and felt that support for form filling would be helpful.

The Chair, Councillor Molloy asked if any feedback had been sought from the businesses who had shown an interest but did not return an application.

Mr Eastwood advised that Cookstown Enterprise Centre had not sought feedback but that he felt micro businesses did not have time for form filling and that he believed this was one of the barriers to applications being submitted.

Councillor Burton declared an interest in this item.

Councillor Burton felt that the fact that 85 businesses had expressed an interest showed there was a need for the programme. The Councillor also felt that some small businesses did not have time to fill in forms whilst trying to run a businesses and felt there were lessons Council could take from this.

Mr Eastwood advised that it was easy to provide support to businesses when they had applied to the programme but the main difficulty was getting them to that stage. Mr Eastwood advised that the philosophy of Cookstown Enterprise Centre over its 25 years was to remove as many barriers as possible to those who wanted to become self-employed.

Councillor Wilson left the meeting at 7.27 pm.

In response to Councillor Clarke's question Mr Eastwood advised that he believed there was a gap in the market to provide financial mentoring.

The Chair, Councillor Molloy stated that the feedback was important to Council so that this could be taken into account when developing future initiatives.

Councillor McAleer asked that Councillors also be advised of future programmes so that they can make businesses aware.

Mr Eastwood advised he would encourage any further advertisement of programmes.

In response to Councillor G Shiels' question regarding failure rate of businesses Mr Eastwood advised that businesses in Mid Ulster enjoy a good level of support and have a better chance of succeeding.

Mr Eastwood and Ms McGuckin withdrew from the meeting at 7.32 pm.

SD005/17 Tender Programme – Global Education (NI) Ltd

Mrs Simpson Mahoney provided a powerpoint presentation in relation to the results achieved by the Mid Ulster Tender Programme which had been delivered by Global Education (NI) Ltd. This had been commissioned by Mid Ulster District Council in April 2016 and was designed to increase the tendering capacity of 20 micro/SME's in the Mid Ulster Council area by December 2016 by providing one to one tailored mentoring support.

The presentation highlighted the key achievements of the programme at its completion in December 2016 against the targets set by the Council.

All the Programme targets were either achieved or exceeded, and Mrs Simpson Mahoney highlighted the key achievements including 11 tenders won to the value of £2,044,500 (against Council's target of £800,000) stimulating the creation of 17.5 new jobs (against a target of 10), valued at £396,000, resulting in a total economic impact of £2,440,500 equating to a total economic return on investment of 90:1.

Ms Simpson-Mahoney also noted that some businesses were also waiting for the outcome of 11 tenders submitted to the value of £2,365,000 which had the potential to stimulate further job creation and could potentially result in a final return on investment for the Programme of 162:1.

Ms Simpson-Mahoney highlighted that three of the targets had been well exceeded and was very proud of this. Following on from earlier conversation, it was advised that 46 expressions of interest had been shown whilst 26 applications had been returned. Ms Simpson-Mahoney advised that application clinics had been held for this programme however there was not a big uptake for this and felt there can sometimes be a nervousness from businesses to commit to such programmes.

The Chair, Councillor Molloy stated that Ms Simpson-Mahoney could, quite rightly, be proud of the figures presented.

Councillor McAleer asked if businesses who were on the programme and had experienced mentoring to win new work would have come back a second time for support.

Ms Simpson-Mahoney advised that a couple of the businesses did come back a second time for support to win further tenders during the course of the programme.

In response to question from Director of Business and Communities, Ms Simpson-Mahoney advised of several businesses from different sectors who were involved with the programme.

Councillor Cuddy asked what the value of the largest tender won was.

Ms Simpson-Mahoney advised that one business won a tender to the value of almost one million.

The Chair, Councillor Molloy felt it was important for businesses to understand the tendering process and develop their capabilities as these procedures continue to become more scrutinised.

Ms Simpson-Mahoney was thanked for her presentation following which she withdrew from the meeting at 7.52 pm.

SD006/17 Online Programme – We Are Digital

Mr Conway provided a powerpoint presentation in relation to the results achieved by the Mid Ulster Online Programme which had been delivered by We Are Digital. This had been commissioned by Mid Ulster District Council in April 2016 and was designed to increase the online presence of 20 micro/SME's in the Mid Ulster Council area by December 2016 by providing one to one tailored mentoring.

The presentation highlighted the key achievements of the programme at its completion in December 2016 against the targets set by the Council.

Mr Conway advised that the Programme sought to develop a 'culture of digital' whereby local businesses could look beyond the Mid Ulster District to grow and develop their businesses by competing online.

All the Programme targets were either achieved or exceeded, and Mr Conway highlighted the key achievements including the creation of 9 new jobs valued at £156,000 (against Council's target of 3), and achieving an average increase of 17% in turnover valued at £526,000 (against a target of 5%).

These results equated to a total economic impact of £682,000 and return on investment of 31:1. Mr Conway also noted that participating businesses had the potential to create 10 additional jobs as a result of support provided by the Programme, by June 2018, which would potentially increase the return on investment to 40:1.

Ms Taylor also provided examples of the type and range of support provided to some businesses on the programme and the impact this achieved. .

Councillor McAleer spoke in relation to the fast turnover of the digital world and asked if businesses needed to continue their learning.

Mr Conway stated that training provided now can be outdated within six months and advised that businesses do need to continue their learning. Mr Conway advised that businesses taking part in the programme had been signposted to upcoming events being delivered and online resources.

Councillor Cuddy stated that it was great to see a past Dungannon Enterprise Centre employee doing well and now in their own business and thanked Mr Conway for his presentation and the important work being done.

Mr Conway and Ms Taylor were thanked for their presentation following which they withdrew from the meeting at 8.09 pm.

Councillor Cuddy left the meeting at 8.09 pm.

SD007/17 Social Enterprise Programme – Workplace Enterprises Ltd

Mr Day and Ms Clarke provided a powerpoint presentation in relation to the results achieved by the Mid Ulster Social Enterprise Programme which had been delivered by Workspace Enterprises Ltd. This had been commissioned by Mid Ulster District Council in April 2016 and was designed to provide a range of support for social enterprises at different stages of their development by December 2016 by providing one to one tailored support.

The presentation highlighted the key achievements of the programme at its completion in December 2016 against the targets set by the Council.

All the Programme targets were either achieved or exceeded, and Mr Daly highlighted the key achievements including the creation of 6 new jobs valued at £115,000 (against Council's target of 3), and achieving leverage of funding of £51,250 (against a target of £50,000).

These results equated to a total economic impact of £166,250 and a return on investment of 6:1. Mr Day also noted that, as direct result of the support provided, some enterprises had the potential to create 4 further part time jobs (to a value of £40,000) and lever funding of £700,000 by March 2018, which would increase the return on investment to 28:1.

Mr Daly stated that whilst the return on investment may not be as high as the other programmes presented tonight it was important for Members to realise the social impact the programme had made not just in terms of monetary value. Mr Daly stated that Mid Ulster District Council was one of the first Councils in Northern Ireland to deliver a Social Enterprise Programme and thanked Council Officers for their help.

In response to Councillor McAleer's question regarding signposting Ms Clarke advised that groups were provided with several avenues for further support and many were still contacting Workspace for advice and guidance.

The Chair, Councillor Molloy stated that whilst the figures presented may not be as dramatic as those presented throughout the evening, Members understood that social impact was difficult to quantify and that the benefits to the community were immeasurable.

Councillor Clarke stated that there were numerous groups in the District who were delivering for the community and expressed the importance of, and need for, a social enterprise programme to help such groups evolve for the future.

The Chair, Councillor Molloy stated that the committee recognised the importance of all the programmes presented tonight and the amount of effort put in by delivery agents and Council Officers. Councillor Molloy advised that Council will take on board the results of the programmes and comments made for future programmes.

The Director of Business and Communities stated that Mid Ulster District Council was the first Council to produce an Economic Development Strategy which identified key areas for growth. The Director advised that tonight was the result of hard work which could be built upon in future years. The Director thanked all those involved with the delivery of the programmes.

SD008/17 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7 pm and concluded at 8.26 pm.

CHAIR _____

DATE _____

B

Minutes of Meeting of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 23 February 2017 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon

Chair: Councillor Wilson, Chair

Members Present: Councillors Ashton, Bateson, Bell, Buchanan, Burton, Clarke, Cuddy, Cuthbertson, Doris, Elattar, Forde, Gildernew, Glasgow, Kearney, McAleer, McEldowney, McFlynn, McGinley, B McGuigan, S McGuigan, McKinney, McLean, McNamee, Molloy, Monteith, Mulligan, C O'Neill, J O'Neill, M Quinn, T Quinn, Reid, Robinson, G Shiels and Totten

Officers in Attendance: Mr Tohill, Chief Executive
Mr Boomer, Planning Manager
Ms Canavan, Director of Organisational Development
Mr Cassells, Director of Environment and Property
Mrs Forde, Member Support Officer
Mr Kelso, Director of Public Health and Infrastructure
Mr McCreesh, Director of Business and Communities
Ms Mezza, Head of Marketing and Communications
Mr Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
Mr JJ Tohill, Director of Finance

The meeting commenced at 7pm

Suspension of Standing Orders

Resolved That Standing Orders be suspended to discuss First Trust Bank Proposed Branch closures at Cookstown and Magherafelt.

C25/7 First Trust Bank Branch Closures

The Chair, Councillor Wilson advised Members that the First Trust Bank had announced branch closures across Northern Ireland and that within the district Cookstown and Magherafelt branches had been identified for closure. The Chair spoke of the blow this would be to staff employed at the branches, customers and the local economy. He acknowledged that although many people do use online banking, in an area where broadband coverage was poor this was not always possible. The Chair proposed that Council write to the First Trust Bank seeking an urgent meeting to discuss the closures. It was noted that a cross party delegation should attend the meeting.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor McLean and

Resolved That Council seek an urgent meeting with the First Trust Bank to discuss proposed Branch closures.

Councillor Reid suggested that provision of Automated Teller Machines should be a point of discussion.

C26/17 Apologies

Councillors Gillespie, Mallaghan, McPeake, Mullen, J Shiels,

C27/17 Declarations of Interest

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

Councillor McGinley declared an interest in agenda item 12 Consideration of Requests for Civic Recognition stating he was a member of Loughshore ABC

C28/17 Chair's Business

Councillor Molloy drew attention to the special Development Committee at which the undernoted organisations had delivered presentations on their work within the district.

- (i) Business Development Programme - Cookstown Enterprise Centre;
- (ii) Tender Programme - Global Education (NI) Ltd;
- (iii) Online Programme - We are Digital;
- (iv) Social Enterprise Programme - Workspace Enterprises Ltd;

Highlighting the fantastic economic impact of the business programmes for what had been a relatively modest investment Councillor Molloy requested that Council publicise the successes.

Resolved That a press release be prepared highlighting the success of the aforementioned programmes highlighted at special Development Committee

The Chair, Councillor Wilson declared an interest in the aforementioned programmes

Matters for Decision

C29/17 Receive and consider minutes of matters transacted in "Open Business" at the Special Council meeting held on Thursday 19 January 2017

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy
Seconded by Councillor Kearney and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 19 January 2017 (SC1/17 – SC7/17), transacted in "Open Business"

C30/17 Receive and consider minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Council meeting held on Thursday 26 January 2017

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor Mulligan and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 26 January 2017(C1/17 – C14/17 and C24/17), transacted in “Open Business” having been printed and circulated were considered and signed as accurate and correct.

C31/17 Receive and consider minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Special Meeting of Council held on Thursday 13 February 2017

Proposed by Councillor Reid
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Special Council held on Monday 13 February 2017(SC8/17 – SC14/17 and SC16/17), transacted in “Open Business” having been printed and circulated, were considered and signed as accurate and correct.

C32/17 Receive and consider the minutes and recommendations of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Planning meeting held on Monday 7 February 2017

Proposed by Councillor Glasgow
Seconded by Councillor Bateson and

Resolved That the Minutes and recommendations of the Planning Committee meeting held on Tuesday 7 February 2017 (P014/17 – P020/17 and P026/17) transacted in “Open Business”, having been printed and circulated, subject to the foregoing, were considered and signed as accurate and correct.

C33/17 Receive and consider the minutes and recommendations of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on Thursday 9 February 2017

Proposed by Councillor Gildernew
Seconded by Councillor McKinney and

Resolved That the Minutes and recommendations of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on Thursday 9 February 2017 (PR019/17 – PR027/17 and PR036/17) transacted in “Open Business”, having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C34/17 Receive and consider the minutes and recommendations of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Environment Committee held on Tuesday 14 February 2017

Councillor Cuthbertson drew attention to E037/17 and requested that it be recorded that the DUP oppose the decision taken with regard to Street Naming and Dual Language outlined in the minute. He emphasised that it was the belief of the party that proper consultation had not been carried out.

Councillor Burton drew attention to E035/17 Grounds Maintenance Awards Submissions 2017/18 and in particular to Castlecaulfield Horticultural Society entry to Communities in Bloom Challenge. The Councillor advised that the website for the competition indicated that the competition pays travel for the judges to attend the area and Council would only have to incur accommodation costs together with the entry fee of £825. The Councillor reminded the meeting of the success Castlecaulfield Horticultural Society had enjoyed at Britain in Bloom when they won gold and that the competition which had never been won by first time winners before. The Councillor emphasised that the Society members were all volunteers and sought clarification as to whether officers had met with members of the society as the closing date for entry to the competition was sooner than what had been reported to committee.

In response the Director of Environment and Property advised that Officers had been asked to prepare a detailed estimate, that the closing date was the 15 March but this could be extended upon request and that he was content to seek an extension in the interim of reporting back detailed cost estimates.

Councillor Burton expressed concern that Council would be seen in a negative light if it did not support the initiative at this stage and emphasised that the group was keen to participate and would seek sponsorship if need be. Councillor Burton proposed that Council pay the entry fee of £825 and the hosting costs for the judges.

The Chair, Councillor Wilson stated that he did not envisage a problem in supporting the matter but stated that costs would be required.

Councillor Glasgow stated that the matter had been discussed at length at committee and that although a tremendous project his concern had been the £7k costs discussed, though if the competition body pays for judges' travel he would be supportive of paying the entry fee.

The Director of Environment and Property reminded Members that officers would follow the resolution of the committee which was only being ratified at the current meeting thus previously could not be acted upon.

Councillor McAleer concurred with Councillor Burton and stated that the date should not be allowed to pass and emphasised the importance of supporting the voluntary group who also shared their expertise with other villages in the district.

Proposed by Councillor Burton
Seconded by Councillor McAleer and

Resolved That Council pay the entry fee together with judges accommodation costs if required for Castlecaulfield Horticultural Society to participate in Communities in Bloom Challenge.

Proposed by Councillor Cuthbertson
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

Resolved That the Minutes and recommendations of the Environment Committee meeting held on Tuesday 14 February 2017 (E026/17 – E045/17 and E057/17) transacted in “Open Business”, having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C35/17 Receive and consider the minutes and recommendations of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Development Committee held on Thursday 16 February 2017

Councillor Monteith advised he had not attended the Development Committee

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved: That the Minutes and recommendations of the Development Committee meeting held on Thursday 16 February 2017 (D021/17– D039/17 and D043/17) transacted in “Open Business”, having been printed and circulated, subject to the foregoing, were considered and adopted.

C36/17 Conferences and Seminars

The Head of Democratic Services referred to details of the undernoted conferences and sought approval for the attendance of Members and Council officers outlined in the report, the payment of attendance fees and associated costs as incurred.

- (i) Policy Forum NI, Policy priorities for education in N Ireland: Improving attainment and reducing inequalities Tuesday 4 April 2017, Belfast
- (ii) Officer Approvals

| Conference & Seminar | Date | No. of Attendees | Location | Attendance Fees (Yes/No) |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------|----------|--------------------------|
| Annual Joint SOLACE NI/CCMA Seminar | 2 nd March | 1 | Belfast | No |
| Conference on Planning Reform | 23 rd March | 1 | Belfast | £210 |

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|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|---------|----------|
| 3 Perspectives on Leaving EU | 30 th March 2017 | 1 | Belfast | £220+vat |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|---------|----------|

- Retrospective Approval

| Conference & Seminar | Date | No. of Attendees | Location | Attendance |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|----------|------------|
| Planning & Development Conference | 8 th Feb 2017 | 1 | Belfast | £113+vat |

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Bateson and

Resolved: That the attendance of Members and officers, the payment of attendance fees and associated costs as incurred be approved, as required for attending Members and officers.

C37/17 Consideration of Requests for Civic Recognition

The Chair, Councillor Wilson drew attention to the previously circulated report and sought approval for civic recognition requests for those groups and individuals listed in line with council Receptions Policy.

Councillor Reid requested a Chair's reception for the Church League Bowling Club. In response Councillor Wilson stated it would be considered but highlighted that there were a number of outstanding receptions.

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor Forde and

Resolved That approval be given to submitted requests for civic recognition.

C38/17 Response to Planning Appeals Commission consultation – Draft Procedures for Independent Examination of Local Development Plans

The Planning Manager drew Members attention to the previously circulated report and draft response to the consultation by the Planning Appeals Commission (PAC) on Draft Procedures for Independent Examination of Local Development Plans. The Planning Manager sought approval to forward the response to the Planning Appeals Commission.

Proposed by Councillor Kearney
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

Resolved That Council forward the response on Draft Procedures for Independent Examination of Local Development Plans.

The Planning Manager left the meeting at 7.17pm

Matters for Information

C39/17 Consultations notified to Mid Ulster District Council

The previously circulated paper on consultations notified to Mid Ulster District Council was noted.

Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Reid
Seconded by Councillor McKinney and

Resolved: That items C39/17 – C47/17 be taken as confidential business.

The press left the meeting at 7.20pm

C48/17 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7pm and ended at 7.20pm

CHAIR _____

DATE _____

C

Minutes of Meeting of Planning Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Tuesday 7 March 2017 in Council Offices, Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt

Members Present

Councillor Clarke, Chair

Councillors Bateson, Bell, Cuthbertson, Gildernew, Glasgow, Kearney, Mallaghan, McAleer, McEldowney, McKinney, McPeake, Mullen (7.25 pm), Reid and Robinson

Officers in Attendance

Mr Tohill, Chief Executive
Dr Boomer, Planning Manager
Mr Bowman, Head of Development Management
Ms Doyle, Senior Planning Officer
Mr Marrion, Senior Planning Officer
Mr McCrystal, Senior Planning Officer
Ms McCullagh, Senior Planning Officer
Ms McEvoy, Head of Development Plan & Enforcement
Ms McKearney, Senior Planning Officer
Nora Largy, Council Solicitor
Una Mullen, Council Solicitor
Ms Grogan, Committee Services Officer

Others in Attendance

Applicant Speakers

LA09/2016/0579/O Mr Nugent
LA09/2016/0797/F Mr Taggart
LA09/2016/0889/F Mr Cassidy
LA09/2016/0928/O Mr Ward
LA09/2016/1279/F Les Ross
LA09/2016/1343/O Mr Nugent
LA09/2016/1487/O Councillor D Molloy
LA09/2016/1816/F Ms Clyde
LA09/2016/1816/F Les Ross
LA09/2016/0549/F Mr Cassidy

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

P027/17 Apologies

Councillor J Shiels.

P028/17 Declarations of Interest

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

Councillor Robinson declared an interest in planning application LA09/2016/1816/F.

P029/17 Chair's Business.

The Planning Manager advised that there was going to be a Special Planning Workshop being held for all members on Wednesday 29 March in the Magherafelt Council Offices to go through certain scenarios which may arise and how to find a favourable solution to these.

He also advised that an Addendum had been circulated to all members present which included items for information.

Councillor Mallaghan advised that he had attended a recent ICBAN meeting in Enniskillen where it was advised that the Southern Government had made a response to the National Planning Network and enquired if this Council had any plans to do something similar as ICBAN has also firmed a response.

The Planning Manager advised that he would be doing a talk on Friday and would be giving the matter careful consideration.

Councillor Reid enquired what was the process for moving forward on an application and wanting to declare an interest if everyone else is involved. He said that felt that he couldn't be included in this whilst so many people were involved.

The Planning Manager advised that he couldn't do anything about someone contacting a Councillor, but would be of the opinion that a Councillor should advise the person to write a letter or send an email to the Planning Committee as problems may arise otherwise. He also advised if a Councillor was not involved then they wouldn't be liable to declare an interest.

Councillor Reid stated that he would be sticking to his original opinion and declaring an interest.

The Council Solicitor agreed with the Planning Manager that when an email is received by a member they should advise the person that this should be forwarded on to the Planning Committee as it can't be individually commented on. It would be a suggestion that the Planning Manager replies to the person as the problem only arises when a member engages.

P030/17 Confirm Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 7 February 2017

Proposed by Councillor Bell
Seconded by Councillor Bateson and

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on Tuesday 7 February 2017, (P014/17 – P020/17 & P026/17), were considered and, subject to the foregoing, signed as accurate and correct.

Matters for Decision

P031/17 Development Management Decisions

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

LA09/2016/0370/F Timber drying area and store at lands approx. 19m SE of 3A Glenarny Road, Drum, Cookstown for Michael Bell

The Chair advised that planning application LA09/2016/0370/F had now been withdrawn.

Resolved: That planning application LA09/2016/0370/F be withdrawn.

LA09/2016/0471/F Vary of condition 3 of planning approval H/2005/1225/F – proposed raised table to be implemented when development completed at phase 4 existing Castle Oak Development, Castledawson for FP McCann Ltd

Application listed for approval subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

Proposed by Councillor Bateson
Seconded by Councillor McPeake and

Resolved: That planning application LA09/2016/0471/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2016/0579/O Dwelling and garage at 50m SW of 107 Whitebridge Road, Ballygawley for Ronan McRory

Mr Marrion (SPO) presented a report on planning application LA09/2016/0579/O advising that it is recommended for refusal.

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

Mr Nugent advised the committee that this was a unique planning application and possibly the first one to come before the planning committee to date. He advised that the previous owners of the land were a father and son who both had active Business ID Numbers and were both running stand alone enterprises. He said that due to rule changes, DAERA wanted farmers who share the same land and holdings to amalgamate the two into one. He said that recently that this land had been amalgamated into the one and that the new Business ID Number had never been used.

Mr Nugent asked the committee to look favourably at the application as it wasn't the father and son's choosing but on the practice of DAERA.

The Planning Manager enquired why the site across the road wasn't considered as there was infill there.

Mr Nugent advised that this case is more around the principle of the Turbitt family being unable to avail of an opportunity for a dwelling rather than the issue of the applicant.

Councillor Gildernew felt that this application needs to be deferred and clarification sought as this isn't a straight forward case and would be happy to propose this.

Councillor McPeake said that in the beginning he was sympathetic to the case and the difficulties for the farmer, but he said that he could also see why DAERA want to do this. He felt that now seeing that the applicant doesn't own the land it was a different case.

Councillor McEldowney enquired if both previous farmers had business numbers in existence for more than six years and both businesses submitted Single Farm Payment Claims and now both businesses are closed how this can be claimed for.

Councillor Mullen entered the meeting at 7.25 pm.

Councillor McKinney said that he would be concerned about the previous business owners as he came across a similar scenario when a death occurred. He said that he couldn't understand why the two businesses closed down rather than amalgamate into one. He said that rules change and there wasn't a choice in the matter and would agree with Councillor Gildernew's proposal.

Councillor Cuthbertson felt that this was more about monetary value towards a third party rather than a farm dwelling.

The Planning Manager advised that the committee should note that the applicant was the land owner however the farmers referred to were taking in land in con acre.

Councillor McAleer suggested that an office meeting be held as there were a lot of grey areas around this application and felt it would benefit from an office meeting. She said that prior to new DAERA rules the father and son both could have had a site.

Councillor Gildernew said that he would like more clarification and information before a decision was made.

Councillor Bateson stated that this was more about an entitlement principle.

Proposed by Councillor Gildernew
Seconded by Councillor McKinney and

Resolved: That planning application LA09/2016/0579/O be deferred for an office meeting.

Councillor Mallaghan enquired if there was any representation with the Department.

The Planning Manager advised that the Head of Development Management held investigations with DAERA and that all the records were brief and as a result of PPS 21. He said that clarification was sought on changes and in a lot of cases there was a lot of stuff that didn't fit into the boxes i.e. what is an active business, can you use a farm business etc. He said that it was very confusing and that planning appeals decision were not being consistent as they sometimes accept conacles and other times not.

Councillor Bell said that moving forward there was a need for further clarification on the two amalgamating into one scenario rather than disadvantage one farmer over another.

The Planning Manager agreed that it would be sensible to defer this application until further information was received on the sub division between the two farmers.

LA09/2016/0797/F Retrospective change of use to car sales yard (incl. front garden changing to hard standing car display area) and tyre/alloy wheel sales at 53 and 53a Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt for Top Gear NI

Application listed for approval subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

The Head of Development Plan advised that he had received correspondence this evening from the owner of the site concerned about the conditions laid out.

Members felt that the application be deferred until further investigations are carried out.

Proposed by Councillor McKinney
Seconded by Councillor Robinson

Resolved: That planning application LA09/2016/0797/F be deferred until all investigations are carried out.

LA09/2016/0889/F Conversion of redundant building to form one dwelling at 40m SW of 38 Lisnamuck Road, Tobermore for Mr Ian Hopper

Ms McCullagh (SPO) presented a report on planning application LA092016/0889/F advising that it is recommended for refusal.

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

Mr Cassidy advised that an identical situation arose in 2013 and that the current application wants to take the height down from 15m to 11m and that his client would be content with the 4m loss, but that the scheme CTY14 does not stipulate the size or height. He said that TransportNI are still advising that they have no objections

and certifications have been issued and would ask that the committee to approve the application.

Councillor Kearney felt that it should be considered due to the principle in 2013 and on the agreement of an acceptable design tonight.

The Planning Manager said that he finds it difficult to see how this building could be converted as there would be no problem if it was a replacement dwelling. He said that the issue primarily related to design and advised that it would be difficult given that the applicant doesn't want to negotiate.

Councillor McPeake enquired how much of a difference there would be from a replacement dwelling to a conversion and suggested that it would be beneficial to having a fresh look at this application.

Proposed by Councillor McPeake
Seconded by Councillor Reid and

Resolved: That planning application LA09/2016/0889/F be deferred for an office meeting.

LA09/2016/0928/O Single storey dwelling on a farm at land to the W of 17 Ballynahone Road, Maghera for Mr Lloyd Porter

Ms McCullagh (SPO) asked Members to note addendum to planning agenda in relation to this planning application which advised that land ownership details were received since the planning report had been issued.

Application is now listed for approval subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

Proposed by Councillor Gildernew
Seconded by Councillor McAleer and

Resolved: That planning application LA09/2016/0928/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2016/1247/F Car parking adjoining existing car park at Sports Centre under construction at the Rainey Endowed Grammar School, 79 Rainey Street, Magherafelt for the Board of Governors, Rainey Endowed School

Application listed for approval subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

Proposed by Councillor REID
Seconded by Councillor McKinney and

Resolved: That planning application LA09/2016/1247/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2016/1279/F Pair of semi-detached dwellings at 89 Moneysallin Road, Kilrea for David Gordon

Mr McGarvey (SPO) presented a report on planning application LA09/2016/1279/F advising that it is recommended for refusal.

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

Mr Ross advised the committee that planning permission was granted in September 2010 for a replacement dwelling and garage to include integral granny flat for residential purposes. He said that there was an interconnecting door for the family and there was no planning restriction to move around the house and it was building control approved. When the original family moved out it was then used for two families and after discussion it was suggested by the planning department that the situation be sorted. In June 2012 planning permission was sought for change of use from existing dwelling to house in multiple occupancy which was refused.

He said that in the current market it works well for the two units and asked the committee to defer the application so that a favourable solution can be investigated.

Councillor McEldowney advised that a similar situation arose last month, but that it was refused and the applicant was requested to revert the building back into one unit again.

The Planning Manager said that each application should be taken on its each individual merit and feels that there is a whole range of issues. He said that currently there is two families living at the site and that human rights has to be considered but on the other hand there could be other solutions and on that note it deserves to be deferred for an office meeting.

Councillor Cuthbertson said that the situation was different from last month as this application had a dwelling with a granny flat and two entrance doors.

The Planning Manager advised that the policy was designed to facilitate individual dwellings in the countryside and would suggest deferring the application.

Proposed by Councillor Cuthbertson
Seconded by Councillor Bateson and

Resolved: That planning application LA09/2016/1279/F be deferred for an office meeting.

LA09/2016/1292/F 3 no. detached dwellings with associated access, entrance road, driveways, garages and landscaping at 21 Bush Road, Dungannon for GP Developments

Councillor Cuthbertson declared an interest in application LA09/2016/1292/F.

Application listed for approval subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

Proposed by Councillor Gildernew
Seconded by Councillor Bell and

Resolved: That planning application LA09/2016/1292/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2016/1343/O One and a half storey dwelling and garage at land adjacent to 30 Annaginney Road, Newmills for Robert Williamson

The Head of Development Management asked members to note addendum to planning agenda in relation to this planning application which advised that although it was recommended for refusal, he asked that due to personal circumstances that this application be deferred.

Proposed by Councillor Glasgow
Seconded by Councillor McPeake and

Resolved: That planning application LA09/2016/1343/O be deferred for an office meeting.

LA09/2016/1384/F Change of use from general purpose store to meat processing facility on ground floor at 7 Cloane Road, Draperstown for Francis McEldowney

Application listed for approval subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

Proposed by Councillor McAleer
Seconded by Councillor Kearney and

Resolved: That planning application LA09/2016/1384/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2016/1487/O Dwelling and garage at 100m SE of 97a Derryloughan Road, Dungannon for Patrick McCann

Councillor Reid left at 8.17 pm

The Head of Development Management presented a report on planning application LA09/2016/1487/O advising that it is recommended for refusal.

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

Councillor Molloy advised that Mr McCann was seeking approval for a site and dwelling for his daughter and son-in-law as he has no sons. He said that the reasons for this was that his son-in-law could help on the farm and although he has a herd-book there was no stock as he was unable to have any due to health reasons. Councillor Molloy said that this was a supplementary holding in the rural community

and would be resourcing back into an income business again where Mr McCann's family intend to settle for the future.

Councillor Gildernew enquired if this was the Planners or DAERA who decided that this wasn't a farm.

The Planning Manager advised that when the Officer was looking at this application, they would have taken into consideration whether the farm was actively used or not i.e. keeping animals and maintaining the land etc. and there is evidence from the photographs provided that grass has been cut and hay baled which indicates it's active. Although there is no business number, there is a herd number until Mr McCann went into declining health. He said that he knows of cases where the Planning Department have accepted herd numbers in the past.

The Planning Manager felt that it would be reasonable for this application to be considered as there's still some extent of activity on the farm.

Councillor McPeake agreed with the Planning Manager and felt that there was enough evidence to prove that this was an active farm and that this application should be approved.

The Chair, also agreed that this was an active farm as he said that grass doesn't grow without fertiliser which indicates other types of farming taking place also.

Councillor Gildernew said that he was disheartened to be sitting here tonight discussing a farmer's right to a site and felt that things are hard enough for farmers as it was.

The Planning Manager advised members that the Planning Department's hands are tied by the rules of Stormont.

Proposed by Councillor McPeake
Seconded by Councillor Gildernew and

Resolved: That planning application LA09/2016/1487/O be approved subject to conditions set out by the Planning Manager.

LA09/2016/1654/A Flat screen sign with moving and static images fixed to gable wall at Walshes Hotel, 53 Main Street, Maghera for Kieran Bradley

Ms Doyle (SPO) presented a report on planning application LA09/2016/1654/A advising that it is recommended for refusal.

Councillor Kearney suggested that this application be deferred until after the Special Planning Workshop on the 29 March 2017.

Proposed by Councillor Kearney
Seconded by Councillor Bell and

That planning application LA09/2016/1654/A be deferred until after the Special Planning Workshop on the 29 March 2017.

Councillor McKinney raised concern about other similar applications being refused and enquired what the difference was as it was on the same stretch of road.

The Planning Manager advised that during the day that this sign doesn't have a huge impact, but during the night the sign was very large and could be detrimental to a motorist's concentration.

Proposed Councillor McKinney
Seconded Councillor Cuthbertson and

To refuse the application.

Councillor Bell stated that he takes on board Councillor McKinney's concerns and that the application was only going to be held until after the Workshop and advised that members weren't aware of the Workshop when the decision was taken on Tobermore and Cookstown.

Councillor Bateson stated that the sign was very intrusive and doesn't want the committee to think that members were favouring some signs over others.

The Planning Manager advised that the Workshop was about how to decide on the environment and where the public wants to live.

Councillor McPeake stated that safety was paramount and that the sign in Tobermore was situated between two mini roundabouts. He said that this sign was not paramount as it can't be compared to one another.

Councillor Glasgow said that he could concur with Councillor McKinney as this sign was a much larger and intrusive sign compared to the two signs in Tobermore and Cookstown. He said that this site was a heavily congested area and a large screen on the wall was going to cause problems.

The Chair put Councillor Kearney's proposal to defer the application until after the Special Planning Workshop on 29 March to the vote:

For - 9
Against - 4

Resolved: That planning application LA09/2016/1654/A be deferred until after the Special Planning Workshop on the 29 March 2017.

LA09/2016/1816/F Extension of existing vehicle lane to provide access to approved solar farm at Dale Farm at 139 Moneymore Road, Cookstown for Solar Farm DFD Ltd

The Planning Development Manager asked Members to note addendum to planning agenda in relation to additional objection letter and a letter of support which had been received since the planning report had been issued.

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

Mr Ross stated that he was opposing this application on behalf of the objector. He said that the land for the VS was available but that the applicant hadn't sought the legal rights to put these in place and hasn't put forward any reasons why the visibility should not be put in place. This is due to the landowners using the original access as a ransom strip which make the scheme unviable.

Mr Ross advised that his clients would be happy to agree to the application if there was a monetary agreement between them as this was about a point of principle and that the council must accept the protected route. He said that the Council have no evidence and no figure in front of them and that this could be sorted out for a fair and modest payment.

Mr Ross stated that the extension of the existing vehicular lane was through a flood plain and that the Rivers Agency were ignoring this. He said that an approval of this application would result in a judicial review against the Council and not the developer and that his client was requesting a deferral until discussions have taken place on a possible favourable outcome.

The Chair advised the committee that a request to speak on the application had been received and invited Ms Clyde to address the committee in favour of the applicant.

Ms Clyde advised that landowners had received written correspondence and were asked to concentrate on the lane and that it was reasonable to say that there was no policy applicable as it had to show intensification. She said that it would result between 15 – 16 extra vehicles per day additional to 210 staff and 60 deliveries on a daily basis. She felt that Policy AMP3 shouldn't be deployed as there was no intensification and that the policy allows for exceptional circumstances.

The Planning Manager advised the committee not to be swayed by threats of Judicial Review.

He enquired if Strategic Planning had signed the Article 41 Notice correctly and that to fail to do this could be an offence and that both solicitors in attendance could verify this.

Ms Clyde advised that her firm did sign the notice however, she advised that a landowner had been mistakenly missed but the application was advertised and no-one came forward to claim ownership.

The Planning Manager enquired if Ms Clyde would be willing to give up the access in the original permission conditional upon this approval.

Ms Clyde agreed that she would be happy to agree to this rather than give up the application.

The Planning Manager stated that the objector was indicating that they would be happy to negotiate a monetary deal, but that this was not the Planners responsibility rather the responsibility of the two parties concerned. He said that there was a need to define if allowing this access was detrimental to the protected routes as it's within the settlement limit. TransportNI have advised that they don't have any issues relating to this.

Councillor McKinney advised that the Committee had approved a solar farm on both conditions last January. He said that a similar scenario was raised earlier in the meeting regarding another application and felt that leniency was made towards one direction compared to another.

Councillor Bell stated that he agreed with Councillor McKinney and that this should be applied.

The Planning Manager said that there was a difference between the two and asked that all the three people involved come together in the confusion. He said that planning permission had been approved and it was shown on the application that proper notices weren't served and it was up to the Planners to go back and consider whether to apply prosecution for the offence or not.

Councillor Glasgow said that it was unfortunate how the agents have dealt with this and that if a deferral is agreed to they should go away and deal with all the people involved as no-one wants a prosecution. He said that he finds it hard to believe that TransportNI agreed to this application considering the number of fatalities on this stretch of road.

Councillor Gildernew agreed with Councillor Glasgow and felt that there were a lot of grey issues within this application and that it should be deferred.

The Planning Manager said that consideration was already given and that permission was granted, but that he would consult with our solicitors the Lawyers on whether prosecution should be sought and that it would be wise to defer the application for one month so that all parties have an opportunity to discuss the matter.

Councillor Bateson enquired if TransportNI would be asked to confirm their reasons on areas of intensifications.

Councillor Mallaghan enquired on how long the planning application was on the system.

The Head of Development Management advised that the application was on from the 23 September and as it was less than 5% for direct traffic and no intensifications and by way of suitable conditions, he would be happy to agree to the application.

Councillor Cuthbertson advised that there was a need to be consistent and felt that there were a lot of grey areas which needed careful consideration.

The Planning Manager stated that any Judicial Review would hold the whole process up and that a deferral would avoid this.

Councillor McKinney felt that setting out conditions were useless unless they were acted upon.

The Planning Manager stated that the conditions haven't been broken and the issue between the two parties purely related to agreeing a value for the provision of access.

Proposed by Councillor McKinney
Seconded by Councillor Gildernew and

Resolved: That planning application LA09/2016/1816/F be deferred for one month until all parties come together to try and reach a favourable outcome.

*Meeting recessed at 9.25 pm and recommenced at 9.45 pm.
Councillor Gildernew did not return to the meeting.*

Deferred Applications

LA09/2015/0084/O Dwelling and garage at 18m SW of 40 Fallaghloon Road, Maghera for Kevin Glass

Application listed for approval subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

Proposed by Councillor McKinney
Seconded by Councillor Bell and

Resolved: That planning application LA09/2015/0084/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2015/0549/F Shed extension to supersede previous approval at 23 Ballymacombes Road, Portglenone for Peter Donnelly

The Head of Development Management presented a report on planning application LA09/2015/0549/F advising that it was recommended for refusal.

Councillor McPeake said that unfortunately he missed the site meeting but that he knew the area very well and had looked at the site. He said that in his opinion one shed wasn't going to make a detrimental change to the area and on the scale of things he would be happy to agree to the approval of the application.

Councillor Mallaghan advised that he would be of the same sentiments of Councillor McPeake and that he found this a difficulty with retrospective planning applications and would be concerned about behaviour of applicants.

Councillor Bateson said that he also knows the road well and would have difficulty seeing how this shed would change the rural character of the area. He said that this was a clear cut case as it wouldn't have a detrimental effect or change the character

of the area. He said that in his opinion it doesn't make any sense as it would be a different story if it changed the character of the area.

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

Mr Cassidy advised that other applications have been approved in a shorter timeframe and that this application was held up and that the previous application was approved in 2012 which was similar. He said that the shed would be occupied by wood shavings and its activities and would only be the height of a tipper lorry to shed its load. He said that development was essential for this location and that the applicant had 30 lorries and trailers. He advised the committee that this was an ordinary application but due to the length of time considering it went into retrospective due to no fault of the applicant.

Councillor Kearney confirmed what Mr Cassidy was saying as he said that he lived beside the site and felt that the application should be supported.

The Planning Manager felt that there were a few things to consider like the last planning appeal where the Commissioner's views were relating to the visual break in the development and the detrimental effect it would cause to the area.

Councillor Bateson advised that it could be a never-ending development if it were to be extended, but conditions placed on it could remedy this.

The Planning Manager said that there was an onus on the committee to not to be naive and take into consideration the boundaries and the potential for another building as the building was 500m from the boundary.

Councillor Bell also said that he was aware of the site and that it wasn't far out of Portglenone and would be of the same opinion as Councillor McPeake.

The Planning Manager advised that it would be reasonable to take into account the difficulty in finding industrial sites in settlements in this area together with the impact of floodplains on alternative available land.

The Chair stated that if the site was in Claudy for instance it would dominate the village but this site was ideal as it isn't impacting on any rural character.

Councillor Mallaghan said that he would have no difficulty approving this application as rural areas outside development zones has industrial parks i.e. Carrickmore which creates employment.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor Bell and

Resolved: That planning application LA09/2015/0549/F be approved and that conditions be determined by the Planning Manager.

LA09/2016/1291/A LED signboard with electronic display to front wall at 58-66 Church Street, Cookstown for Dun Leisure Ltd

Application listed for approval subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor Bell and

Resolved: That planning application LA09/2016/1291/A be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

The Planning Manager advised that committee that he would advise at the Special Planning Workshop on how a decision was made on this application.

Councillor Bell left the meeting at 10.10 pm.

P032/17 Major Applications Protocol

The Planning Manager presented previously circulated report to seek Members agreement to adopt a Protocol for the processing of Major planning applications.

Members all agreed.

Resolved: That the Protocol be adopted and placed on the Council's website and made available for agents. That the Protocol be reviewed after one year.

++P033/17 Royal Town Planning Institute (RPTI) Awards

The Planning Manager presented previously circulated report to inform Members of the Council's success at being nominated for an award and seeking agreement to send delegates to the awards ceremony.

Councillor McPeake sought clarification on Chair and Deputy Chair.

The Planning Manager advised that it was Chair and Deputy Chair of Council not the Planning Committee.

Councillor Mallaghan said that he would make the proposal that in addition to the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Council and Planning Officer, that the Chair of Planning Committee also attends when elected.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor Bateson and

Resolved: That Council book places at the awards for the Chair, Deputy Chair of the Council, a Planning Officer and Chair of Planning Committee to attend.

P034/17 Mid Ulster Local Development Plan – Delegation of Authority to Planning Manager to Set Up a Number of Forums to Discuss Cross Boundary Planning Issues

The Head of Development Plan & Enforcement presented previously circulated report to seek the permission of Members to set up a number of forums to discuss common/shared cross boundary planning issues with neighbouring councils/authorities.

The following nominations were made:

Lough Neagh – Councillors Kearney and McPeake
The Sperrins – Councillors Clarke and Mallaghan
Cross Border – Councillors Bateson, Gildernew, McAleer and McPeake

- Resolved:**
- 1) That Members note the contents of the paper and delegate authority to the Planning Manager to organise the suggested forums in respect of the Mid Ulster LDP.
 - 2) That Members as listed above be nominated to represent Mid Ulster on each of the 3 forums: Lough Neagh, The Sperrins and Cross Border Group.

The Chief Executive left the meeting at 22.25 pm.

Matters for Information

P035/17 Mid Ulster Council's Response to a Consultation Request from DFI for a Proposed Windfarm at Lands approximately 3km west of Swatragh accessed off the Corlackey Road – Ref LA09/2016/0232/F

The Head of Development Management presented previously circulated report to provide Members with an update on the latest position on the Department's decision in relation to the above application.

P036/17 Planning Appeal Decisions

The Head of Development Management presented previously circulated report advising Members of recent decision made by Planning Appeals Commission.

P037/17 Gas to the West Project

The Planning Manager asked Members to note addendum to planning agenda in relation to Department for Infrastructure Notice of Opinion to approve Gas Pipeline application.

Resolved: That Mid Ulster District Council to request an opportunity to appear before and be heard by the Planning Appeal Commission within 28 days of date on letter which was 2nd March 2017.

CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

Proposed by Councillor Glasgow
Seconded by Councillor Kearney and

Resolved: That items P038/17 to P041/17 be taken as confidential business.

P042/17 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7.00pm and ended at 22.55 pm.

Chair _____

Date _____

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Minutes of Meeting of Policy and Resources Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 9 March 2017 in the Council Offices, Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt

Members Present

Councillor Gildernew, Chair

Councillors Ashton, Bateson, Buchanan, Cuddy, Elattar (7.16 pm), Forde, Mallaghan (7.06 pm), S McGuigan, McKinney, McLean, McPeake, Molloy, T Quinn, Totten

Officers in Attendance

Mr A Tohill, Chief Executive
Mrs Campbell, Director of Culture and Leisure
Mrs Canavan, Director of Organisational Development
Mr Kelso, Director of Public Health and Infrastructure
Mrs Kerr, Head of Finance
Ms Mezza, Head of Marketing and Communications
Mr Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
Mr O'Hagan, Head of ICT
Mr JJ Tohill, Director of Finance
Miss Thompson, Committee Services Officer

Agenda Item 4 – Derry and Northwest NUJ Branch

Robert Baxter – Chair of Derry and Northwest NUJ Branch

Annamay McNally – Local Journalist

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

PR037/17 Apologies

None.

PR038/17 Declaration of Interest

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

PR039/17 Chair's Business

None.

PR040/17 Derry and Northwest NUJ (National Union of Journalists) Branch

The Chair welcomed Mr Baxter and Ms McNally to the meeting and invited them to make their presentation.

Mr Baxter advised Members of the Local News Matters Campaign which will run from 24 March to 1 April 2017, this is a union wide campaign which seeks to galvanise a collective voice to put pressure on media companies and other decision makers who can stop the cuts and increase investment in quality local journalism.

Mr Baxter highlighted the demands of the campaign –

- A parliamentary inquiry into the state of local news
- Local newspapers to be treated as community assets
- New rules to prevent local media outlets from closing overnight – they should be offered to potential new owners, including local co-operatives, with the time available to submit a bid for alternative media ownership in advance of any closure.
- Action by government and employers to stem the relentless job cuts
- Increase investment, from a range of sources, for quality local journalism

Councillor Mallaghan entered the meeting at 7.06 pm

Mr Baxter advised that events will be held in all parts of the UK during the campaign with the keynote event taking place on 28 March at the Houses of Parliament. This event is to launch new research on local news provision in the UK and the impact on democracy.

Mr Baxter advised that local newspaper apps are read by 40 million per week and that this has seen the press gazette lose over 200 titles and journalists halved since 2000. Mr Baxter also felt that mergers and takeovers have restricted choice to the public.

Mr Baxter advised that the NUJ were currently visiting other local Councils to seek support for the following motion –

“This Council notes the campaign of the National Union of Journalists’ Local News Matters Week.

The campaign is aimed at highlighting the importance of properly resourced independent media to the functioning of democracy at local and regional levels.

This council recognises the importance of local media in reporting on local government and informing citizens about the work undertaken on their behalf by elected representatives and local authorities and agencies.

Local media also reflect the concerns of citizens and provide a platform for civic participation in dialogue on all aspects of community life.

Journalists engaged by media organisations: print, broadcasting and online, face many challenges, including increased workloads, reduced resources, and lower staffing levels.

This council urges media organisations to provide journalists with the level of resources necessary to ensure accurate and comprehensive coverage of local democracy.

This Council reaffirms its commitment to make information available to the local media and to providing appropriate facilities for journalists attending council meetings.”

Mr Baxter expressed the need for good journalism and hoped that Members would agree that journalism should provide vital, vigorous press which is at the heart of the community and is owned and operated in the public interest.

Councillor Cuddy recognised that, as a retailer, people would have bought a lot more newspapers in the past to now and that local journalism should be encouraged as far as possible.

Councillor Ashton advised that her past employment was with a media company and that she was well aware of the pressures of the industry. The Councillor stated that the internet had impacted greatly on newspapers but felt that the community still wanted to see photographs of local events and news stories in print.

Mr Baxter and Ms McNally were thanked for their presentation following which they withdrew from the meeting at 7.13 pm.

PR041/17 Receive and confirm minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on Thursday 9 February 2017

Proposed by Councillor T Quinn
Seconded by Councillor McPeake and

Resolved That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee held on Thursday 9 February 2017 (PR019/17 – PR027/17 and PR036/17) were considered and signed as accurate and correct.

Matters for Decision

PR042/17 Discounted Staff use of Leisure Facilities

The Director of Culture and Leisure presented previously circulated report which sought approval for discounted staff use of leisure facilities.

Councillor Elattar entered the meeting at 7.16 pm.

The Chief Executive asked if Members could avail of discounted use of facilities.

The Director of Culture and Leisure advised that this proposal for discounted access to facilities was only for staff.

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy
Seconded by Councillor Forde and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve staff 50% discount on the individual cost of using leisure facilities for non bookable facilities or activities including swimming, gym, fitness or other exercise programme session (on a pay as you go basis) at the following: Cookstown Leisure Centre, Dungannon Leisure Centre, Maghera Recreation Centre, Mid Ulster Sports Arena and Moneymore Recreation Centre.

The Director of Culture and Leisure left the meeting at 7.17 pm.

PR043/17 Meeting Schedule June 2017 – June 2018

The Head of Democratic Services presented previously circulated report which sought approval of Council and Committee Meeting Schedule for the period 2017-18.

Proposed by Councillor Buchanan
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the Council and Committee Meeting Schedule for the period July 2017 to June 2018.

PR044/17 Arrangements for Minutes and Reports to Meetings

The Head of Democratic Services presented previously circulated report which set out existing and proposed arrangements for the bringing forward and recording of confidential business at Council and Committee meetings.

In response to Councillor McLean's query the Chief Executive clarified that the proposed arrangements would help to increase Council's transparency. If agreed, confidential items of business will be listed on the open business minute, however it would not include confidential discussion or resolutions. The Chief Executive also advised that in future, minutes would only come back to committee as an item for information as they will have been adopted at Council.

Councillor McKinney felt that to agree the proposed arrangements there may be a danger of promoting expectation to the public.

The Chief Executive advised that, going forward, an item can only be put in confidential business if there is a reason for doing so. The Chief Executive felt that the proposals will aid Council's transparency and that any press queries arising from minutes can be dealt with accordingly.

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor Bateson and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the practice on processing confidential business within agendas, minutes and reports as detailed below -

- (i) Meeting Reports (template)**
Template to be amended to include the 7 exempt information categories from Sch. 6 of the 2014 Local Government Act. Report authors/council officers will be required to select at least one of the 7 permitted exempt information categories to confirm why the report is being taken in confidential business.
- (ii) Agendas**
Public facing agendas to detail matters being taken in confidential business. The agenda will also include (immediately before the list);

“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”

(iii) Minutes

Confidential business items discussed in confidential business will be listed in the open business minute.

(iv) Minutes of previous committee meetings

Minutes will continue to remain on committee meeting agendas and be included in meeting packs as a point of reference for members. They will however only appear for information/note with no requirement for them to be proposed, seconded and adopted.

(v) Confidential Items in Open Business

Items taken in confidential business will remain in confidential business until such times as it may be resolved by committee/council to bring it into open business.

PR045/17 Proposed Draft Improvement Objectives – 2017-18 and 2018-19

The Head of Democratic Services presented previously circulated report which sought approval for the Corporate Performance Improvement Objectives for period 2017-18 and 2018-19.

Councillor Cuddy referred to objective 4 within report – “To support people to adopt healthier lifestyles by increasing usage of Council recreational facilities”. Councillor Cuddy stated that there were now numerous private fitness facilities in towns with which Council had to compete and that as Council had limited resources he felt that Council should seek to work in partnership with these other fitness suites to create a network.

Councillor McLean agreed with Councillor Cuddy’s comments and stated that there was partnership working happening to a certain degree at the moment but that more could be done in this regard and that Council should make this a matter of further consideration.

Councillor McLean declared in interest at this point as his son runs a private gym facility.

The Chief Executive advised that leisure is the biggest area of spend for Council and stated that Council differs from the private sector in that it has a legal responsibility to provide leisure facilities. The Chief Executive advised that officers can look at working opportunities with other facilities and also referred to the leisure provision strategy which will come before Members in due course.

Councillor Cuddy asked if all sports facilities have defibrillators.

The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure advised that there was a rollout programme underway, he stated that provision of defibrillators was not a statutory responsibility of Council but that it was a target to have as many in place as possible.

Proposed by Councillor McLean
Seconded by Councillor Bateson and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve the following Performance Improvement Objectives for 2017-18 and 2018-19, for consultation, as follows –
- (i) To assist in the growth of the local economy by increasing the number of visitors to our district.
 - (ii) To help manage our waste and environment by reducing the amount of waste going to landfill.
 - (iii) To improve the accessibility of our services by increasing the number available online.
 - (iv) To support people to adopt healthier lifestyles by increasing usage of Council recreational facilities.

PR046/17 Removable and USB Media Policy

The Head of ICT presented previously circulated report which sought approval for Mid Ulster Council Removable and USB Media Policy.

Councillor Ashton asked how this policy would affect Councillors.

The Head of ICT provided clarification on the policy and how Members' equipment can be managed to ensure use of removable media is controlled.

Proposed by Councillor McLean
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve the adoption of Mid Ulster Council Removable and USB Media Policy.

PR047/17 Mobile and portable device provision

The Head of ICT presented previously circulated report which provided update on mobile and portable device choice and provision and to agree options for Member provision.

Councillor Mallaghan felt that the current phone device was inadequate for Members' needs.

The Head of ICT advised that the report included options for Members which should cater for differing needs.

Councillor McLean agreed that individual Members would have differing needs and asked if there was an option of a Councillor purchasing their own equipment and Council then providing reimbursement.

The Director of Finance advised there may be difficulty with the Councillor's suggestion in relation to Council effectively contributing to a Councillor's cost of ownership of a device. The Director advised that guidance from the Department states that Council may provide the items of equipment to Members as opposed to

reimbursing Members in whole or in part. However, he stated that he would clarify this matter with the Department. An alternative to the Councillor's suggestion would be for Council to purchase devices of the Members' choice and charge Member(s) for any additional cost over and above the agreed limit.

The Head of ICT also advised that it was unlikely that individuals would be able to secure as competitive pricing for items as Council.

Councillor Molloy suggested that ICT officers engage with Members to identify their individual needs.

Councillor S McGuigan asked if the total value of the proposed devices could be pooled to purchase one item of equipment i.e. laptop.

The Head of ICT advised that this could be considered.

Councillor Cuddy suggested that ICT officers meet with parties prior to Council/Committee meetings to identify needs of Members.

The Head of ICT advised that meetings could be arranged.

Proposed by Councillor McLean
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council that –
- (i) Clarification be sought from Department in relation to who (Council or Councillor) purchases equipment.
 - (ii) ICT Officers meet with Members to identify individual needs.
 - (iii) Council provide one mobile computing device (IPAD or an alternative Windows based/Android device as listed in appendix) up to a maximum £500 or other agreed figure per term of the Council for each member wishing to avail of same. Council would provide support, maintenance, repair and replacement of that device to members for the term of the Council i.e. every 4 years.
 - (iv) Council provide a sim free smart phone device for each Member seeking a mobile device every 24months up to the value of £250 or other agreed figure. Support and configuration would be provided but any costs in relation to its replacement/loss and damage would be incurred by the Member.
 - (v) Council provide a Multi- Function printer (MFD) device for each Member seeking same every 4 years up to the value of £150 or other agreed figure. Consumables to be incurred by the member. The machine will be maintained and supported in accordance with its warranty

PR048/17 External Signage: Cookstown and Magherafelt Offices

The Head of Marketing and Communications presented previously circulated report which sought approval for new external building signage at Council offices in Cookstown and Magherafelt.

Councillor McLean advised that the DUP Party would not be supporting this proposal.

Councillor Cuddy referred to including of Ulster Scots within logo.

Proposed by Councillor Elattar
Seconded by Councillor Bateson and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the proposed external building signage for Council offices in Cookstown and Magherafelt as depicted in report.

PR049/17 Mid Ulster Business Awards Sponsorship

The Head of Marketing and Communications presented previously circulated report which gave consideration to Council becoming a principal sponsor of the Mid Ulster Business Awards.

Councillor McLean asked if Council officers were happy with the categories of Business Awards. The Councillor referred to entrepreneurship and number of new start businesses within the District and stated he would like the awards event to be as inclusive as possible.

The Head of Marketing and Communications advised that the list of Business Awards categories could be circulated to Members and that consideration could be given to any additional categories if it was felt required.

Councillor McLean stated he was happy with the feedback from previous events and that costs had been negotiated and reduced for this year.

Councillor Cuddy also stated it was good to see that costs were being monitored.

The Chief Executive highlighted that the Awards launch event would be held at a Council facility.

Proposed by Councillor McLean
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to become a principal sponsor of the 2017 Mid Ulster Business Awards at a cost of £5,500 and that Awards categories be circulated to Members.

PR050/17 Amendment to policy on tender advertisements

The Head of Marketing and Communications presented previously circulated report which gave consideration to amendments to the policy on the advertisement of tenders.

Councillor McLean reflected on tonight's presentation and felt that advertising is a lucrative element to the success of newspapers.

The Head of Marketing and Communications stated that she felt tonight's presentation related primarily to local weekly newspapers which would be unaffected by the proposed change in policy as it related only to one of the daily papers and the policy of advertising public notices in 7 local papers would continue.

Councillor McPeake asked who the e-tendering workshops would be targeted at.

The Head of Marketing and Communications advised that there would be a public notice in next week's press which would advertise the workshops, she advised that further advertisement would also be placed on Council website and via an ezine which is sent to those businesses who are included on Council's business directory. It was further advised that Procurement staff would also be highlighting the move to an e-tendering process via their email signature.

The Director of Finance advised that most other councils were already using the e-tendering system and that most businesses engaging with councils would be aware of it. He stated that once a business is registered to e-tendering they are automatically made aware of new tendering opportunities relevant to their business.

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor Bateson and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to amend the Tender Advertising Policy to remove the requirement to advertise in the Belfast Telegraph from 1 July 2017 and that newspaper advertising is only used when it is a requirement of funding or in other special circumstances.

McClean left the meeting at 8.03 pm

Matters for Information

PR051/17 Members Services

No items.

Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor Forde and

Resolved That items PR052/17 to PR063/17 be taken as confidential business.

PR064/17 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7 pm and ended at 8.43 pm.

CHAIR _____

DATE _____

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**Minutes of Meeting of Environment Committee of Mid Ulster District Council
held on Tuesday 14 March 2017 in Council Offices, Ballyronan Road,
Magherafelt**

Members Present

Councillor Cuthbertson (Chair)

Councillors Buchanan, Burton, Gillespie, Glasgow,
Kearney, McFlynn, McGinley, B McGuigan, S McGuigan,
McNamee, Mulligan, J O'Neill, M Quinn (7.04 pm), Reid,
Totten

**Officers in
Attendance**

Mr Cassells, Director of Environment and Property
Mr Kelso, Director of Public Health and Infrastructure
Mr McAdoo, Head of Environmental Services
Mrs McClements, Head of Environmental Health
Mr Lowry, Head of Technical Services
Mr Scullion, Head of Property Services
Mr Wilkinson, Head of Building Control
Miss Thompson, Committee Services Officer

**Others in
Attendance**

Councillor McKinney

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm

E058/17 Apologies

None.

E059/17 Declarations of Interest

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

E060/17 Chair's Business

The Chair, Councillor Cuthbertson advised that legacy council had planted around 20 trees along section of Tamnamore Road, Dungannon and that developer building on nearby site had recently cut all these trees down. The Chair asked that this matter be investigated.

Councillor McNamee asked if there was any update from NIHE regarding Travellers.

The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure advised that following meetings with NIHE before Christmas which considered report on Travellers sites Council had advised that their preferred option would be to see an extension of the site on Hillhead Road. The Director advised that there had been no further communication received from NIHE since then.

Councillor Glasgow referred to new £1 coin being introduced and asked if parking meters would need to be changed in order to accept these new coins.

The Director of Environment and Property advised that parking meters will be required to be changed and that this will be done through arrangement with NSL.

Councillor Burton advised that Castlecaulfield Horticultural Society had replicas of the awards they received at last years Ulster in Bloom and Britain in Bloom Awards. The Councillor stated that the Horticultural Society would like to present these replica awards to Council and requested that the Society be permitted to present to future Environment Committee with awards to be displayed at Council facility.

The Chair, Councillor Cuthbertson advised that this matter should be progressed through Democratic Services.

Councillor M Quinn entered the meeting at 7.04 pm.

E061/17 Off Street Car Parking Strategy Update

The Director of Environment and Property made presentation which provided update on Off Street Car Parking Strategy.

The Director of Environment and Property advised the AECOM were commissioned to develop an Off Street Car Parking Strategy and Action Plan 2017-2027 for Mid Ulster District Council. This strategy seeks to address the overall requirement for car parks in the District and looks at their availability, accessibility and convenience and will take account of the performance of the District's principle settlements as places to work, visit and invest with a key focus on alternative options to operate car parks consistently across the District.

The Director of Environment and Property outlined the strategy stages as below and advised that tonight's presentation was to provide update on stages 1 and 2.

Stage 1 – Preparation and Information Gathering
Stage 2 – Analysis and Assessment
Stage 3 – Strategy
Stage 4 – Action Plan

The Director of Environment and Property advised of the current number, capacity, turnover, location and charging of car parks within Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt and considered the strengths and weaknesses of current parking policies along with future needs and demands.

The Director of Environment and Property set out the timetable for putting strategy in place which is anticipated to be implemented in April 2018.

The Chair suggested that if Members wanted to make comment on or suggest anything relating to tonight's presentation they should email the Director of Environment and Property.

E062/17 Receive and confirm minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on Tuesday 14 February 2017

Proposed by Councillor Reid
Seconded by Councillor Mulligan and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Environment Committee held on Tuesday 14 February 2017 (E026/17 – E045/17 and E057/17) were considered and, signed as accurate and correct.

Matters for Decision

E063/17 Transport NI Proposals to Mid Ulster District Council – Speed Limit

Members considered previously circulated report which sought agreement in relation to proposal from Transport NI with regard to proposed 50mph speed limit on section of Pomeroy Road, Donaghmore.

Councillor Gillespie stated he was pleased to see this proposal coming forward on what is a busy stretch of road.

Proposed by Councillor Gillespie
Seconded by Councillor Reid and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to endorse the proposal submitted by Transport NI in relation to proposed 50mph speed limit on section of Pomeroy Road, Donaghmore.

E064/17 Review of Public Toilet Opening Hours

The Head of Property Services presented previously circulated report which sought approval to align the opening hours of Council's Public Toilets.

Councillor Buchanan stated there may be some ambiguity on closure at 'dusk' during winter months.

The Chair, Councillor Cuthbertson suggested having a minimum time for winter closure.

The Director of Environment and Property accepted the points made by the Members and suggested that officers look at minimum opening times for toilets during winter months in relation to their location.

Councillor Reid asked if there was any possibility of toilets being kept open longer when community events are being held. Councillor Reid also referred to toilets at Tobermore and Lough Fea and stated that he hoped these would be repaired in time for summer months as Lough Fea was a popular tourist attraction.

The Head of Property Services advised that opening times for toilets would remain the same unless a specific request is made and that a maintenance programme is in place for toilets at Lough Fea and Tobermore.

Councillor B McGuigan asked if Council did close Rainey Street toilets if there was other adequate toilet provision in Magherafelt and signage to direct.

The Head of Property Services advised of other toilet facilities within Magherafelt such as Bridewell, bus station and shopping complex along with other retailers. It was highlighted that Council has no means for replacement of Rainey Street toilets.

The Director of Environment and Property advised of 'finger pointing' signage located throughout Magherafelt and that this signage can be considered for amendment.

Councillor Mulligan referred to signage for toilets in Clogher which he felt required improvement. The Councillor also asked if toilets in Aughnacloy were still scheduled to be replaced within works at McIlwaine Hall.

The Head of Property Services advised that toilets for Aughnacloy were included within the capital scheme for McIlwaine Hall.

Councillor Glasgow stated that he would be in support of toilet repairs at Lough Fea as this was a tourist attraction during the summer months and that the nearest public toilet would be six miles away. The Councillor also felt there could be some ambiguity in relation to 'dusk' and felt that people of the District should not be at a disadvantage in relation to toilet operating times.

Councillor Burton expressed concern in relation to opening times of toilets in Fivemiletown and stated that Council should be doing what it expresses it is going to do. The Councillor also felt that if an event is being held within towns/villages there should be some flexibility in closing time of toilets.

Councillor Burton felt that toilets in Augher required a greater deal of investment than what was stated within the report and also asked if there was a possibility of Council providing portable toilets at Knockmany during summer months.

The Director of Environment and Property advised that the Director of Culture and Leisure was trying to progress toilet provision at Knockmany.

Councillor McFlynn stated she would have reservations over closure of Rainey Street toilets and asked if officers had considered installation of unisex toilet pods at this location.

The Head of Property Services advised that the costs outlined in the report reflected the level of investment needed even for a pod facility.

Councillor McFlynn advised she had some concern regarding when other facilities such as Bridewell, bus station etc would be closed and that there would then be no toilet provision for the high footfall in Magherafelt.

Councillor Glasgow stated that closure of toilets at Rainey Street needed further consideration and proposed that officers reassess the closure of these toilets as a matter of priority.

Councillor McFlynn seconded Councillor Glasgow's proposal.

Councillor Reid asked that costings for replacement of Rainey Street toilets also be provided.

In response to Councillor B McGuigan's question the Director of Environment and Property advised that there had not been any monitoring of the usage of Rainey Street toilets however there may be potential for a beam which could record usage.

Councillor McFlynn highlighted that toilet pods have a nominal fee and provide an option for those who need to use toilet facilities.

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council –
- (i) To approve the opening hours of Council's Public Toilets from April 2017 as listed in appendix to report to include a minimum closing time of 5 pm during winter months.
 - (ii) To review replacement of Rainey Street toilets in Magherafelt with costings to be brought back to future committee.

E065/17 Re-launch of Brown Bin Scheme – Project/Funding Update

The Head of Environmental Services presented previously circulated report which provided update on progress and funding in relation to the re-launch of the Council brown bin kerbside scheme for the collection of food and garden waste.

The Chair, Councillor Cuthbertson expressed some concern at new 7.30 am start time for refuse collections.

Councillor Glasgow asked if residents on Ballynagilly Lane had received their brown bin yet.

The Head of Environmental Services advised that these residents should receive their brown bin in April, that a smaller lorry had now been acquired to service this lane.

In response to Councillor Gillespie's comment the Head of Environmental Services advised that delivery of recycling packs would be a mixture of in house and postal.

Councillor Reid stated he was pleased to see delivery of brown bins would now take place as this matter had been raised by student who visited a Council event recently.

The Head of Environmental Services advised that the theme of this year's Eco Speak was 'Food Waste' and asked Members to consider sitting on the judging panel for this event.

Councillor Glasgow referred to the amount of food and food packaging being thrown out car windows and asked if anything can be done in this regard.

The Head of Environmental Services advised that Council could highlight fines which can be faced if persons are found to be littering.

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor Buchanan and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the acceptance and expenditure of food waste communications funding (£14,400) for the purchase and installation of new vehicle livery on up to 16 no. refuse collection vehicles with key food waste recycling messages as per examples included in appendix to report.

E066/17 Street Naming and Property Numbering

Members considered previously circulated report regarding the naming of new residential housing developments within Mid Ulster as follows –

1 Site off Castle Road, Cookstown

Councillor McNamee suggested that the best option for this site was Killymoon Lane although he felt there was still potential for confusion to be caused with this name.

The Head of Building Control advised that he had explained to the developer why Council had sought further name options for this site.

Councillor Glasgow stated he would still not be satisfied with the names put forward by the developer and referred to point 9 of Street Naming Policy in which Council can reserve the right to name streets within a development where the options submitted are not found to be acceptable. Councillor Glasgow felt that the most sensible option would be 'Castle Manor' which was put forward last month as anything with 'Killymoon' would only cause more confusion. Councillor Glasgow proposed that site off Castle Road, Cookstown be named Castle Manor.

Councillor McNamee proposed that Council go back to the developer again to seek further naming options as there were other names which included 'Castle' nearby. Naming options could then be brought to Council meeting on 23 March.

The Chair, Councillor Cuthbertson asked if there was any time pressure with naming this development.

The Head of Building Control advised that the developer was ready to launch this development onto the market.

Councillor Burton seconded Councillor Glasgow's proposal.

Councillor McGinley seconded Councillor McNamee's proposal.

Members voted on Councillor Glasgow's proposal to name development Castle Manor -

For – 5
Against – 10

Members voted on Councillor McNamee's proposal to seek further naming options to be brought back to Council meeting on 23 March.

For – 10

Against – 5

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to seek further naming options for development at site off Castle Road, Cookstown. Options to be brought to March Council meeting for consideration.

2 Site off Main Street, Bellaghy

Proposed by Councillor Kearney

Seconded by Councillor B McGuigan and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to name development off Main Street, Bellaghy as Ballyscullion Court.

3 Site off Moneymore Road, Magherafelt

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn

Seconded by Councillor Kearney and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to name development off Moneymore Road, Magherafelt as Lester Court.

E067/17 Review of Winter Flooding (Northern Ireland) 2015-2016

The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure presented previously circulated report which provided an overview of the key recommendations made by Mr Strong, in his report "Review of Winter Flooding (Northern Ireland) 2015-2016".

Councillor Burton referred to the substantial flooding at McCreedy Mill in Aughnacloy and felt that this needed to be highlighted within Council's response.

The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure confirmed the Councillor's comments would be addressed within Council's response.

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan

Seconded by Councillor Burton and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to correspond with the Department for Infrastructure to request clarity on key issues highlighted within report and to provide further details on the Action Plan which will be put in place to deliver the recommendations within the Strong Report.

E068/17 Regulating Our Future – Food Standards Agency

The Head of Environmental Health presented previously circulated report which outlined Environmental Health Department's views in response to Food Standards Agency's paper "Regulating Our Future".

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Reid and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to endorse the response paper to Food Standards Agency paper “Regulating Our Future” included in appendix to report.

E069/17 Clean Neighbourhood Action Plan Update

The Head of Environmental Health presented previously circulated paper which sought approval of a Clean Neighbourhood Action Plan for Mid Ulster District Council.

Councillor Glasgow referred to the problems with dog fouling and identifying hot spot areas and asked how improvement can be made on enforcement of this problem.

The Head of Environmental Health advised that in order to enforce dog fouling officers have to be there at the time, this means having to rely on information from the public which is not always forthcoming. However, on receiving information officers can focus their priorities to a certain area at a certain time.

Councillor Glasgow asked if hot spots were identified would officers have a better chance of taking enforcement action.

The Head of Environmental Health advised that if resources were better targeted the hope would be that enforcement would increase.

Councillor J O'Neill thanked officers for their assistance in removal of graffiti in Coalisland.

Councillor Reid referred to the difficulty in getting people to come forward with information and asked if information is received are officers then put in that area.

Councillor McFlynn referred to littering offences and asked if on the spot fines would be an option for the future.

The Head of Environmental Health advised that officers do not have the powers to issue on the spot fines and agreed that there needs to be more visibility in relation to this issue which is part of the plan. The Head of Environmental Health advised of litter patrols last weekend and that there are more planned for the future.

In relation to putting officers in a known dog fouling location the Head of Environmental Health advised that there is often a marked behaviour change whenever the Council dog van is visible.

Councillor Reid stated that the officer could be in an unmarked vehicle.

Councillor Kearney stated it was good to see the action plan being brought forward.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the Mid Ulster District Council Clean Neighbourhood Action Plan as attached in appendix to report.

E070/17 Pavement Café Licensing: Proposed Fee Structure and Publication of Department of Communities Guidance

The Head of Environmental Health presented previously circulated paper which provided detail of the results of the public consultation exercise concerning the proposed level of fees in relation to Pavement Café Licences for the year 2017-2018 and to highlight the availability of the Department of Communities Guidance and Pavement Cafes – Guidance for Applicants.

The Chair, Councillor Cuthbertson asked if there was any conflict between this legislation and guidelines for consumption of alcohol.

The Head of Environmental Health advised that consumption of alcohol legislation would be looked at in conjunction with pavement café legislation.

Councillor Reid felt that Council should be supportive of this legislation.

Councillor Glasgow asked if planning permission was required for Pavement Café Licence.

The Head of Environmental Health advised that this matter had been referred to the Planning Department for further consideration but that the initial feeling was that if the pavement café is of a temporary nature then no planning permission should be required.

Councillor Glasgow stated he would be in favour of the pre application discussions which would help to assist applicants through this new legislation process.

Councillor B McGuigan asked for clarification on whether a pavement café licence needed to be associated with business or if someone can just set up a business on the pavement.

The Head of Environmental Health advised that legislation states that a pavement café licence needs to be associated within close proximity to a business or proposed business.

In response to the Chair's comments the Head of Environmental Health advised that persons must seek permission from PSNI for street collections.

Councillor Reid referred to size of footpaths and stated that pavement cafés should not cause any obstruction.

The Head of Environmental Health advised that there are distance requirements provided within guidance which will allow for free passing of wheelchairs, prams, visually impaired etc on footpath where pavement café is located.

Proposed by Councillor Reid
Seconded by Councillor B McGuigan and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council –
- (i) That the fees for Mid Ulster District Council be agreed at £ZERO for the grant, renewal or variation of a Pavement Café Licence – this fee will be for the period April 2017 to April 2018 with a review taking place in early 2018.
 - (ii) That a 'pre application' process be carried out to assist applicants with guidance and support for their application.

Matters for Information

E071/17 Smoking in Vehicles

Members noted previously circulated report in relation to the consultation on The Smoke-free (Private Vehicles) Regulations (NI) 2017 which proposes restricting smoking in private vehicles carrying children.

E072/17 Building Control Report

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

E073/17 Entertainment Licensing Applications

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

E074/17 Fire Prevention Plans – Waste Transfer Stations

Members noted previously circulated report which provided detail on Fire Prevention Plans for the Council's Waste Transfer Station facilities at Magheraglass and Tullyvar.

E075/17 Northern Ireland Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Management (LACMW) Report for July to September 2016

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on Councils performance in relation to recycling and landfill diversion as outlined in the NIEA Northern Ireland Local Authority Waste Management Statistics Report for the second quarter of July to September 2016.

E076/17 Screening – Policy on Street Naming and Dual Language Signage

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on the outcome of the Equality and Good Relations screening of Council Policy on Street Naming and Dual Language Signage.

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to note the content of report items E071/17 to E076/17.

Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor B McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor Reid and

Resolved That items E077/17 – E082/17 be taken as confidential business.

E083/17 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 9.23 pm

CHAIR _____

DATE _____

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**Minute of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council
held on Wednesday 15 March 2017 in the Council Offices, Ballyronan Road,
Magherafelt**

Members Present

Councillor Molloy, Chair

Councillors Burton, Clarke, Cuddy, Doris, Elattar, Forde, McAleer, McEldowney, McNamee, Monteith (7.17 pm), T Quinn, G Shiels, J Shiels and Wilson

**Officers in
Attendance**

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

**Others in
Attendance**

Lough Neagh Landscape Partnership
Mr Charlie Monaghan and Dr William Burke
Councillor Ashton

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

D044/17 Apologies

Councillors C O'Neill

D045/17 Declaration of Interests

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

Councillor McEldowney declared an interest in Lough Neagh Partnership and Rural Development Programme

Councillor Clarke declared an interest in Leisure Service Level Agreements 2017/18 and Rural Development Programme

Councillor Burton declared an interest in Rural Development Programme, Economic Development and Aughnacloy College

Councillor McAleer declared an interest in Rural Development Programme and Economic Development

Councillor T Quinn declared an interest in Good Relations – Speedwell Trust

Councillor G Shiels declared an interest in Rural Development Programme

Councillor Forde declared an interest in Rural Development Programme

D046/17 Chair's Business

None.

D047/17 Lough Neagh Partnership

The Chair welcomed to the Committee representatives from Lough Neagh Partnership who were in attendance to give an overhead presentation.

The Chair, Councillor Molloy welcomed to the Committee Mr Charlie Monaghan (LNP Manager) and Dr William Burke (Landscape Partnership Manager) from Lough Neagh Partnership and invited them to make their presentation on 'Lough Neagh Partnership 2017-2022.

Mr Monaghan gave a brief synopsis of Lough Neagh Partnership and advised that it was established in 2003 and that the Board consists of representatives from five Councils, private and community sector and special interest groups, which work closely with government agencies. He said that the group has attracted investment of £14 million.

Mr Monaghan advised that the priorities of Lough Neagh Partnership include:

- Governance
- Marketing
- Programme Delivery
 - Tourism
 - Heritage and Culture
 - Recreation
 - The Environment
 - Attracting Investment

He advised that Lough Neagh Partnership's workload has increased substantially and anticipate closer cooperation with Councils and a more integrated approach to Lough Neagh and would recommend for approval the request for £22,000.

Dr Burke advised that Lough Neagh Landscape Partnership was a partnership based programme which covers all of Lough Neagh and aims to protect, conserve and develop the natural, built and cultural heritage around Lough Neagh over a five year period from 2016 – 2021. He stated that LNLP was community focused and Forum led with a strong regional strategic focus combining partner objectives with the aim of establishing a sustainable and resourced legacy.

Councillor Monteith entered the meeting at 7.17 pm.

Dr Burke stated that Lough Neagh Landscape Partnership held 27 broad programme headings hosting in excess of 100+ projects relating to:

- **Natural Heritage** – peatland conservation & management, biodiversity promotion, environmental education, countryside access, litter-less Lough, species & habitat protection

- **Built Heritage** – archaeological surveys, historic building conservation, schools engagement, heritage skills training, canal heritage, experimental archaeology
- **Cultural Heritage** – people, songs, stories, myths & legends, World War II local history, exhibitions, publications, placenames etc
- **Heritage Tourism** – two visitor centres, 24 planned tours, tour leaders trained, strategic heritage signage programme for the whole Lough
- Volunteer training and wider heritage education

He advised that their main funder was the Heritage Lottery and their Match Funders were: District Councils, NGO's Government Departments, Universities and Community Organisations. The breakdown is as follows:

- Total Project Value - £3,528,058.00
- Grant from HLF - £2,494,900.00
- MUDC Contribution - £ 99,059.00
- Projected Spend in the MUDC Area - £ 786,409.00
- Leverage of £7.94 invested for every £1.00 committed by Council

Dr Burke stated that the LNLP Team were continuously looking for other funding opportunities that would further maximise Council's financial commitment.

He concluded that the progress in the MUDC area from October 2016 to March 2017 was as follows:

- Building conservation and geophysical investigation works at Church island
- Development works for the Ardboe Pilgrimage Trail and car park
- Ardboe Cross and Abbey geophysical survey
- Heritage signage programme initiated
- Regional symposium

The Chair thanked the representatives from Lough Neagh Partnership and asked members for any comments.

In response to Councillor G Shiels' query about the time limit on Heritage Lottery Funding, Dr Burke advised that it was up to March 2021 with a possible extension of six months if fortunate enough to receive it.

Councillor McNamee referred to the possible purchase of the Lough and enquired what financial costs would be involved and was there a potential for a complete walkway.

Mr Monaghan advised that to date there has been no figure mentioned from the representatives of Shaftsbury Estate, but that the Directors would be confident that they could raise the money. He said that it would be important to get cross departmental support from government departments and other avenues to raise funds. He stated that there were various parts around the Lough where there was a walkway but not a complete walkway as it's not presently possible.

The Chair thanked the representatives for their presentation at which they left the meeting at 7.22 pm.

D048/17 Minutes of the Development Committee held on Thursday 16 February 2017

Proposed by Councillor J Shiels
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting of the Development Committee held on Thursday 16 February 2017 (D021/17 to D039/17 and D043/17) were considered and signed as correct and accurate.

Councillor Burton advised that at the last Development Committee meeting she raised the issue of small grants review and said she would like to raise this again tonight because that going forward it was important that Officers give all the support they can to groups. She felt that it was a shame that the small grants wasn't a rolling programme as not every group were aware of funding opportunities and asked that every effort be made to revisit this again.

The Director of Business and Communities reassured Councillor Burton that Officers would investigate the issue again.

Matters for Decision

D049/17 Recommendation on Uplifting of Changing Block from Grass Pitch to 3G Pitch at Aughnacloy College

The Head of Leisure drew attention to the previously circulated report to advise Members on proposals to uplift existing Changing Block at Aughnacloy Grass Pitch to be relocated at Aughnacloy College's 3G soccer pitch.

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that this item be deferred.

D050/17 Leisure Service Level Agreement 2017/18

The Head of Leisure drew attention to the previously circulated report to agree proposals on Service Level Agreements (SLAs) for the financial year 2017/18 only.

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy
Seconded by Councillor Burton and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to agree proposals on Leisure SLAs for the 2017/18 financial year only.

D051/17 School Sports Facilities Grant

The Head of Leisure drew attention to the previously circulated report to seek approval for the School Sports Facilities Grant 2017/18 and budget.

Councillor Wilson advised that he had a conflict of interest as his son plays for Cookstown Hockey Club. However he was concerned that this grant has only been made available at the end of the financial year and that funding should have been increased.

Councillor Burton said that as this money wasn't in the budget for a six month period, that funding should be doubled.

The Director of Culture and Leisure advised that the £50,000 funding in 2015/16 for this programme had been made available from underspend of the Sports Capital Grants as there was no dedicated programme or budget for the School Sports Facilities Grant. In 2017/18 there was no dedicated budget for the Sports Facilities Grant, but that the budget or it could be provided from any underspend in the 2017/18 grants programmes or from reserves of uncommitted grant funding in 2016/17.

Councillor Wilson stated that the Men's Hockey was a minority sport at a high level which hadn't been considered when previously it was agreed that it would be.

The Director of Culture and Leisure advised that there was currently no budget to do so at the moment but would certainly consider when considering support for the minority sports.

The Chair suggested that the Sports Facility Grant be reviewed in six month's time.

Councillor Cuddy referred to Dungannon Tennis Club and advised that there were no lighting facilities at the tennis court. He said that the club was based at a school and when they applied for funding in the past they were advised that none was available through the Council. Councillor Cuddy stated that the club was run by a foreign national cluster group which was growing in numbers. He said that he was disappointed that this group was overlooked for funding as it wasn't a serious amount and that he would appreciate if Officers would look at this again to see if money can be sourced from somewhere.

The Director of Culture and Leisure advised that funding for lighting may be best sourced through the Sports Capital Programme.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor McNamee

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that approval be granted to roll out the School Sports Facilities Grant Programme in May 2017 with funding from underspend in the 2017/18 grants programme or from reserves.

D052/17 Outdoor Recreation NI Request for Funding for the Continuation of the MountainBikeNI Consortium

The Head of Leisure drew attention to the previously circulated report to seek a decision on continuing support for the financial year 2017/18 for the Outdoor Recreation NI (ORNI) led consortium of Councils with Mountain Biking facilities.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

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

- 1) Contribute £16,666 to the MountainBikeNI Consortium, towards the cost of employing a Mountain Bike Marketing Officer for 2017/18 only and that the workings of the consortium to be reviewed for the following year.
- 2) Proceed with the advertising campaigns costing £8,575 over 2017/18 only again subject to agreement on budgets for next year and to Officers being satisfied with the value of the campaigns.
- 3) Extend the existing sponsorship contract with CRC until March 2018.

D053/17 Walking NI Consortium

The Head of Parks drew attention to the previously circulated report to seek Council approval to commit to Walking NI Marketing Consortium Campaigns for 2017/18.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor McAleer and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that approval be granted to participate as a regional partner with the Walk NI Marketing Consortium and contribute £4,500 to 2017/18 campaign.

Councillor Wilson left the meeting at 7.38 pm.

D054/17 Arts Council of Northern Ireland Challenge Fund – Heritage Arts Animation Project

The Head of Culture and Arts drew attention to the previously circulated report to seek approval from Council to appoint a suitably experienced and competent company to assist in the development and delivery of a schools Heritage Arts Animation Project as part of the Arts Council of Northern Ireland Challenge Fund Programme.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that approval be granted to appoint suitably experienced and competent company to assist in the development and delivery of a schools Heritage Arts Animation Project as per the Mid Ulster District Council/Arts Council Challenge Fund Programme.

D055/17 Regional Minority Languages Bursary Programme 2017/18 and Irish Language Activity Funding Programme 2017/18

The Head of Culture and Arts drew attention to the previously circulated report to update Members on the proposed Regional and Minority Language Bursary

Programme 2017 and Irish Language Activity Funding Programme 2017 and to seek decision from Council regarding approval to publicly advertise both schemes.

Councillor Cuddy advised that his party wouldn't be against supporting this programme, but felt that there must be something available for all cultures i.e. Ulster Scots. He said that he would like to see another programme implemented pro rata for all cultures and communities.

In response to a query from Councillor J Shiels regarding the uptake of Ulster Scots bursary, the Head of Culture and Arts advised that last year there was no uptake for Ulster Scots bursary funding.

In response to Councillor J Shiels enquiry on whether this year's scheme was of similar criteria, Councillor McNamee advised that Councillors Ashton and Wilson raised the same concerns through the Dual Language Working Group and that the committee were liaising with the Head of Community Development to find a way forward to encourage uptake from all communities.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor McEldowney

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that approval be granted to publicly advertise both the Regional and Minority Language Bursary Programme and to issue a call for expressions of interest for support under the Irish Language Activity Programme.

D056/17 Community Development Report

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

- 1) Seek approval for the community grant awards (rolling programme) Seek approval for the community sports representative grant criteria
- 2) Agree proposals from the Peace IV Partnership
- 3) Note the PCSP Action Plan for Mid Ulster
- 4) Seek approval for the Good Relations Plan
- 5) Update on Community Development
- 6) Update on Community Planning Mid Ulster

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

1) Community Grant Awards (Rolling Programme) Community Sports Representative Grant Criteria

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor McAleer and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to approve the Community Grant Awards (Rolling Programme) and Community Sports Representative Grant criteria.

2) Proposals of the Peace IV Partnership

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to approve the Proposals of the Peace IV Partnership.

3) Note the Mid Ulster PCSP Action Plan

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that approval be given to noting Mid Ulster PCSP Action Plan

4) Mid Ulster Good Relations Action Plan

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Clarke

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to approve the Mid Ulster Good Relations Action Plan.

5) Community Development Update

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that approval be given to noting Community Development Update.

6) Community Planning Update

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that approval be given to noting Community Planning Update.

The Head of Community Development advised Members that Officers would be on hand to provide support to groups on the new online grants system.

D057/17 Corporate Strategic Events

The Head of Tourism drew attention to the previously circulated report to inform Council of the programmed strategic events planned for the next 12 months and recommendations to improve their delivery.

In response to Councillor McElDowney's query regarding the running of the event at the Marina, the Head of Tourism advised that the Council took over the event last year from Lough Neagh Partnership due to the group's lack of resources.

Councillor J Shiels advised that the Halloween Fireworks event at the Walled Garden, Maghera was a great venue and draws a tremendous crowd, but once the event is over

everyone rapidly disperses as there is nothing to keep the crowd in the town. He suggested that Tullyhogue Fort be investigated as it's a great site and full of potential.

The Head of Tourism agreed that Tullyhogue Fort was a great site and advised that he would be looking at running an event in May or June time at the location.

Proposed by Councillor McEldowney
Seconded by Councillor J Shiels and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that approval be granted to develop a district wide solutions for undertaking market research both before and after strategic events and to agree the dates and proposed events as detailed in appendix 1.

D058/17 Future Search Conference

The Head of Tourism drew attention to the previously circulated report to provide a background and overview of the Sperrins, its previous management arrangements and to recommend the use of a unique strategic planning method to develop a new shared vision and strategy for the management of the region.

Councillor Clarke said that this was very timely at this stage as its 50 years since the AONB was established and that it shouldn't have taken this long, but that this was a good way forward.

Councillor Cuddy advised that the Clogher Valley was a very important part of the new Mid Ulster Council area and a gateway into Fermanagh and enquired if work was being done with Fermanagh and Omagh to try and promote the Clogher Valley. He also referred to the proposed new race track at Coalisland and stated that if planning permission was successful, it would change the whole area as this would be a massive project and that he would encourage Officers to keep members up to date on any progress.

The Director of Business and Communities suggested inviting Mr Henderson to a future Development meeting to make a presentation to members to keep them updated on the progress of the project.

Councillor Cuddy said that it would be very important to support the race track initiative at Coalisland as it was a major project and a great asset to tourism in the area.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that approval be granted for financial and administrative support to deliver the Future Search conference on the Sperrins. This support will be subject to remaining financial and administrative requirements for delivery being resourced through the other Councils.

D059/17 Tourism Promotions

The Head of Tourism drew attention to the previously circulated report to seek approval to promote Mid Ulster Tourism at major consumer and trade platforms regionally and across ROI and GB Markets, working in partnership with Tourism NI and Tourism Ireland (where applicable).

Councillor Clarke suggested that another great opportunity would be to investigate a similar event like the National Ploughing Competition which is held in Southern Ireland and generates in the region of 300,000 people over a 3 day period on an annual basis.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that approval be granted to carefully selected consumer platforms to increase awareness and promote Mid Ulster tourism products.

D060/17 Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2014-2020

The Head of Economic Development drew attention to the previously circulated report to update Members on progress with the interim rural development strategy for Mid Ulster.

Councillor Cuddy referred to the EDEN (Enhancing & Developing the Edendork Neighbourhood) and advised that he was disappointed that the group's project is deemed ineligible for funding. He added that this was a strong a strong community group and he believed that they have the necessary knowledge and skills within the group to take the project forward and enquired if Officers could see any way of helping them.

The Director of Business and Communities said that as the project is inside the settlement development limits of Dungannon, this deems it ineligible to apply for RDP funding. He further added that whilst wanting to be supportive of the group, Council Officers must adhere to the programme guidelines and therefore felt it is unlikely that the decision will change.

The Director of Business and Communities said that he had met and advised the Edendork group regarding their project and suggested they write a letter to the LAG seeking clarification on these points.

Councillor Monteith queried the process following lines on maps and felt that this process was having a negative impact on the Edendork application and there was a need in future to recognise that Edendork is not in Dungannon town. He said that if there was a situation or an opportunity for facilities but no funding opportunities for rural areas due to urban issues, he further said that there needs to be a specific focus on the regeneration of urban areas and Council should lead on this process.

Councillor G Shiels agreed that there needs to be a specific funding process for urban regeneration as well as rural development.

The Chair agreed that these were valid points and said there was a need for clarification and to establish a redraw of the lines, whether this would make a difference or not.

Councillor Cuddy said that Edendork was falling into the same scenario as Moygashel, as they also had a strong community group but were experiencing similar challenges.

Councillor Monteith said that the opportunity to change the mindset of the Department for Communities would be limited as it didn't work in the past in Dungannon town. He felt that whilst this matter was explored further with the Department for Communities there was a need for the Council to exert stronger regeneration powers.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

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

- 1) Issue of a letter of interest to those deemed eligible as shown in the table at 3.1
- 2) Issue a letter to advise the project which has been deemed ineligible for support

D061/17 Economic Development Report

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

- 1) Business in the Community Membership
- 2) Draft Industrial Strategy for Northern Ireland: Economy 2030
 - (2.1) Department for the Economy's Consultation Document on an Industrial Strategy for NI
 - (2.2) Draft Response from Mid Ulster District Council on an Industrial Strategy for NI
- 3) Blackwater Regional Partnership – Review and Options Report
- 4) Mid Ulster Town Centre Positioning Study & Implementation Plan
- 5) Draft Regeneration Action Plan 2017-1018
- 6) Agenda NI Magazine – Advertorial Opportunity
- 7) Mid Ulster Skills Forum
- 8) Brexit and the Border Corridor

Councillor Cuddy advised that he was under the impression that Mid Ulster District Council was getting Economic Development powers when they took over and asked why there were no development projects generating money like they had in the old Dungannon Council i.e. Tullyvar Landfill Site. He said that Tullyvar Landfill generated millions of pounds for Dungannon and Omagh Councils and that similar ideas should be investigated in the new Mid Ulster District Council.

The Chair referred to Ann Street, Dungannon and felt that this site should be looked at as an economic generator.

Councillor Monteith said that the Council would need to consider whether RPA was worthwhile and now that the Council has the power to act as an individual, there was a need to think differently as any proceeds from Ann Street sale needs to be ring-fenced for Dungannon town. He also suggested putting units on the site so income could be generated, but that there was an onus on the Council to use their powers to do positive things for the ratepayers and move away from the mind-set from how things used to be done in the old legacy Councils.

Councillor Cuddy advised there was an opportunity to investigate the two reservoirs in Altmore to generate power at no extra costs.

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

1) Business in the Community

Platinum Membership for 2017/2018 for a fee of £6,000 which will be funded through Council's Economic Development budget.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that approval be granted for the Platinum Membership for 2017/18 for a fee of £6,000 which will be funded through Council's Economic Development budget.

2) Consultation on Draft Industrial Strategy for Northern Ireland: Economy 2030

Council's Draft Consultation Response to the Industrial Strategy for Northern Ireland and if any Member has further comments to add, these be forwarded to the Head of Economic Development by 31 March 2017.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that approval be granted for Council's Draft Consultation Response to the Industrial Strategy for Northern Ireland and if any members has further comments to add, these be forwarded to the Head of Economic Development by 31 March 2017.

Councillor McAleer left the meeting at 8.30 pm.

3) Blackwater Regional Partnership – Review and Options Report

Blackwater Regional Partnership Review and Options Report and the adoption of Option 6 – A Memorandum of Understanding Model between the 3 partner Councils in replacement of Blackwater Regional Partnership.

Councillor Monteith advised that upon establishment years ago this organisation was claimed to be the perfect group to keep chasing money with no real benefit to the local communities. He said that he had no problem for the three Councils seeking money, but that there was more important things than looking to create posts and offices. In the past

Councillors all came together and worked with people in the Blackwater Catchment area and that there was a need to develop opportunities again to look for funding on how to promote this. He said that the community needs served and that neighbouring Councils also needs to promote their communities.

In response to Councillor Cuddy's query about who was responsible for personnel and payroll of Blackwater Regional Partnership, the Head of Economic Development advised that Mid Ulster District Council acted as the lead partner and is responsible for these matters.

The Director of Business and Communities advised that he would take on board members concerns.

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that approval be granted for Blackwater Regional Partnership Review and Options Report and the adoption of Option 6 – A Memorandum of Understanding Model between the 3 partner Councils in replacement of Blackwater Regional Partnership.

4) Mid Ulster Town Centre Positioning Study & Implementation Plan
Mid Ulster Town Centre Positioning Study and associated Implementation Plan.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor J Shiels and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that approval be granted for Mid Ulster Town Centre Positioning Study and associated Implementation Plan.

5) Draft Regeneration Action Plan 2017/18
The content of Council's Draft Regeneration Action Plan 2017/18.

Proposed by Councillor Forde
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that approval be given to the content of Council's Draft Regeneration Action Plan 2017/18.

Councillor Burton left the meeting at 8.45 pm.

6) Agenda NI – Advertorial Opportunity
Costs of £1,800 (exc VAT) for purchasing a double page feature in the Agenda NI Magazine (April/May 2017 edition) to showcase the work undertaken by Council to support Mid Ulster's indigenous business sector during 2016/17.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor T Quinn and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that approval be granted for Costs of £1,800 (exc VAT) for purchasing a double page feature in the Agenda NI Magazine (April/May 2017 edition) to showcase the work undertaken by Council to support Mid Ulster's indigenous business sector during 2016/17.

7) Mid Ulster Skills Forum
Note progress.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that approval be granted to note the contents of the report on Mid Ulster Skills Forum.

8). Brexit and the Border Corridor

Mid Ulster District Council (alongside other Councils in the Border Corridor region) to:

- a) Work collectively as a lobby group for the Border area to show that the Border Corridor is going to be most affected by Brexit and thus must have their own voices heard in any negotiating.
- b) That while they have competing interests and will seek to maximise opportunities, all Councils accept that some of the weakest economies on the island of Ireland are those economies along the border and, as such, will be most in need of protection against negative impacts of Brexit.
- c) Work with Inter-Trade Ireland and the relevant Government Departments to help mitigate the impact of Brexit along the Border areas.
- d) Given this is a period of change which will continue for many months, there will be a need to continue gathering information and monitoring the changing conditions.
- e) Hold three common cross Council seminars (in the Border Corridor region) to inform Members and Chambers of Commerce on the results of the research and to gather opinions to use in lobbying. The seminars to have the following objectives:
 - i) To communicate key findings of the initial research of a wider audience;
 - ii) To provide an opportunity to hear from Inter-Trade Ireland on the sectoral analysis and Brexit supports for business; and
 - iii) To gather feedback from attendees on the Brexit issues facing businesses in their area.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that approval be granted to: Mid Ulster District Council (alongside other Councils in the Border Corridor region) to:

- a) Work collectively as a lobby group for the Border area to show that the Border Corridor is going to be most affected by Brexit and thus must have their own voices heard in any negotiating.
- b) That while they have competing interests and will seek to maximise opportunities, all Councils accept that some of the weakest economies on the island of Ireland are those economies along the border and, as such, will be most in need of protection against negative impacts of Brexit.
- c) Work with Inter-Trade Ireland and the relevant Government Departments to help mitigate the impact of Brexit along the Border areas.
- d) Given this is a period of change which will continue for many months, there will be a need to continue gathering information and monitoring the changing conditions.
- e) Hold three common cross Council seminars (in the Border Corridor region) to inform Members and Chambers of Commerce on the results of the research and to gather opinions to use in lobbying. The seminars to have the following objectives:
 - iv) To communicate key findings of the initial research of a wider audience;
 - ii) To provide an opportunity to hear from Inter-Trade Ireland on the sectoral analysis and Brexit supports for business; and
 - iii) To gather feedback from attendees on the Brexit issues facing businesses in their area.

Matters for Information

D062/17 Tourism Update

Members noted previously circulated report to update Members on shows and promotions completed to date. Promotions completed include: Holiday World - Belfast & Dublin, Celtic Connections – Glasgow, 100 Great Days out – Newcastle.

D063/17 Mid Ulster Tourism Development Strategy 2016 – 21

Members noted previously circulated report to inform Members of formal launch of Tourism Development Strategy on 28th March 2017 at Corick House Hotel, Clogher.

D064/17 Leisure Services Progress Report

Members noted previously circulated report to provide an update on the progress being made regarding activities in Leisure Services and highlight events that will be occurring in the future.

D065/17 Parks Service Progress Report

Members noted previously circulated report to advise on progress being made regarding activities associated to Parks Services and highlight events or consultations that will be occurring in the future.

D066/17 Small Grants for Greenways

Members noted previously circulated report to advise on progress to stage two to the Small Grants Scheme for initial funding for Council's and other bodies to develop their own schemes as part of the greenway network for the entire region.

D067/17 Culture and Arts Progress Report

Members noted previously circulated report to advise on progress being made in Culture and Arts Services and highlight events that have occurred during the months of January and February. Also to identify events and activities within Culture & Arts Services that will be occurring in the future.

D068/17 Loup Re-Imaging Project Update

Members noted previously circulated report to provide an update on the development of the Loup Re-Imaging Project – The Woods of Killetra.

Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor J Shiels
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved: That items D069/17 to D070/17 be taken as confidential business.

D071/17 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7 pm and concluded at 8.50 pm.

CHAIR _____

DATE _____

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Subject Conferences & Seminars –March 2017

Reporting Officer P Moffett, Head of Democratic Services

Contact Officer E Forde, Member Support Officer

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| 1 | Purpose of Report |
| 1.1 | Provide an update on seminars and conferences received. To seek approval for attendance and the payment of registration/ attendance fees and associated costs, as incurred. |
| 2 | Background |
| 2.1 | The following seminar/ conference sessions are presented for consideration of representation from Mid Ulster Council. |
| 2.1 | Approval for Consideration of Attendance by Members |
| 2.1.1 | NFLA – Brexit, RHI and Mayors for Peace: issues for Local Authorities in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10.30am – 1.15pm Friday 24 March, Council Offices, O'Hagan House, Newry |
| 2.1.2 | NILGA – Foundations for Innovation – Towards Digital Local Government <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9.30am – 4.00on Tuesday 25 April 2017, Craigavon Civic Centre, Craigavon |
| 2.1.3 | The Journal of Neighbourhood Revitalization, 'Rural Revitalization' at Dublin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Friday 26th May 2017, Dublin |
| 2.1.4 | Somme Association – Provisional Plan for Battlefield Tour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuesday 6th June – Friday 9th June 2017 |
| 2.1.5 | PFNI: The future for healthcare in Northern Ireland: implementing the <i>Delivering Together</i> recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Timing: Morning, Wednesday, 28th June 2017, : Belfast</i> |
| 2.1.6 | Thomas D'Arcy McGee Summer School <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 21-23 August 2017, Carlingford, Co Louth, |
| 2.2 | <u>Officer Approvals</u> |
| 2.2.1 | There are occasions when it is beneficial to the organisation for Officers to attend conferences and seminars. Approval is sought for attendance as detailed in Appendix B to this report. |

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| 3 | Key Issues |
| 3. | <p>Somme Association – Provisional Plan for Battlefield Tour</p> <p>The Somme Association is exploring the possibility of arranging a Battlefield Tour in June 2017. In order to gauge the level of interest the Association is requesting that Council forward approximate numbers of those interested in attending. Costs have yet to be established but Members may wish to note if the cost exceeds Conference/Seminar allowance on mutual agreement the additional cost would be deducted from Members Basic Allowance.</p> |

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| 4 | Resources |
| 4.1 | <u>Financial</u> |
| 4.1.1 | <p>NFLA – Brexit, RHI and Mayors for Peace: issues for Local Authorities in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · No conference fee, travel and subsistence |
| 4.1.2 | <p>NILGA – Foundations for Innovation – Towards Digital Local Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · No conference fee, travel and subsistence |
| 4.1.3 | <p>The Journal of Neighbourhood Revitalization, ‘Rural Revitalization’ at Dublin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Conference fee €250 until 1 April (book one space get one space free), travel and subsistence |
| 4.1.4 | <p>Somme Association – Provisional Plan for Battlefield Tour</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Costs yet to be established but would include flights from Belfast to London, travel on the Euro Star to France, 4 star accommodation in Belgium and a black tie dinner event. |
| 4.1.5 | <p>PFNI: The future for healthcare in Northern Ireland: implementing the <i>Delivering Together</i> recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Conference fee £210 plus VAT travel and subsistence. · Copies of the briefing document, including full transcripts of all speeches and the questions and comments sessions and further articles from interested parties, will be available approximately 10 days after the event for £95 plus VAT; |
| 4.1.6 | <p>Thomas D'Arcy McGee Summer School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · fees are €50 for the full 3-day programme, plus €40 for the Seafood Banquet, at which John de Chastelain is after-dinner speaker plus travel, accommodation and subsistence. |

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| 5 | Other Considerations |
| 5.1 | Costs associated will be set against 2016-17 member Conference and Seminar allocations. |

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| 6 | Recommendations |
| 6.1 | Approval for attendance at the conferences/ seminars by members and council officers as required. |

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| 7 | List of Documents Attached |
| 7.1 | Appendix A Conferences & Seminar Details Appendix B Officer Approvals |

Nuclear Free Local Authorities All Ireland Forum

c/o Nuclear Policy Unit, City Policy Team, Level 3, Town Hall Extension, Manchester, M60 2LA
 Irish Secretariat c/o Newry, Mourne & Down Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry, BT35 8DJ
 Co-Chairs: Councillors Mark Dearey & Michael Carr Secretary: Sinead Trainor
 UK & Ireland NFLA Secretariat Secretary: Sean Morris
 Tel: 00 44 161 234 3244 Fax: 00 44 161 234 274 7397
 Email: s.morris4@manchester.gov.uk
 Website: <http://www.nuclearpolicy.info>



To Northern Ireland Council Chief Executives/ Committee Service Managers
 To Republic of Ireland Council County Managers / Committee Service Managers

27th February 2017

Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) All Ireland Forum Spring Policy Seminar:

"Brexit, RHI and Mayors for Peace: issues for Local Authorities in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland"

Friday 24th March 2017, Council Offices, O'Hagan House, Newry

I would appreciate if you could urgently bring the attached seminar to the attention of the councillors of the appropriate committee in order for it to consider nominating a councillor and / or relevant council officer to attend.

The Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) is holding its spring seminar in O'Hagan House, Newry, Mourne and Down Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry on Friday 24th March 2017. Member and non-member authorities are very welcome to attend the seminar.

I attach the flyer for the seminar. It will consider the following issues:

- The impact of 'Brexit' on energy policy / nuclear safety concerns in the island of Ireland.
- The Renewable Heating overspend issue and what it leaves prospects for the growth of renewables across Ireland, particularly after the Assembly elections.
- The Norwegian Bike for Peace tour from Belfast - Dublin and why Irish Councils should join Mayors for Peace.

The Spring Seminar is free to attend and we strongly encourage Councils in Ireland, north and south, to consider sending both a councillor and / or an appropriate council officer to it. Non member authorities are also welcome to attend the seminar, which gives an excellent overview of important issues the NFLA works on.

If you would like to attend, please send the registration form and / or contact Sinead Trainor, the NFLA All Ireland Forum Secretary, of Newry, Mourne and Down Council using the following details – sinead.trainor@nmandd.org, fax 00 44 (0)2830 264482 or telephone 00 44 (0)2830 313096. Alternatively speak to myself using the details at the top of this letter.

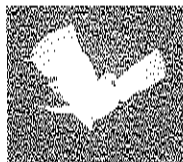
Yours sincerely,

Sean Morris, NFLA Secretary - On behalf of the NFLA All Ireland Forum Co-Chairs

REC'D

01 MAR 2017

COUNCIL



Nuclear Free Local Authorities All Ireland Forum Spring 2017 Seminar

- **Brexit, energy policy, nuclear safety and impacts on the island of Ireland – can an 'energy island' still be developed?**
- **Renewable heating – what happens next?**
- **Supporting the Mayors for Peace in Ireland and the campaign for a nuclear weapons free world**

***Friday 24th March 2017, Board Room, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Offices,
Monaghan Road, Newry, Northern Ireland, BT35 8DJ***

The Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) All Ireland Forum Spring 2017 seminar comes at a time of great political upheaval across the island of Ireland and in its North – South and UK / Ireland relationship. This is mainly due to the planned decision of the UK Government to invoke Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty in March and start the process for the UK to formally leave the European Union.

This issue has many different and difficult impacts for Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. One area often overlooked is its impact on energy policy. There has been considerable cooperation between the Northern Ireland Executive and the Republic of Ireland Government in the area of low carbon energy generation and creating a single integrated energy market across the island. How does 'Brexit' affect it? What does leaving the parallel Euratom Treaty mean for nuclear safety at UK nuclear sites like Sellafield and the potential for building new nuclear power stations on the Irish Sea coast?

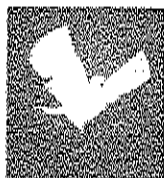
Northern Ireland is holding an important election after the government was brought down over a huge overspend with its renewable heating scheme. What happens next with the heating scheme and with promoting low carbon heating and renewables in general across Ireland?

NFLA also works closely with the Hiroshima and Nagasaki led Mayors for Peace organisation. In May there are plans to promote its work with a tour from Belfast to Dublin of the Norwegian linked group Bike for Peace. Why is 2017 so important in the international discussions over nuclear weapons? Why should councils from across the island of Ireland join Hiroshima, Nagasaki and the 7,200 other members of Mayors for Peace?

This FREE seminar will consider in detail these matters. It is open to councillors, council officers, environmental and public health officers, local energy companies & local interested groups and the public. If you would like to attend please complete the attached registration form.

FINAL PROGRAMME

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 10.30am | Registration and light refreshments. |
| 11.00am | Opening welcome by Councillor John Trainor, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and Co-Chair of the NFLA All Ireland Forum. |
| 11.05am | Brexit, energy policy and its impact on the island of Ireland - Sean Morris, NFLA Secretary (confirmed) |
| 11.30pm | Leaving the Euratom Treaty and its impacts on Sellafield, Moorside and the nuclear safety regime – Pete Roche, NFLA Policy Advisor and author of the report 'Towards a Safer Cumbria'. (confirmed) |
| 11.55pm | Renewable heating – what happens next? Declan Allison, Friends of the Earth Northern Ireland (confirmed) |
| 12.20pm | Mayors for Peace, the nuclear ban treaty conferences and the Bike for Peace May tour from Belfast to Dublin – Tore Naerland, Joint Co-ordinator, Bike for Peace (confirmed) |
| 12.40pm | Panel discussion chaired by the Co-Chair of the NFLA All Ireland Forum, Councillor Mark Dearey, Louth County Council and NFLA All Ireland Forum Chair (for 1.15pm conclusion). |



NFLA All Ireland Forum Spring 2015 Seminar

Friday 24th March 2017, Council Offices, Newry, BT35 8DJ.

Registration Details

The seminar is a free event open to all NFLA members, officers and interested environmental and peace groups. If you are planning to attend, could you please fill in the appropriate details and post, email or fax to the address at the bottom of this form:

| Name | Authority / Group | Correspondence address (email or postal) |
|------|-------------------|---|
| | | |
| | | |
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Venue and accommodation details:

Newry and Mourne District Council Offices (O'Hagan House) are off Monaghan Row in the city centre. To download a map you are encouraged to go to the Google maps website and type in the postcode BT35 8DJ. The train station is a short bus / taxi ride to the Council Offices and Newry is on the main Dublin – Belfast train line. Car parking is limited around the Council Offices, but there are car parks in the town around 5 minutes walk from the meeting location.

Hotels in and around Newry:

Canal Court Hotel, Merchants Quay, BT35 8HF 02830 251234

Belmont Hall B&B, 18 Downshire Road 02830 262163

Francis Court Hotel, 13 – 19 Francis Street, BT35 8BQ 02830 66326

Mourne Country Hotel, 52 Belfast Road, BT34 1TR 02830 267922

Please return this form to: Sinead Trainor, Secretary, NFLA All Ireland Forum -

sinead.trainor@nmandd.org Tel: 00 44 (0)2830 313096.

For more general queries of the seminar or the NFLA please contact the NFLA UK and Ireland Secretary, Sean Morris – s.morris4@manchester.gov.uk Tel: 00 44 (0)161 234 3244. <http://www.nuclearpolicy.info>

The NFLA thanks Newry, Mourne & Down District Council for agreeing to host this seminar and providing the Secretariat of the NFLA All Ireland Forum.

Draft agenda – 25th April 2017 – Craigavon Civic Centre

Proposed Host – Joanne Stuart

| | | | |
|---------------|--|--|--|
| 9.30am | Registration, tea and coffee | | |
| 10am | Welcome | | |
| 10.00 – 10.30 | Minister/Perm Sec <i>Outline of government policy and desired outcomes on shared services, innovation, open data and 'digital first' delivery</i> What is expected of councils? How will the citizen and the economy benefit? | | Finance Dept |
| 10.30 – 11.15 | Plenary one: The Challenges | | |
| | <i>Working together: sharing services, collaboration, governance</i> <i>Procurement</i> <i>Back office services</i> <i>Managing our information effectively</i> <i>Innovating for frontline delivery</i> <i>Capacity building</i> <i>Addressing the rural infrastructure deficit</i> | | SOLACE LGA Limerick CoCo NIHE NILGA/MUDC |
| 11.15 – 11.30 | Discussion | | |
| 11.30 – 11.45 | Tea and Coffee | | |
| 11.45 – 12.30 | Parallel session 1 | | |
| | <i>A. Data, driving transformation</i> <i>From protected to open</i> | <i>B. Habits of successful public sector innovation</i> <i>Service redesign</i> | |
| | Greater Manchester Mapping – Future Cities Open Data NI Open Government Network | NESTA Design Council LGA | |
| 12.30 – 1.15 | Lunch | | |
| 1.15 - 2.00 | Plenary 2: The Opportunity | | |
| | Meeting customer expectations Improving engagement Growing the economy | | SOLACE Economy Dept Councils |
| 2.00 – 2.15 | Discussion | | |
| 2.15 - 3.00 | Parallel session 2 | | |
| | <i>C. Innovation, driving the economy</i> | <i>D. Getting smarter, going circular</i> | |
| | Innovate Limerick DARE/SIB | Peterborough DNA SIB? | |
| 3.00 – 3.30pm | Reports from Parallel Sessions and Next Steps | | |

Journal of Neighbourhood Revitalization

Place and Space

Rural Revitalization Conference Dublin 26th May 2017

On the 26th May 2017 The Journal of Neighbourhood Revitalization is staging a one day conference called 'Rural Revitalization' at Dublin, which will focus on the range of issues that face the future development of rural towns and communities. 120 delegates are expected at the event, together with up to 20 speakers and 20 exhibitors. This will a great opportunity to listen to a range of key speakers on Rural Development and also learn and share good practice.

We will also be launching an new exciting Journal at the Conference called the 'Journal of Rural Revitalization' which will become a focus for the development and promotion of good practice and research in rural development. All proceedings of the day will feature in the Journal.

Details of the Conference and Journal can be found on the Twitter Feeds and https://twitter.com/rural_regen

The cost to attend as a delegate for the day is Euro 250 but until 1st April 2017 we are currently offering a free place for every one that you book and hope that you will take up this offer. The cost to have a display stand at the event is Euro 500. All who participate at the event will receive a free Annual E-subscription to the Journal of Rural Revitalization. There are also some speaker slots available. There are also 20 spaces available for students at a reduced rate of Euro 90.

If you wish to attend as a delegate, a speaker, take a display space or submit a paper to the Conference and Journal please email

Somme Association

Proposed Battlefield Trip

6-9 June 2017

Director of the Somme Association to let you know that we are considering a Battlefield tour for the forthcoming centenary of the Battle of Messines. The trip would be departing Belfast on 6th June and returning on 9th June.

The trip would include a black-tie dinner on the evening of 6th June and the state commemorations on 7th June, both will be attended by VVIP guests. The travel arrangements have not yet been made but will most likely be Belfast – London, the Euro Star to France, the accommodation will be 4 Star in Belgium or on the French/Belgian border.

At the moment we are trying to get an idea of the number of people who may be interested in taking part in this event and as you know we don't have time on our side. I would be grateful if you would let me know if your Council would be interested and if so, approximate numbers.

Policy Forum for Northern Ireland Keynote Seminar
The future for healthcare in Northern Ireland: implementing the *Delivering Together* recommendations

Timing: Morning, Wednesday, 28th June 2017

Venue: Belfast

Draft agenda subject to change

8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee

9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**

Senior Member of the Legislative Assembly

9.05 - 9.15 **Implementing *Delivering Together* in the context of current issues in health and social care**

Senior commentator

9.15 - 9.25 **The financial burden of emergency hospital admissions**

Kieran Donnelly, Comptroller and Auditor General, Northern Ireland
Audit Office

9.25 - 9.40

Questions and comments from the floor

9.40 - 10.35 **Addressing the challenges for reform: organisation, workforce and the commissioning of services**

Janice Smyth, Director, Royal College of Nursing, Northern Ireland
Dean Sullivan, Director of Commissioning, Health and Social Care Board

Senior representative, health and social care trust

Senior representative, patients

Senior representative, union

Questions and comments from the floor

10.35 - 10.40 **Chair's closing remarks**

Senior Member of the Legislative Assembly

10.40 - 11.10 Coffee

11.10 - 11.15 **Chair's opening remarks**

Senior Member of the Legislative Assembly

Key issues for regulation and patient safety

11.15 - 11.35 Senior representative, inspection

Questions and comments from the floor

11.35 - 12.25 **Priorities for primary, community and adult social care**

Dr Laurence Dorman, Deputy Chair, Royal College of General Practitioners Northern Ireland

Colum Conway, Chief Executive, Northern Ireland Social Care Council

Senior representative, community pharmacy

Senior representative, allied health professionals

Senior representative, health and social care trust

Questions and comments from the floor

12.25 - **Implementing the *Delivering Together* recommendations**

12.55 **Mark Taylor**, Lead Clinician, Mater Hospital, Belfast; Secretary, Great Britain and Ireland Hepato Pancreato Biliary Association and Member, Transformation Advisory Board, Department of Health
Questions and comments from the floor

12.55 - **Chair's and Policy Forum for Northern Ireland closing remarks**

13.00 Senior Member of the Legislative Assembly

Sean Cudmore, Deputy Editor, Policy Forum for Northern Ireland

Booking arrangements

To book places, please use our [online booking form](#).

Once submitted, this will be taken as a confirmed booking and will be subject to our terms and conditions below.

Options and charges are as follows:

- Places at *The future for healthcare in Northern Ireland: implementing the Delivering Together recommendations* (including refreshments and PDF copy of the transcripts) are **£210** plus VAT;
- Concessionary rate places for small charities, unfunded individuals and those in similar circumstances are **£80** plus VAT. Please be sure to apply for this at the time of booking.

For those who cannot attend:

- Copies of the [briefing document](#), including full transcripts of all speeches and the questions and comments sessions and further articles from interested parties, will be available approximately **10 days** after the event for **£95** plus VAT;
- Concessionary rate: **£50** plus VAT.

If you find the charge for places a barrier to attending, please let me know as concessionary and complimentary places are made available in certain circumstances (but do be advised that this typically applies to individual service users or carers or the like who are not supported by or part of an organisation, full-time students, people between jobs or who are fully retired with no paid work, and representatives of small charities - not businesses, individuals funded by an organisation, or larger charities/not-for-profit companies). Please note terms and conditions below (including **cancellation charges**).

Fees;

€10 per half day session

Discounted to €50 for full 6 sessions
inc. The Trial of the Orange Order

Seafood Banquet €40 available only to participants

For online registration email;
info@carlingfordheritagecentre.com



For general enquiries please contact;

Summer School Director;
tommyfegan@gmail.com

www.thomasdarcymcgee.com/summer-school-2017

**For info on booking accommodation
please contact;**

The Cooley Peninsula Tourist Office,
Station House, Carlingford, Co. Louth
Tel: 00353 (0) 42 937 3033

Email: info@carlingfordheritagecentre.com
www.carlingford.ie/index.php/contact-us



The year 2017 marks the 150th anniversary of Confederation in Canada and of a Fenian Rising in Ireland. Thomas D'Arcy McGee was deeply involved in both events — as a Father of Confederation, and as an implacable opponent of Fenianism. Canadian Confederation, he believed, could provide a model for Ireland that would undercut Fenian revolutionaries and pave the way for Irish home rule. This year's D'Arcy McGee Summer School explores the hidden connections between constitutional change in Canada and revolutionary movements in Ireland, and their significance for both countries.

Design by

*JCallaghan
Photography*

Thomas D'Arcy McGee 6th Annual Summer School

Celebrating Canada's 150th Birthday

Canadian Confederation & Irish Fenianism

Heritage Centre, Carlingford, Co. Louth
August 21st — 23rd, 2017



2017 Special Guest Speaker

Gen. John de Chastelain, former
Chairman of the Independent International
Commission on Decommissioning



Monday 21st August

10.00 Official Opening; **His Excellency, Kevin Vickers**, Canadian Ambassador to Ireland

10.20 Keynote Speech by **David Wilson**, University of Toronto; *Canadian Confederation and Cork Gunshops: D'Arcy McGee and the 'Canadian view of Irish misrule'*

11.00 **William Jenkins** Associate Professor, Geography Member, Graduate Programs in Geography and History, York University Toronto; *Fenian Views of Canadian Confederation*

12.00 Open Forum

13.00 Lunch

14.00 **Anthony Russell**, author, historian, Newry; *John Mitchel - The Reluctant American Fenian*

14.30 **Wilf Neidhardt**, former Head of the History Department at Northview Heights Collegiate in Toronto; *The Fenian Brotherhood and Canadian Confederation: A Reassessment*

15.00 **Elizabeth (Liz) Smyth**, Professor and Vice Dean, School of Graduate Studies, University of Toronto; *Irish Women Religious and Canadian Confederation*

15.30 Open Forum

18.00 Reception Thomas D'Arcy McGee Exhibition Centre
Guest Speaker TBC

19.30 Seafood Banquet, Carlingford Sailing Club
Sampling the best of food in and around the Lough in the spectacular setting of Carlingford Sailing Club

After-Dinner Speaker; **Gen John de Chastelain**, Ottawa. Chairman Independent International Commission on Decommissioning, (1997-2011), Chief of the Defence Staff, Canadian Armed Forces, (1989-1992), Canada's Ambassador to the USA, 1993 and Chief of the Defence Staff again from 1994 to 1995.

Introduction & Vote of Thanks, Ray Bassett, Former Irish Ambassador to Canada

Tuesday 22nd August

09.30 **D'Arcy McGee Quinn**; *A Family Perspective*

10.00 **Mark O'Neill**, President, CEO Canadian Museum of History and the Canadian War Museum; *Canada 150th Celebrations*

10.45 Coffee Break

11.00 **Grant Vogl**; Collections and Exhibitions Manager, Bytown Museum, Ottawa; *The Irish contribution to the development of Bytown/Ottawa*

12.00 Open Forum

13.00 Lunch

14.00 **Patrick Mannion** Boston College, Boston, *Newfoundland's Opposition to Canadian Confederation in the Twentieth Century: Fenian Legacies and the Diaries of Aloysius O'Brien*

14.30 **Pat Kelly**, Ottawa; *The Irish in Canada*

15.00 **Siobhan Mulligan**, Concordia University, Montréal; *The Irish language in Canada*

Open Forum

19.00 Courthouse Drama; Old Courthouse, Carlingford; *The Trial of the Orange Order*. Specially commissioned drama by Anthony Russell (Playwright, *The Trial of Pádraig Pearse*, 2016)

21.00 Folk 'n Irish Music Night; Gerry O'Connor, Colm Sands & Friends



Some details may be subject to change

Wednesday 22nd August

09.30 Chairman; **Ray Bassett**, former Irish Ambassador to Canada

Politicians from Ireland and Canada. Speakers TBC

Open Forum

12.30 Summary **David Wilson**

13.00 **Party on the Green**; Participants join locals for a Party on the Green to celebrate Canada 150. Actors in costume, buskers, pipe bands from north and south, choirs and fanfare.

15.30 End



Appendix B

| Conference & Seminar | Date | No. of Attendees | Location | Attendance Fee (Yes/ No) |
|---|-----------------------------|---|----------|--------------------------|
| Arts Marketing Association Conference | 25-27 th July 17 | 1 x Culture & Leisure 1 x Comms & Marketing* | Belfast | £391 + vat |
| Foundations for Innovation Digital Conference | 25 th April 17 | 2 | Belfast | NILGA Event |
| Sports Safety Conference | 24 th March 17 | 1 | Belfast | Free |
| CIWN Spring Conference & Exhibition | 29 th March 17 | 3 | Belfast | Free |

Retrospective Approval

| Conference & Seminar | Date | No. of Attendees | Location | Attendance Fee (Yes/ No) |
|---|------------------------|------------------|----------|--------------------------|
| Development Trust NI Annual Conference 2017 | 23 rd March | 1 | Belfast | £55 |

*to be agreed at SMT on Monday 20th

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|--------------------------|--|
| Subject | Consideration of Requests for Civic Recognition – March 2017 |
| Reporting Officer | P Moffett, Head of Democratic Services |
| Contact Officer | E Forde, Member Support Officer |

| 1 | Purpose of Report |
|-----|--|
| 1.1 | To consider approval of request(s) for civic recognition from members, in line with council Receptions Policy. |

| 2 | Background |
|-----|---|
| 2.1 | The Receptions Policy was reviewed and subsequently agreed at the December 2016 council meeting. All requests for civic recognition are to be now forwarded to Democratic Services to appear on a report for presentation to council for consideration and approval. |
| 2.2 | The policy confirms 3 categories of reception offered by the Council: (1) Civic Receptions (2) Chair and Deputy Chair Reception (3) Civic Awards |
| 2.3 | Appendix A to this report details those request(s) received for notification to and approval by council. The request(s) have been categorised in line with established conditions/ criteria required to be met to receive a Civic Reception, Chair & Deputy Chair Reception or Civic Award. |

| 3 | Key Issues |
|-----|--|
| 3.1 | Implementation of the Receptions Policy facilitates the Council in acknowledging the achievements of organisations and persons from the district, as put forward by members. |
| 3.2 | Civic Recognition requests received from members since the last meeting of council have been categorised, details of which are set out within appendix A to this report. |

| 4 | Resources |
|-----|--|
| 4.1 | <u>Financial – N/A</u> |
| 4.2 | <u>Human – N/A</u> |
| 4.3 | <u>Basis for Professional/ Consultancy Support – N/A</u> |

| | |
|-----|---------------------------|
| 4.4 | <u>Other – N/A</u> |
|-----|---------------------------|

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| 5 | Other Considerations |
| 5.1 | Not Applicable |

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| 6 | Recommendations |
| 6.1 | That consideration be given to approving request(s) for civic recognition. |

| | |
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| 7 | List of Documents Attached |
| 7.1 | Appendix A Submitted Requests |

March 2017 - Requests for Civic Recognition Submitted: For Approval

Category: Civic Reception

| Proposed Recipient | Achievement | Submitted by | Condition/Criteria Met | Recipient Previously Acknowledged |
|-----------------------|-------------|--------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <i>None to Report</i> | | | | For: Date: |

Category: Civic Award

| Proposed Recipient | Achievement | Submitted by | Condition/Criteria Met | Recipient Previously Acknowledged |
|---------------------------------|--|----------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Fianna Ladies | Tyrone Senior Championship 2015/16 | ClIr M Quinn | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Won a competition at a Northern Ireland or provincial level | For: N/A Date: N/A |
| Stewartstown Harps Under 21s | Grade 1 - Tyrone Championship 2016/2017 Also semi-finalists of the Under 21 Ulster Champions | ClIr M Quinn | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Won and attained an outstanding achievement at a Northern Ireland or provincial level | For: N/A Date: N/A |
| Donaghmore Scór na nÓg | All Ireland Instrumental Champions | ClIr Gillespie | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Won a competition at a Northern Ireland or provincial level | For: N/A Date: N/A |
| Darren Rafferty Island Wheelers | Irish National cyclo-cross Championship Gold Medalist and Irish National Under 14 boys cyclo cross | ClIr Gillespie | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Won a competition at a Northern Ireland or provincial level | For: N/A Date: N/A |
| Maria McAllister | Irish National cyclo-cross Championship | ClIr Gillespie | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Won and attained an outstanding achievement at a | For: N/A |

| | | | | |
|-------------------------|--|----------------|---|---|
| | Silver medallist and runner-up in the Under 14 girls cyclo cross championship | | Northern Ireland or provincial level | Date: N/A |
| Adam Rafferty | Irish National cyclo-cross Championship Gold medallist in the Under 12 boys cyclo cross championship | Cllr Gillespie | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Won a competition at a Northern Ireland or provincial level | For: N/A Date: N/A |
| Aliyah Rafferty | Irish National cyclo-cross Championship Gold Medallist in the Under 10 girls cylco cross championship | Cllr Gillespie | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Won a competition at a Northern Ireland or provincial level | For: N/A Date: N/A |
| St Mary's College Clady | Ulster Under 19 Colleges' Camogie Champions | Cllr Kearney | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Won a competition at a Northern Ireland or provincial level | For: N/A Date: N/A |
| Watty Graham's Maghera | Ulster Under 21 Football Champions | Cllr Kearney | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Won a competition at a Northern Ireland or provincial level | For: The ladies team was previously acknowledged on Date: 1 February |
| Dylan Gillespie | Runner up in Premier Young Butcher Competition (UK wide competition) | Cllr Wilson | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attained an outstanding achievement at a Northern Ireland or provincial level | For: N/A Date: N/A |

Category: Chair & Deputy Chair Reception

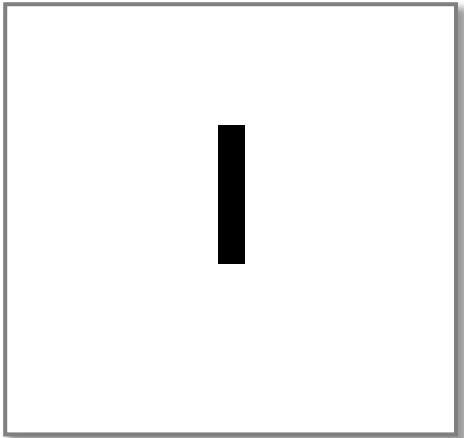
| Proposed Recipient | Achievement | Submitted by | Condition/Criteria Met | Recipient Previously Acknowledged |
|-----------------------|-------------|--------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <i>None to report</i> | | | | For: N/A Date: N/A |

Other: Letter from Council Chair

Where it is deemed that conditions/criteria have not been met for a civic reception, civic award or chair & deputy chair reception a letter from the Council Chair is recommended. This may also be in instances where recipients have previously received a reception or award for the same or similar achievement.

| Proposed Recipient | Achievement | Submitted by |
|-----------------------|-------------|--------------|
| <i>None to report</i> | | |
| | | |

End.



| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Subject | Response to Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government on National Planning Framework – Issues and Choices Consultation |
| Reporting Officer | Chris Boomer, Planning Manager |
| Contact Officer | Sinead McEvoy Head of Development Plan & Enforcement |

| | |
|----------|--|
| 1 | Purpose of Report |
| 1.1 | To provide members with a response to the consultation by Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government on their National Planning Framework – Issues and Choices Paper. |

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| 2 | Background |
| 2.1 | On 2 nd February 2017 the Department launched a consultation of their National Planning Framework Issues and Choices Paper called Ireland 2040 Our Plan. The extended period for response to the consultation will end on 31 March 2017. |
| 2.2 | The paper states that its purpose is to set out the main issues and possible choices for the development of Ireland as a place until 2040. It is intended that the 'Ireland 2040' Plan will be a high level document that will provide the framework for future development and investment in Ireland; city and county plans and regional strategies will take their lead from it. |
| 2.3 | The paper requests that submissions responding to the consultation should relate to matters that are: of national significance, are strategic in nature, have a spatial or place-based focus. |

| | |
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| 3 | Key Issues |
| 3.1 | While Mid Ulster falls outwith the jurisdiction of the future National Planning Framework the opportunity to comment on this first stage in its preparation is welcomed given the position of our District in Northern Ireland and at a key gateway on the border between the two jurisdictions. The economic strengths and regional identity of Mid Ulster and the neighbouring counties of Fermanagh, Monaghan and Cavan deserves recognition. Mid Ulster has been a growth centre because of the success of its agri-food industry, and in relation to mineral extraction, quarry products and related engineering, all of which provide export revenue and employment income around Mid Ulster. A key strength of Mid Ulster is its central position and it's relationship with industry in Fermanagh, Monaghan and Cavan. Road linkages and infrastructure has an important role in this. |

| | |
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| 3.2 | <p>The inclusion of a section within the NPF Paper entitled 'Ireland in an All-Island Context' is welcomed. In an all-island context the Paper states that the following issues (relevant to Northern Ireland) may need to be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The strategic potential of the Dublin-Belfast (eastern seaboard) corridor and how it can be developed to better influence planning decisions between the two Capital cities on the island of Ireland; • The need to look beyond administrative boundaries for effective development of regions by working together through structures such as the North West Gateway Initiative and the North West Strategic Growth Partnership in partnership with local government (Donegal-Derry/Londonderry & Strabane); • Greater alignment of infrastructure planning which underpins the objectives of both the NPF and Regional Development Strategy in Northern Ireland to address mutual cross border spatial challenges; • The potential for cross-border or all-island clustering of economic activity and how best the NPF can help build the long term economic resilience of areas along our borders; • Joint thinking and management approaches to environmental management and protection. |
| 3.3 | <p>At the end of the section entitled 'Ireland in an All-Island Context' a number of questions are posed and the proposed answers to them are set out below. The key question in the view of this Council is where growth should be accommodated. It is the Councils view that population needs to be linked to economic growth and social provision in order to provide sustainable communities. In doing so an attempt should be made to balance growth across the island and attention should be given to existing resources and economic opportunities that exist in Midland and border regions rather than the driver being the motor car and commuter distance.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <p>1. How can the NPF facilitate co-ordination between settlements that share connections across the border between Northern Ireland and Ireland and how should this be reflected in the document?</p> <p>Road linkages and infrastructure are key to facilitating co-ordination and to ensuring that connections between Ireland and the 'north-west' are continued and utilised to mutual advantage. The upgrade of the N2/A5 corridor is key to this and Mid Ulster District Council consider that a commitment to its upgrade should be firmly reflected in the future NPF. In addition, within Mid Ulster the A29 is a very important north-south road corridor within the district and its upgrade to allow for the 3 towns (Dungannon, Cookstown, Magherafelt) within our district to act as a cluster is considered to be strategic issue which should be addressed in a joined up manner by central government in Northern Ireland. The upgrade of the entire length of the A29 would allow important linkages to Armagh, Newry and beyond to Dundalk to be further enhanced. Connecting our towns and cities and ports in an all island context has mutual economic benefits to both jurisdictions.</p> <p>2. What economic opportunities and sectoral clusters exist that can benefit economies within both jurisdictions and how can this be best captured and supported in the NPF?</p> <p>In preparing a new Local Development Plan for Mid Ulster this council see the challenges facing us as: accommodating growth and creating quality places; creating jobs and enhancing prosperity and enhancing our environment and improving our infrastructure. In Mid Ulster our engineering businesses are considered global leaders in high growth export sectors, especially in material</p> |

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| | <p>handling. We are the top area in the region for enterprise development and entrepreneurship and we have three growing vibrant and economically active towns that have the potential to facilitate a urban cluster hub within the district. Development cross border cooperation for economic growth is an important action within our draft Community Plan. As with the answer to question 1 above, enhanced and improved road linkages and infrastructure are key to the success of this and to allow for mutual benefit between both jurisdictions.</p> <p>3. What mechanisms are needed to ensure a joined-up approach to strategic infrastructure and investment decisions that have a cross-border dimension and are there examples of best practice?</p> <p>Mid Ulster District Council consider that the future NPF should state a firm commitment to the N2/A5 corridor both for the mutual economic benefits it will bring to both jurisdictions but also for the well-publicised road safety reasons. The detail of this has been set out in the submission by ICBAN to this consultation and Mid Ulster Council as members of ICBAN endorse the comments made in that submission.</p> <p>4. How do we co-ordinate mutually beneficial ways to address common environmental challenges across shared catchments?</p> <p>One of the facets of the vision shared between the draft Mid Ulster Community Plan and the forthcoming Mid Ulster Local Development Plan 2030 is that our environment and heritage are sustained. The preparation of a new LDP for Mid Ulster is at an early stage and in the recent Preferred Options Paper consultation document the Council has recognised the need to protect open space and river corridors, archaeology and built heritage, historic parks and Demenses and international and national natural heritage designations and species. Mid Ulster share some important river corridors, landscapes and natural heritage designations with the border regions and their appropriate protection is considered to be of mutual importance.</p> <p>Mid Ulster Council intends to shortly invite Monaghan County Council and Fermanagh and Omagh District Council to a forum to discuss common/shared cross boundary/border issues. The council would value recognition being given to collaboration between councils and across borders to protect environmental assets.</p> |
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| 4 | Resources |
| 4.1 | <p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>None</p> |
| 4.2 | <p><u>Human</u></p> <p>None</p> |
| 4.3 | <u>Basis for Professional/ Consultancy Support</u> |

| | |
|-----|---------------------|
| | None |
| 4.4 | <u>Other</u> |
| | None |

| | |
|----------|-----------------------------|
| 5 | Other Considerations |
| 5.1 | N/A |

| | |
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| 6 | Recommendations |
| 6.1 | Members are requested to note the contents of this report and agree that the information set out in the Key Issues at Section 3 of this report forms the basis of the Councils' response to the consultation. |

| | |
|----------|--|
| 7 | List of Documents Attached |
| 7.1 | The following documents are attached: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ireland 2040 Our Plan – National Planning Framework – Issues and Choices Paper |

Ireland 2040 Our Plan



NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK

Ireland 2040 Our Plan **Issues and Choices**

February 2017



An Roinn Tithíochta, Pleanála,
Pobail agus Rialtais Áitiúil
Department of Housing, Planning,
Community and Local Government

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Minister's Foreword



What will Ireland be like in 20 years' time? It's a fundamental question that no one can answer for sure but, based on what we do know now, we can make informed and strategic choices now about what kind of challenges and opportunities we will face in the future. For example, we know that there will be more of us - as many as a million additional people in Ireland and we will be on average older, with the number of people over 65 double current levels. But where will they live? Where should they live? How will they access the services they need? How will they move around?

We can expect this and many other changes in the coming years, so it is essential to set out an overall long-term plan for the country. It's also clear that in addition to a greater choice of housing types and employment opportunities, our growing population will need more school and third-level places and better infrastructure of all kinds, including transport, energy, communications, healthcare and recreational facilities.

If we want our country to be the best it can be, we must ensure that development and services are located where all of our people can best be served. In other words, that the right development can take place in the right places, at the right time.

The fact is that we have not always grasped the opportunity that good forward planning can give. This has stopped us from reaching our full potential in economic, social, cultural and spatial terms. I firmly believe that if we continue to do things as we have over the past twenty years, we are almost certain to get more of the same over the next twenty, and compound many of the quality of life difficulties we currently face. A continuation of 'business as usual' will not deliver the national vision and goals we all share, such as improved living standards, a desire for people to live in safe, vibrant communities and to experience life-long health and well-being. Nor will we develop the capacity to meet our environmental obligations or be able to respond to climate change. Recognising that the same level or even type of growth can't occur everywhere, some degree of prioritisation and some hard choices will be necessary. So too will be the need to replace the concept of balanced regional development with the idea of effective regional development - playing to strengths rather than assuming that a single model suits all areas.

We have a unique and exciting opportunity now to plan for a better future for all - to start to move away from it will require some big decisions to be made that can be carried forward and implemented over a long period of time. This means that we first need to plan to do things differently.

As a nation, we have the opportunity to look ahead and shape long-term planning over the next twenty years or more, in the form of the Ireland 2040 Plan. The issues set out in this initial consultation paper prompt us to honestly ask ourselves some key questions about what should Ireland be like in 20 years' time. If we can envisage the type of outcomes that we would wish to see, then we can start to identify the steps that we might take to get there.

As well as considering what future we want for our people and communities, this process will have implications for the types of infrastructure that we may need in the future, how we relate to our environment and how we adapt to the pressures and costs of climate change. We must also consider interactions with Northern Ireland and our wider marine territory. It will be critical to identify what needs to be done to ensure that we can put a coherent plan into practice and to achieve success.

Whilst we can predict that much will change, the values we share as a society will largely remain intact. In an increasingly globalised but uncertain world, our sense of belonging to both community and place, our unique artistic and cultural inheritance and the value we place on social justice, a European model of inclusion and 'fair play' are key 'place-making' assets that set us apart. Our distinctive values and strengths - distinctly Irish, proudly European, outward looking, welcoming, dynamic, progressive, flexible, problem solvers, opportunity makers, community builders, cultural creators - will both inform and require a uniquely Irish approach to planning for our country's and our communities' future.

I encourage all of you to consider what kind of Ireland you want see in 2040 and give your views on the critical issues outlined in this paper and have your say on how we can best plan for Ireland's development out to 2040 and beyond.

Simon Coveney T.D.

Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government



1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

- 1.1.1 The purpose of this paper is to set out the main issues and possible choices for the development of Ireland as a place, beyond 100 years of statehood over the next twenty years or more, to 2040. This is the first major step towards the preparation of a national spatial plan for the Country, taking into account a range of social, economic and environmental factors, with the term 'spatial', meaning 'space' or 'place'.
- 1.1.1 It is intended that the Ireland 2040 Plan will be a high-level document that will provide the framework for future development and investment in Ireland. It will be the overall Plan from which other, more detailed plans will take their lead, hence the title, National Planning 'Framework', including city and county development plans and regional strategies. The National Planning Framework will also have statutory backing.
- 1.1.2 The Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government is leading the preparation of the National Planning Framework, or 'NPF', on behalf of Government, with input from other Departments and Agencies. It will be particularly relevant where there is a long term and place-based aspect to public policy and investment, including areas such as housing, jobs, transport, education, health, environment, energy and communications.
- 1.1.3 One of the principal purposes of preparing the NPF will be to co-ordinate all of these specific departmental or 'sectoral' areas into an overall strategy. This will allow shared national development goals, including improved living standards, quality of life, prosperity, competitiveness and environmental sustainability, to be more broadly considered. This will also provide greater clarity for private sector investment.
- 1.1.4 The National Planning Framework will also be a tool to assist the achievement of more effective regional development. In order to ensure that positive outcomes arising from national growth can be shared by people throughout Ireland, the potential of all areas will need to be realised, relative to their capacity for sustainable development.
- 1.1.5 By looking ahead in a co-ordinated and strategic manner, the NPF will seek to identify how best to work towards all of these shared goals for the benefit of the Country as a whole. To ensure implementation, the Framework will need to credibly connect these goals to places.

- 1.1.6 It is not possible to describe with absolute certainty the sort of place Ireland will be in 2040, but the long term nature of strategic planning is such that choices and decisions made now, will directly influence future outcomes. Accordingly, it is suggested that the most important question that needs to be asked at the outset of the National Planning Framework process is what the vision should be:-

*What sort of place should Ireland be in 2040
and what do we need to do to achieve this?*

1.2 Consultation Process

- 1.2.1 This issues and choices paper is a consultation document that has been prepared in advance of drafting a new National Planning Framework. Consultation a critical step in the preparation and drafting of the NPF and this initial consultation seeks to prompt national debate and discussion in relation to the future spatial development of Ireland.
- 1.2.2 This issues and choices paper has been designed to provide members of the public and all interested parties an overview of some of the main national planning issues that affect Ireland today. It also provides the opportunity to submit comments and suggestions on the issues raised and other topics that are considered relevant to the National Planning Framework. It is requested that submissions would be made in writing and would relate to matters that:-
- are of national significance;
 - are strategic in nature; and
 - have a 'spatial' or place-based focus.

1.3 Submissions

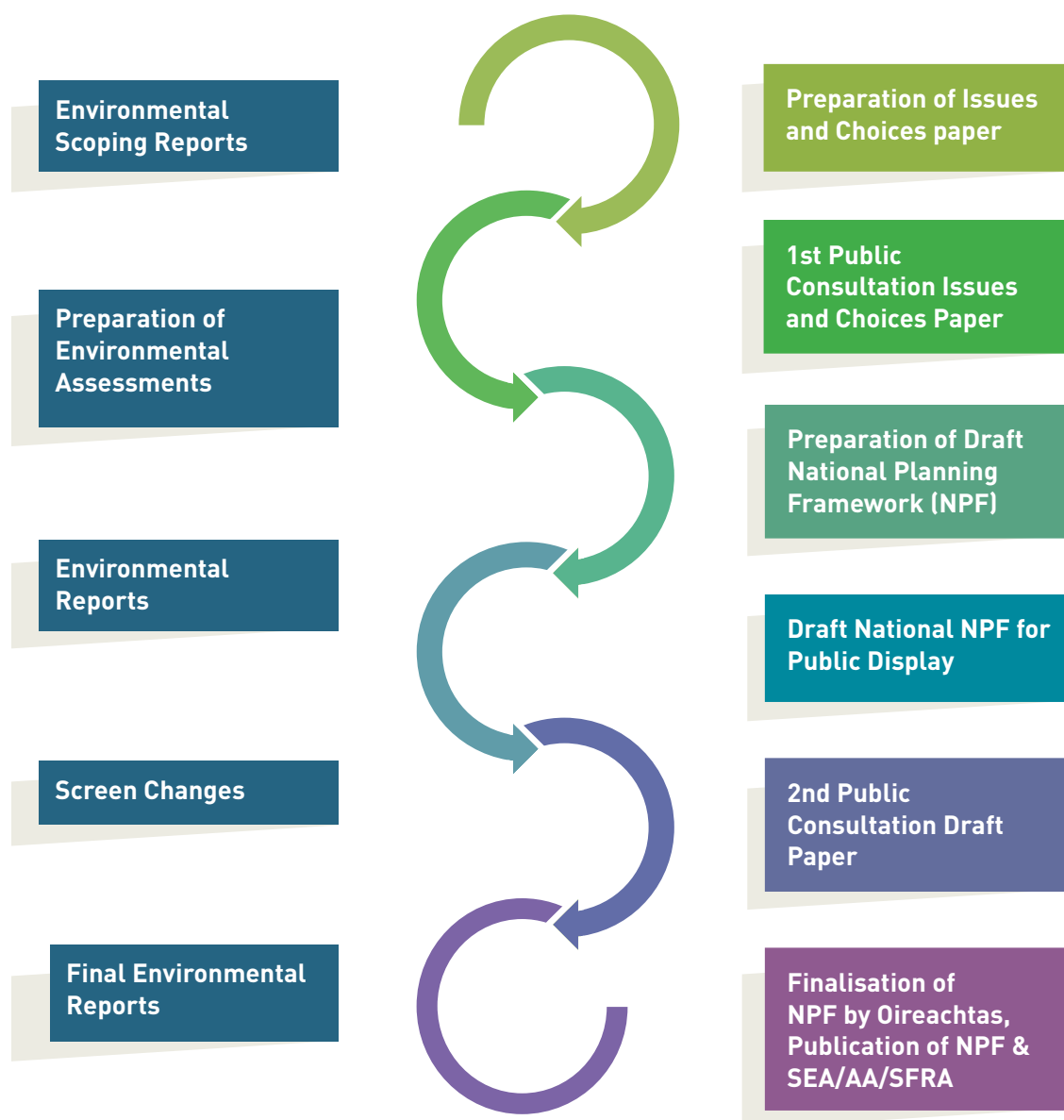
- 1.3.1 Written submissions at this first stage of the National Planning Framework process can be made between 9am on Thursday 2nd February 2017 and 12 noon on Thursday 16th March 2017.
- 1.3.2 You can make a submission by:
1. Going on-line:- just log on to our website www.ireland2040.ie and follow the instructions provided;
 - Or,
 2. Email to the following email address only npf@housing.gov.ie;
 - Or,
 3. Writing to the following address:
- NPF Submissions,
Forward Planning Section,
Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government,
Custom House,
Dublin D01 W6X0.**
- 1.3.3 The deadline for receipt of all submissions is 12 noon on Thursday 16th March 2017. We cannot accept submissions for this pre-draft stage beyond that deadline. Please make your submission by one medium only, either electronic or hard copy.
- All submissions must include the following:
- Your name and details of any organisation, community group or company you represent.
 - An address for correspondence.
 - Your submission on relevant planning issues for the National Planning Framework.

- 1.3.4 There will be further opportunities for the public and all interested parties to make a submission on the strategic planning and policy direction of the NPF, at a later stage in the process.

Please note submissions may be published on our website and subject to Freedom of Information. Receipt of submissions will be acknowledged but it will not be possible to issue individual responses.

Figure 1:

Key phases and milestones for preparing the National Planning Framework

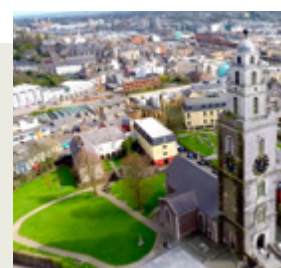
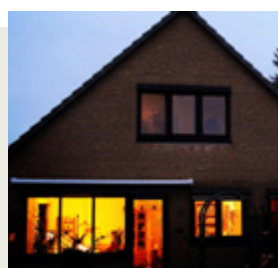


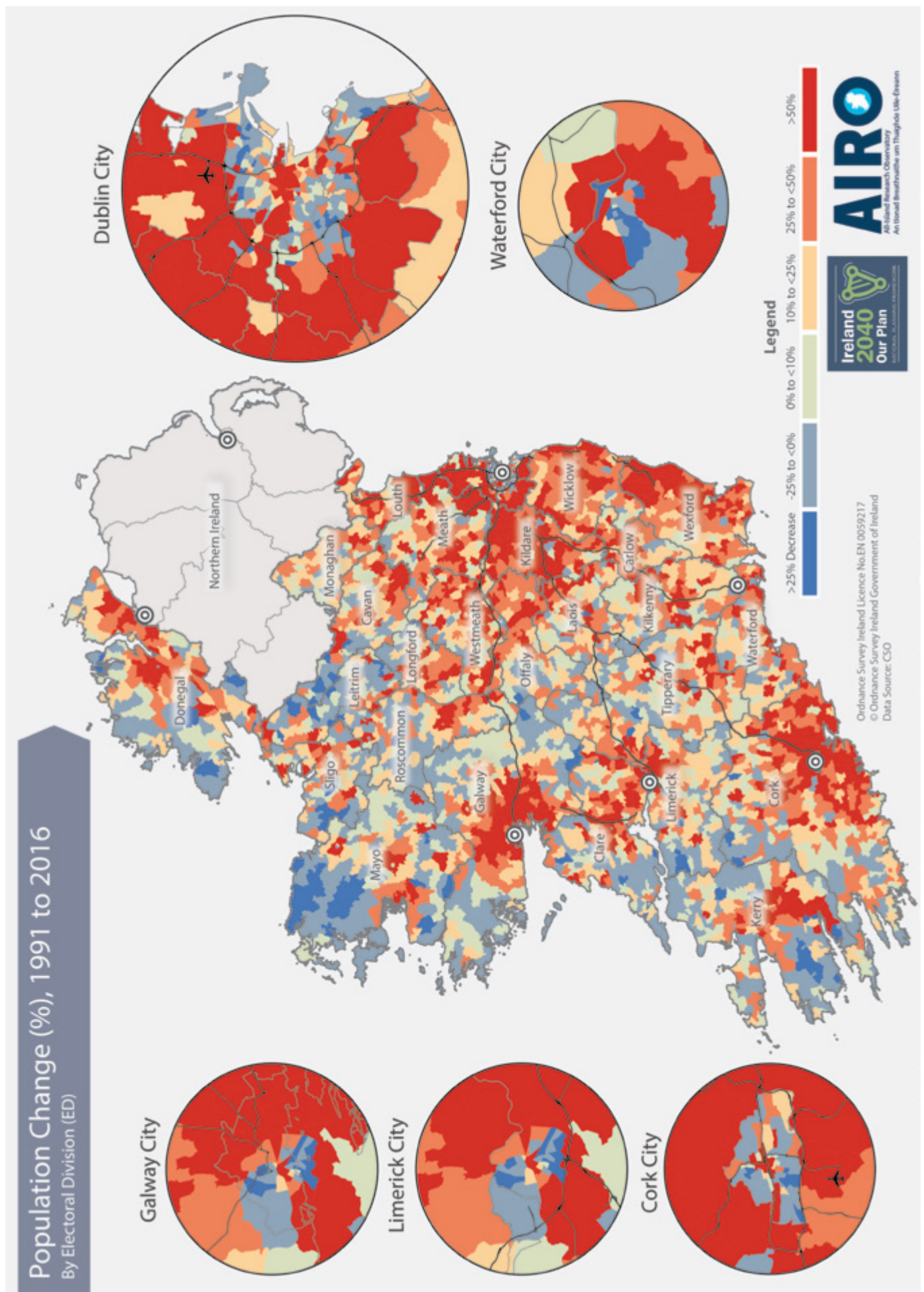
2

Ireland's National Planning Challenges

2.1 Future Change and Growth

- 2.1.1 Ireland's society and economy have been transformed in recent decades. Over the course of two generations, we have become a more educated, outward looking, dynamic, technologically focused and diverse Country. This adaptability and capacity for change has enabled Ireland to become relatively prosperous and successful, with the stability and resilience to overcome serious crises that have challenged us as a Nation.
- 2.1.2 Ireland is now seen as an advanced, developed Country, an established member of the European Union, uniquely positioned with strong economic, social and cultural links to the UK, Europe and the US. The context within which we operate continues to change and it is important that Ireland continues to position itself for growth and success in an increasingly competitive global environment.
- 2.1.3 The principal purpose of economic success is to ensure sustained improvement in living standards and quality of life for all of our citizens. This also provides the best possible platform from which to pursue key social and environmental goals, such as tackling disadvantage and responding to climate change.
- 2.1.4 Continued progress will require us to identify new ways to enable improved performance to achieve outcomes that make a difference at a national scale. Preparing and implementing a National Planning Framework that can influence the spatial pattern of development throughout the Country, presents such an opportunity.
- 2.1.5 The scale of Ireland's growth since the early 1990's has been unprecedented, notwithstanding the impact of economic recession. Our population has increased by more than 1.1 million people, to 4.75 million. Our housing stock has expanded by more than 750,000, to just over two million homes. Numbers in employment have also grown by more than 660,000, to more than two million people in 2017.





- 2.1.6** It is hugely significant that growth and change is set to continue. There will be more people, who will be more diverse and older and will need more homes and more jobs, supported by new infrastructure, services and facilities. In Ireland, over the next twenty years:-
- The population is expected to increase by more than three-quarters of a million people to around 5.6 million, but could be higher;
 - The number of people over the age of 65 will double to be well over one million;
 - The average number of people per occupied household, i.e. average household size, is likely to reduce to around 2 people per dwelling (it is currently around 2.7);
 - There will be a need for an absolute minimum of half a million new homes, which is at least 25,000 additional homes, every year;
 - There will be more people at work than ever before, exceeding the previous (Q1 2008) maximum of almost 2.2 million and with continued growth, likely to be more than 2.5 million in total;
 - Demand for places in third level education will peak in the mid-late 2020s;
 - Migration will shape how the population grows and changes;
 - There will be an increased emphasis on health and well-being, including more active lifestyles and a focus on mental health, especially as people live longer;
 - There will be a need to align development strategies with social strategies, including in relation to the integration of migrant communities and supporting access and opportunity for people with disabilities;
 - Environmental requirements relating to improved air and water quality, soils, biodiversity and habitat protection will need to be met;
 - There will be a need to adapt to climate change and meet targets for emissions reduction, energy efficiency and renewables, with a view to a low carbon and climate resilient sustainable Ireland by 2050.
- 2.1.7** In order to address projected future growth and change in Ireland, the National Planning Framework will need to enable public and private policy and investment decisions with a place-based dimension, to be guided and prioritised in a manner that can benefit the Country as a whole.

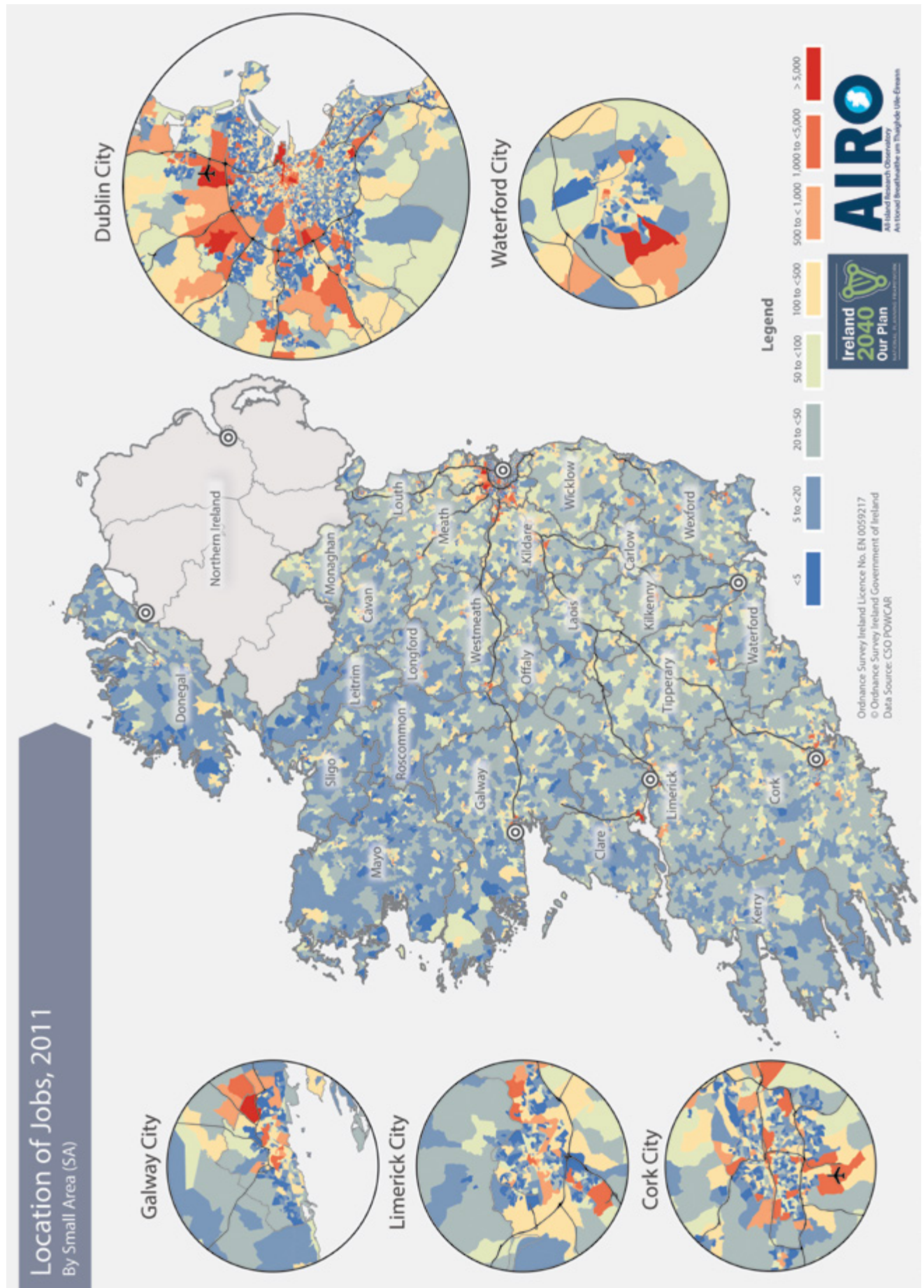
2.2 Recent Development Pattern

- 2.2.1** Growth and change will occur irrespective of whether there is a National Planning Framework in place or not and will further impact the spatial pattern of development in Ireland. In the absence of an agreed and effective National Planning Framework, it is likely that current trends will continue. The defining pattern of spatial development in Ireland in recent decades has been that:-
- Settlement, i.e. where people live, has generally become more spread out, and employment, i.e. where people work, has generally become more concentrated into a smaller number of areas;
 - Whilst population growth has been focused on larger urban centres, it has mainly occurred in the surrounding 'hinterlands'. This means at the edge of the settlement or in the surrounding towns and rural areas;
 - Employment growth has been most prominent in larger centres, but has mainly occurred at the settlement edge or closer to central areas;
 - Decline has generally occurred in less accessible rural areas; smaller towns outside the hinterlands of the cities or larger towns; and in some of the more established, inner urban parts of cities and large towns;

- There has been an increasing concentration of population and economic activity in the East of the Country, with much of the growth associated with Dublin being accommodated in ten other counties, extending from Cavan to Wexford.

A continuation of this spatial pattern is described as the 'business as usual' scenario.

- 2.2.2** The largest increases in population over the past twenty years have been in Fingal (North County Dublin), Cork outside the Cork City Council area), Kildare and Meath. Over the same period, Meath, Fingal and Kildare, together with Laois, have also had the highest rates of population growth in percentage terms.
- 2.2.3** Population growth in the five aforementioned Counties together with Galway County (i.e. excluding the Galway City Council area) accounted for just over half a million people, or 45% of the national total, over the past twenty years. This means that almost half of Ireland's additional people since 1996 have been accommodated in just six local authority areas, which together adjoin, but don't include the three Cities of Dublin, Cork and Galway.



- 2.2.4** Taken together with six other counties that comprise the wider Dublin commuter belt, this means that over the past twenty years, more than 60% of all national population growth occurred in areas accessible to the Dublin, Cork and Galway hinterlands, but not in the Cities themselves. The trend has been towards an overall pattern of suburbanisation, that may be described as 'sprawl'.
- 2.2.5** In the same way as the population of settlements surrounding the larger urban areas has grown, so too has that of rural areas surrounding the cities and larger towns. Rural areas and small towns less accessible to cities and larger towns are more likely to have experienced ongoing population decline over the past twenty years.
- 2.2.6** Although there had been overall population growth in every County over the fifteen years prior to 2011, since then, the five adjoining north-westernmost Counties of Donegal, Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim and Roscommon, together with Monaghan, have experienced a combined net population loss. Falling or very low growth means that these six Counties experienced a net reduction of 1,300 people since 2011.
- 2.2.7** It is clear that the development of the national motorway network over the past twenty years has influenced the settlement pattern, particularly in Leinster, on which it is primarily focused. There is an emerging concentration of population and economic activity along the M1 Dublin-Dundalk and M7/M9 Dublin-Portlaoise/Carlow corridors, reflecting a concentration of larger towns and their hinterlands.
- 2.2.8** Factors influencing settlement dispersal outside larger urban areas include housing affordability, especially relative to dwelling size, density and availability/supply. There is also a perceived higher quality of life when measured against concerns related to anti-social behaviour, traffic, or access to some services in urban areas. These preferences are facilitated by the prevalence of significant lands zoned for residential purposes adjoining most settlements and supportive local planning policies.
- 2.2.9** Although enterprise has become more mobile, employers are increasingly likely to locate where there are larger pools of labour. It has meant that in contrast to settlement, the spatial pattern of employment is mainly focused on the urban hierarchy of cities and large towns. In addition, it is increasingly common for employees to change jobs more often and where both partners in a couple work outside the home, they may wish to access employment appropriate to both of their needs. These factors further reinforce the tendency towards accessibility to the greater range of employment that is more likely to be in and around the larger urban areas.
- 2.2.10** Other factors driving the location of employment include scale, access to markets and suppliers, proximity to research and innovation and the availability of communications, transport, energy and water networks. When combined with a decline in the numbers employed in more traditional sectors related to agriculture, mining and in recent years, construction, the location of employment growth has been more fixed than that of settlement growth.

2.3 Business as Usual

- 2.3.1** Although a continuation of current trends, or 'Business as Usual' is a potential future scenario for growth and change in Ireland, this is not desirable, for a variety of reasons:-
- It has led to overdevelopment in some places and decline in others. This has meant that services and facilities may be rapidly required in many different areas, while may be underutilised elsewhere. This makes it costly and difficult to plan for future needs;
 - It has impacted on the efficient and timely provision of a range of services and facilities related to people's health and well-being;
 - It has resulted in people travelling longer distances, often by car, which has contributed to car dependence and traffic congestion as well as wasteful time and energy spent commuting;
 - It has made it difficult to provide viable, i.e. frequent, reliable, cost efficient and cost effective public transport in most places outside urban Dublin;

- It has not led to balanced rural or urban growth outcomes, especially outside the 'hinterland' areas surrounding the largest cities and towns;
- It has affected social cohesion and in some locations reinforced social disadvantage;
- It has affected the vitality, fabric and character of the established parts of many of our towns and cities, whereby commercial activity has relocated to edge locations in some cases or has withdrawn completely in others;
- It has led to the incremental loss of agricultural land, put pressure on water resources and on environmentally sensitive areas and contributed to increasing carbon emissions.

2.3.2 We cannot rely on Business as Usual to deliver shared national goals and it doesn't have to be inevitable, but to move away from it will require some big decisions to be made in the shorter term that can be carried forward over a long period of time. Through the NPF process, we now have the opportunity to look ahead and shape Ireland's future.

2.3.3 At this stage of the process, it is timely to consider what the alternative strategies to Business as Usual might be. In order to enable improved performance and make a difference at a national scale, these must include objectives that:-

- Facilitate improvements to people's quality of life and well-being;
- Prevent further overdevelopment and sprawl;
- Encourage population growth closer to where employment is located and is likely to be;
- Identify and support employment potential throughout Ireland, including greater regional employment growth;
- Identify measures to encourage both rural and urban regeneration to address decline;
- Achieve effective regional development;
- Relieve development pressure on the Eastern part of the Country whilst protecting the key role played by Dublin;
- Ensure good environmental stewardship by avoiding any further deterioration and addressing existing deficiencies;
- Reduce carbon emissions;
- Prioritise the development of infrastructure that can deliver national benefit – including renewable energies;
- Harness the planning system in order to maximise the role it can play in relation to climate change and renewable energy obligations;
- Manage the planning and development process so that the right development occurs in the most suitable places and at the right time, ensuring sustainability and best use of scarce resources.

2.4 Learning from our Experience

2.4.1 It has been almost fifteen years since the first national spatial plan for Ireland, the National Spatial Strategy, or 'NSS' was prepared in 2002. The NSS sought to achieve a better balance of social, economic and physical development through the identification of nine 'gateways' comprising twelve cities and towns and nine 'hubs' comprising eleven towns. Each was to be built up with critical scale and mass to provide a focus to influence wider regional development.

2.4.2 The NSS was important because it established spatial planning at a national level in Ireland, but was significantly hampered by a number of factors. These included proposals for the decentralisation of the civil service and some state agencies, a National Development Plan 2007-2013 that aligned with the NSS but was superseded by the economic downturn. It was not possible for a €300m NSS 'Gateway Innovation Fund' launched in 2007, to materialise.

- 2.4.3** Criticisms of the NSS include that it designated too many centres, created a perception of 'winners and losers', wasn't adequately supported by the political or local government systems or by a subsequent relaxation of controls on new rural housing, that it lacked an economic dimension and did not have statutory legislative backing.
- 2.4.4** It is striking that not one of the twenty-two fastest growing towns in Ireland between 2002 and 2016 was an NSS gateway or hub settlement. The level of actual population growth in the twenty-two fastest growing towns during this period and the level of population growth in the twenty-two NSS gateways and hub settlements, excluding Dublin, was almost identical.
- 2.4.5** This means that population growth in twenty-two designated NSS gateways and hubs from 2002 was replicated by the new population that emerged in twenty-two, completely different and separate non-NSS designated settlements, that were much smaller at the outset. The average 2002 population of the 22 fastest growing towns to 2016 was five times smaller, or just under 6,000 people, than the average 2002 population of the twenty-two gateway and hub settlements, which was just under 30,000 people.
- 2.4.6** In most cases the rapid growth trajectory of the fastest growing towns in Ireland over the past twenty years had commenced prior to the publication of the NSS. If implemented as intended, the NSS could have made a difference. The outcomes arising from these trends were identified in a review of the NSS undertaken by the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government in 2010¹, by which time the legacy of a period of sustained growth in the absence of an effective overall plan had become apparent:-
- Development-driven planning and urban-generated commuter settlement patterns are creating demand for uneconomic and inefficient infrastructure and service provision in suburban and extra-urban green-field locations;
 - Development has become more dispersed and fragmented geographically, with greater distances between where people live and work;
 - Dispersed land use trends are undermining the integrity of Ireland's key habitats and ecosystem networks and placing pressure on the quality of our water resources.
- 2.4.7** The introduction of new planning legislation in 2010 to address the issue of excessive land zoning resulted in the application of 'core strategies' to City/County Development Plans. This has led to a significant reduction in inappropriately zoned land and serves to highlight the critical importance of legislation to support national strategy. It has also been necessary to put measures in place to address the legacy of 'unfinished estates', 85% of which have now been resolved.
- 2.4.8** Whilst the experience of the previous National Spatial Strategy (NSS) didn't influence the pattern of development in Ireland as intended, it provides valuable lessons for future planning at a national scale. As a result, it has become clear that it will be necessary for the National Planning Framework to:-

- **Be a statutory document, approved by the Oireachtas;**
- **Be backed by Government, both in terms of the Executive and across Departments and Agencies;**
- **Be aligned with and supported by public and private investment;**
- **Be a strategy as opposed to a 'wish list', that will involve hard choices;**
- **Address all parts of Ireland, avoid the perception of 'winners' and 'losers', but avoid unrealistically seeking to treat all parts of the Country in the same way;**
- **Include an economic dimension, but not be solely based on economic considerations;**
- **Include a particular focus on implementation and evaluation, with capacity for review.**

Where to Next?

Ireland's growth trajectory is set to continue and will give rise to additional people, homes and jobs in the context of an ageing population, that will need to be supported by new infrastructure. In a Business as Usual scenario, this future growth and change is likely to be accommodated largely as it has been to date.

For a variety of reasons, Business as Usual is not a desirable option. Strategic intervention will therefore be required to counteract outcomes that will further impact on individual citizens and on society as a whole. An 'NSS' type scenario, whereby an adopted strategy is neither supported by nor consistently aligned with investment, would give rise to uncertainty, lack credibility and result in Business as Usual.

Additional resources and investment in the Business as Usual model may serve to alleviate pressures in the short term, but will not resolve them in the long run. A strategy that includes a fundamental shift in how we do 'place making' in Ireland is likely to be required if we are to make existing places better and create new places of outstanding quality.

To fully address the range of issues involved in ensuring our best response to future growth and change, the NPF will need to fully co-ordinate with other major Government policies, including the reviewed Capital Investment Plan, both in the current review period to 2021 and in the longer term thereafter. It will also need to integrate with the forthcoming National Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies, which must take a similar, long term view.

To ensure success, the National Planning Framework will require Government support, broader political buy-in and ongoing alignment with policy decisions and capital investment plans. Statutory backing, subject to the legislative process, is also desirable, but should not be an impediment to progressing the NPF to approval stage.

The National Planning Framework process gives rise to a series of emerging policy choices, which are set out in the subsequent sections of this paper. At the outset, it is useful to reflect on a range of broad but interrelated considerations. These include:-

- Where the additional future population will live.
- How the needs of an ageing population will be accommodated.
- The types of housing that will be needed.
- The sort of communities that will be created.
- Where future jobs will be located and what type of jobs they will be.
- The services and amenities (e.g. education, health, leisure, shopping etc.) that will be required to meet people's needs.
- How people and goods will move around.
- The strategic infrastructure that will be required and how it will be prioritised.
- How key environmental challenges will be addressed, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to the consequences of climate change (e.g. flooding) as well as transitioning to a low carbon sustainable economy and society.
- How our governance structures will need to adapt to address national challenges.

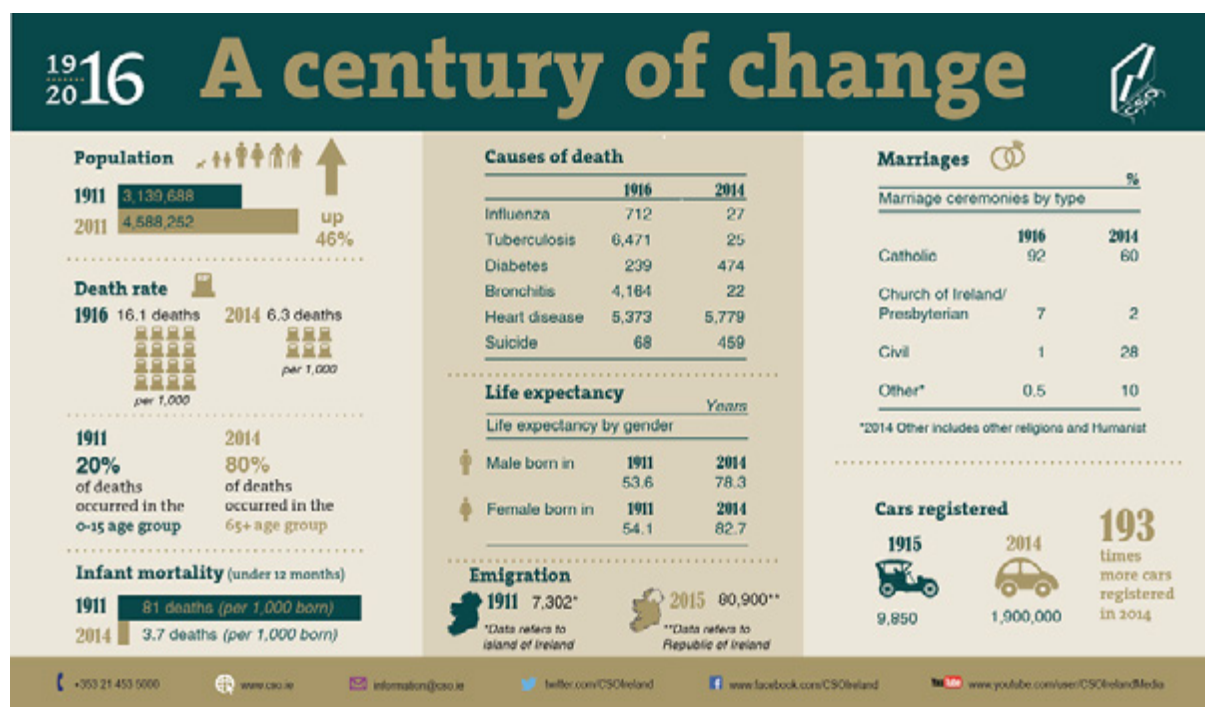
The National Planning Framework process is a key opportunity to influence the spatial pattern of development throughout Ireland for the benefit of the Country as a whole, over the next twenty years and beyond.

3

People's Health and Well-Being

3.1 What does the NPF mean for Health and Well-Being?

- 3.1.1 There is a view that the National Planning Framework will be a Government document comprising policy measures that don't necessarily relate to people's everyday lives within our working, living or community environments. This issues and choices paper offers the opportunity for every citizen to consider whether change needs to take place, or if we are content as a nation to continue with Business as Usual?
- 3.1.2 During 2016, Ireland marked the centenary of the 1916 Rising and as a Nation, we reflected on our history, the Country's progress and societal changes that have taken place over the intervening one-hundred year period. It is clear that we now enjoy a better quality of life than those who lived in Ireland one-hundred years ago.

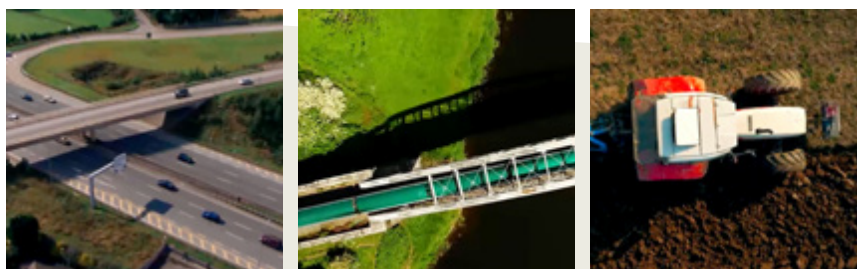


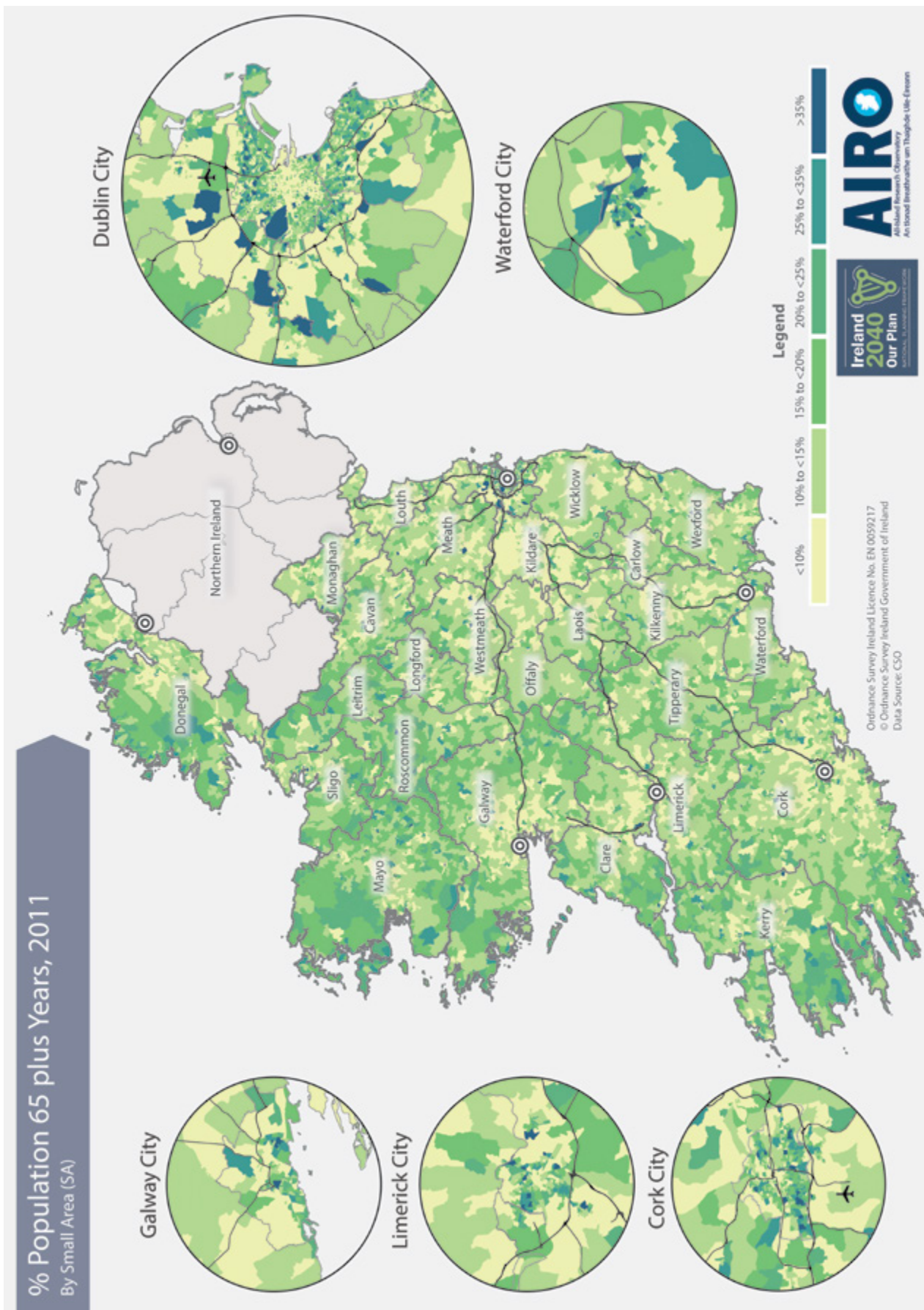
source: www.cso.ie

- 3.1.3 Accompanying these positive improvements are a range of lifestyle choices that are available to us now, in 21st Century Ireland. The consequences of some of the lifestyle choices that we are accustomed to are impacting on our own personal health and wellbeing as well as the overall health and wellbeing of places in Ireland.

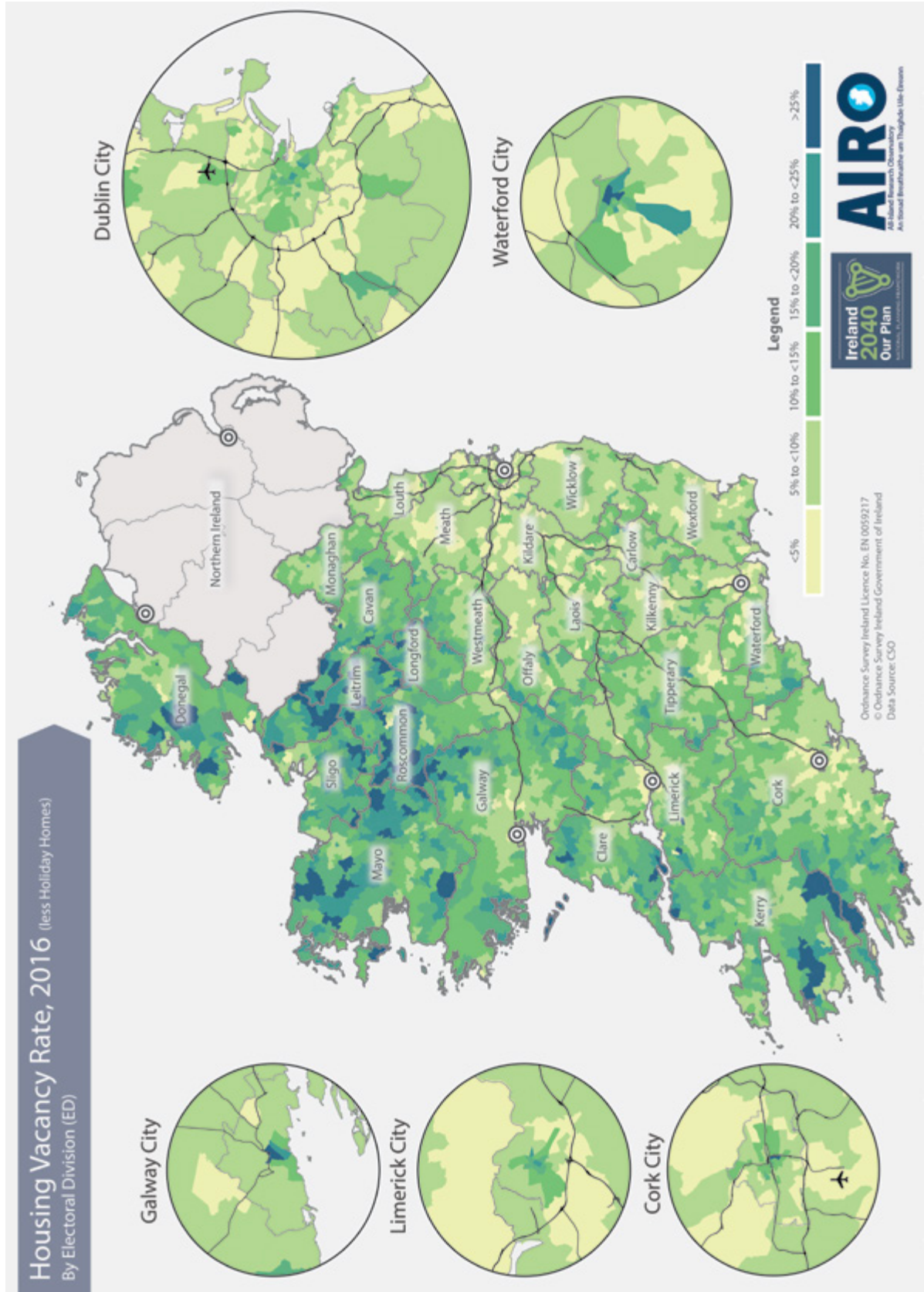
3.2 Trends Influencing our Health and Wellbeing

- 3.2.1** The built environment is an important determinant of health – directly, through air pollution, road traffic, noise, floods and climate and indirectly, through accessibility, safety, mixed land-use, street design and green open spaces. How we ‘make’ places can have a huge influence on people’s health and wellbeing.
- 3.2.2** The Healthy Ireland survey conducted in 2015 indicated that 85% of the Irish population aged 15 and over report their general health as being ‘good’ or ‘very good’. ‘Social connectedness’ and ‘wellbeing’ were included as topic areas within the survey, indicating that general health encompasses more than just physical well-being.
- 3.2.3** Enjoyment of health is not evenly distributed in society, with the incidence of chronic conditions and accompanying lifestyle behaviours being strongly influenced by socio-economic status, levels of education, employment and housing. Unsurprisingly, poorer people tend to live in poor quality built environments and have greater exposure to adverse environmental conditions. In turn this can exacerbate physical and mental health conditions, such as obesity-related diseases and depression.
- 3.2.4** Modern indoor lifestyles are associated with reduced levels of exercise, increasing rates of obesity, diabetes and heart disease and higher incidence of depression. Recent evidence indicates that 60% of adults and one in four children in Ireland is either overweight or obese². Whilst diet clearly has a significant role to play in tackling threats to human health, planning also plays an important part.
- 3.2.5** Population ageing is also one of the most significant trends of the 21st century, with far-reaching implications for all aspects of society. While the number of people aged 65 or over in Ireland has effectively doubled since 1960, the proportionate increase in the population aged over 85 has been even greater and has nearly quadrupled during the last half-century. These trends will accelerate in the near future.





- 3.2.6 Since 2008, very low levels of housing have been constructed, especially in the main cities and urban areas where most needed. Although the average household size had reduced to 2.7 people in 2015 in Ireland, the most common household type in the EU-28 in 2014 was the single person living alone (33%), and the trend towards this pattern is also occurring in Ireland, albeit from a much lower level of 22% (Eurostat, 2014). This means that with an expected reduction in housing occupancy in the future in Ireland, there will be more people living on their own.



- 3.2.7 Social isolation can constitute health risks in similar ways to those associated with smoking and obesity. Moreover, the capacity for leading an active and healthy lifestyle is severely compromised in this scenario leading to a negative and costly impact on people's own personal health.
- 3.2.8 How we move around also impacts on our health and wellbeing. There are approximately two million cars registered in Ireland which is reflective of our high car dependency rate. In 2011 nearly one in ten workers spent one hour or more commuting to work while 69% of commuters travelled to work by car. More than one in seven commuters residing in Fingal, Laois, Westmeath, Meath, Kildare and Wicklow had travel times of an hour or longer to their job (2011).
- 3.2.9 This pattern of car dependence means that many city and particularly town-based businesses and services require significant car parking to ensure viability, as they are reliant on an increasingly dispersed car-borne catchment. As well as urban car parks, this has resulted in a widespread physical move towards out of town or edge of town shopping, business, leisure and service activity.
- 3.2.10 The physical move to out of town locations has resulted in loss of trade, footfall and vitality that has seriously undermined the vibrancy of many historic main streets and urban centres. It has made it more difficult to ensure that they remain attractive, viable places in which to do business, work, live, or visit and has undermined the concept of the town as a compact urban system.

3.3 Linking Health and Well-Being to Place

- 3.3.1 Creating and maintaining environments that encourage people to make healthier, more active choices is central to making the healthy choice the easy choice. Factors that are of relevance in promoting an active environment include location, density and mix of land use; provision of safe walking and cycling routes; street layout and connectivity; availability and density of open and green space; accessible sports facilities and proximity to public transport facilities and services.
- 3.3.2 Exposure to the natural environment has proven to have a positive impact on mental health. How future development in Ireland is planned will be a significant determinant of quality of life for people. Safe walking facilities and cycling paths are some of the essential supports needed in communities to enable healthier outcomes for individuals.
- 3.3.3 The current spatial pattern of development presents a challenge for improving both social cohesion and for healthy lifestyles. There is a need to consider the issue of community cohesion and a more healthy society and how we can better integrate people with services and amenities and promote sustainable travel, i.e. walking and cycling. There is a need for greater integration and joined up investment decisions across the planning, health and transport sectors which can all help to make sustainable and active travel a more attractive alternative to the private car.
- 3.3.4 In addition to new homes and additional jobs to accommodate future growth and change, the National Planning Framework will need to consider the quality of life offer that is central to sustainable communities. This is not only to ensure that places are attractive for living and working in, but also to build a resilience within people and places that allows for better outcomes, particularly in relation to our wellbeing.

Where to Next?

A continuation of the pattern of development in Ireland over the last twenty years without intervention would more than likely cause quality of life and overall societal wellbeing to deteriorate. Although people in Ireland are now living longer than ever before, not all are living those longer lives in good health.

'Business as Usual' is a continuation of current patterns and approaches to the health and wellbeing of people and places in Ireland. Consequently:

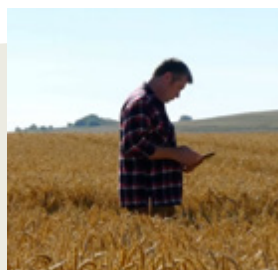
- This approach is likely to reinforce existing trends in people's health resulting in an increase in the prevalence of chronic illnesses due to environmental factors. Coupled with increased levels of obesity which are prevalent in children as well as adults, our general health will deteriorate and compromise the quality of life that we can enjoy;
- This type of pattern would more than likely mean that the older built-up areas of cities would suffer further stagnation or population decline. In addition, the likelihood is that people in Ireland will spend even more time commuting, less time with family, be at risk of social isolation and be less inclined to participate in the communities they live in, all of which will impact negatively on our mental health;
- Without intervention, the exceptional relative scale of Dublin is such that hinterland population growth is likely to expand further. The Cities of Cork and Galway as well as Limerick and Waterford are also likely to exert similar influence on their surrounding County areas. This scenario does not support a healthy outcome whereby smaller settlements in city catchments will have to cater for exceptional demand at a scale that they are not equipped to deal with, leading to situations such as children not being able to secure a school place in their local area and pressure on basic facilities such as access to healthcare;
- The likelihood of further outmigration and consequent population decline in rural areas outside urban catchments would accelerate the ageing profile of the population, which in a negative feedback cycle, would hasten the process of decline. Many older people live alone and as services become less viable and withdraw due to falling population, they would as a consequence, also have less opportunity for social interaction. Areas with limited social interaction and community participation (including for older people), whether rural or urban, tend to stagnate and suffer from high real or perceived levels of anti-social behaviour and crime.

In order to move away from 'Business As Usual' it will be necessary for alternatives to consider the following:

- Support for the creation of sustainable communities that have good social interaction and networks and demonstrate resilience and a shared sense of civic pride and active participation in shaping their local environment;
- Greater policy integration and joined up investment decisions across the planning, health and transport policy sectors which are proven to help to make sustainable and active travel more attractive alternatives to the private car;
- Fostering an improved 'quality of life' offer for people through place-making and design that can be applied to every city, town and village in Ireland;
- Improving living environments for all so that social disadvantage is tackled and prevented rather than being facilitated;
- Ensuring that healthy-living options are available within communities in the form of access to sports and recreation facilities, amenities and green areas as well as walking and cycling facilities that can also assist in offering alternatives for travelling to school and work;
- Reducing car dependence;
- Plan-led development that can anticipate the needs of a community and make provision for that community.

Key Questions

- Are we prepared to make changes now so that a 'healthier places' legacy can be handed over to the next generation of Ireland's citizens?
- What policies can the NPF include to effect improvements to our general health, including physical and mental wellbeing, in Ireland over the next twenty years?
- Are there key priorities the NPF can identify to ensure better or improved health and wellbeing of people and places in Ireland?
- Are there facilities that the NPF needs to highlight for places in Ireland in order to enable greater participation in a healthy lifestyle?



4

A Place-Making Strategy

4.1 Our Capital, Cities and Towns

- 4.1.1** Ireland has experienced a more spatially uneven pattern of regional and urban development than other similar OECD countries and we depend more on our largest city than other comparator countries. (See tables below).
- 4.1.2** Dublin, which is both our largest city and Capital city, plays a vital international role and has been a major part of economic success in recent decades with the result that its primacy continues to grow. The Dublin City Region now accounts for 40% of the national population and 49% of economic output (2016). In the UK, where London as a globally significant City dominates, the London Metropolitan Area extends to 14 million people or 22% of the UK population and 32% of GDP.
- 4.1.3** Ireland is characterised by very strong growth of Dublin and an absence of comparative growth in any other urban centre. If Belfast, Derry/Londonderry and other smaller cities and large towns in Northern Ireland are included, a more balanced picture emerges, highlighting the importance of an all-Island approach, based on a combined population of 6.4 million people (2011).
- 4.1.4** A key difference between Ireland and the selected other small developed countries and our nearest neighbour the UK, is the comparative weakness of the 'next tier' of cities and their associated regions. The selected comparator countries have at least three next tier cities with more than 100,000 people as outlined in Table 4.1.1 below.
- 4.1.5** Moreover, the spatial pattern of Dublin's influence now extends from Louth through Meath, Westmeath and Kildare to Laois, Carlow, Wicklow and Wexford, also partially affecting Cavan, Longford and Kilkenny. This spread of activity together with the objective of achieving more effective regional development elsewhere in Ireland makes it difficult to prioritise the needs of the Capital and our other cities.
- 4.1.6** Dublin's success as a city-region is a double edged sword. It has enabled Ireland to compete in an international context but such success has also given rise to pressures in areas such as housing, transport and infrastructural requirements, which affect competitiveness.
- 4.1.7** If Dublin is underperforming, Ireland is underperforming. Should the Dublin City-Region suffer a loss of competitiveness and become a less attractive place in which to invest as a result of housing and infrastructural bottlenecks, investment and influence will inevitably be attracted to other similar city-regions in Europe or elsewhere.
- 4.1.8** Our capital city must be planned for in a way that ensures it can continue to play its international role, while being complemented by a significantly strengthened role for a next tier of cities and their broader regions. The National Planning Framework is an opportunity to address the orderly development of our cities in an integrated manner.
- 4.1.9** It is notable that of the five Cities (Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Galway, Waterford), only the Galway built-up area experienced consistent population growth in excess of the national average (31%) from 1996-2016, increasing in population by more than 23,000 or 41%.
- 4.1.10** In contrast, population growth in the Cork built-up area (28,300 or 16%), Limerick (15,600 or 20%) and Waterford (8,800 or 20%) have been significantly below the national average over the past 20 years, despite recent increases apparent in these three Cities and particularly in Cork, since 2011.

Table 4.1.1 Ireland and the Primacy of Dublin in comparison to similar advanced small Countries

| Country | Ireland | Denmark | New Zealand | Scotland | Finland |
|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Population 2011 | 4.58 million | 5.57 million | 4.24 million | 5.3 million | 5.39 million |
| Largest City Region | Dublin | Copenhagen | Auckland | Glasgow | Helsinki |
| City Region Population- 2011 | 1.69 million | 2.0 million | 1.42 million | 1.79 million | 1.47 million |
| City Region as % Population | 37% | 36% | 33% | 30% | 27% |
| City Region as % National GDP | 48% | 43% | 35% | 33% | 37% |

Source: OECD/Eurostat

Table 4.1.2 The Hierarchy of Cities and Towns in Ireland in comparison to similar advanced small Countries

| Country | Ireland (incl. Northern Ireland) | Denmark | New Zealand | Scotland | Finland |
|-------------------------|--|---|---|--|--|
| Cities →500,000 | Dublin | Copenhagen | Auckland | Glasgow | Helsinki |
| Cities →200,000 | (Belfast) Cork | Aarhus | Christchurch Wellington | Aberdeen Edinburgh | Tampere |
| Cities →100,000 | | Aalborg Odense | Dunedin Hamilton Tauranga | Dundee | Jyväskylä Kuopio Lahti Oulu Turku |
| Cities →50,000 | (Derry) Limerick Galway (Lisburn (Newtownabbey) (Bangor) Waterford | Esbjerg Horsens Kolding Randers Roskilde Vejle | Hastings Napier Nelson New Plymouth Palmerston North Rotorua | Cumbernauld Dunfermline East Kilbride Hamilton Livingston Paisley | Hameenlinna Joensuu Kotka Kouvola Lappeenranta Mikkeli Pori Rovaniemi Salo Seinäjoki Vaasa |
| Total Number of Cities | 5 (5) | 10 | 12 | 10 | 18 |
| Number of Towns →15,000 | 25 (16) | 35 | 15 | 41 | 36 |
| Overall Total | 30 (21) | 45 | 27 | 51 | 54 |

Source: citypopulation.de

4.1.11 Ireland's regional cities appear to offer significant potential to be the focal point to drive growth and development in their regions. The regional cities are all major centres of employment, third level education and healthcare and are accessible to the motorway network and other communications infrastructure such as airports and ports. Beyond the city catchments, there is a network of towns that can play a similar role.

4.1.12 Give the scale and important regional roles played by the four cities, all have significant potential to complement Dublin, to absorb some of the strain that the Capital has been subject to in terms of accommodating growth in employment, housing need and infrastructural requirements and drive their wider regions, which may also require cities to work in collaboration with each other and/or in conjunction with other towns, to borrow and share strengths.

- 4.1.13** The 'Northern Powerhouse' concept, focused on an alliance of former industrial cities in Northern England, including Manchester, Leeds, Liverpool and Sheffield, is intended to be a counterbalance to London. This type of regional co-operation may be a potential model for a co-ordinated investment and development strategy to strengthen Ireland's 'next tier' cities and their associated regions.
- 4.1.14** It is significant that a recent EU ESPON study which tested future spatial development scenarios in Europe to 2050, identified such a 'second tier cities' approach as offering the highest level of territorial cohesion and competitiveness at a European level as compared to alternative scenarios that focused on the largest principal cities (which most closely equates with the current reality in Ireland) and a scenario that focused on the smallest cities and large towns.
- 4.1.15** At the tier below the cities, there are a number of towns which, due to their level of service provision and extensive catchments, serve an important role for those areas that fall outside the reach and influence of the cities. In some cases they can complement the role of the city. However, lessons from the past suggest that if we continue to focus on multiple towns, this will continue to undermine the performance and potential of our cities and ultimately the wider regions.

Where to Next?

Under the Business As Usual Scenario, the current lop-sided pattern of development of the State will continue, which in the longer term will be neither beneficial to Dublin nor the Country as a whole.

Any alternatives will need to consider the following:-

- Protecting the importance of Dublin as a national driver of growth by prioritising measures to address barriers to its international competitiveness;
- Enabling a city centre outwards process of renewal and regeneration and continued investment in transport and local infrastructure and housing policies to deliver more compact cities;
- The potential for a nationally significant step-change in the promotion of one or more of the four regional cities through co-ordinated planning and investment that would be long term and transformational;
- The future role and scale of development in our towns as successful places in the context of their regions.

Key Questions

- **Taking on board all of the relevant environmental and physical capacity issues, what role should our cities have as part of the NPF?**
- **How might we develop one or more strong regional complements to Dublin that can address their whole city-region, including interactions between settlements?**
- **Do we need to reform and strengthen administrative and governance structures so that they are capable of delivering the necessary alliances, collaboration and actions to build up our cities and their regions?**
- **How might we develop an urban policy that distinguishes between development within the existing built-up area of cities and towns and greenfield development sites?**
- **How might we distinguish between the role of towns within the wider hinterland of the cities and those located outside the influence of the cities?**
- **What measures could be used to examine potential densification scenarios that may be applied to parts of existing urban areas?**

4.2 Opportunities for our Regions

The Role of the Regions

- 4.2.1 Regional development is recognised as making an important contribution to national prosperity. In response, there has been an increased focus on the regional dimension of national policy across Government Departments and State Agencies, including the Regional Action Plans for Jobs and the focus on regional policy within the IDA 'Winning' Strategy³.
- 4.2.2 In recent years, regional governance has been reformed⁴, resulting in three new Regional Assemblies, namely the Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly (EMRA), the Northern and Western Regional Assembly (NWRA) and the Southern Regional Assembly (SRA). The principal functions of the Regional Assemblies are to co-ordinate, promote and support strategic planning and sustainable development of the regions and to manage EU programmes of assistance⁵ and their general impact in their regions.
- 4.2.3 Each of the Regional Assemblies has a leadership role to play in identifying regional policies and coordinating initiatives that support the delivery and implementation of national planning policy. It is also the role of the Regional Assemblies to co-ordinate local authorities to secure shared national and local objectives.
- 4.2.4 The primary vehicle for this is the preparation and implementation of Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSEs). The RSEs will provide a greater level of focus around the high level strategic policies of the NPF.

Figure 4.2.1

Configuration of Regional Assembly Areas in Ireland⁶



3 Available at: http://www.idaireland.com/docs/publications/IDA_STRATEGY_FINAL.pdf

4 Under the 2012 Government's "Putting People First" policy paper and the Local Government Reform Act 2014.

5 Regional Operational Programmes.

6 Map Source: Southern Regional Assembly

Regional Dynamics

- 4.2.5 The Eastern and Midlands Region has a population of 2.3 million people in comparison to 1.6 million in the Southern Region and 0.85m in the Northern and Western. The difference in population structures is also reflected in a significant divergence of population density across regions (with population density in the Dublin sub-region estimated at 1,401 persons per km² compared to 32 persons per km² in the West).

Table 4.2.1 Regional Assemblies and Constituent Areas for the purposes of Regional Planning

| Region Assembly (RA) | Sub Region ⁷ | Local Authorities |
|--|-------------------------|---|
| Eastern and Midlands RA | Dublin | Fingal, Dublin City, South Dublin, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown |
| | Eastern | Louth, Kildare, Meath, Wicklow |
| | Midlands | Longford, Laois, Offaly, Westmeath |
| 2,325,122 people - approximately 49% of the population | | |

| Region | Sub Region | Local Authorities |
|---|------------|---|
| Southern RA | South-East | Carlow, Tipperary, Waterford (City and County), Wexford, Kilkenny |
| | South-West | Cork City, Cork County, Kerry |
| | Mid-West | Clare, Limerick (City and County), Tipperary |
| 1,585,992, or approximately 33% of the population | | |

| Region | Sub Region | Local Authorities |
|--|------------|---|
| Northern and Western RA | Border | Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Louth, Monaghan, Sligo |
| | West | Galway, Mayo, Roscommon |
| 846,862 people - approximately 18% of the population | | |

- 4.2.6 The economic productivity of each region has increased over the past 15 years, with the Eastern and Midlands Region having levels of regional productivity above the national average, the Southern Region largely in line with the national average, while the Northern and Western Region has been consistently below the national average.
- 4.2.7 Each Regional Assembly area shows evidence of regional strengths in a particular business sector such as business services in the EMRA area, industrial products and services and pharmaceuticals in the SRA area and medical technologies in the NWRA area. An examination of business clustering patterns suggests that the largest cities in Ireland are the key focus for the knowledge and related business sectors. Sectors such as professional, scientific, technical, finance and insurance also tend to be more prevalent within the four largest cities.
- 4.2.8 The sectoral spread of IDA assisted companies in Ireland indicates dominance in ICT, Biopharma and financial services, accounting for around half of all IDA supported sites. The evidence suggests a continued trend towards clustering and the emergence of large urban centres as focal points of national and global trade. It is apparent that cities are the key regional drivers for economic activity in the three regional assembly areas and that this trend is likely to continue. Indigenous enterprise is more broadly spread, but also primarily focused on cities and larger towns.

⁷ This refers to Strategic Planning Areas (SPA's) which broadly correspond with the former Regional Assembly Areas (NUTS 111 classification)

- 4.2.9 Unemployment rates over the past 18 years (q2 1998-q2 2016) indicate that most of the sub regions [Strategic Planning Areas] where the unemployment rate was above the national average in 1998 remain above the national average in 2016 and those below the national average remained so in 2016, with the east and southeast performing better than areas such as the border and western parts of the Country. The two sub-regional areas with the largest cities i.e. Dublin and Cork had the lowest levels of unemployment, highlighting the importance of cities for job resilience.

Effective Regional Development (ERD)

- 4.2.10 The term balanced regional development (BRD) is a source of confusion and debate. It has led to a perception of diverting resources from one area to another to make up for an imbalance, or is seen as a form of equalisation. This has manifested itself as 'urban versus rural' and in particular 'Dublin v the rest of the Country' with limited acknowledgement of the individual and collective decisions we make as a society that have assisted in shaping current trends.
- 4.2.11 Issues such as the global influence on markets and the changing nature of employment locations and migration patterns have impacted on our ability to focus resources in such a way that they give maximum effect and return on investment within the regions. In response it would be productive for the NPF to examine effective regional development i.e. development that can make a difference, and to look at how urban-rural partnerships can work to the benefit of the regions.
- 4.2.12 Effective regional development is about reducing disparities by embracing the spatial development opportunities specific to each of the regions and in particular the regional assembly areas. This requires choices to be made that result in sustainable solutions and means that NPF policies may look different from one region to another. More specifically, this will require a more tailored approach to the regional development, which will need to be reflected in the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSEs).
- 4.2.13 A more tailored approach to regional development requires an acknowledgement that in some cases building regional resilience is a priority, as opposed to an expectancy of high levels of growth everywhere. This is to ensure that weaker regions have the ability to recover more quickly from setbacks and to arrest impacts such as population decline and the economic shocks experienced in recent years. It also reinforces the need to move from a focus on legacy issues to future planning that can maximise the capabilities of the regions.

Realising Effective Regional Development

- 4.2.14 There is extensive research into the determinants of regional growth, including factors such as human capital, critical mass of population, density, frequency of large urban centres and infrastructure. In terms of realising the potential of the regions, some key considerations are set out below.
- 4.2.15 The OECD⁸ suggests that human capital is a robust determinant of regional growth and that reducing the proportion of people in a region with very low skills seems to make more difference than increasing the share with very high skills. They also indicate that regional policy has often focused too much on physical infrastructure, particularly transport. Infrastructure is a necessary but not alone a sufficient condition for growth. Its impact increases where investments in human capital and innovation are present, hence the need for integrated policies.
- 4.2.16 The National Strategy for Higher Education to 2030 and the National Skills Strategy 2025 include an emphasis on the need for greater regional collaboration among education and training providers and this is being advanced through the regional clusters of higher education institutions and the Regional Skills Fora which involve further education and training providers, higher education institutions and employers. The National Strategy for Higher Education also recommended the consolidation of the Institute of Technology sector and the creation of a small number of multi-campus technological universities which has the potential to further strengthen higher education provision in the regions, supporting indigenous enterprise through skills development and innovation and becoming an important differentiator in attracting foreign direct investment. There is also significant potential for institutional collaboration on a North-South basis to advance cross-border regional development and strategically advance Irish higher education on an all-island basis.

- 4.2.17** There is a correlation between large urban areas and regional economic productivity. This is partly due to global influences on economic markets and the changing nature of employment locations and migration patterns. An examination of business clustering patterns suggests that the largest cities in Ireland are the key focus for the knowledge and related business sectors. It is therefore likely that sectors such as professional, scientific, technical, finance and insurance will continue to be more prevalent within urban locations.
- 4.2.18** Outside urban areas, the further development of industrial clusters where natural comparative advantages exist, can be exploited, for example in the agri-food, creative, clean energy, marine and tourism sectors. Market functions suggest that business sectors have very specific locational requirements and existence of clusters in specific industry sectors/activities is important for regional economies. Ultimately it is the individual enterprise which will decide on the optimal location for their operations.
- 4.2.19** Strategic transport planning can help regions achieve their potential by identifying transport networks required to serve social and economic development. At regional level, there is a need for more formal integration between land use and transport, with the approach in the Greater Dublin Area (GDA) being a good example of how this can be achieved i.e. a requirement for mutual consistency between the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy and the GDA Transport Strategy. An extension of this approach to other regional assembly areas would greatly strengthen levels of integration between land use planning and transport planning across the country.

Where to Next?

The 'business as usual' model is a continuation of current patterns and approaches to regional development. Consequently:

- This approach is likely to reinforce existing patterns and disparities amongst the regions;
- It is likely that employment patterns will show an increase in employment across all regions but with increased divergence between employment growth in the commuter areas surrounding Dublin with much lower rates of growth in places such as the border areas and western parts of the country;
- Regional investment will continue but will not be tailored to where it can make the most impact.

Any alternatives will need to consider the following:-

- A more tailored approach to regional development as a one size fits all approach hasn't worked.
- Potential to increase human capital in order to maximise the potential of the regions and reduce disparities.
- Regions collectively harnessing shared strengths, combining assets and providing co-ordination to improve regional performance.
- Aligning regional clustering with regional place making.
- Strengthening regional cities and towns as drivers of growth for the urban and rural areas of the regions.
- Aligning development with the need to transition to a sustainable, low carbon economy and society.
- Leadership, governance and the role of the Regional Assemblies.

Key Questions

- **What are the levers for effective regional development?**
- **What is needed to be done to increase human capital at a regional level?**
- **What regional 'value proposition' i.e. an innovation, service, or combination of measures and approaches can make the regions more successful and what are the means by which this can be achieved?**
- **Are there strategic issues (i) across local authority boundaries or (ii) on an inter-regional basis, that the Regional Assemblies can co-ordinate to ensure more effective sub-regional and regional outcomes?**
- **Are there funding opportunities than can support investment on a regional basis?**

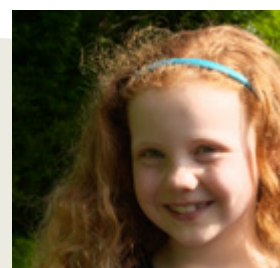
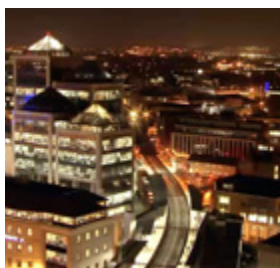
4.3 The Potential of Rural Ireland

An Expression of 'Rural'

- 4.3.1** 'Rural Ireland' has an historical resonance and a cultural depth that permeates Irish society, our economy and our environment. Our historic connection with land is complex and emotive. There is no single, universally preferred description of 'rural' that serves all policy purposes. Definitions vary and can be based on population density, settlement size and commuting distance. Rural areas vary widely particularly in terms of remoteness, dependence on primary production and human resource capacity.
- 4.3.2** Rural Ireland has changed and continues to change from its more traditional association with agriculture, as evidenced in the Commission for the Economic Development of Rural Areas (CEDRA, 2014) Report and the more recent (2017) Realising our Rural Potential Action Plan for Rural Development. 'Rurality' is now associated with the idea of regions across Europe, with cities seen as the driving forces of regional economic development.
- 4.3.3** People in Ireland connect with 'rural' as a place for a number of different reasons. For some, it is the place in which they have chosen to live and work, where the land not only provides a home, but also provides an income. Rural represents a way of life for a huge number of Irish people, whereas it implies Irish culture and heritage to others with 'picture postcard' landscapes, historical buildings and towns and villages that are uniquely Irish in their built form. Rural also suggests a sense of remoteness and isolation which people actively seek out. Towns and villages across Ireland can be classified as rural due to their location and the role they serve in a wider rural hinterland.
- 4.3.4** Neither 'rural areas' nor the communities that live within particular types of rural area are identical. Growing spatial, social and economic disparities between rural areas are a reflection of the fact that stronger rural areas are not only located in a geographically advantageous place, but also have the human and social capital to identify their needs and effectively engage with emerging strategies.
- 4.3.5** Taken as a whole, rural Ireland experienced unprecedented levels of population growth between 1996 and 2011, at a rate and scale that had not been experienced since before the Famine. This level of growth was almost unique in Europe, where the trend has generally been that rural populations have declined, especially where located outside the catchments of large cities.

The Resilience of Rural Areas

- 4.3.6** The nature of Ireland's rural economy has seen a dramatic change in recent years. Many people who live in rural areas are now not directly involved in farming or farm-related activities. The current challenge is to achieve an appropriate balance between supporting Ireland's agricultural communities and other traditional rural based economic activity while simultaneously fostering sustainable economic diversification and development in rural areas.
- 4.3.7** Rural areas score highly in terms of qualitative, 'human', place-making factors such as the vibrancy of places and place-based leadership and stewardship. This differentiation can assist in overcoming challenges where more urban characteristics such as scale or infrastructure may be lacking. The National Planning Framework is an opportunity to co-ordinate these elements into integrated place-based strategies to activate and grow the full range of local strengths throughout Ireland.
- 4.3.8** Underlying trends indicate that many rural areas and small-medium size towns have not proven resilient to ongoing structural changes. These include the decline of traditional rural industries, the shifting nature and location of employment as well as the physical form of retail and commercial development.
- 4.3.9** The CEDRA report examined the factors that have led to a decline in the social and economic viability of many towns that has affected their capacity to attract and sustain investment. The report concluded:- "In general towns that have experienced sustained growth in population tend, regardless of their size, to be near or accessible to larger towns or the five Cities." The report also states that the ultimate consequence of unsustainable economic choices, i.e. migration, is most keenly felt in rural areas.
- 4.3.10** Unsustainable economic choices have had worrying consequences for rural areas. On the one hand, more accessible rural areas in the hinterland of strong performing urban areas have benefited from the rapid growth that has taken place over the last twenty years. However, in combination with adjoining settlements, growth has taken place at a scale that was never intended and has proven difficult and expensive to service in terms of amenities and infrastructure.
- 4.3.11** Rural population decline in areas that are less accessible to larger cities and towns in Ireland was masked by overall population growth in every County between 2001 and 2011, but has become more apparent since then. This is supported by the conclusions of the CEDRA Report where it was reported that during the period 1991-2011, rural areas close or accessible to the main cities and larger towns experienced significant population growth, whereas rural areas more remote or less accessible to towns and cities continued to experience significant population decline. This is also identified in the Action Plan for Rural Development.
- 4.3.12** There are policies in place across each of the local authorities in Ireland that currently facilitate living in the open countryside. Set out below is a visualisation of the number of planning permissions granted for houses in the countryside over a 14 year period, referred to as 'one-off houses' or single houses.



- 4.3.13** It will be necessary to protect some rural areas from unsustainable growth pressures as experienced in the recent past, whilst ensuring that there are attractive alternatives to urban-generated rural development in the hinterland of cities and larger towns. A different approach to rural development will be required in areas that are less accessible to large urban areas, but in the context of localised rural-urban hinterlands.

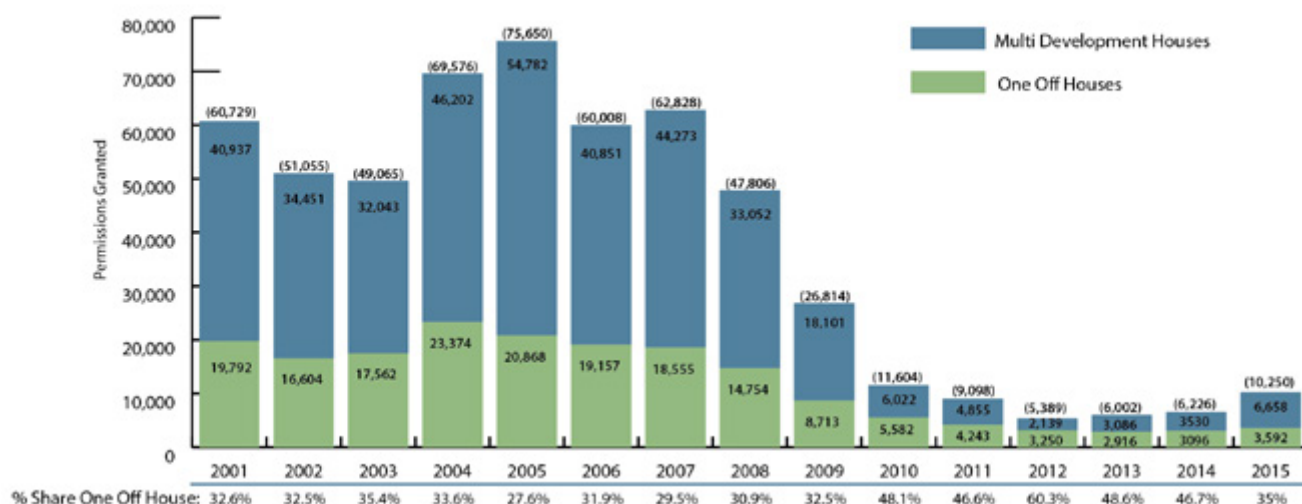
Rural-Urban Interdependence

- 4.3.14** Effective spatial planning has an important role to play in ensuring that Ireland plays to its strengths and delivers a strong dynamic between rural areas and urban concentrations, to deliver better standards of living for all. The interactions between urban areas and their rural hinterlands are key to harnessing rural potential.
- 4.3.15** The unprecedented scale of population growth in much of Rural Ireland to 2011 set an unsustainable standard. It also overshadowed underlying trends that appear to have accelerated and become prevalent in recent years. It is clear that there is an important relationship between the social and economic well-being of rural areas and their proximity and accessibility to viable towns and cities. The nature of the interactions between the different types of rural and urban Ireland, are critical to ensuring the resilience of rural places in Ireland.
- 4.3.16** Rural areas and towns retain distinctive place-based characteristics and many have historically generated populations far larger than those living in them today, with connections throughout the world. In the context of globalisation and sameness, such place-based considerations matter more than ever before. Notwithstanding recent trends, the authenticity and potential of places throughout Ireland are of immense value.

Figure 4.3.1

Planning Permission Grants, Houses 2001 - 2015

(Excludes Flats/Apartments) Source: CSO, Statbank BHA02



- 4.3.17** The realisation of more effective growth in Ireland's rural-urban hinterlands will require the variety of difference throughout Ireland, which is one of our unique strengths, to be brought into play. This key asset is built on a legacy of place-based cultural inheritance, which is so much part of us that we might overlook it. It has the potential to positively interact with technological change and improved connectivity, such as broadband, and in doing so, to further add to place-value.

- 4.3.18** This type of place-based approach will enable the National Planning Framework to address all parts of the Country, whether, rural, urban or in-between, at a time when all are more interdependent than ever. In contrast to a small number of large city-regions, there is a much larger number of rural-urban hinterlands throughout Ireland.
- 4.3.19** The National Planning Framework will seek to address urban-generated development in the hinterland of cities and larger towns and promote the development of integrated place-based strategies for rural-urban hinterlands. These will build on the unique and distinctive assets of localities throughout Ireland, in relation to food production and food, culture and heritage, landscape and tourism in the context of opportunities arising from new technologies and forms of clean energy production.

Where to Next?

Over the last twenty years in Ireland, some rural areas have benefited whilst others have been exposed not only to the consequences of the recent economic downturn but to long term trends that have undermined their viability. Addressing that transformation is challenging as the nature of many rural communities has been fundamentally changed through the decline of traditional rural industries and growing connections between rural and urban areas.

In the immediate short term, the three-year Action Plan for Rural Development (2017) will implement a range of economic and social initiatives across Rural Ireland. To build on this, the National Planning Framework will provide a strategic long-term vision within which future challenges for rural Ireland will be framed and addressed.

It is apparent that notwithstanding urban generated growth in some city hinterlands, in the absence of any plan or strategy, 'business as usual' is likely to lead to the further decline of those rural areas in Ireland that are less accessible to our cities and large towns;

- Without intervention, the scale of population growth in rural Ireland will continue to set an unsustainable standard, in certain areas. This is based on reliance on urban-generated single housing, which perpetuates car dependence, serves to undermine the viability and vitality of nearby villages and towns as places to live and leads to potential future legacy issues;
- Areas that are considered more peripheral will be characterised by an ageing population, leading to the challenges of living in social isolation as well as changing needs and the capacity of communities to meet those needs.

In order to move away from 'Business As Usual', it will be necessary for alternatives to consider the following:

- The interdependence of rural and urban areas, which serve to supplement and complement each other, rather than compete;
- The integrity of 'rural' as a viable entity where communities flourish and an excellent quality of life is on offer;
- To build on 'Excellence in Rural' – i.e. sectorally across agriculture, the marine, renewables, tourism etc.;
- To identify and further enhance the joint initiatives and collaborative approaches that deliver better outcomes for people and places in rural Ireland;
- To more sustainably manage the resource of land in rural areas – particularly where improvements on efficiencies of land use can be made as a means to achieving 'better places';
- The potential of 'rural' in a national context and how best to facilitate this potential through the NPF.

Key Questions

- **How can the NPF capture (in a national, strategic policy context) the range and quality of resources that exist in rural areas that could be leveraged to support national economic growth, climate action objectives and the development of local communities?**
- **What are the solutions to maintaining population in those rural areas where decline has been experienced?**
- **What role should towns and villages in rural areas play in catering for Ireland's future growth?**
- **How can the rural parts of Ireland close to urban areas be protected from development pressures that are likely to arise to accommodate further population growth?**
- **What measures need to be in place to allow those who have a genuine need to live in the countryside to be accommodated?**

4.4 Ireland in an All-Island Context

The Cross Border Relationship with Northern Ireland

- 4.4.1 The UK's decision to leave the EU presents major challenges for the island of Ireland, in particular the potential implications for Northern Ireland and North-South relations. The Government and the Northern Ireland Executive have agreed, through the North South Ministerial Council, on arrangements to optimise North-South joint planning and engagement on key issues following the UK referendum result.
- 4.4.2 Cross border co-operation between Ireland and Northern Ireland covers a range of mutually important issues across a variety of sectors and governance structures, including under the auspices of the North South Ministerial Council. These include environmental management, energy, co-operation in education health and transport, enterprise development, joint investment decisions on infrastructure provisions and accident & emergency planning.
- 4.4.3 There is a mutual recognition of the need to understand the role and function of settlements on the island. This is encapsulated in the publication 'Framework for Co-operation: Spatial Strategies of Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland' (2013), which seeks to examine the key planning challenges faced by both jurisdictions and opportunities as part of a co-operative approach to spatial planning.
- 4.4.4 The Framework for Co-operation together with strategic plans for both jurisdictions recognise that place making does not always follow boundaries, whether interregional or international. This is evidenced by the functional relationships between settlements on both sides of the border and by the movement of people between places. While exact counts are not available, it is estimated that up to 30,000 people cross the border on a daily basis.
- 4.4.5 Commuter patterns indicate 'hotspots' (high levels of interaction at a number of cross border routes) between Derry/Londonderry and Donegal and between Newry and Dundalk (located on the Dublin-Belfast axis). Other noteworthy interactions include Cavan/Enniskillen, Lifford/Strabane and Monaghan/Armagh. These travel patterns suggest that a number of settlements on each side of the border have functional relationships with urban centres in the adjoining jurisdiction. The NPF provides an opportunity to establish a policy framework that supports joined-up approaches and the mechanisms to deliver co-ordinated growth in the border region.
- 4.4.6 Successful cross border approaches that provide a pathway for more effective performance at a spatial level include the North West Strategic Growth Partnership, which seeks to deepen co-operation between Donegal County and Derry/Londonderry & Strabane District Councils and with central government. This is a place-based approach to accelerate sustainable growth, driven by local leadership and supported and guided by central policy. A key output is to enhance the performance of the North-West metropolitan area which is key to both the NI Executive's and Irish Government's ambitions to realise the economic potential of the region.

- 4.4.7 Other regional and local leadership initiatives include the Regional Strategic Framework for the Central Border Region and the Strategic Alliance (MoU) between Newry and Mourne District Council and Louth Local Authorities to support and promote the economic development and competitiveness of the region.

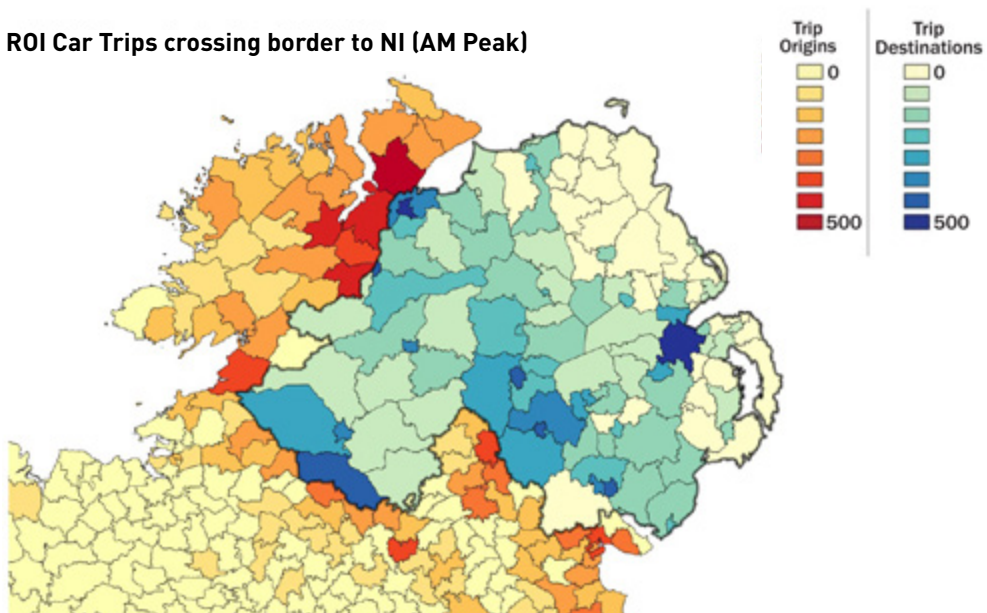
Leveraging Economic Efficiencies

- 4.4.8 The UK is Ireland's largest trading partner, accounting for 17% of trade and cross border trade is an important aspect of this trading relationship, especially for Northern Ireland, with 33% of exports from Northern Ireland going to the South and 27% of imports coming from the South. The value of North South cross border trade in goods and services has been estimated by Intertrade Ireland at approximately 6 billion euro in 2014.

Figure 4.4.1

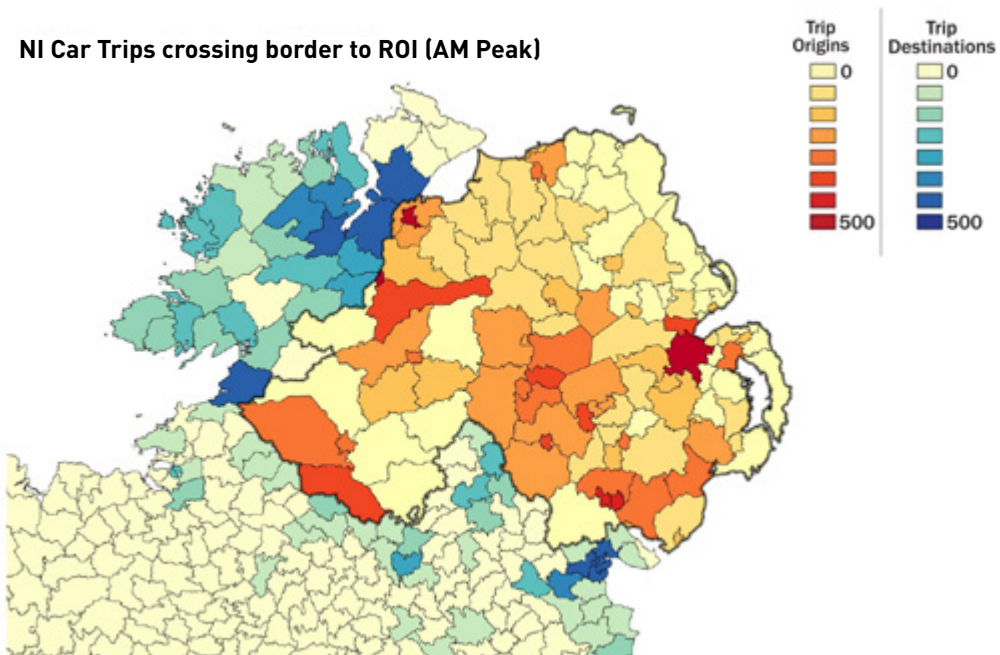
Cross Border Employment Commuting Flows

ROI Car Trips crossing border to NI (AM Peak)



Source: Transport Infrastructure Ireland

NI Car Trips crossing border to ROI (AM Peak)



Source: Transport Infrastructure Ireland

- 4.4.9 As with interaction between places, sectoral development and clustering of enterprise does not follow administrative boundaries and requires a coherent approach to cross-border networks and spill-overs where relevant. There are opportunities to identify sectors with scope for potential for cross-border/all-island clustering, such as pharmaceuticals, medical devices and software development, to effectively brand and market such strengths. The Dublin-Belfast (Eastern Seaboard) Economic Corridor is one such cross-border 'branded' region.
- 4.4.10 Tourism also represents an important source for economic development, both in terms of attracting visitors (overseas and domestic) and providing job opportunities. Since 2008, the annual number of visitors travelling to Ireland from Northern Ireland has almost trebled to 1.7 million, while the numbers going north have remained at around 400,000 per annum.
- 4.4.11 Tourism figures indicate a high degree of interdependence between tourist offerings on both side of the border, with Irish airports and ports having a key role in this. This is demonstrated by the fact that 67 per cent of visitors to Northern Ireland from outside the UK or Ireland arrive via Ireland.

Connecting Places through Infrastructure

- 4.4.12 The importance of a co-ordinated approach to national infrastructure on both sides of the border is evident. In the past for example, investment in safety enhancements at the City of Derry Airport were jointly funded by both administrations. More recently, the Irish Government reaffirmed its commitment to contribute to the upgrade of the A5 Dublin-Derry/Londonderry road in Northern Ireland, which also serves North Donegal and the north-west. Cross border transport links include other roads, the Dublin -Belfast railway line and proposed 'greenway' walking/cycling routes, such as along the Ulster Canal.
- 4.4.13 Co-ordination with Northern Ireland on energy matters is now embedded in Irish energy policy, supported by an all-island Single Electricity Market (SEM). This gives rise to joint planning to meet future capacity and the interventions needed to achieve this, including electricity grid connections and interconnectors.
- 4.4.14 Issues common to both jurisdictions include increasing energy demands, ongoing need to upgrade transport networks and a requirement for fast and effective broadband, especially for business users. It is therefore important that where relevant, infrastructure interventions strategically complement both the NPF and Northern Ireland Regional Development Strategy to help realise the key drivers common to both. This will require regional and local leadership.

A Shared Environment

- 4.4.15 There are many shared environmental interests across the border between Ireland and Northern Ireland where co-ordination is required. In some cases, there is a statutory obligation e.g. the EU Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive regarding trans-boundary consultation in relation to spatial and land use plans. In other cases, geographic catchment-based strategies require stewardship by both jurisdictions e.g. in the areas of water quality, river basin management, flood risk, maritime spatial planning and designated habitats and sites. A number of jointly funded North South bodies have roles and responsibilities in these areas.
- 4.4.16 There are also other national commitments to reflect the transboundary nature of the environment and its stewardship. These include actions to develop a National Landscape Character Assessment in Ireland, which acknowledge the need to work on a trans-boundary basis and complement Northern Ireland's Landscape Charter.

Where to Next?

To be successful, policy responses to Brexit, including the NPF and our approach to infrastructure development, must reflect a volatile and changing external environment at global and EU level, as well as the more direct implications on the island of Ireland. The nature and terms of Brexit will be critical to determining both economic impacts and macro-economic and sectoral policy responses, such as the NPF. As the UK negotiation position becomes clearer, however, it is clear that, in addition to the enterprise and retail sectors, the projected impacts of Brexit will be most significant in agri-food and fisheries, the transport and energy sectors and the Border economy.

The NPF must adapt to and reflect these underlying circumstances. The following issues, in particular, may need to be considered:-

- The strategic potential of the Dublin-Belfast (eastern seaboard) corridor and how it can be developed to better influence planning decisions between the two Capital cities on the island of Ireland;
- The need to look beyond administrative boundaries for effective development of regions by working together through structures such as the North West Gateway Initiative and the North West Strategic Growth Partnership in partnership with local government (Donegal-Derry/Londonderry & Strabane);
- Greater alignment of infrastructure planning which underpins the objectives of both the NPF and Regional Development Strategy in Northern Ireland to address mutual cross border spatial challenges;
- The potential for cross-border or all-island clustering of economic activity and how best the NPF can help build the long term economic resilience of areas along our borders;
- Joint thinking and management approaches to environmental management and protection.

Key Questions

- **How can the NPF facilitate co-ordination between settlements that share connections across the border between Northern Ireland and Ireland and how should this be reflected in the document?**
- **What economic opportunities and sectoral clusters exist that can benefit economies within both jurisdictions and how can this be best captured and supported in the NPF?**
- **What mechanisms are needed to ensure a joined-up approach to strategic infrastructure and investment decisions that have a cross-border dimension and are there examples of best practice?**
- **In terms of delivering cross-border infrastructure as detailed for example in the IBEC-CBI NI All Island Investment Project⁹, what structures need to be developed to leverage joint financing, including through the private sector?**
- **How do we co-ordinate mutually beneficial ways to address common environmental challenges across shared catchments?**

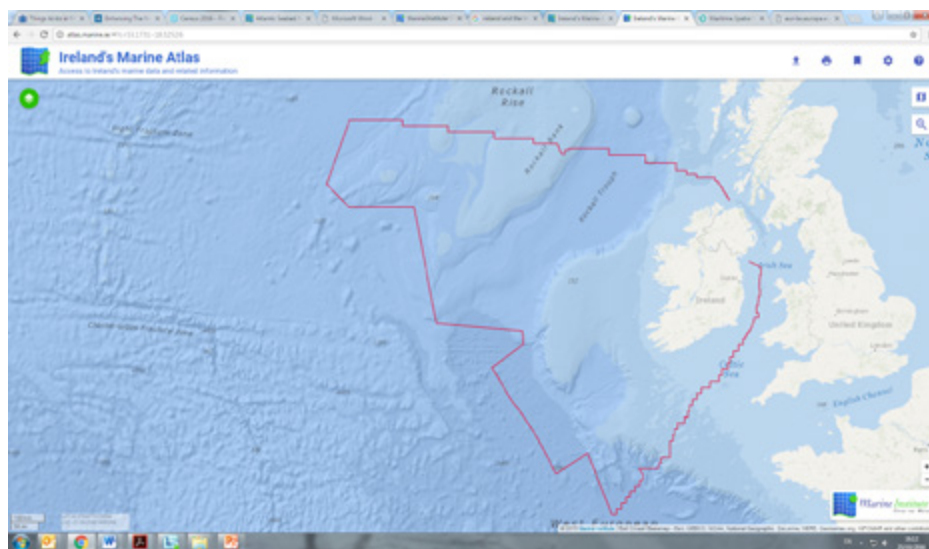
4.5 Integrated Land and Marine Development

Ireland's Islands and the Marine – Influential Combinations

- 4.5.1** Ireland's position as an island nation on the western periphery of Europe has shaped not only the nation's landscape but has had a significant bearing on the history of the country, the settlement patterns that exist, our unique culture and heritage as well as influencing our society and economy.
- 4.5.2** Ireland has a vast and diverse marine resource – our seabed territory covers approximately 880,000km², more than ten times our landmass. Our coastline of 3,171km is longer than that of many European countries.

Figure 4.5.1

Designated Irish Continental Shelf Maritime Boundary



Source: Ireland's Marine Atlas atlas.marine.ie

- 4.5.3** Our islands and coastal areas contain some of our most vibrant and culturally distinctive communities. They are an integral part of the state's heritage and have a special significance in Irish culture. Whilst there are many hundreds of small islands off the coast of Ireland, approximately forty, mainly Gaeltacht islands, support settled populations. The majority of the Gaeltacht islands lie off the western seaboard of Counties Donegal, Mayo, Galway, Kerry and Cork.



4.5.4 These communities are distinctive and unique in an Irish context, due to the fragility and isolation of island life. As a result of their location, they become adept at self-reliance and have a very strong sense of identity. Fishing has been a core economic activity within the island communities of Ireland for generations. Ireland's coastline, inshore and offshore waters:

- Contain some of the largest and most valuable fisheries resource in Europe;
- Are the western gateway for shipping to Europe's busiest seaports;
- Are an ideal location for finfish, shellfish and seaweed aquaculture;
- Are among the richest and most accessible renewable energy (wind, wave and tidal) resources in the world;
- Contain significant oil and gas resource potential as evidenced by recent discoveries and ongoing research;
- Provide opportunities to develop new products and services;
- Offer tourism and leisure opportunities and a rich maritime culture and heritage;
- Support a rich and diverse range of ecosystems, habitats and species and unique land and seascapes.

Marine Spatial Planning

4.5.5 There is no widely accepted definition for land-sea interactions. The concept may be thought of in terms of human activities and uses both on land and in marine waters, and how they interact in ways that generate economic, social and environmental impacts.

4.5.6 In considering how terrestrial and maritime planning processes might interact and integrate it may also be useful to consider thematic areas of common interest to both processes, and in respect of which there may be overlap, either spatially or in terms of the economic, social and environmental impacts they generate. Such areas include but are not limited to:-

- Coastal protection;
- Flood risk management;
- Water quality;
- Landscape / seascape;
- Cultural heritage;
- Biodiversity;
- Nature conservation;
- Energy infrastructure;
- Communications infrastructure;
- Ports/shipping/harbours/marinas/dredging;
- Tourism/Recreation/Leisure.

4.5.7 Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) examines how we use the marine area and planning how best to use it into the future. Ireland must have a Maritime Spatial Plan in place by March 2021 in accordance with EU Directive 2014/89/EU. MSP will seek to balance the different demands for using the sea including the need to protect the marine environment. It's about planning when and where human activities take place at sea and ensuring these activities are as efficient and sustainable as possible.

- 4.5.8 Working together with the National Planning Framework, Ireland's first Marine Spatial Plan will provide the strategic policy framework to encourage sustainable development and use of the marine environment to deliver economic and social benefits for island and coastal communities.

Ireland's Marine Economy

- 4.5.9 'Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth' – An Integrated Marine Plan for Ireland, published in 2012, is a cross Governmental Integrated Marine/Blue Growth policy initiative. The central aim of the policy is to significantly develop Ireland's Blue economy, grow employment in the maritime sector and double its contribution to Ireland's GDP by 2030. The plan sets out 39 Actions across eight enablers aimed at creating the conditions for growth and investment. New approaches across a range of thematic areas were identified to be implemented, including the following:

- 'Marinising' existing enterprise sectors such as energy, ICT and food - extending their businesses into a range of new marine-related markets (ICT for the Sea, marine biotechnology and maritime commerce);
- Strengthening established marine industries; and
- Developing untapped natural resources or existing resources in new ways.

- 4.5.10 The marine economy in Ireland may be sub-categorised in terms of Ocean or Coastal markets:

Ocean

- Seafood: sea fisheries, aquaculture, seafood processing, marine biotechnology and bio products;
- Energy: oil and gas exploration and production; marine renewable energy: offshore wind, wave and tidal;
- Marine Tourism: sea-based and coastal tourism e.g. sailing, surfing, diving, sea angling etc., international cruise industry.

Coastal

- Maritime Transport, Shipbuilding and Services (MTSS): marine commerce and ship leasing, ports, shipping and maritime transport.
- Marine supported activities: marine manufacturing, engineering and construction, and marine retail services.
- Emerging/nascent activity: maritime commerce, high-tech marine products and services, ocean energy and marine biotechnology.

- 4.5.11 Seizing new opportunities in the marine sector such as those in the learning economy and the energy sector will help to deliver sustainable economic growth, attracting and retaining population and supporting services. This is particularly relevant to coastal communities. In terms of skills, the industry in Ireland requires technicians and general operatives as well as high-skilled technical staff and professions.
- 4.5.12 The sub-sectors with the greatest demand for skills are seafood, MTSS (Maritime Transport and Shipbuilding and services), and marine tourism. Core skills and knowledge relating to many occupations (e.g. accountancy, engineering, electricians) can be 'marinised' by acquiring additional training, or a top up qualification, that allows for their particular application in a marine context.
- 4.5.13 Positive trends have been reported across a number of key sectors such as seafood exports, shipping and tourism in marine and coastal areas. The total volume of traffic moving through Irish ports recorded a 7 percent increase in 2015, the highest level recorded since the beginning of the economic crisis.
- 4.5.14 The National Ports Policy that resulted in tiering Ireland's ports means that transport infrastructure has and is developing well in Ireland's three 'Tier 1' ports. Dublin, Cork and Shannon Foynes development plans, with related road and rail infrastructure upgrades, provide evidence of the progress being made.

Where to Next?

Related to the success or otherwise of the marine and island economies are Ireland's coastal communities, often located on the periphery of the island. These communities are central to the life and vibrancy of marine and island activity. As the more traditional elements of the sector depend on the skills of people located in these areas, a 'Business as Usual' scenario would see population decline in more remote rural areas of Ireland, including coastal and island communities.

Similar to other traditional skilled sectors, technological advances over recent decades have led to the Marine sector having to respond to a changing working world. In addition to Ireland's membership of the European Union, these advances have had implications for marine based employment.

The inter-relationship between land and sea will need to be enhanced in order to allow Ireland to excel and become world leaders in the Marine. In order to enhance this interaction, it will be necessary for alternatives to consider the following:

- Maximising the national opportunities for excellence in the Marine including infrastructure, energy, conservation and data technology;
- Future proofing the structures that govern the Marine Sector to strengthen capacity;
- Integrated management of marine assets;
- The role of marine environmental quality in the economy of Ireland and whether land based activities are complementing or compromising our surrounding waters.

Key Questions

- **In thinking about what Ireland might look like in twenty years' time, what is the future for Ireland's coastline, islands and offshore?**
- **How can coastal and island communities contribute to a national vision for Ireland, as part of the NPF?**
- **How can the goals of the integrated Marine Plan be spatially represented in a National Planning Framework?**
- **What, policies, measures or actions need to be advanced to enable Ireland's marine resource to adapt to the effects of climate change (e.g. coastal erosion, flooding, sea level rise etc.)?**
- **What infrastructure investments need to be made in order to maximise the sustainable potential of our ocean resource?**

5

Ireland's Unique Environment – Sustainability

5.1 Development and Land Use Change

- 5.1.1** Ireland's environment and its diverse landscapes form part of our green persona and we have much to be proud of. In particular, we generally have good air quality and we have many rivers and lakes with good quality water. The national effort regarding waste recycling and recovery are also testament to our ability to adapt to environmental concerns.
- 5.1.2** While the overall quality of our environment is good, this masks some of the threats we now face. A recent assessment of Ireland's environment by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) indicates that the choices we make will have implications for future generations. Some of the key national environmental challenges include the need to accelerate action on climate change and renewable energy, dealing with air quality problems in urban areas, health risks to drinking water, treating urban waste water and protecting important and vulnerable habitats.
- 5.1.3** Good planning is important for the sustainability of our environment. The planning system has influence across a wide range of sectors, both directly and indirectly, and interacts with many common issues related to effective environmental management including water services, landscape, flood risk planning, coastal and marine management, climate mitigation and adaptation and land use change.
- 5.1.4** A key policy instrument to ensure that plans, policies and projects are better aligned is the use of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) at a strategic plan making level. A separate SEA 'scoping' document examines this issue in more detail alongside Appropriate Assessment in relation to protected habitats and Strategic Flood Risk Appraisal and is available to be read in conjunction with this discussion paper.
- 5.1.5** Land is a finite resource. In the relationship between land and people in Ireland, complex issues and varying interests have often embodied the interface between person and place. Management and stewardship of land as a resource can be a source of conflict, particularly where individuals or communities feel threatened by land use change.
- 5.1.6** The nature and rate of land use change indicates where future environmental pressures are likely to arise. Ireland has experienced a relatively high rate of land use change since the early 1990s. Recent population growth has led to an increase in the extent of dispersed residential and commercial development as well as new infrastructure, which have resulted in pressure on agricultural land, designated nature conservation areas and water quality. Meeting the increased infrastructure demands will require secure supplies of raw materials which may contribute to land use pressures.



- 5.1.7 Unsustainable land use change can affect human health and have a harmful effect on water, air, soils and/or biodiversity, especially when combined with poorly managed responses to development. For example, it is estimated by the EPA that approximately 30% of 17,000 private wells in Ireland are contaminated by E.coli.
- 5.1.8 From an urban development perspective, the proper treatment and disposal of waste water is a key challenge to the sustainable growth of our larger urban centres. The negative impacts arising from the discharge of untreated wastewater on the receiving environment and on our public health is a particular concern for the EPA. This arises in relation to more than 40 locations across the country, including our two largest cities.
- 5.1.9 In relation to air quality, our cities and large towns are increasingly experiencing air quality problems, largely due to emissions from vehicle exhausts and home heating. A recent European Environment Agency (EEA) report indicates that 1,200 premature deaths in Europe every year can be attributed to particulate matter exposure (which mainly arises from traffic emissions and the burning of smoky fuels for home heating).
- 5.1.10 Meeting the challenges for improving air and water quality will require policy co-ordination and a range of measures including but not limited to emission controls, improved technology and alternative fuel sources. Planning policy has a key role to play. More integrated land use and transport planning, green space provision and high quality urban place-making will complement other solutions to the improvement of air quality in our urban areas.

5.2 Climate Action

- 5.2.1 Ireland is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and in this context has obligations at international level via the Paris Agreement and at EU level under the EU Effort Sharing Decision (Decision no. 406/2009/EU) (ESD). National policy and obligations is set out in the National Policy Position on Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (2014) and the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015.
- 5.2.2 In relation to greenhouse gas emissions reduction, Ireland has a target for each year between 2013 and 2020 under the ESD. For the year 2020, the target set is that emissions should be 20% below their value in 2005.
- 5.2.3 The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reported that emissions for 2015 are estimated at 59.84 million tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent, which is 3.7% higher than emissions in 2014. While according to the EPA, these figures indicate that Ireland will be in compliance with its 2015 annual limit set under the ESD, it has cautioned that the 2015 emissions data suggests that achievement of our long-term mitigation goals will be difficult. In this context, the most recent EPA projections (March 2016) indicate that emissions for 2020 could be in the range of 6-11% below 2005 levels, rather than the -20% target.
- 5.2.4 In terms of putting in place the first of a series of plans to manage our transition to a low carbon economy and to meet our international and EU targets, a national mitigation plan will be submitted to Government for approval not later than 10 June 2017 in accordance with the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015. This will include sectoral mitigation measures.
- 5.2.5 The National Climate Change Adaptation Framework (published in 2012) recognised the critical importance of planning and development measures in the overall strategic approach to tackling climate change adaptation, including reducing risk and building resilience. The key role of spatial planning will be restated and renewed in the statutory National Adaptation Framework which is being developed under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 and will be the subject of a separate public consultation.
- 5.2.6 If Ireland is to make up for lost ground in relation to carbon reduction targets and move towards the objective of a low carbon and climate resilient Ireland by 2050, it is necessary to make choices about how we plan for future growth. A key role for the National Planning Framework will be to assist in reinforcing the structural changes required to transition to a low carbon sustainable economy and society. This will require us to make decisions about how we balance growth with more sustainable approaches to development and to examine how planning policy can help shape national infrastructural decisions.

- 5.2.7 The transport sector, which comprises approximately one fifth of carbon emissions in Ireland, has been the fastest growing source of emissions since 1990, showing a 120% increase between 1990 and 2014. This can be linked to rising car ownership, dispersed land use and car dependency, with a 140% increase in the numbers commuting to work between 1991 and 2011.
- 5.2.8 If we are to reduce emissions from sectors such as transport, it will be necessary to address the growing divergence between where people live, work and socialise and in doing so, to also recognise the importance of high quality place-making to assist the national effort towards a low carbon and climate resilient Ireland. It is relevant to consider, for example, the extent to which greenfield lands are considered to be the principal option to accommodate all forms of new development, given the increasing distances that people are travelling between home and work.

5.3 Re-Energising Ireland

- 5.3.1 Sustainability, energy security and competitiveness are inter-related challenges. In recognition of this, Ireland's Energy White Paper entitled 'Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future 2015-2030' sets out a framework for energy policy which recognises that a radical transformation of our energy system is required to meet our national, EU and international climate objectives to be pursued through successive National Mitigation Plans.
- 5.3.2 Energy infrastructure, including electricity grid infrastructure, electricity generation and gas networks, is critical to support Ireland's future growth. Approximately 60% of our greenhouse gas emissions derive from energy related uses in the residential, transport, energy, industrial and commercial sectors, which remain primarily dependent on fossil fuels.
- 5.3.3 Energy cost is a critical factor for competitiveness. This is important to attract overseas investment and ensure affordable service provision to our people and businesses. Ireland's dispersed settlement pattern poses a significant challenge to costs. The extent of our electricity network is over 35 metres of electricity grid per capita, which is high in comparison to other EU countries.
- 5.3.4 If we are to reduce our national reliance on fossil fuels, increase our long term energy security and decouple economic growth from emissions, our future energy needs will need to be delivered in a more sustainable way whilst also providing retrofit solutions to existing development. Alternative energy sources are also required. Renewable energies provide part of this solution and are aligned with national policy regarding climate change and climate action.
- 5.3.5 The renewables sector will continue to become more and more central to meeting our national energy demands. This raises the issue of how we prioritise renewable energy projects at suitable locations across Ireland, balanced with the need to sustain the existing environment and amenity. In particular, some areas of the country are better suited to the generation of renewable energy and differing types of renewable energy infrastructure.
- 5.3.6 There is a need for a co-ordinated approach as to how these projects are delivered if we are to achieve a low carbon economy and carbon neutrality in various sectors. This raises questions about the type, scale and location of renewable infrastructure such as wind and solar renewables and on-shore and off-shore locations to meet renewable targets.
- 5.3.7 At a national level, it may be an option to create Strategic Energy Zones or Corridors, similar to Strategic Development Zones, as areas of national priority for renewable energy investment, as well as to provide a test bed for new technologies and developing solutions for carbon storage and capture.
- 5.3.8 At a regional level, Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies will have a role in this area through regional approaches to renewables such as wind farms, solar farms and district heating provision and coordination across local administrative boundaries. This may also address the overlapping policy area of landscape and landscape characterisation.

5.4 Heritage and Landscape

- 5.4.1 Ireland has a rich vein of heritage ranging from the iconic historic buildings and sites within our towns and cities, to the natural heritage of our countryside. The NPF is an opportunity to refocus on the sustainable and adaptive reuse of our existing and historic assets, regenerate existing areas and reduce pressure for unsustainable expansion on the edges of our settlements. There is also recognition of the value of our natural heritage not only for biodiversity but also for recreation, tourism and scientific purposes.
- 5.4.2 Ireland's landscape offers a wealth of natural and cultural assets which support our quality of life and our visitor economy. We have a duty to future generations to use these assets responsibly whilst making our existing infrastructure work harder to deliver more benefits. This must be related to societal values that include social cohesion and a sense of cultural heritage. It will also enable us to balance our strong relationship with the land with environmental protection.
- 5.4.3 The protection, management and planning of the landscape is interconnected with biodiversity and climate change, as recognised in the National Landscape Strategy (NLS) for Ireland 2015-2025. The ambitions of the NLS cut across a number of sectoral interests and policy areas including the NPF. This requires a balance between competing ambitions and the need to look at how policy integration can be implemented in order to underpin effective spatial planning.
- 5.4.4 Failure to protect our landscapes, seascapes and our cultural heritage will damage the attractiveness of Ireland as a place to live, visit and work. The NPF can help shape future economic development through setting an appropriate balance between ensuring the resilience of our natural resources and cultural assets, meeting climate and energy obligations and providing for sustainable economic development.

5.5 Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity

- 5.5.1 Green infrastructure (GI) is where natural and/or managed landscape features such as a watercourse and/or parkland is managed and enhanced as a multifunctional resource capable of delivering a wide range of economic, environmental and quality of life benefits, known as 'ecosystem services'.
- 5.5.2 These benefits can include creating an attractive environment to encourage businesses and inward investment; more places for people to access nature, outdoor recreation or social interaction or physical activity by providing quality, linked green or 'blue' (water-related) spaces for walking, cycling and other physical activity and creating a sense of place and local distinctiveness. They also generally include a holistic approach to developing the landscape inclusive of other influences, such as ecological development, improving air, water and soil quality and flood protection.
- 5.5.3 Ireland has a wide diversity of natural and semi-natural habitats such as mountains, bogs, wetlands, lakes, coastline, river and upland habitats that support a wide range of wild plant and animal species. Many of these areas are coming under increasing pressure as development intensifies.
- 5.5.4 The main issues that Ireland's habitats and species face are direct habitat damage. This can be caused by flooding, wetland drainage/reclamation or infrastructural development, water pollution particularly from nutrients and silt or unsustainable exploitation such as over-fishing and peat extraction. There are also threats from invasive species and recreational pressures. Climate change is also likely to give rise to additional pressures on a number of species and habitats in Ireland.

Where to Next?

The 'business as usual' model is a continuation of current patterns and approaches to environmental management and competing demands. Consequently, this approach is likely to result in:

- A continuation of existing growth patterns, putting increased pressures on the receiving environment and threatening public health;
- Continued threat to and decline in the status of habitats and species in Ireland;
- Failure to reach international climate and energy commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and meet legally binding renewable energy targets and the potential financial costs for the Exchequer if 'Carbon Credits' (greenhouse gas emissions) and/or 'statistical transfers' (renewable energy) have to be purchased in order to comply with the targets set, notwithstanding improvements in technology;
- Continued relationships of spatial dispersal resulting in to higher costs for energy services;
- Ongoing public dissatisfaction, costs and delays in relation to the delivery of renewable energy projects.

It is considered that any alternatives need to consider the following:

- Avoiding environmental harm through better planning that is co-ordinated with related investment;
- Less dispersed development that can contribute to more affordable energy costs and make it easier to provide infrastructure on a national scale to more people;
- Making the changes required to transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society and providing greater certainty regarding the type, scale and location of renewable infrastructure across Ireland;
- Developing a tool kit of options to ensure greater environmental coherence when planning for future growth such as inclusion of green infrastructure planning and coherent landscape classification as part of mainstream plan making.

Key Questions

- **How can the NPF help to ensure we get a sustainable balance between catering for a growing population and avoiding or addressing environmental pressures?**
- **How do we plan for growth in such a way that supports a transition to a low carbon and climate resilient economy and what planning policy measures are needed to achieve this?**
- **'What strategic energy infrastructure is needed to support the economy and society and realise the transformation of Ireland's energy system to meet climate change and energy obligations and in what areas should it be located?**
- **Are there any other national environmental issues that you think should be included within the NPF and that are within the remit of planning policy?**
- **An SEA scoping document has been developed in tandem with this paper. What are the relevant significant issues to be addressed by the SEA, AA and SFRA and what environmental objectives should be used?**
- **What measures should be implemented in order to safeguard our landscapes, seascapes and heritage and ensure that Ireland continues to be an attractive place to live, visit and work?**

6

Equipping Ireland for Future Development - Infrastructure

6.1 Setting the Bar

- 6.1.1 High-quality infrastructure is an important element of a modern society and economy. It strengthens economic growth through enhancing efficiency, productivity and competitiveness. It also underpins social cohesion through providing vital facilities for people in the form of schools, public transport, healthcare and housing.
- 6.1.2 The EU Commission Country Report on Ireland published in 2016 identified that in 2010-2013, capital spending averaged 4.8 % of total expenditure, which was less than half the long term average during 1995-2008. The Report states that several years of reduced government investment have had a negative impact on the quality and adequacy of infrastructure.
- 6.1.3 Whilst macroeconomic decision-making regarding the availability of expenditure for capital investment is beyond the scope of the National Planning Framework alone, the NPF will present a clear picture of the planning principles that will influence future priorities for determining where people should live and what types of economic and social activities are best suited to particular regions and localities.
- 6.1.4 In setting out a strategy, the National Planning Framework will provide spatial clarity and co-ordination that will be aligned with future Capital Investment Plans. The actual choice of investment decisions and between specific projects as well as issues of affordability will be considered against the background of the NPF, with the most significant strategic projects nationally identified in the NPF.
- 6.1.5 This joined-up thinking will serve to assist in creating the conditions for new and additional sources of infrastructure funding and delivery. The National Roads programme is an example of successful implementation of an overall strategy, that set out to deliver high quality inter-urban motorways between Dublin and the principal centres of population.
- 6.1.6 It has been a particular issue that the relationship between infrastructure and land-use in Ireland is such that the spatial pattern of development has served to reinforce the predominant status quo. This is largely because infrastructural investment has followed development and population, in the context of constrained public expenditure and a market driven, development-led environment.
- 6.1.7 The status quo has also meant a recurring mismatch between population growth and housing supply in recent decades. Most recently, there has been an oversupply of housing across the Country, followed by a housing shortage in the main population centres. This cycle characterises the 'business as usual' approach and it has been necessary to prioritise putting in place the Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness to tackle the current challenges and accelerate delivery of housing solutions in the short term.
- 6.1.8 Given that it is possible to make projections for population growth, household formation and anticipated housing requirements, it is timely to examine the relationships between housing demand, supply, location and supporting infrastructure as part of a strategic, long term national approach to planning for people and place. The NPF offers an opportunity to do this in order to achieve a better alignment between population growth and housing requirements. This will require a strategic view of likely housing demand and land supply at a national level to support coordinated investment across a number of departments and agencies.

- 6.1.9 The NPF will be relevant to strategic national infrastructure that can influence the spatial pattern of development and contribute to national objectives in areas such as transport, water, wastewater/ flooding, waste, climate action, broadband/ telecommunications, energy, health, education, community and tourism. This will include ensuring that critical infrastructure is adapted to the impacts of climate change and that future infrastructure investments are climate proofed as well as developing the potential of green infrastructure and environmental networks that provide ecosystem services, to complement more traditional infrastructures.
- 6.1.10 The provision of social infrastructure, commensurate to the location and scale of a settlement or locality, is also central to supporting sustainable vibrant communities that cater for all life stages. This is because it is apparent that development over the past twenty years has been widely dispersed, mainly outside established urban areas.
- 6.1.11 In Ireland, primary school enrolments are projected to rise to a peak of over 574,000 in 2018, before beginning to reduce. This peak figure is reflective of primary enrolment levels last seen in Ireland in the early 1980s. Post-primary enrolments are also projected to rise until 2025, at which point enrolments at second level are expected to be in excess of 400,000 pupils for the first time in the history of the State.
- 6.1.12 The numbers enrolled in higher education have also been steadily increasing in recent years and are expected to peak during the late 2020's. Full time enrolments in particular have grown substantially, increasing by over 25% in the past 10 years alone. The highly educated nature of the population is such that in 2015, 52% of people in the 25-34 age cohort had secured a third level qualification, which is well above the EU average (42%). An ongoing need for lifelong learning and upskilling of the workforce will also contribute to future demand across further and higher education provision.

6.2 Scale and Impact

- 6.2.1 In some instances, the rapid growth of small settlements has resulted in development at a scale and pace that has challenged the capacity of services and has led to requirements for new infrastructure, facilities and services, whereas in others, existing services and infrastructure in have become underutilised or redundant, serving diminishing and ageing populations.
- 6.2.2 This has meant that people in Ireland are required to travel longer distances for basic services, as these cannot be replicated everywhere that new populations have emerged. Dispersed development has also served to undermine planned strategic growth areas and key regeneration sites in many cities and towns.
- 6.2.3 In combination, this has made effective service and infrastructure planning difficult. For example, many planned development areas are supported by public investment in enabling infrastructure, including public transport, the potential benefits of which cannot be realised.
- 6.2.4 It is indicative that the Census-defined built up areas of the four largest cities outside Dublin returned an average gross density of 13 people per hectare, whereas the equivalent area in Dublin had 35 people per hectare (2011 figures). This has significant implications for infrastructure and service provision. For example, it is generally accepted that the minimum figure required for the provision of economically viable public transport is in excess of 30 people per hectare.
- 6.2.5 To ensure a strategic approach to infrastructure provision at a national scale, the NPF will provide the spatial background against which investment decisions can be prioritised, to collectively form a strategy. This will commence with the mid-term review of the current capital plan to 2021, which will overlap with the initial period of implementation of the NPF.
- 6.2.6 Activities such as online trading require communications networks to be in place to support the requisite quality of connectivity. The successful delivery of the National Broadband Plan will ultimately play a central role for the regional development, to underpin job creation, promote social inclusion and reduce travel needs (and consequently fossil fuel consumption).

- 6.2.7** The long time horizon of the NPF will enable a range of strategic projects to be aligned and sequenced in relation to emerging spatial development and land use outcomes. Ongoing monitoring and review of spatial development outcomes will feed into periodic review of both the NPF and serve to influence future strategic infrastructure spending and sequencing.

Where to Next?

The possibility of linking spatial considerations to packaged and sequenced investment measures is what can differentiate the NPF as a strategy from a 'wishlist' of projects. Such 'joined-up thinking' will also serve to assist new and additional sources of infrastructure funding and delivery, but does require up-front decision making. This is in contrast to a more reactive approach that seeks to respond to problems as they arise or at best, to address imminent 'bottlenecks'.

This reactive scenario is more representative of 'business as usual' in Ireland in recent years and it is clear that significant pressures already exist, for example in relation to the availability and affordability of housing, urban transport, water supply and waste water, healthcare, the cost of childcare and securing school places at primary and secondary level.

To ensure best value for money and efficiency in terms of infrastructural expenditure and to realise the significant potential of existing embedded infrastructure, any alternatives will need to:-

- Identify nationally strategic infrastructural priorities;
- Promote the 'packaging' and sequencing of spatially related infrastructural projects on a phased basis to achieve optimal outcomes;
- Suggest where large-scale strategic urban extensions or new settlement types may be appropriate and what social infrastructure may be required;
- Identify mechanisms to capture the embedded infrastructural value that exists in many existing settlements and to support more attractive development at such locations;
- Enable greater policy integration and joined up investment decisions across planning, health and transport policy sectors, which are proven to help to make sustainable and active travel more attractive alternatives to the private car;
- Consider the availability of public and state lands for exemplar projects.

Key Questions

- **What are the nationally important infrastructure projects for Ireland that require delivery over the next twenty years?**
- **What do we need to do to make best use of existing infrastructure?**
- **How can we ensure that the provision of infrastructure can be planned to match future demand and how can the NPF reflect this?**
- **How can capital spending on new infrastructure be sequenced in a way that is affordable and equitable, while taking account of Ireland's Climate Change obligations?**
- **How do we ensure that existing and new development can be supported by the timely provision of social infrastructure?**



Enabling the Vision – Implementing the National Planning Framework

7.1 Commitment and Structures

- 7.1.1 Implementing the National Planning Framework will be as important as preparing it. The NPF will need to be clear on how it will be implemented, who will implement it and what the key implementation actions are, given that the geographical and organisational boundaries of the organisations central to achieving the goals of the NPF rarely coincide with everyday patterns of living, working and travelling to access services.
- 7.1.2 Learning from experience with the National Spatial Strategy, legislative support, backed up by wider political and institutional commitment is central to ensuring that the NPF will influence public policy across Government, the Regional Assembly and Local Authority administrations. It is therefore intended that the finalisation of the National Planning Framework will be followed up by strong national, regional and local level implementation.
- 7.1.3 In line with the recommendations of the final report of the Mahon Tribunal published in 2012, it is intended that a statutory process for the making of the National Planning Framework and its implementation will be put in place under the Planning and Development (Amendment) Bill 2016.
- 7.1.4 Structures will be developed and put in place to ensure that the NPF and its main proposals are given top-level commitment, including of a budgetary and investment nature, and are therefore appropriately driven, including constant monitoring to measure progress and focus accordingly.
- 7.1.5 A national level development framework like the NPF will need to be strategic and highly focused in approach, meaning that it must be complemented by more detailed strategies, at a geographical level in terms of regional and local dimensions and at a sectoral level in terms of policies in relation to transport, energy, enterprise development or housing.
- 7.1.6 The Local Government Reform Act 2014 established three Regional Assemblies, broadly covering the East and Midlands, the South and North-West of the Country. Alongside the National Planning Framework, the Regional Assemblies will also each finalise and adopt a Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) to outline in more detail how the NPF will be implemented in each Regional Assembly area and in the local authority areas that make up each assembly.
- 7.1.7 All three Regional Assembly areas include both rural and urban areas and coastal and inland counties and two border Northern Ireland. In the case of the East and Midlands, there is evidence to suggest that the area driven by or influenced by Dublin extends from southern Cavan to Wexford, which touches on all three Regional Assembly areas and multiple local authorities.
- 7.1.8 The thirty-one local authorities are critical implementers of a National Planning Framework because they are responsible for a broad range of local development functions, including economic development and planning, housing, mobility and traffic management, community development and environmental protection, that shape the places that will make the NPF happen on the ground.

- 7.1.9 Looking at local authorities more closely, a recurring theme from preliminary consultation arose in terms of how the NPF will be implemented across local authority boundaries given that built-up areas or 'footprint' of most cities and many towns will straddle local authority or even regional boundaries, such as Cork, Dublin, Limerick, Waterford, Athlone, Bray, Carlow and Drogheda.
- 7.1.10 Preparation of the NPF therefore needs to anticipate and prepare for the challenges in implementing the Framework, most of which stem from the fact that for a variety of reasons, geography, scale, historic administrative structures and more recently, EU reporting requirements, administrative and organisation boundaries may not always neatly coincide with the issues that a planning framework seeks to address.

7.2 Key Policy Considerations

- 7.2.1 The key implementation arrangements that are therefore identified at this point of the development of the NPF include the following:-

Interdepartmental Drive: Through a National Planning Framework Management Team;

Statutory Backing: Through the Planning and Development (Amendment) Bill 2016;

Administrative Structures to Respond to 'Real-world' Issues:

- Preparation of Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies to co-ordinate across local authority and wider public policy levels in support of the NPF;
- Implementation programmes developed on a cross-local authority basis within the Regional Assembly structure;
- Strengthened legislative basis for local authority co-operation on planning;
- Marine and North-South/East-West dimension.

Investment: Capital Programmes of Government Departments and relevant public bodies and the use of 'bid' based systems that incentivise cross-authority/agency working in qualifying for targeted funding;

Monitoring and Policy Feedback: Establishment of independent monitoring of the NPF to identify and put in place key data gathering systems that will measure NPF effectiveness and outcomes to feed back into further implementation, review and updating in line with the Planning and Development (Amendment) Bill proposals. Annual reporting to Government and to the Oireachtas could provide a formal oversight arrangement for the NPF.

Where to Next?

Careful consideration needs to be given to the implementation and monitoring of the National Planning Framework, to avoid current challenges becoming our future crises.

The National Planning Framework must strike a balance between delivering a strategic plan for Ireland over the next twenty years whilst also fostering the potential of places and the ambition of people. Central to achieving this balance is political will and ownership at local, regional and national level to allow places of varying sizes to complement each other rather than to compete with each other.

Reflecting on the capacity of existing governance structures at local, regional and national level to drive and support a National Planning Framework will also be required to achieve better outcomes for people and places.

Key Questions

- **When it comes to implementation and monitoring of the NPF, are there common goals that can be identified and apply to every place?**
- **What barriers exist to implementation?**
- **How best can sustainable planning outcomes be recognised and rewarded?**
- **What levers are needed to deliver greater efficiencies in administration and governance, when it comes to implementing and monitoring the NPF?**
- **What the key indicators for measuring the successful implementation of the NPF?**

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| Subject | Community Planning Mid Ulster |
| Date | 23rd March 2017 |
| Reporting Officer | Adrian McCreesh, Director of Business and Communities |

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| 1 | Purpose of Report |
| 1.1 | To agree the final Mid Ulster Community Plan |
| 1.2 | To agree representation of Members on the Community Planning Governance Structure. |
| 1.3 | To note the Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality and Habitats Assessment Screenings carried out on the Community Plan. |

| | |
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| 2 | Background |
| 2.1 | <p>Community Plan</p> <p>The Local Government Act (NI) 2014 requires the Council to initiate, maintain, facilitate and participate in community planning for its district. The Council is the lead partner and is required to put in place a process where it works with bodies to develop and implement a shared vision for the district.</p> |
| 2.2 | <p>Community Planning Governance</p> <p>As part Community Planning process a governance structure to include the sectors below is required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statutory Organisations • Government Departments • Community & Voluntary Sector • Business Sector <p>Members will sit within this structure.</p> |
| 2.3 | <p>Screenings</p> <p>As part of process the following screening are required to be carried out on the Community Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Environmental Assessment • Equality Screening • Habitats Assessment |

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| 3 | Key Issues |
| 3.1 | Community Plan |

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| <p>3.2</p> | <p>The Draft Community Plan was discussed at a Special Council Meeting on Thursday 1st December 2016 before going to Public Consultation on Monday 5th December for 9 weeks.</p> <p>Consultation closed on Monday 6th February. Recommendations from the consultation were presented to the Community Planning Board on Wednesday 22nd February and all amendments to the Plan were agreed.</p> <p>The final Community Plan was sent to all Partners on Thursday 9th March for a 4 week signing off period.</p> <p>The final Community Plan attached is presented to Members for consideration and agreement.</p> <p>Community Planning Governance</p> <p>It is proposed members would be represented through the following process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Community Planning Working Group made up on 10 Members using d'hondt. • The Chair of the Working Group will be elected by d'hondt. • The Member Working Group will report through the Development Committee. • Members from the Working Group will sit on the 5 Thematic Working Groups, 2 per Theme. These will meet bi-monthly to develop action plans in the first instance and then oversee delivery and monitoring of actions thereafter. • Inter Thematic Workshops will be held 2 times per year where all thematic groups will come together to discuss cross cutting issues and plan and deliver subsequent actions. • The Chair of the Council will represent at the Community Planning Board. <p>Proposal to agree process above and Member representation to Community Planning governance structure.</p> <p>Screenings</p> <p>Environmental screening attached – This report consider the environmental impact of Community Plan – A negative screening accepted by NIEA on the basis this is still a strategic document which will be delivered via the strategies and work programmes of various community planning partners, negating the need to undertake a full Strategic Environmental Assessment.</p> <p>Equality screening attached – A negative screening report has been produced, negating the need for a full Equality Impact Assessment.</p> <p>Habitats Assessment attached – In accordance with Regulations Councils have to consider whether policies are likely to have a significant effect on any Natura 2000 site. Again as the Plan is still a Strategic document a negative screening report has been produced.</p> <p>Proposal to take note of the above screening.</p> |
| <p>4</p> | <p>Resource Implications</p> |
| <p>4.1</p> | <p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>None.</p> |

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| 4.2 | <u>Human resources</u> None. |
| 4.3 | <u>Assets and other implications</u> None. |

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| 5 | Other Considerations |
| 5.1 | None |

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| 6 | Recommendations |
| 6.1 | To agree the final Mid Ulster Community Plan |
| 6.2 | To agree representation of members on the Community Planning Governance Structure. |
| 6.3 | To note the Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality and Habitats Assessment Screenings carried out on the Community Plan. |

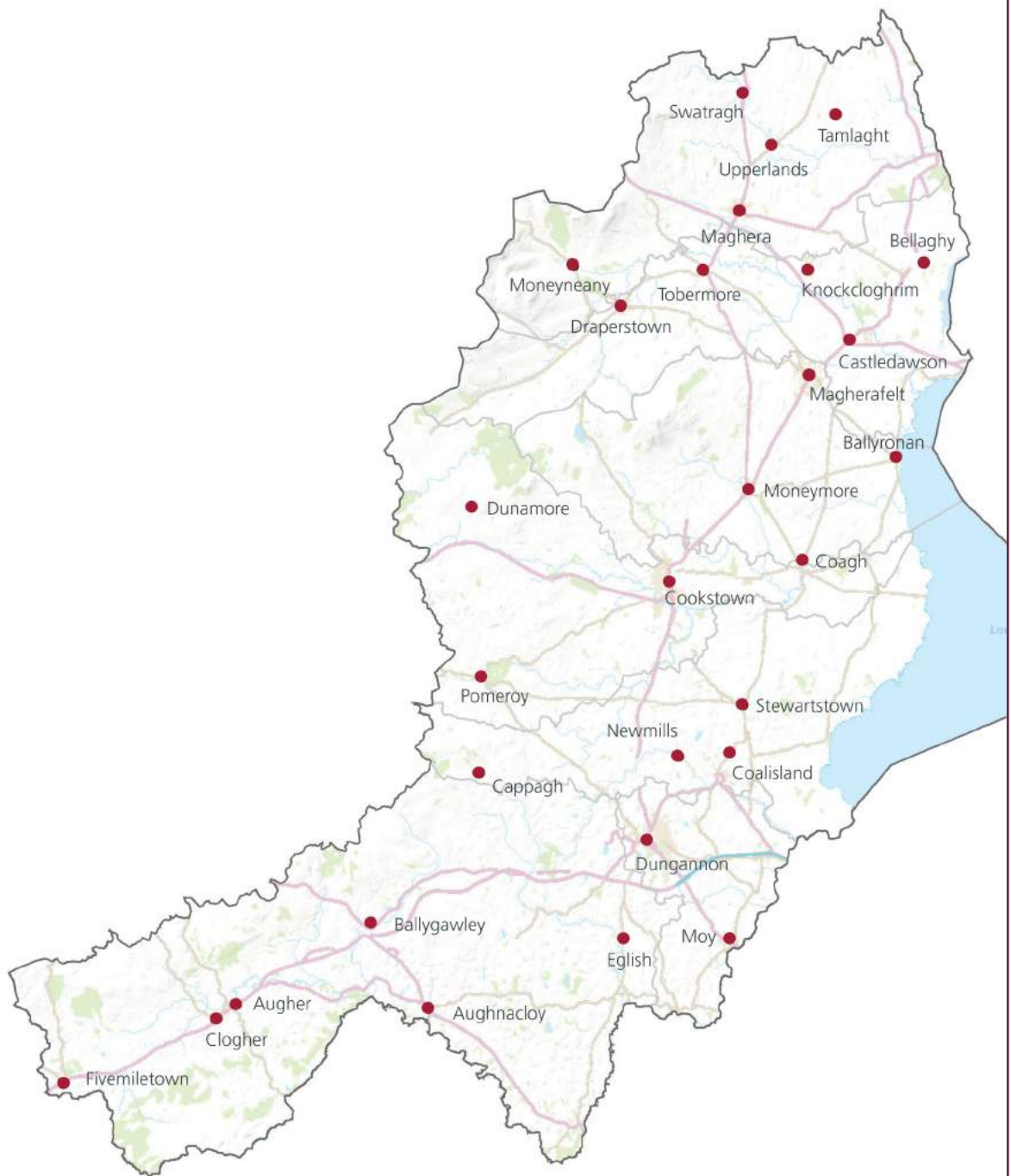
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| 7 | List of Documents Attached |
| 7.1 | Mid Ulster Community Plan |
| 7.2 | Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Equality Screening Habitats Assessment Screening |



Our Community Plan

10 year plan for Mid Ulster





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Our Community Plan



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1. A Plan for Mid Ulster

Introduction to Community Planning



Our Vision for Our Place

Mid Ulster... a welcoming place where our people are content, healthy and safe; educated and skilled; where our economy is thriving; our environment and heritage are sustained; and where our public services excel.

What Our Plan is

Community Planning is about agreeing and setting out a shared vision for Mid Ulster and then identifying what needs to be done to deliver that vision. It's about people, communities and organisations coming together to improve local well-being and quality of life, and making sure that plans, strategies, priorities and programmes at all levels integrate with each other.

Community Planning here is ambitious. It's about working together, taking the long-term view and tackling difficult issues such as balanced growth and development; community cohesion and safety, disadvantage and poverty; regeneration; sustainability; and well-being. More than anything it's about partnership, co-ordination and ensuring value for money and resources.

Our Community Plan will focus on early intervention and prevention. This approach will be particularly challenging in a time of reducing public sector resources. It is the ongoing financial constraints which we face that makes this preventative approach so important for the future.

Our Community Plan reflects the following core principles:

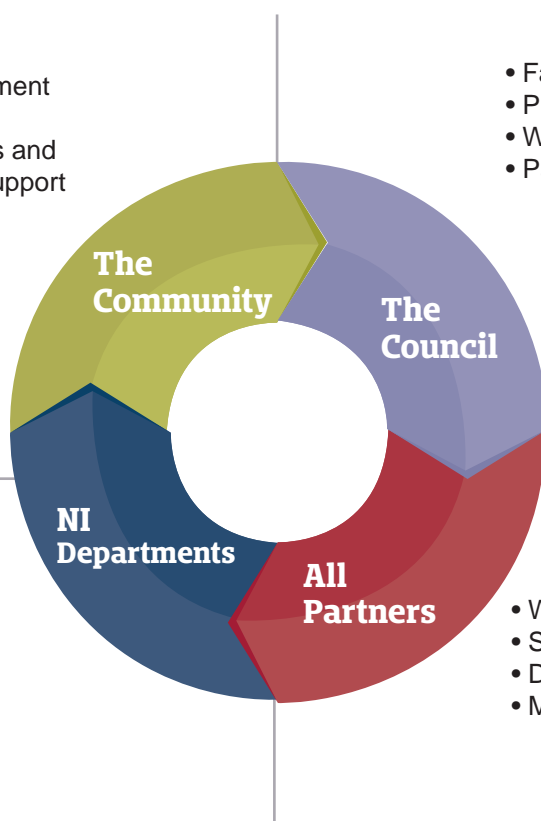
- Our focus is the Mid Ulster District but we also recognise assets which cross Council boundaries.
- We work to short, medium and long term goals within an overall ten-year horizon.
- We will deliver the plan through strong governance and monitoring arrangements.
- The plan will clearly link with the forthcoming Mid Ulster Development Plan.
- The Plan takes account of equality, good relations, sustainable development, social inclusion and rural proofing and it has been screened to ensure that it does not impact negatively upon these core principles. These are available to view at the Mid Ulster District Council website; www.midulstercouncil.org

How we developed our Plan

- We worked on a basis of consensus with all our community, business and statutory partners.
- Transparent and inclusive community engagement and consultation underpinned the plan.
- Everything in the Plan is evidence-based.
- We kept and will continue to keep residents regularly updated and give them access to all plan documents and analysis.

Community Planning Roles

- Input views during the development and review of the Plan.
- Community, voluntary, business and other sectors to participate as 'support partners'.



- Facilitate and manage the process
- Put governance structures in place
- Work for partnership consensus
- Participate as a 'Partner'

- Promote and encourage community planning
- Integrate Community Planning outcomes into corporate and business planning.

- Work in partnership to develop the Plan
- Seek community participation
- Deliver assigned tasks and actions
- Monitor and review the Plan

2. What we found out and what you told us

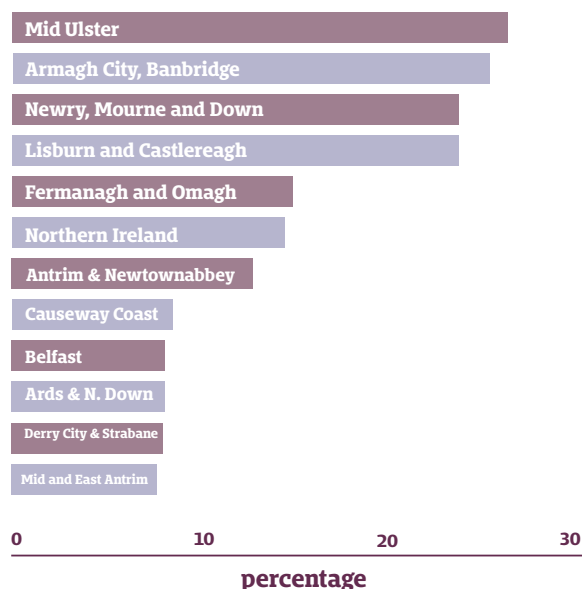
“ A great place to live.”

Community Planning in Mid Ulster is based on a very sound ‘double-foundation’. That foundation includes the findings from broad and deep statistical analysis as well as far-reaching community consultation. The findings from both are summarised below.

What We Found Out

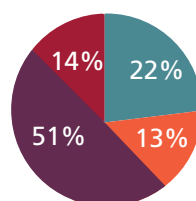
Our detailed socio-economic analysis of Mid Ulster by Oxford Economics (Mid Ulster District Social, Economic and Environmental Data Analysis) can be obtained from the Council website. A crucial finding is that the Council area is healthy in demographic terms, and its recent strong population growth is projected to continue.

Population growth 2012-2037



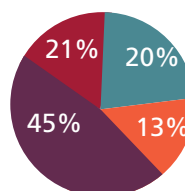
Some of the other main strategic findings are as follows:

- Mid Ulster is currently made up of more Under 16s and fewer Over 65s than the Northern Ireland (NI) average. Population projections show that this trend is set to continue.
- Mid Ulster has a higher than average working age population which helps provide for a strong economic position; and this is set to continue into the future. This is in contrast to NI average projections.
- However population projections show a dramatic increase in the number of older people by 2037.



Population Breakdown in Mid Ulster by age 2015

0-15 16-25 26-64 65+



Population Breakdown in Mid Ulster by age 2037

0-15 16-25 26-64 65+

Older People
percentage of 65+ will rise from 14% to 21% by 2037.

65+



Mid Ulster: Key Facts

- Our engineering businesses are considered global leaders in high growth export sectors, especially in material handling.
- We are the top area in the region for enterprise development and entrepreneurship.
- We have three growing vibrant and economically active towns.
- We have a good standard of higher and further level education among our young people, with school leavers within the Mid Ulster area performing above the NI average.
- The share of Mid Ulster's population diagnosed with a long term limiting illness has fallen by more than any other council area.
- We have a very diverse District with a large number of migrants choosing to live and work in its vibrant towns and businesses.
- Crime levels are below the NI average.
- We have a strong community spirit and have one of the largest active community sectors delivering for local people.

Issues that need addressed

- Mid Ulster has the highest proportion of deaths resulting from circulatory diseases in NI.
- Mid Ulster has the longest emergency ambulance response times in NI; whilst residents have, on average, further to travel to reach an acute hospital.
- Mental Health and deaths by suicide remain a priority, particularly the mental health and emotional resilience of our children and young people.
- The proportion of those with no qualifications in Mid Ulster was found to be higher than the regional average. Similarly, educational attainment at NVQ level 4 has been below average within the council area.
- Almost three Mid Ulster employees in every ten work in manufacturing, nearly two and a half times the NI average. Construction and agriculture also remain significant. Public sector meanwhile accounts for 22% of jobs locally compared with 31% across NI; and high end office sector provision is low.
- Wages locally tend to be lower than the NI average.
- Several pockets of acute deprivation exist in both our urban centres and rural areas.
- Many rural areas suffer from poor broadband/mobile phone coverage.
- Demand for social housing is increasing, particularly in Dungannon.
- Public transport is not readily available and there is a heavy reliance on the road network.
- Mid Ulster has been impacted by the 'Troubles' and this remains evident across our communities.

What people told us

In 2014 and again in 2015, 20 Community Planning consultation events, directly involving 1000 people, were facilitated. In addition, questionnaire based surveys gathered the views of almost 1600 respondents and specific consultations were carried out with young people, people with disabilities and migrant communities. The detailed feedback can be obtained from the Council website '*Community Consultation 2014*' and '*Follow-up Consultation 2015*'.

Among the high-level findings from the consultations were:

- 80% of respondents were either satisfied or very satisfied with their area as a place to live.
- Family, community and neighbours are central to people of all ages; attraction to/affinity with their area; kinship ties remain strong here; and local communities are robust and valued.
- More employment, particularly for young people; better transport; better access to health care are people's main priorities for development.
- People valued the provision and access to good sports/play/leisure facilities in their areas.
- A number of core services such as recycling/refuse collection, parks/open spaces, street cleaning and sport/leisure facilities are seen to perform well.
- Schools and libraries are seen to perform well.
- Among the areas that need attention are roads, broadband and mobile phone coverage particularly in rural areas; support for carers and adult/elderly health care.

3. The Regional Agenda

Our Mid Ulster Community Planning is not something that happens on its own.

We recognise we are part of a bigger picture and we therefore must take this into account. Our Community Plan reflects what's already been laid down at the regional level in documents like the Draft Programme for Government Framework 2016-21, The Regional Development Strategy 2035 and others. Our Community Plan will not replace existing plans and strategies but will instead help co-align and enhance them to ensure delivery is targeted towards the local needs of Mid Ulster.

In turn and in time, our Mid Ulster Community Plan will help influence and shape regional strategies as they are developed.

Other strategic issues which must be given consideration in the development of the plan and delivery are the consequences of Brexit. We must develop an understanding of its impact to the district and the implications to EU investment: trade, border communities and physical infrastructure, so that we may tailor our action accordingly.

The Plan will take account of regional priorities including equality, sustainability, rural proofing and delivering an excellent public service.



Relationship between Regional, Local and Community Plans.

Mid Ulster Local Development Plan

The forthcoming Mid Ulster Development Plan will focus on 'place shaping' for the area of Mid Ulster. In doing that, it will provide the spatial strategy for the Community Plan; flowing from the plan's vision for Mid Ulster and linking public and private sector investment through the land use planning system. It will further ensure a joined up approach, cementing the linkages that will make Mid Ulster a series of better places and stronger communities.

4. Mid Ulster's Community Plan

Our Vision for Our Place

Mid Ulster... a welcoming place where our people are content, healthy and safe; educated and skilled; where our economy is thriving; our environment and heritage are sustained; and where our public services excel.

What do we want to achieve for Mid Ulster?

We have identified 15 outcomes we want to achieve in Mid Ulster over the life of this plan. These are:

These outcomes will be achieved through a number of actions that we have structured into 5 themes. However, in the essence of Community Planning, all the themes, actions and partners will work together to achieve these outcomes collectively.

Many of our outcomes reflect the outcomes in the Programme for Government (PfG). This will allow partners to better integrate community planning actions into their daily business which will be driven by regional outcomes framed through the PfG.

We prosper in a stronger and more competitive economy.

We have more people working in a diverse economy.

Our towns and villages are vibrant and competitive

We are better connected through appropriate infrastructure.

We will increasingly value our environment and enhance it for our children.

We will enjoy increased access to affordable quality housing.

Our people are better qualified and more skilled.

We give our children and young people the best chance in life.

We are more entrepreneurial, innovative and creative.

We are better enabled to live longer healthier and more active lives.

We have better availability to the right health service, in the right place at the right time.

We care more for those most vulnerable and in need.

We are a safer community.

We have a greater value and respect for diversity.

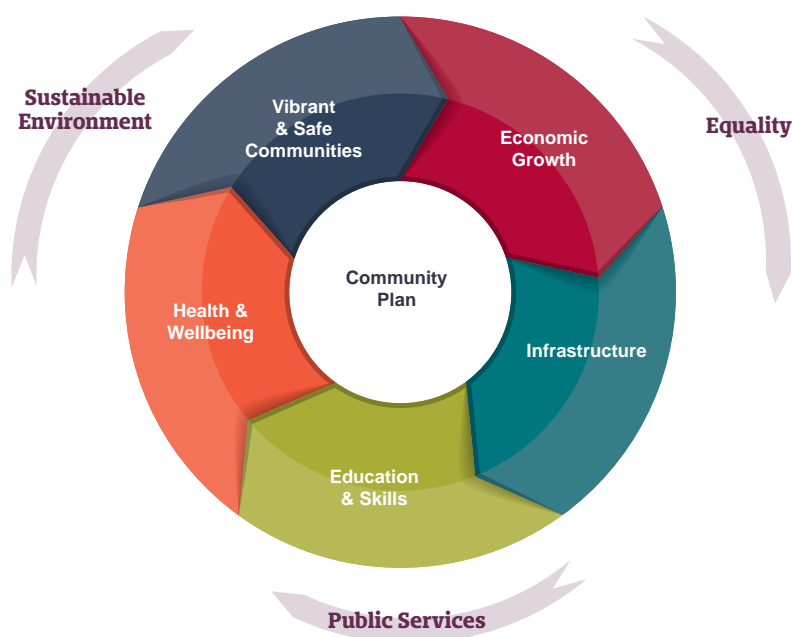
We have fewer people living in poverty and fewer areas of disadvantage.

Themes and Cross Cutting Principles

The Community Plan is built around five themes. Running across those five themes are three cross-cutting guiding principles. All of our strategic actions must incorporate the principles of sustainable environment, equality and the highest standard of public service.

We recognise if our Community Plan is to be a success we must balance the need for environmental, social and economic considerations when designing and delivering activities. The need to ensure equality for everyone regardless of race, gender, age, religion, sexual orientation, marital status or disability, plays an important part in ensuring the sustainable development of our local economy, our environment and our society as a whole.

Achieving a high standard of public services underpins all our Plan and future actions and this approach is central to future delivery to ensure we are all working together to maximize on success and deliver for Mid Ulster.



Equality

It is essential that Mid Ulster receives its 'fair share' within the overall NI context; but this has to be matched by the achievement of Equality within the District between places, communities, groupings and cultures. The actions delivered through Community Planning must be accessible for all to benefit from, with consideration given to those most vulnerable and those with disabilities.

Sustainable Environment

Mid Ulster is home to many precious environments which its people have fostered and cherished for generations. Added to the need to continue with this focus is the growing imperative of making a significant contribution to tackling global warming and climate change. The delivery of our Plan must produce sustainable actions that protect our environment and leave a legacy for future generations to benefit from.

Public Services

The quality of modern life is directly related to the breadth, depth and availability of core public services. Mid Ulster has to give further consideration to this, with new approaches required to achieve improvement by making the best use of existing resources through collaborative working.

Theme 1

Economic Growth



We want to prioritise job creation, investment and the enhancement of people's skills and employability, and at the same time improve broadband/mobile phone coverage. Support for Micro and Small to Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) must continue across all sectors. Engineering, agriculture (including 'farm families' and 'agri-food') and construction have to be driven forward and planned major capital projects must be implemented. It is also important to address the District's significant public sector jobs deficit and to drive forward growth in the 'emerging' and 'high end' office sectors.

We must capitalise more on our tourist assets of activity, heritage and Seamus Heaney, via a tailored Mid Ulster Tourism Strategy which has a core objective of getting more people to visit and stay overnight in the District.

Previous and current work on multi-focused town centre regeneration and village renewal schemes (i.e. integrating proposals for business, jobs, services, public realm and traffic management) should be continued and include concerted efforts to address dereliction. Deficits in rural communities need to be addressed and the District's cross-border opportunities developed. The Council's new Planning powers will be a key means of taking this theme forward.

We need to take into consideration all our contributors to economic growth and barriers faced by many in our society to take part. These include, women returning to work, people with children and other caring duties, people with disabilities and those most removed from the labour market or economic opportunity.

We prosper in a stronger and more competitive economy

We have more people working in a diverse economy

Our towns and villages are vibrant and competitive

Labour market 2014

Mid Ulster



73%
employment rate
27%
economically inactive

Northern Ireland



73%
employment rate
27%
economically inactive

Labour market is composed of Economically In active and Economically Active (latter includes those in employment AND those seeking work) (NINIS 2015)

Public Sector Employment



22%
Mid Ulster

31%
Northern Ireland

Jobs (2013) 47,858 employee jobs*

Production
(inc. manufacturing)



29%

Northern Ireland
12%

Construction



8%

Northern Ireland
4%

Distribution
Services



22%

Northern Ireland
21%

Other
Services



41%

Northern Ireland
62%

Other



0.1%

Northern Ireland
0.1%

* These figures do not include the self-employed or agricultural labour

Tourism



155,708
Overnight Trips
(NINIS 2015)

3rd lowest
of 11 council
areas



613,667
Nights Stayed
Overnight
(NINIS 2015)

2nd lowest
of 11 council
areas



£22.29
Million Spend
on Overnight
Trips (NINIS)

lowest of 11
council areas

What are we going to do?

An enhanced business start-up programme.

Provide sustainable support for rural business development beyond European Union funded programmes.

Coordinate a single business support package and 'one stop' contact point.

Ensure our Local Development Plan provides for urban and rural business growth and industrial and employment sites at key strategic growth locations.

Develop cross border cooperation for economic growth.

Develop and implement broadband and mobile phone connectivity solutions across Mid Ulster.

Prepare a Mid Ulster Investment Proposition to maximise inward investment.

Grow high value and sustainable employment opportunities and link these to skills development.

Develop satellite hubs for 'Grade A' office accommodation and the decentralisation of public sector jobs to Mid Ulster.

Maximise Tourism investment and employment concentrating on Mid Ulster strategic tourism themes of Seamus Heaney, Activity and Heritage.

Grow out Social Economy Sector.

Create a competitive advantage for our principal towns, complimenting a 'Town Centre First' principle.

Develop and deliver coordinated Village Planning and renewal initiatives.

Investigate the potential of the co-location of public services in town centres, prioritising the re-use of derelict sites and/or building.

What will success look like?

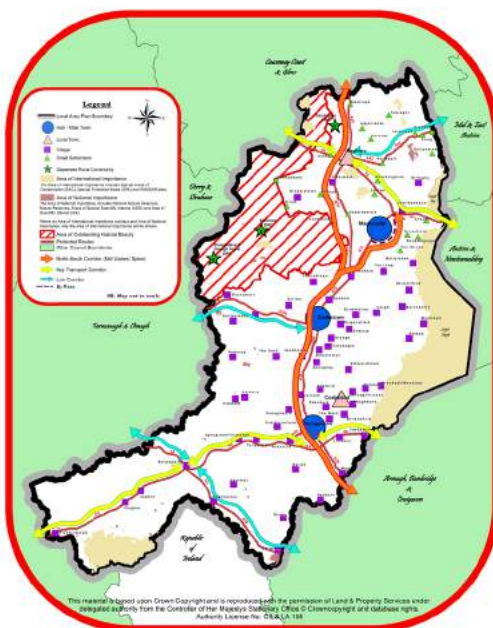
- Increased % of successful business starts and VAT registered companies
- Increased level of business growth across the district
- Increased competitiveness of the local economy
- Improved internet and telecoms connectivity
- Increased number of Foreign & Direct Investment businesses
- Increased proportion of people working in good jobs
- Improved attractiveness as a tourism destination
- Increased number of Social Economy businesses
- Increased performance of our towns & villages

How will we measure it?

- Sustainable business starts (2+ years)
- Business turnover
- Enterprise and industrial land provision
- External Sales
- Proportion of premises with access to broadband services in excess of 30 Mbps
- Mobile signal 'Not Spot' areas
- Foreign & Direct Investments businesses
- Number of people earning a 'decent income' (to be developed)
- Total spend by external visitors
- Number of visitors
- Number of Social Economy businesses
- Town centre productivity level
- Village renewal initiatives completed
- Level of dereliction

Theme 2

Infrastructure



Mid Ulster has a number of strategic infrastructure issues which need to be addressed in a joined up manner. These include:

- The strategic roads and transport networks (existing and potential), particularly to facilitate the 'Mid Ulster Urban Cluster Hub' of Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt;
- Telecommunications and broadband with equitable provision across the District;
- Waste and recycling;
- Energy, including renewables and new options such as gas;
- Public utilities that meet the future growth needs of the area.

Improving the quality of our environment is important. This includes the protection and development of the diverse elements within it and this will be considered as part of our cross cutting principles.

Existing natural and built heritage assets such as Lough Neagh, Ulster Canal, The Sperrins and many other sites/structures need to be sustainably developed as part of the District's green and blue infrastructure.

Increased provision and access to social and affordable housing is required and Mid Ulster's significant public sector estate needs to be reappraised to ensure its value and usage are maximised for the benefit of local communities.

We are better connected through appropriate infrastructure

We increasingly value our environment and enhance it for our children

We enjoy increased access to affordable quality housing

Transport



76.63% of Mid Ulster population travel to work by car * (Census 2011)



1.86% of Mid Ulster Public Transport to travel to work * (Census 2011)

Gas to the West



Reduce
Reuse
Recycle
Energy from
waste
disposal



The five year projected social housing need for Mid Ulster to 2020 is 538 units (Mid Ulster Housing Investment Plan (HIP) Annual Update 2016)

What are we going to do?

Advance the development of the Strategic Road Network (the A29 – A31, A4, A6 and A5), including bypasses for the main towns and villages on the strategic routes.

Manage and maintain the local roads network to facilitate the safe and convenient movement of people and goods.

Progress Park & Ride at strategic sites.

Investigate the feasibility of restoring rail links to and from Mid Ulster.

Pilot an 'Integrated Transport Scheme' which takes account of our rural areas and people and businesses based there.

Develop an Intra-Town Transit System which will include shuttle bus, cycling and walking links.

Reduce our dependency on landfill through increased recycling and recovery.

Facilitate the delivery of strategic infrastructure schemes such as broadband and mobile phone coverage; 'Gas to the West'; Interconnector; sewerage and water and the Desertcreat Safety College.

Improve our drainage and sewage network (including the promotion of Sustainable Drainage Systems) that is resilient to need and that is used correctly and appropriately.

Develop and implement an Asset Management Plan for the entire public sector estate across Mid Ulster.

Commission a Renewable Energy Position Paper for Mid Ulster.

Protect our environment through the improvement of our air and water quality.

Increase the protection of, access to and development of our heritage assets, both natural and man-made, including our strategic visitor sites; Seamus Heaney Countryside; O'Neill Heritage; Lough Neagh; Sperrins; Beaghmore and our forests.

Secure the transfer of Lough Neagh into public ownership.

Progress the reinstatement of the Ulster Canal and its greenway links.

Provide an adequate supply of social and affordable 'homes-for-life' and Supported Living through Area Plan policy and direct public provision.

Promote and provide for mixed community housing developments

What will success look like?

- Improved transport connections for people to goods and services
- Increased use of public transport and active travel
- Increased household waste recycling
- Increased provision of investment in our strategic infrastructure and public utilities
- Increased efficiency and usage of public sector estates
- Increased environmental sustainability
- Improved air quality
- Increased protection, access and enjoyment of our natural and built heritage
- Improved supply of affordable and social housing
- Increased mixed community housing developments

How will we measure it?

- Average journey time on key economic corridors
- % of journeys which are made by walking/cycling/public transport
- % of household waste that is recycled or composted
- Strategic schemes complete
- Co-location/sharing sites
- Number of Partners at co-located sites
- Renewable Energy Policy Position
- Air & Water Quality
- Protected sites
- Visitors to sites
- Public events at sites
- Status of Lough Neagh public ownership transfer
- Status of the Ulster Canal
- Social Housing Need
- Mixed community housing developments

Theme 3

Education and Skills



Levels of educational under achievement, with regards to the percentage of our population that has 'no to low' qualifications, needs to be tackled via all levels of the education and training systems. Under achievement is particularly apparent in our most deprived areas. Research shows, in these communities, children under perform by as much as 10% to that of children from 'better off' areas of our District. This educational gap must be closed.

Education needs to be developed in holistic ways, for example by incorporating mental health and emotional resilience support and by ensuring educational facilities 'work' for children, families and communities beyond the traditional school hours/days. A number of our educational facilities require urgent replacement or significant upgrading.



Meaningful links and collaboration are essential between employers, entrepreneurs, enterprise agencies, schools, colleges and communities. In the same way training and skills development should reflect Mid Ulster's many economic strengths.

Our people are better qualified and more skilled

We give our children and young people the best chance in life

We are more entrepreneurial, innovative and creative



Education Deprivation

Three Mid Ulster wards ranked within the worst 100 in N.I.

Qualifications 2014

| | Mid Ulster | Northern Ireland |
|-------------------|------------|------------------|
| No Qualifications | 22% | 17% |
| Below NVQ Level 4 | 52% | 53% |
| Above NVQ Level 4 | 26% | 30% |

% of school leavers with no GCSE qualifications in N.I 2013/14



UK prosperity Index: Education

Mid Ulster ranked 304 out of 389 Local Authority Area for education (measures human capital, educational attainment and attendance)

What are we going to do?

Extend the Numeracy and Literacy Support Framework in schools with identified disadvantage.

Develop and roll-out a peer mentoring programme for children and young people experiencing low attainment.

Extend the number and range of Foundation Degrees and Degree courses delivered locally.

Extend the provision and access to part-time education for adult returners.

Develop models to increase the wider community and cross community use of all educational facilities.

Ensure accessible preschool places for every child.

Schools-based mental health support programmes to improve the resilience of children and young people.

Invest in the school and Further Education College estates, including an enhanced local Campus for Northern Regional College in Magherafelt.

Extend provision of Shared Education across Mid Ulster.

Work to ensure every 18-year old person has a positive 'learning, work and life destination'.

Provide a Family Support Centre in each school providing for disadvantaged communities, with the aim of building educational attainment levels.

Ensure all Mid Ulster schools are supported to deliver STEM, entrepreneurial and creative development skills programmes.

Establish a Mid Ulster Skills Forum bringing together employers, entrepreneurs, enterprise agencies, schools and colleges to plan ahead to improve future employability.

Develop and deliver a tailored high level Apprenticeship programme to meet the specific needs of Mid Ulster industry.

Scope, develop and deliver a Mid Ulster Engineering Centre of Excellence.

What will success look like?

- Reduced education inequality
- Improved educational outcomes
- Improved skills profile of the population
- Increased number of schools which have community access
- Improved child development
- Improved mental health & resilience in children and young people
- Improved quality of the school estate
- Increased Shared Education
- Increased number of 16 year olds in a positive destination
- Increased number of apprenticeships in Mid Ulster
- Increased attendance levels
- Improved skills profile of the population
- Increased innovation in our economy

How will we measure it?

- Gap between % of non Free School Meal (FSME) and % of FSME school leavers achieving at Level 2 or above including English and Maths
- % of school leavers achieving at level 2 or above including English and Maths
- The proportion of the working age population qualified to level 1 and above, level 2 and above, level 3 and above, and level 4 and above
- Enrolments and achievements in Essential Skills of literacy, numeracy and ICT.
- Schools with community and cross community use
- Unplaced 3-4 year olds
- Mental health referrals and support request in under 16s
- Educational estate improvements
- Shared Education initiatives
- NEETs (Not in Employment, Education or Training)
- Apprenticeship placements
- School Attendance
- % of firms actively engaged in innovation of skills development

Theme 4

Health and Wellbeing



It is clear that responsibility for growing healthy communities ranges far beyond the traditional health and care services and structures, and that better balances can and must be achieved between prevention and treatment. We need to continue to work together across agencies to focus on early intervention and prevention and to reduce health inequalities.

It is recognised that Health Inequalities are impacted by a wide range of determinants including, gender, age and ethnicity, disability and carers, as well as adequate disposable income; living and working conditions; level of education; access to services; and the environment. It will be important in the development and delivery of services, that we give consideration to the whole, not just individual elements.

A community-based and multi-agency approach to health and well-being programmes, projects and activities, aimed at all ages, communities, needs and lifestyles, and targeted to those most in need, should be sustained and built upon. This should be done through collaborative and cohesive working, incorporating a wider focus on mental health-related issues and social care provision.

The local availability, effectiveness and efficiency of Health and Social Care services needs to be reviewed and enhanced to meet the needs of our community. This will require investment in our infrastructure, attention to our emergency ambulance response times, along with the reconfiguration of existing services and facilities. The importance and role of Primary Care, as provided by our General Practitioners (GPs), as the entry point to the Health and Social Care system for the majority of people, must be central to a future co-designed service.

We are better enabled to live longer healthier and more active lives

We have better availability to the right health service, in the right place at the right time

We care more for those most vulnerable and in need



9:41 minutes

**Mid Ulster has the worst
Emergency Ambulance
response in N.I.
(NINIS)**



29%

**Highest proportion of deaths
from circulatory diseases in NI.
(24%)
(NINIS 2012 - 2015)**



Older People
**Percentage of 65+ is
estimated to double by 2037**



Health Inequalities
Top 20%
**Seven wards ranked in the
top 20% of health deprived
wards in N.I.
(NINIS)**

What are we going to do?

An 'Ageing Well' initiative.

A 'Healthy for Life' strategy, team and portal; coordinating all health initiatives, programmes and literature available in the District.

Deliver a Recreation and Active Lifestyle Plan which will provide formal and informal recreation and play opportunities.

Develop and deliver a 'Healthy Towns and Villages' initiative.

Develop and implement an integrated response to mental health and wellbeing.

Optimise the provision of co-located health and social care wellbeing services in each of our three main towns.

Develop enhanced access to ambulatory and acute care for the Mid Ulster population, ensuring equitable access to safe and appropriate services.

Investigate the Mid Ulster district as a potential location for the delivery of a regional service.

Develop a Centre of Excellence for Public Safety at Desertcreat and potential provision of an Ambulance Service hub for Mid Ulster.

Develop Adult Learning initiatives across Mid Ulster, including a new-build for the Oakridge Social Education Centre in Dungannon.

Extend and enhance supported and independent living provision across Mid Ulster.

Put in place a targeted Healthy Living Initiative for disadvantaged communities.

Early intervention programmes for 0-4 year old development, targeting the most vulnerable.

What will success look like?

- Improved health and wellbeing support for older people
- Increased healthy life expectancy
- Reduced preventable deaths
- Improved mental health
- Enhanced access to ambulatory and acute care
- Improved emergency ambulance response times
- Increased quality of life and opportunities for people with disabilities
- Reduced health inequality
- Improved child development

How will we measure it?

- % of older people living independently
- Healthy life expectancy at birth
- Preventable mortality
- % of people with mild to moderate mental health issues (GHQ12 scores equal to or greater than 4)
- Current services waiting lists and access times (primary, social care, elective, acute provision)
- Users accessing non acute services locally
- Emergency Ambulance response times
- Quality and sustainable day care and day opportunities placements
- Independent living provision for adults with disabilities
- Gap between highest and lowest deprivation quintile in healthy life expectancy at birth
- The proportion of babies born at low birth weight
- % of children who are at the appropriate stage of development in their immediate pre-school year

Theme 5

Vibrant and Safe Communities



We hold the view that, the success of the economy, the education system, health and wellbeing are all significantly influenced by the viability and vitality of local communities. Mid Ulster enjoys a strong and valued community infrastructure that takes many forms and delivers many activities and benefits. Support provided to community development and social enterprise is highly valued by local people and should be continued.

Recorded crime levels overall are low but some high levels of localised anti-social behaviour and fear of crime must be tackled. Options for more innovative responses to community needs and especially the needs of excluded and vulnerable people need to be developed. There is potential to make more effective use of existing facilities and to put in place responses to emergency or crisis situations.

We must address the divisions that still exist within our communities, working to ensure shared resources and spaces are created, while respecting the diversity of all.

Across all of this there needs to be a sustained approach to tackling poverty and disadvantage locally. We must protect the most vulnerable in our district; and alleviate against the impacts of policies such as Welfare Reform.

We are a safer community

We have a greater value and respect for diversity

We have stronger communities with less disadvantage and poverty



2906
No of Anti- Social
Behaviour Incidences
2015-16
(PSNI Stastics)

% Concerned about fear of Crime



36.4%
Day time



58.7%
Night time

(Mid Ulster Community Planning
Survey 2014/15)

Social Capital

Mid Ulster ranked the 2nd best
Local Government Authority
area out of 389 for Social Capital
(Social network strength, social
norms, community participants
and trust)

(UK Prosperity Index 2016)

What are we going to do?

A Fear of Crime initiative.

A 'Support Model' to facilitate agencies sharing information and support for those most vulnerable regarding safety.

A Community First Responder initiative for emergency response situations and safety concerns.

'A Design Out Crime' guide/process with appropriate partners to help develop safer spaces and places.

An Anti-Social Behaviour Programme, targeting the districts hot spot areas and issues.

Extend and enhance after-school drop in centres in schools and in the community.

Promote engagement between schools and youth provision in diversity and good relations.

Support and promote respect for diversity and the integration of our minority communities.

Develop, promote and sustain the Arts in Mid Ulster.

Promote and protect regional minority languages and cultures.

Promote and develop shared spaces across the area.

Implement an Investment Programme targeting the '20% most deprived' areas in Mid Ulster.

A Task Force to address poverty locally and deal with the future impacts of Welfare Reform.

Introduce rent controls to ensure housing is affordable.

Support the community and voluntary sector to build capacity and promote volunteering opportunities.

Support the community sector with collaboration in effective and efficient delivery of services to meet local need.

A community benefits 'planning gain' requirement in the Local Development Plan.

What will success look like?

- Reduced Fear of Crime
- Increased protection of vulnerable people
- Increased number of communities and people with emergency response skills (Search & Rescue & Defibrillator)
- Reduced Anti-Social Behaviour
- Increased respect for each other
- Improved cultural participation
- Increased awareness and protection of our regional minority languages
- Increased shared space
- Reduced levels of deprivation and poverty
- Greater coordination of community delivery
- Increased community capacity, volunteering and delivery
- Increased private led community initiatives

How will we measure it?

- Fear of Crime Level
- Positive early interventions for vulnerable people presenting with safety concerns
- Number of people and communities trained in emergency response skills (Search & Rescue & Defibrillator)
- Incidences of Anti-Social Behaviour
- % of the population who believe their cultural identity is respected by society
- A respect index (To be developed through PfG)
- Incidences of Hate Crime
- % of population engaging with arts/cultural activities in the past year
- Number of people with a knowledge of and speaking Irish and Ulster Scots
- % of population who think leisure centres, parks, libraries and shopping centres in their areas are 'shared and open' to both Protestants and Catholics.
- Deprivation Levels
- % of population living in absolute and relative poverty (Before Housing Costs)
- Rent indices
- Level of volunteering
- Number of community & voluntary groups
- Level of community delivery
- Developments with community benefit clause

5. Managing the Delivery of Our Plan



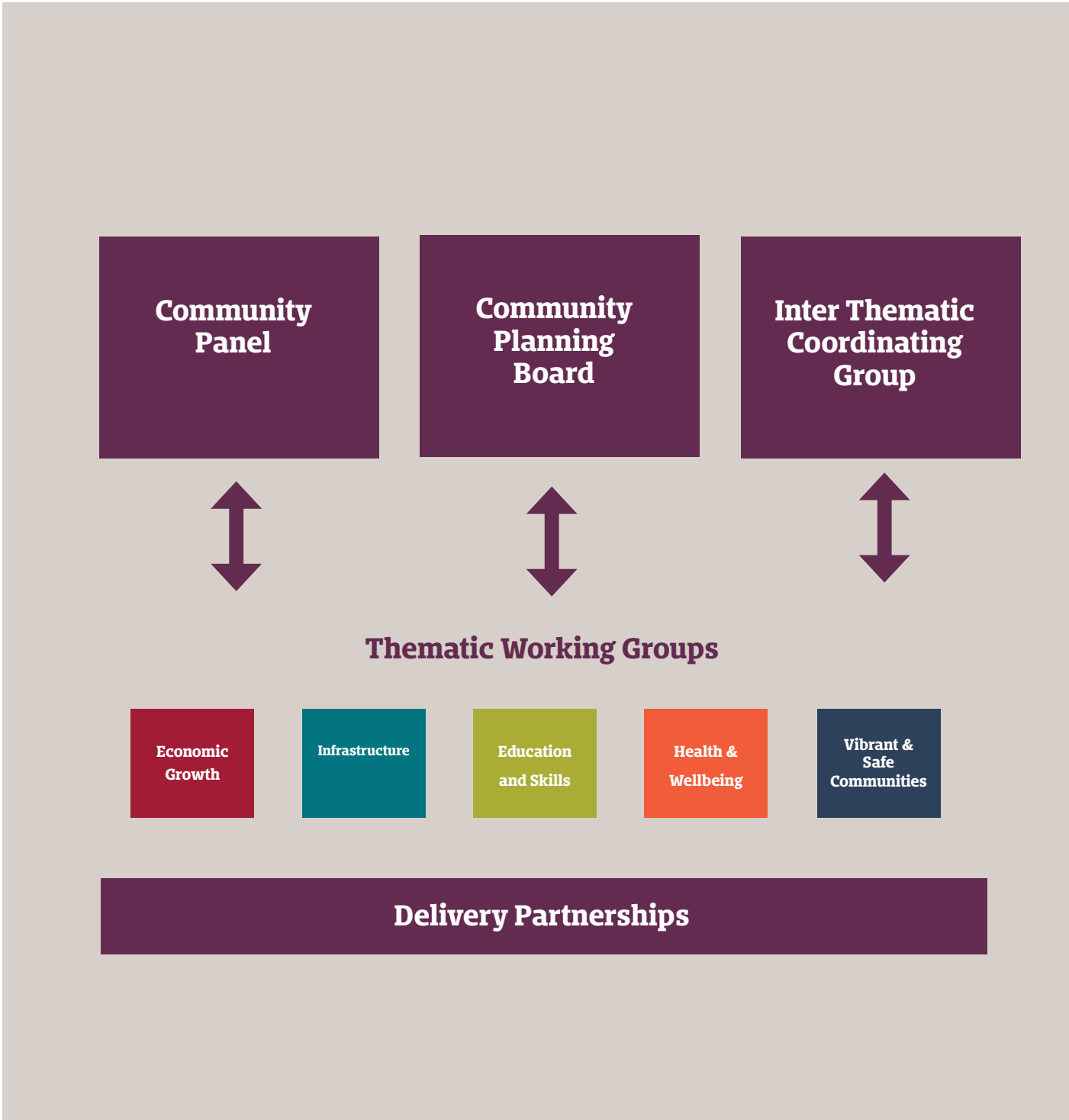
The Community Plan has been developed by all partners and a balance has been sought between meeting the requirements of strategic plans and that of local need and action.

The process will be led by a Community Planning Board made up of senior representatives from our statutory partners, elected members and representatives from the Community and business sectors. The Community Planning Board will “provide strategic direction and drive the process, support, encourage and pursue joint working where it will mean better outcomes for citizens, based on ambitious joint planning and delivery of services” (Statutory Guidance For The Operation of Community Planning Local Government Act, Northern Ireland, 2014).

Below the Community Planning Board will be the 5 thematic groups. Representatives from the statutory partners, the community and business sectors will make up these groups. These groups “will focus on addressing more specific detailed and local issues” (Statutory Guidance For The Operation of Community Planning Local Government Act, Northern Ireland, 2014), developing and monitoring the projects, initiatives and programmes in the action plans. The Chairs from each of these groups will also sit on an Inter Thematic Co-ordinating Group where they will ensure that delivery is cross cutting across all of the themes.

A community Panel will sit within the overall structure where 10 representatives elected from the community and voluntary sector across the district will advise on the delivery of the Community Plan and ensure that the views and the needs of the community are always at the centre of implementation and delivery. A larger process of Community Engagement will compliment this Panel.

Mid Ulster Community Planning Structure



6. Making Community Planning Work in Mid Ulster

How our process is structured
A cycle of continuous improvement in Community Planning

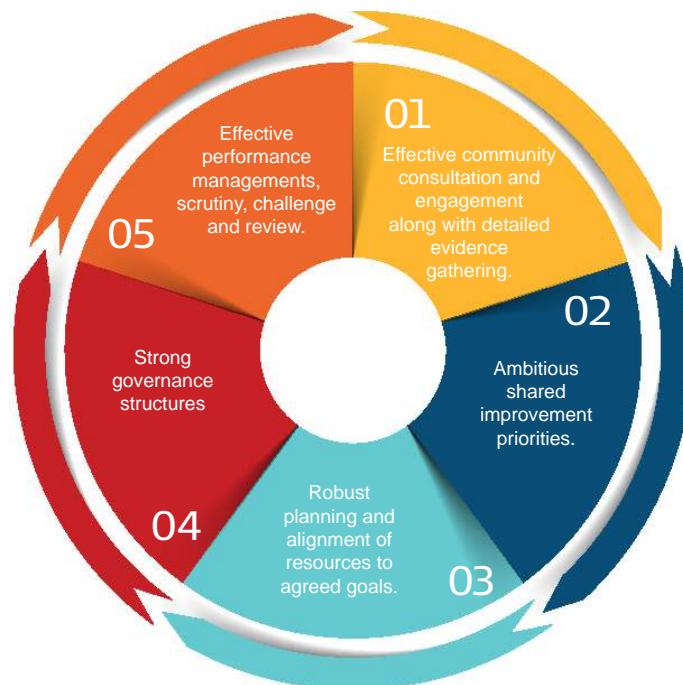
05
Critical review of partnership working and its effectiveness

Meaningful, relevant performance data

Robust challenge and holding to account by Community Planning boards

04
The structure we need to make sure those actions happen and that progress is monitored.

The development of a robust partnership to allow for the plan to happen.



03
The actions that are needed to achieve those outcomes.

Partners resources directed to agreed improvement

01
Significant socio-economic profiling to build up a picture of Mid Ulster and its strengths and weaknesses.

Widespread consultation, involving the wider community and our Community Plan partners to identify people's issues, aspirations and priorities.

02
The development of five themes from our profiling and consultation.

A cascading down of the NI Programme for Government (PfG) into the Mid Ulster context.

Agreement on the outcomes we want to see for Mid Ulster and its people.

Improved outcome for communities and demonstrable impact of Community Planning



What Gets Measured Gets Done: Performance and Review

This document sets out the strategic position for Mid Ulster within five themes which will be developed into action plans for delivery in the short (1- 3 years), medium (4-6 years) or long term (7-10 years). The Action Plans will include baselines and targets for delivery.

As part of its Community Planning management role, the Council will publish a statement every two years showing what actions have been implemented and the outcomes achieved as a result. The first 'performance statement' will be published by June 2019.

A review of the Plan will also be carried out by June 2021.

Community and Voluntary Sector Input

Community and Voluntary Sector input is an essential part of Community Planning. In Mid Ulster, Community and Voluntary Sector representatives have been centrally involved in developing this Plan. The Community will play an integral role in the Community Planning process through an elected Community Panel and at least three Community Conventions which will be held during the Plan's four year life span. These will be open to all registered Community groups within Mid Ulster.

Community Planning and Communication in Mid Ulster

Community Planning is about improving connections and collaboration between regional, local and neighbourhood levels and between Councillors, communities, partners, business, public and voluntary sectors. Communication will be important throughout the Community Planning process and will entail a Communication Strategy which will provide for:

- Public, accessible face-to-face sessions;
- On-line, social media and written interaction;
- Focused discussions;
- Publication of an annual Mid Ulster Community Planning Report.

7. Community Planning Partners



Community Panel

Business Representation

- Mid Ulster Enterprise Centres
- Mid Ulster Skills Forum
- Mid Ulster Tourism Forum



Our Community Plan

10 year plan for Mid Ulster

Introduction

Mid Ulster District Council has a statutory duty to screen its policies, procedures, practices/decisions. This Policy Screening Form and Report assists Council Departments to consider the likely equality and good relations impacts of the aforementioned, if any, placed upon our ratepayers, citizens, service users, staff and visitors to the district.

Section 1 – Policy scoping

This asks the Policy Author to provide details on the policy, procedure, practice and/or decision being screened and what available evidence you have gathered to help make an assessment of the likely impact on equality of opportunity and good relations. Reference to policy within this document refers to either of the aforementioned (policy, procedure, practice, and/ or decision).

Section 2 – Screening questions

This asks about the extent of the likely impact of the policy on groups of people within each of the Section 75 categories. Details of the groups consulted and the level of assessment of the likely impact. This includes consideration of multiple identity and issues.

Section 3 – Screening decision

This guides the Council to reach a screening decision as to whether or not there is a need to carry out an equality impact assessment (EQIA), or introduce measures to mitigate the likely impact, or the introduction of an alternative policy to better promote equality of opportunity.

Section 4 – Monitoring

This provides guidance to the Council on monitoring for adverse impact and broader monitoring.

Section 5 – Approval and authorisation

This verifies the Council's approval of a screening decision by a senior manager responsible for the policy.

Appendix A Screening Process

Section 1 Policy Scoping & Information

The first stage of the screening process involves scoping the policy under consideration which sets the context and confirms the aims and objectives for the policy being screened. Scoping the policy helps to identify constraints as well as opportunities and will help the policy author to work through the screening process on a step by step basis.

| |
|---|
| 1. Policy Name |
| Mid Ulster Draft Community Plan |
| 2. Is this an existing, revised or a new policy? |
| New Policy/Plan |
| 3. What is it trying to achieve? (aims/outcomes) |
| <p>Community Planning is new legislation for Council to facilitate the development of a shared plan and vision for Mid Ulster and actions to meet the vision.</p> <p>It's about people, communities and organisations coming together to improve local well-being and quality of life, and making sure that plans, strategies, priorities and programmes at all levels integrate with each other. It's about working together, taking the long-term view and tackling difficult issues such as balanced growth and development, community cohesion, disadvantage, poverty, regeneration, sustainability and well-being. More than anything it's about partnership, co-ordination and ensuring value for money and resources. Our Plan has 15 Strategic Outcomes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A stronger and more competitive economy2. More people in work in a greater variety of jobs3. Vibrant and competitive towns and villages4. Better connected via appropriate infrastructure5. Valued environment enhanced for our children6. Increased access to quality, affordable housing7. Better qualified and more skilled people8. Children and young people given the best chance in life9. Mid-Ulster more entrepreneurial, innovative and creative10. Better enabled to live longer, more active lives11. Right health services, in the right places, at the right times12. Better care for the most vulnerable and in need13. A safer community14. Greater value of and respect for diversity15. Less poverty and fewer disadvantaged areas |

| | | |
|---|-----|---|
| 4. Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy? | Yes | P |
| | No | |
| <p>If so, please explain</p> <p>Our plan aims to improve the lives of all citizens in Mid Ulster and will impact positively on all Section 75 categories</p> | | |
| 6. Who initiated or wrote the policy? | | |
| <p>Mid Ulster District Council facilitated the process; however all statutory, community and voluntary organisations, with a remit within Mid Ulster, developed the Plan.</p> | | |
| 7. Who owns and who implements the policy? | | |
| <p>All statutory, community and voluntary organisations with a remit within Mid Ulster will implement the Strategic Plan through a range of delivery plans.</p> | | |

Implementation factors

| | | Yes | No |
|--|---|-----|----|
| Are there any factors which could contribute to/ detract from intended aim/ outcome of the policy? | | | |
| · If yes, are they financial? | | P | |
| · If yes, are they legislative? | | P | |
| · If yes, Please specify | <p>Financial: The delivery of the Plan and its actions is dependent upon Partners providing financial resources to deliver the actions.</p> <p>Legislative: Community Planning is a process set in legislation and therefore any changes to this legislation may have an impact on the delivery of the Plan</p> | | |
| · Other, Please specify | | | |

Stakeholders

The internal and external (actual or potential) that the policy will be impacted upon

| | Yes | No |
|-----------------------------------|-----|----|
| Staff | P | |
| Service Users | P | |
| Other public sector organisations | P | |
| Voluntary/community/ trade unions | P | |
| Other, please specify | | |

Others policies with a bearing on this policy

| Policies | Owners |
|---|--|
| Programme for Government All NI departments Strategies and Actions Plans All 'Partners' Strategies and Action Plans | NI Executive NI Departments Community Planning Partner |

Available evidence

Information and available evidence (qualitative and quantitative) gathered to inform the policy under each of the Section 75 groups as identified within the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

| Section 75 category | Details of evidence/information | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|------------------------------------|---------------|------------|---------------|--------|--------|--|--------|-------|-----------------|-------|-----|------|-------|-------|--------------|----------------|------------|-------|---|-------------|-------|------|---|-----|-------|------|---|----------|-----|------|---|------|-----|------|---|
| Religious belief | <p>63.77% of the population were brought up in the Catholic religion and 33.46% belong or were brought up in a Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related) religion. Other religions comprised 690 (0.5%) and None 3,153 (2.28%) of the population (Source: 2011 Census).</p> <table><tr><th>Religion or Religion brought up in</th><th>No.</th><th>%</th></tr><tr><td>Catholic</td><td>88,375</td><td>63.77</td></tr><tr><td>Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)</td><td>46,372</td><td>33.46</td></tr><tr><td>Other religions</td><td>690</td><td>0.5</td></tr><tr><td>None</td><td>3,153</td><td>2.28</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>138,590</td><td>100</td></tr></table> <p>Open public consultations held throughout the district in 2014 and again in 2015.with over 1600 participants.</p> | Religion or Religion brought up in | No. | % | Catholic | 88,375 | 63.77 | Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related) | 46,372 | 33.46 | Other religions | 690 | 0.5 | None | 3,153 | 2.28 | Total | 138,590 | 100 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Religion or Religion brought up in | No. | % | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Catholic | 88,375 | 63.77 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related) | 46,372 | 33.46 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Other religions | 690 | 0.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| None | 3,153 | 2.28 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 138,590 | 100 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Political opinion | <p>Political party representation can be used as an approximate barometer of political opinion of people within Mid Ulster council area. The most recent local government/ council election in 2014 the percentage 1st preference vote share for each of the political party/ independents is detailed bellowed along with representation (seats) on Council (Source: NISRA):</p> <table><tr><th>Party</th><th>Votes</th><th>Percentage</th><th>Council Seats</th></tr><tr><td>SF</td><td>22,587</td><td>41.0%</td><td>18</td></tr><tr><td>DUP</td><td>9,723</td><td>17.6%</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>UUP</td><td>9,573</td><td>17.4%</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>SDLP</td><td>7,600</td><td>13.8%</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>Independent</td><td>2,689</td><td>4.9%</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>TUV</td><td>2,380</td><td>4.3%</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>Alliance</td><td>250</td><td>0.6%</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>UKIP</td><td>195</td><td>0.4%</td><td>0</td></tr></table> <p>Open public consultations held throughout the district in 2014 and again in 2015.with over 1600 participants.</p> | Party | Votes | Percentage | Council Seats | SF | 22,587 | 41.0% | 18 | DUP | 9,723 | 17.6% | 8 | UUP | 9,573 | 17.4% | 7 | SDLP | 7,600 | 13.8% | 6 | Independent | 2,689 | 4.9% | 1 | TUV | 2,380 | 4.3% | 0 | Alliance | 250 | 0.6% | 0 | UKIP | 195 | 0.4% | 0 |
| Party | Votes | Percentage | Council Seats | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SF | 22,587 | 41.0% | 18 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| DUP | 9,723 | 17.6% | 8 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| UUP | 9,573 | 17.4% | 7 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SDLP | 7,600 | 13.8% | 6 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Independent | 2,689 | 4.9% | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TUV | 2,380 | 4.3% | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Alliance | 250 | 0.6% | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| UKIP | 195 | 0.4% | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Racial
group

According to the 2011 Census the overwhelming majority of the population 136,485 (98.48%) were classified as 'white'. Within this total will be migrant communities, such as Polish, Lithuanian and so forth. Statistics indicate that the number of people in Mid Ulster Local Government District (LGD) born outside Northern Ireland is:

| Place of Birth | No. |
|---|-------|
| Great Britain | 4,053 |
| Republic of Ireland | 2,250 |
| EU Countries (Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia) | 6,795 |
| Other | 2,280 |

The minority ethnic language profile within the area can serve as a possible indicator of the Black & Minority Ethnic (BME) community profile within the district. The composition of language groups in Mid Ulster LGD area is also noted from the 2011 census by NISRA as:

| Main Languages of residents in Mid Ulster Council area | No. |
|--|---------|
| English | 125,715 |
| Polish | 2,008 |
| Lithuanian | 2,039 |
| Portuguese | 903 |
| Irish (Gaelic) | 404 |
| Slovak | 477 |
| Russian | 297 |
| Latvia | 261 |
| Hungarian | 117 |
| Chinese | 64 |
| Tagalog/Filipino | 38 |
| Malaysian | 33 |
| Other | 922 |

Open public consultations held throughout the district in 2014 and again in 2015. with over 1600 participants.

There were also facilitated session and questionnaire for BME groups in the development of the Plan. A further facilitated focus session on the Draft Plan was held with a BME group.

| Age | <p>The age profile of Mid Ulster Local Government District area as at 2015 (Source, NISRA)</p> <table><tr><th></th><th>Mid Ulster</th><th>Northern Ireland</th></tr><tr><td>Total Population</td><td>144,002</td><td>1,851,621</td></tr><tr><td>0-15 years</td><td>33,123</td><td>385,200</td></tr><tr><td>16-39 years</td><td>47,646</td><td>583,116</td></tr><tr><td>40-64 years</td><td>43,621</td><td>591,481</td></tr><tr><td>65+ years</td><td>19,612</td><td>291,824</td></tr><tr><td>Population Change % (2005-2015)</td><td>15.3%</td><td>7.2%</td></tr></table> <p>Open public consultations held throughout the district in 2014 and again in 2015.with over 1600 participants.</p> <p>There were also facilitated session and questionnaire for Older Person’s groups in the development of the Plan. A further facilitated focus session on the Draft Plan was held with an older person’s group.</p> | | Mid Ulster | Northern Ireland | Total Population | 144,002 | 1,851,621 | 0-15 years | 33,123 | 385,200 | 16-39 years | 47,646 | 583,116 | 40-64 years | 43,621 | 591,481 | 65+ years | 19,612 | 291,824 | Population Change % (2005-2015) | 15.3% | 7.2% | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---------|-----------|------------|--------|---------|-------------|--|---------|-------------|---------|---------|--------------------|--------|---------|---------------------------------|-------|---|----|------|-------|------|--|-------|------|--------|------|--|-------|------|--------|------|---|-------|------|--------|------|
| | Mid Ulster | Northern Ireland | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Population | 144,002 | 1,851,621 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 0-15 years | 33,123 | 385,200 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 16-39 years | 47,646 | 583,116 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 40-64 years | 43,621 | 591,481 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 65+ years | 19,612 | 291,824 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Population Change % (2005-2015) | 15.3% | 7.2% | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Marital status | <p>The below table sets out the martial status profile for Mid Ulster District Council area as extracted from results of the 2011 Census</p> <table><tr><th></th><th colspan="2">Mid Ulster</th><th colspan="2">Northern Ireland</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>No.</td><td>%</td><td>No</td><td>%</td></tr><tr><td>Single (never married or never registered a same sex civil partnership) (Aged 16+)</td><td>38,353</td><td>35.97</td><td>517,393</td><td>36.14</td></tr><tr><td>Married (Aged 16+)</td><td>54,192</td><td>50.82</td><td>680,831</td><td>47.56</td></tr><tr><td>In a registered same sex civil partnership (Aged 16+)</td><td>62</td><td>0.06</td><td>1,243</td><td>0.09</td></tr><tr><td>Separated (but is still legally married or still legally in a same sex civil partnership) (Aged 16+)</td><td>3,369</td><td>3.16</td><td>56,911</td><td>3.98</td></tr><tr><td>Divorced or formerly in a same sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved (Aged 16+)</td><td>4,139</td><td>3.88</td><td>78,074</td><td>5.45</td></tr><tr><td>Widowed or surviving partner from a same sex civil partnership (Aged 16+)</td><td>6,523</td><td>6.12</td><td>97,088</td><td>6.78</td></tr></table> <p>Open public consultations held throughout the district in 2014 and again in 2015.with over 1600 participants.</p> | | Mid Ulster | | Northern Ireland | | | No. | % | No | % | Single (never married or never registered a same sex civil partnership) (Aged 16+) | 38,353 | 35.97 | 517,393 | 36.14 | Married (Aged 16+) | 54,192 | 50.82 | 680,831 | 47.56 | In a registered same sex civil partnership (Aged 16+) | 62 | 0.06 | 1,243 | 0.09 | Separated (but is still legally married or still legally in a same sex civil partnership) (Aged 16+) | 3,369 | 3.16 | 56,911 | 3.98 | Divorced or formerly in a same sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved (Aged 16+) | 4,139 | 3.88 | 78,074 | 5.45 | Widowed or surviving partner from a same sex civil partnership (Aged 16+) | 6,523 | 6.12 | 97,088 | 6.78 |
| | Mid Ulster | | Northern Ireland | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | No. | % | No | % | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Single (never married or never registered a same sex civil partnership) (Aged 16+) | 38,353 | 35.97 | 517,393 | 36.14 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Married (Aged 16+) | 54,192 | 50.82 | 680,831 | 47.56 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| In a registered same sex civil partnership (Aged 16+) | 62 | 0.06 | 1,243 | 0.09 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Separated (but is still legally married or still legally in a same sex civil partnership) (Aged 16+) | 3,369 | 3.16 | 56,911 | 3.98 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Divorced or formerly in a same sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved (Aged 16+) | 4,139 | 3.88 | 78,074 | 5.45 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Widowed or surviving partner from a same sex civil partnership (Aged 16+) | 6,523 | 6.12 | 97,088 | 6.78 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Sexual orientation | <p>No specific statistics are available from the 2011 government census for this Category and there are therefore no official statistics available in relation to persons of different sexual orientation. However, the Integrated Household Survey would include between 3% and 4% would be either gay, lesbian and/or bisexual. However, due to the nature of 'disclosure' in this area, umbrella organisations often state that the figure may be closer to 10%.</p> <table><tr><th>Region</th><th>Heterosexual / Straight</th><th>Gay/ Lesbian</th><th>Bisexual</th><th>Gay/ Lesbian/ Bisexual</th><th>Other</th><th>Don't know /refuse</th><th>No response</th></tr><tr><td>England</td><td>92.54%</td><td>1.10%</td><td>0.51%</td><td>1.61%</td><td>0.33%</td><td>4.07%</td><td>1.45%</td></tr><tr><td>Wales</td><td>93.93%</td><td>1.04%</td><td>0.48%</td><td>1.52%</td><td>0.45%</td><td>2.99%</td><td>1.11%</td></tr><tr><td>Scotland</td><td>94.65%</td><td>0.82%</td><td>0.33%</td><td>1.14%</td><td>0.26%</td><td>2.59%</td><td>1.37%</td></tr><tr><td>N Ireland</td><td>93.00%</td><td>0.64%</td><td>0.96%</td><td>1.60%</td><td>0.26%</td><td>3.98%</td><td>1.17%</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>92.80%</td><td>1.06%</td><td>0.51%</td><td>1.57%</td><td>0.32%</td><td>3.89%</td><td>1.42%</td></tr></table> <p>Research also conducted by the HM Treasury shows that between 5%-7% of the UK population identify themselves as gay, lesbian, bisexual or 'trans' (transsexual, transgendered and transvestite) (LGBT).</p> <p>Open public consultations held throughout the district in 2014 and again in 2015.with over 1600 participants.</p> | Region | Heterosexual / Straight | Gay/ Lesbian | Bisexual | Gay/ Lesbian/ Bisexual | Other | Don't know /refuse | No response | England | 92.54% | 1.10% | 0.51% | 1.61% | 0.33% | 4.07% | 1.45% | Wales | 93.93% | 1.04% | 0.48% | 1.52% | 0.45% | 2.99% | 1.11% | Scotland | 94.65% | 0.82% | 0.33% | 1.14% | 0.26% | 2.59% | 1.37% | N Ireland | 93.00% | 0.64% | 0.96% | 1.60% | 0.26% | 3.98% | 1.17% | Total | 92.80% | 1.06% | 0.51% | 1.57% | 0.32% | 3.89% | 1.42% |
|--|--|--------------|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------|------------------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------|---------|--------|-------------------------------|--------|-------|---------|-------|--|---------|--------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|----------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Region | Heterosexual / Straight | Gay/ Lesbian | Bisexual | Gay/ Lesbian/ Bisexual | Other | Don't know /refuse | No response | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| England | 92.54% | 1.10% | 0.51% | 1.61% | 0.33% | 4.07% | 1.45% | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Wales | 93.93% | 1.04% | 0.48% | 1.52% | 0.45% | 2.99% | 1.11% | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Scotland | 94.65% | 0.82% | 0.33% | 1.14% | 0.26% | 2.59% | 1.37% | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| N Ireland | 93.00% | 0.64% | 0.96% | 1.60% | 0.26% | 3.98% | 1.17% | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 92.80% | 1.06% | 0.51% | 1.57% | 0.32% | 3.89% | 1.42% | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Men & women generally | <p>The gender profile of Mid Ulster LGD is detailed as;</p> <table><tr><th></th><th colspan="2">Mid Ulster</th><th colspan="2">Northern Ireland</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>No.</th><th>%</th><th>No.</th><th>%</th></tr><tr><td>Male</td><td>69,362</td><td>50.05</td><td>887,323</td><td>49.00</td></tr><tr><td>Female</td><td>69,228</td><td>49.95</td><td>923,540</td><td>51.00</td></tr></table> <p>Open public consultations held throughout the district in 2014 and again in 2015.with over 1600 participants.</p> | | Mid Ulster | | Northern Ireland | | | No. | % | No. | % | Male | 69,362 | 50.05 | 887,323 | 49.00 | Female | 69,228 | 49.95 | 923,540 | 51.00 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Mid Ulster | | Northern Ireland | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | No. | % | No. | % | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 69,362 | 50.05 | 887,323 | 49.00 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Female | 69,228 | 49.95 | 923,540 | 51.00 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Disability | <p>According to the 2011 NISRA census statistics 19.39% of people had a long-term health problem or disability that limited their day-to-day activities whilst 80.43% of people within the district stated their general health was either good or very good</p> <table><tr><th></th><th colspan="2">Mid Ulster</th><th colspan="2">Northern Ireland</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>No.</th><th>%</th><th>No.</th><th>%</th></tr><tr><td>Disability / long term health</td><td>26,870</td><td>19.39</td><td>374,646</td><td>20.69</td></tr><tr><td>No disability / long term health problem</td><td>111,720</td><td>80.61</td><td>1,436,217</td><td>79.31</td></tr></table> <p>In Northern Ireland the profile of persons with a disability has been reported by Disability Action as;</p> | | Mid Ulster | | Northern Ireland | | | No. | % | No. | % | Disability / long term health | 26,870 | 19.39 | 374,646 | 20.69 | No disability / long term health problem | 111,720 | 80.61 | 1,436,217 | 79.31 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Mid Ulster | | Northern Ireland | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | No. | % | No. | % | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Disability / long term health | 26,870 | 19.39 | 374,646 | 20.69 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| No disability / long term health problem | 111,720 | 80.61 | 1,436,217 | 79.31 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• More than 1 in 5 or 21% of the population have a disability• 1 in 7 people have some form of hearing loss• 5,000 persons use sign language - British Sign Language and/or Irish Sign Language• There are 57,000 blind persons or persons with significant impairment• 52,000 persons with learning difficulties <p>Open public consultations held throughout the district in 2014 and again in 2015.with over 1600 participants.</p> <p>There were also facilitated sessions and questionnaire for disability groups in the development of the Plan. A further facilitated focus session on the Draft Plan was held with a disability group.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|-------|------------------|-------|------------------|--|--|-----|---|-----|---|------------------------------------|--------|-------|---------|-------|--|-------|------|--------|------|------------------------------|--------|-------|---------|-------|
| Dependants | <p>Persons with dependents may be people who have personal responsibility for the care of a child (or children), a person with a disability, and/ or a dependent older person. The below table provides a summary with respect Mid Ulster LGD.</p> <table><tr><th></th><th colspan="2">Mid Ulster</th><th colspan="2">Northern Ireland</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>No.</th><th>%</th><th>No.</th><th>%</th></tr><tr><td>Households with dependent children</td><td>18,626</td><td>38.99</td><td>238,094</td><td>33.86</td></tr><tr><td>Lone parent households with dependents</td><td>3,485</td><td>7.30</td><td>63,921</td><td>9.09</td></tr><tr><td>People providing unpaid care</td><td>12,821</td><td>10.69</td><td>231,980</td><td>11.82</td></tr></table> <p>Of the households in Mid Ulster Local Government District with dependent children, they can be summarised as;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7,407 families in households have 1 dependent child• 6,394 families in households with two dependent children• 5,014 families in households with three dependent children <p>There are 37,306 dependent children within families.</p> <p>Open public consultations held throughout the district in 2014 and again in 2015.with over 1600 participants.</p> <p>Facilitated focus sessions on the Draft Plan were held with Carer Support Groups and Carer Support Workers in the Southern Health and Social Care Trust.</p> | | Mid Ulster | | Northern Ireland | | | No. | % | No. | % | Households with dependent children | 18,626 | 38.99 | 238,094 | 33.86 | Lone parent households with dependents | 3,485 | 7.30 | 63,921 | 9.09 | People providing unpaid care | 12,821 | 10.69 | 231,980 | 11.82 |
| | Mid Ulster | | Northern Ireland | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | No. | % | No. | % | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Households with dependent children | 18,626 | 38.99 | 238,094 | 33.86 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lone parent households with dependents | 3,485 | 7.30 | 63,921 | 9.09 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| People providing unpaid care | 12,821 | 10.69 | 231,980 | 11.82 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Needs, experiences and priorities

Taking into account the information referred to above, what are the different needs, experiences and priorities of each of the following categories, in relation to the particular policy/decision? Specify details for each of the Section 75 categories

| Section 75 category | Details of needs/experiences/priorities |
|---------------------|---|
| Religious belief | There is no qualitative or quantitative data to suggest that the Community Plan will have an adverse impact upon this group. The overall aim of the Engagement Action Plan is and was to ensure widespread input from local citizens and various other stakeholders. As such, engagement events/opportunities to date have varied in location (across the District), in times of day and in methodology in order to ensure that as many individuals engaged with the process as possible. Accessible venues were also used, and various assistance services were also available upon request. |
| Political opinion | There is no qualitative or quantitative data to suggest that the Community Plan will have an adverse impact upon this group. The overall aim of the Engagement Action Plan is and was to ensure widespread input from local citizens and various other stakeholders. As such, engagement events/opportunities to date have varied in location (across the District), in times of day and in methodology in order to ensure that as many individuals engaged with the process as possible. Accessible venues were also used, and various assistance services were also available upon request. |
| Racial group | There is no qualitative or quantitative data to suggest that the Community Plan will have an adverse impact upon this group. The overall aim of the Engagement Action Plan is and was to ensure widespread input from local citizens and various other stakeholders. As such, engagement events/opportunities to date have varied in location (across the District), in times of day and in methodology in order to ensure that as many individuals engaged with the process as possible. Accessible venues were also used, and various assistance services were also available upon request. |
| Age | There is no qualitative or quantitative data to suggest that the Community Plan will have an adverse impact upon this group. The overall aim of the Engagement Action Plan is and was to ensure widespread input from local citizens and various other stakeholders. As such, engagement events/opportunities to date have varied in location (across the District), in times of day and in methodology in order to ensure that as many individuals engaged with the process as |

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| | possible. Accessible venues were also used, and various assistance services were also available upon request. |
| Marital status | There is no qualitative or quantitative data to suggest that the Community Plan will have an adverse impact upon this group. The overall aim of the Engagement Action Plan is and was to ensure widespread input from local citizens and various other stakeholders. As such, engagement events/opportunities to date have varied in location (across the District), in times of day and in methodology in order to ensure that as many individuals engaged with the process as possible. Accessible venues were also used, and various assistance services were also available upon request. |
| Sexual orientation | There is no qualitative or quantitative data to suggest that the Community Plan will have an adverse impact upon this group. The overall aim of the Engagement Action Plan is and was to ensure widespread input from local citizens and various other stakeholders. As such, engagement events/opportunities to date have varied in location (across the District), in times of day and in methodology in order to ensure that as many individuals engaged with the process as possible. Accessible venues were also used, and various assistance services were also available upon request. |
| Men and women generally | There is no qualitative or quantitative data to suggest that the Community Plan will have an adverse impact upon this group. The overall aim of the Engagement Action Plan is and was to ensure widespread input from local citizens and various other stakeholders. As such, engagement events/opportunities to date have varied in location (across the District), in times of day and in methodology in order to ensure that as many individuals engaged with the process as possible. Accessible venues were also used, and various assistance services were also available upon request. |
| Disability | There is no qualitative or quantitative data to suggest that the Community Plan will have an adverse impact upon this group. The overall aim of the Engagement Action Plan is and was to ensure widespread input from local citizens and various other stakeholders. As such, engagement events/opportunities to date have varied in location (across the District), in times of day and in methodology in order to ensure that as many individuals engaged with the process as possible. Accessible venues were also used, and various assistance services were also available upon request. |
| Dependants | There is no qualitative or quantitative data to suggest that the Community Plan will have an adverse impact upon this group. The overall aim of the Engagement Action Plan is and was to ensure |

| | |
|--|---|
| | widespread input from local citizens and various other stakeholders. As such, engagement events/opportunities to date have varied in location (across the District), in times of day and in methodology in order to ensure that as many individuals engaged with the process as possible. Accessible venues were also used, and various assistance services were also available upon request. |
|--|---|

Section 2 – Screening Questions

In making a decision as to carry out an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA), the Council should consider its answers to the questions 1- 3 detailed below.

If the Council's conclusion is **none** in respect of all of the Section 75 equality of opportunity categories, then the Council may decide to screen the policy out. If a policy is 'screened out' as having no relevance to equality of opportunity, the Council should give details of the reasons for the decision taken.

If the Council's conclusion is **major** in respect of one or more of the Section 75 equality of opportunity, then consideration should be given to subjecting the policy to the equality impact assessment procedure.

If the Council's conclusion is **minor** in respect of one or more of the Section 75 equality categories, then consideration should still be given to proceeding with an equality impact assessment, or to:

- measures to mitigate the adverse impact; or
- the introduction of an alternative policy to better promote equality of opportunity.

In favour of a 'major' impact

- a) The policy is significant in terms of its strategic importance;
- b) Potential equality impacts are unknown, because, for example, there is insufficient data upon which to make an assessment or because they are complex, and it would be appropriate to conduct an equality impact assessment in order to better assess them;
- c) Potential equality impacts are likely to be adverse or are likely to be experienced disproportionately by groups of people including those who are marginalised or disadvantaged;
- d) Further assessment offers a valuable way to examine the evidence and develop recommendations in respect of a policy about which there are concerns amongst affected individuals and representative groups, for example in respect of multiple identities;
- e) The policy is likely to be challenged by way of judicial review;
- f) The policy is significant in terms of expenditure.

In favour of 'minor' impact

- a) The policy is not unlawfully discriminatory and any residual potential impacts on people are judged to be negligible;
- b) The policy, or certain proposals within it, are potentially unlawfully discriminatory, but this possibility can readily and easily be eliminated by making appropriate changes to the policy or by adopting appropriate mitigating measures;
- c) Any asymmetrical equality impacts caused by the policy are intentional because they are specifically designed to promote equality of opportunity for particular groups of disadvantaged people;
- d) By amending the policy there are better opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity.

In favour of none

- a) The policy has no relevance to equality of opportunity.
- b) The policy is purely technical in nature and will have no bearing in terms of its likely impact on equality of opportunity for people within the equality categories.

Screening questions

| 1. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, for each of the Section 75 equality categories (minor/ major/ none) | | |
|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| Section 75 category | Details of policy impact | Level of impact? minor/major/none |
| Religious belief | <p>Due to the complexity of the community plan and the fact that it is currently a strategic framework rather than an action plan, the potential equality impacts are unknown.</p> <p>However the aim of the policy is to impact positively on the quality of life of residents across the district seeks to narrow gaps between highest and lowest performing areas.</p> | Minor |
| Political opinion | <p>Due to the complexity of the community plan and the fact that it is currently a strategic framework rather than an action plan, the potential equality impacts are unknown.</p> <p>However the aim of the policy is to impact positively on the quality of life of residents across the district seeks to narrow gaps between highest and lowest performing areas.</p> | Minor |
| Racial group | <p>Due to the complexity of the community plan and the fact that it is currently a strategic framework rather than an action plan, the potential equality impacts are unknown.</p> <p>However the aim of the policy is to impact positively on the quality of life of residents across the district seeks to narrow gaps between highest and lowest performing areas.</p> | Minor |
| Age | <p>Due to the complexity of the community plan and the fact that it is currently a strategic framework rather than an action plan, the potential equality impacts are unknown.</p> <p>However the aim of the policy is to impact positively on the quality of life of residents across the district seeks to narrow gaps between highest and lowest performing areas.</p> | Minor |

| | | |
|-------------------------|---|-------|
| Marital status | <p>Due to the complexity of the community plan and the fact that it is currently a strategic framework rather than an action plan, the potential equality impacts are unknown.</p> <p>However the aim of the policy is to impact positively on the quality of life of residents across the district seeks to narrow gaps between highest and lowest performing areas.</p> | Minor |
| Sexual orientation | <p>Due to the complexity of the community plan and the fact that it is currently a strategic framework rather than an action plan, the potential equality impacts are unknown.</p> <p>However the aim of the policy is to impact positively on the quality of life of residents across the district seeks to narrow gaps between highest and lowest performing areas.</p> | Minor |
| Men and women generally | <p>Due to the complexity of the community plan and the fact that it is currently a strategic framework rather than an action plan, the potential equality impacts are unknown.</p> <p>However the aim of the policy is to impact positively on the quality of life of residents across the district seeks to narrow gaps between highest and lowest performing areas.</p> | Minor |
| Disability | <p>Due to the complexity of the community plan and the fact that it is currently a strategic framework rather than an action plan, the potential equality impacts are unknown.</p> <p>However the aim of the policy is to impact positively on the quality of life of residents across the district seeks to narrow gaps between highest and lowest performing areas.</p> | Minor |
| Dependants | <p>Due to the complexity of the community plan and the fact that it is currently a strategic framework rather than an action plan, the potential equality impacts are unknown.</p> <p>However the aim of the policy is to impact positively on the quality of life of residents across the district seeks to narrow gaps between highest and lowest performing areas.</p> | Minor |

2. Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within Section 75 equality categories? (Yes/ No)

| Section 75 category | If Yes , provide details | If No , provide reasons |
|---------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| Religious belief | <p>Due to the complexity of the community plan and the fact that it is currently a strategic framework rather than an action plan, the potential equality impacts are unknown.</p> <p>However the aim of the policy is to impact positively on the quality of life of residents across the district seeks to narrow gaps between highest and lowest performing areas.</p> | |
| Political opinion | <p>Due to the complexity of the community plan and the fact that it is currently a strategic framework rather than an action plan, the potential equality impacts are unknown.</p> <p>However the aim of the policy is to impact positively on the quality of life of residents across the district seeks to narrow gaps between highest and lowest performing areas.</p> | |
| Racial group | <p>Due to the complexity of the community plan and the fact that it is currently a strategic framework rather than an action plan, the potential equality impacts are unknown.</p> <p>However the aim of the policy is to impact positively on the quality of life of residents across the district seeks to narrow gaps between highest and lowest performing areas.</p> | |
| Age | <p>Due to the complexity of the community plan and the fact that it is currently a strategic framework rather than an action plan, the potential equality impacts are unknown.</p> <p>However the aim of the policy is to impact positively on the quality of life of residents across the district seeks to narrow gaps between highest and lowest performing areas.</p> | |
| Marital status | <p>Due to the complexity of the community plan and the fact that it is currently a strategic framework</p> | |

| | | |
|-------------------------|---|--|
| | <p>rather than an action plan, the potential equality impacts are unknown.</p> <p>However the aim of the policy is to impact positively on the quality of life of residents across the district seeks to narrow gaps between highest and lowest performing areas.</p> | |
| Sexual orientation | <p>Due to the complexity of the community plan and the fact that it is currently a strategic framework rather than an action plan, the potential equality impacts are unknown.</p> <p>However the aim of the policy is to impact positively on the quality of life of residents across the district seeks to narrow gaps between highest and lowest performing areas.</p> | |
| Men and women generally | <p>Due to the complexity of the community plan and the fact that it is currently a strategic framework rather than an action plan, the potential equality impacts are unknown.</p> <p>However the aim of the policy is to impact positively on the quality of life of residents across the district seeks to narrow gaps between highest and lowest performing areas.</p> | |
| Disability | <p>Due to the complexity of the community plan and the fact that it is currently a strategic framework rather than an action plan, the potential equality impacts are unknown.</p> <p>However the aim of the policy is to impact positively on the quality of life of residents across the district seeks to narrow gaps between highest and lowest performing areas.</p> | |
| Dependants | <p>Due to the complexity of the community plan and the fact that it is currently a strategic framework rather than an action plan, the potential equality impacts are unknown.</p> <p>However the aim of the policy is to impact positively on the quality of life of residents across the district seeks to narrow gaps between highest and lowest performing areas.</p> | |

3. Are there opportunities without prejudice, to the equality of opportunity duty, to better promote good relations between Section 75 equality categories, through tackling prejudice and/ or promoting understanding? (Yes/ No)

| | | |
|--|-----|---|
| | No | P |
| | Yes | |
| If yes, please detail the opportunities below: | | |
| | | |

If yes is concluded to Question 3, then the policy will be referred to the Council's Good Relations Working Group for consideration. The Group will consider the potential opportunities and assess if and how the overall impact of a decision/policy can better promote good relations.

Additional Considerations - Multiple identity

Generally speaking, people can fall into more than one Section 75 category. Taking this into consideration, are there any potential impacts of the policy/decision on people with multiple identities? *(For example; disabled minority ethnic people; disabled women; young Protestant men; and young lesbians, gay and bisexual people).*

Due to the complexity of the community plan and the fact that it is currently a strategic framework rather than an action plan, the potential equality impacts are unknown.

However the aim of the policy is to impact positively on the quality of life of residents across the district seeks to narrow gaps between highest and lowest performing areas.

Provide details of data on the impact of the policy on people with multiple identities. Specify relevant Section 75 categories concerned.

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

Section 3 – Screening Decision

In light of answers provided to the questions within Section 3 select one of the following with regards the policy:

| | | Select One |
|---|---|------------|
| 1 | Shall not be subject to an EQIA - <i>with no mitigating measures required</i> | |
| 2 | Shall not be subject to an EQIA - <i>mitigating measures/ alternative policies introduced</i> | P |
| 3 | Shall be subject to an EQIA | |

If 1 or 2 above (i.e. not to be subject to an EQIA) please provide details of reasons why.

Due to the complexity of the community plan and the fact that it is currently a strategic framework rather than an action plan, the potential equality impacts are unknown.

However the aim of the policy is to impact positively on the quality of life of residents across the district seeks to narrow gaps between highest and lowest performing areas.

If 2 above (i.e. not to subject to an EQIA) in what ways can adverse impacts attaching to the policy be mitigated or an alternative policy be introduced.

Further Equality Screenings can be carried out, where appropriate, on the delivery plans as they and their actions are developed. Delivery plans and actions may also be subject to Equality Screenings by partners as they take lead roles in their delivery.

If 3 above (i.e. shall be subject to an EQIA), please provide details of the reasons.

Mitigation

When it is concluded that the likely impact is 'minor' and an equality impact assessment is not to be conducted, you may consider mitigation to lessen the severity of any equality impact, or the introduction of an alternative policy to better promote equality of opportunity.

| |
|--|
| Can the policy/decision be amended or changed or an alternative policy introduced to better promote equality of opportunity? |
|--|

| |
|---|
| If so, give the reasons to support your decision, together with the proposed changes/amendments or alternative policy: |
|---|

| |
|---|
| The decision is not to conduct an EQIA on the plan framework however as action plans and initiatives are developed, these will be screened to establish if an EQIA is applicable. |
|---|

Timetabling and prioritising

If the policy has been screened in for equality impact assessment, please answer the below to determine its priority for timetabling the equality impact assessment.

- **On a scale of 1-3 (1 being lowest priority and 3 being highest), assess the policy in terms of its priority for equality impact assessment.**

| Priority criterion | Rating (1-3) |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Effect on equality of opportunity | |
| Social need | |
| Effect on people's daily lives | |
| Relevance to a Council's functions | |

Note: The Total Rating Score should be used to prioritise the policy in rank order with other policies screened in for equality impact assessment. This list of priorities will assist the Council in timetabling. Details of the Council's Equality Impact Assessment Timetable should be included in the Screening Reports.

- **Is the policy affected by timetables established by other relevant public authorities?**

| | |
|-----|--|
| Yes | |
| No | |

Section 5 – Monitoring

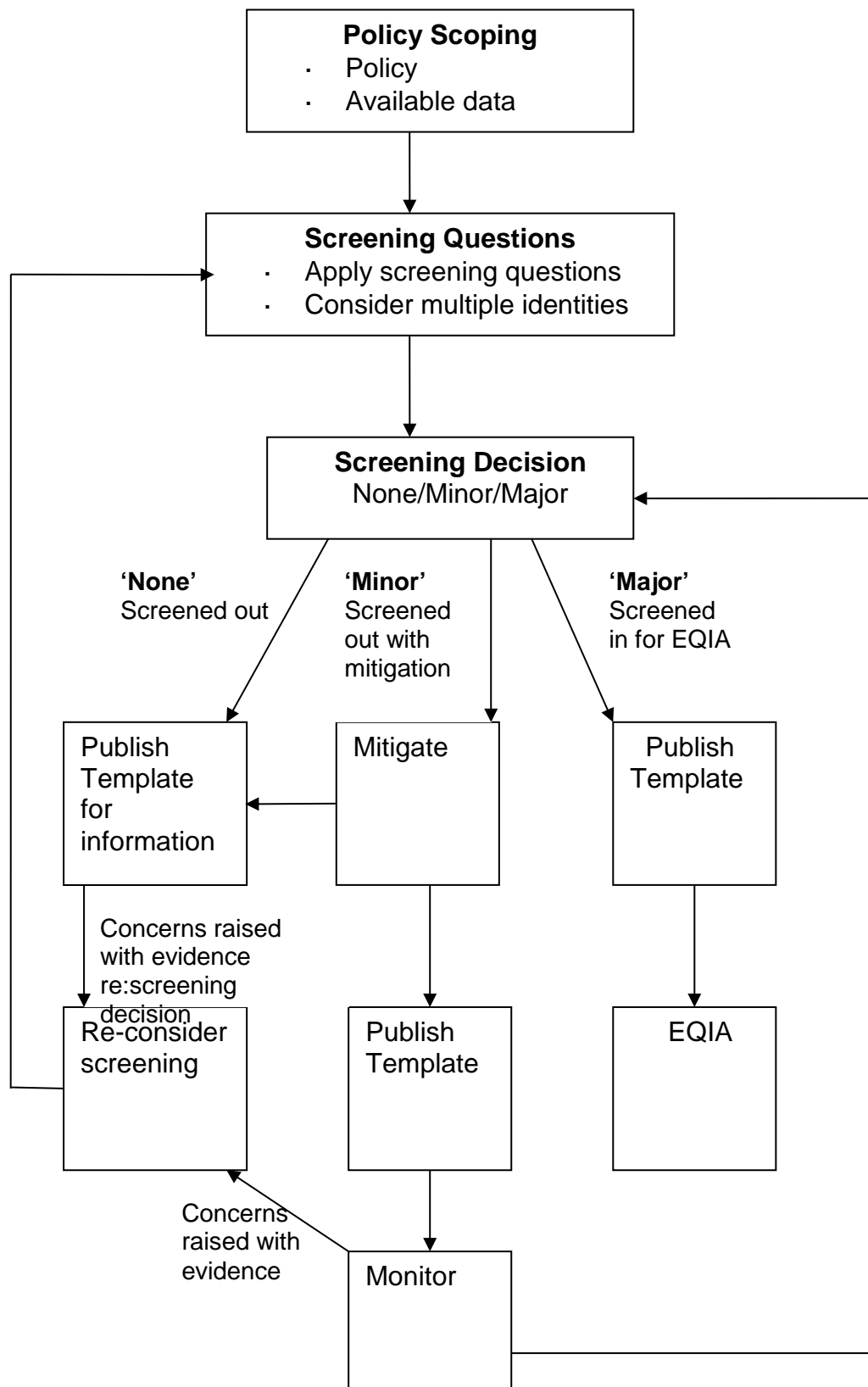
Effective monitoring will help identify any future adverse impact arising from the policy which may lead the Council to conduct an equality impact assessment, as well as help with future planning and policy development. Please detail proposed monitoring arrangements below:

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

Section 6 – Approval and authorisation

| Screened by: | Position/ Job Title | Date |
|--------------|---------------------|------|
| | | |
| | | |
| Approved by: | Position/ Job Title | Date |
| | | |

Note: A copy of the Screening Template, for each policy screened should be ‘signed off’ and approved by a senior manager responsible for the policy; made easily accessible on the council website as soon as possible following completion and be available on request.



Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Form

This SEA screening report template was developed by Fermanagh and Omagh District Council and has been adapted by Mid Ulster District Council Community Planning Manager for use on the emerging priority issues identified by our own community planning processes. The contents of this report relate to the requirements contained within Schedule 1 of the Environment Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulation (Northern Ireland) 2004 and will assist in determining the need for an SEA for Mid Ulster's Community Plan.

SEA SCREENING REPORT

Part 1

Consultation Body:

Department of the Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA)
Klondyke Building, Cromac Avenue, Gasworks
Business Park,
Lower Ormeau Road,
Belfast, BT7 2JA

Legislative Requirement:

The Development, implementation and monitoring of the Community Plan is a legislative function prescribed in the *Local Government Act (NI) 2014*.

Part 2

Screening is required as outlined in the EU Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment – (commonly known as the 'SEA Directive' and translated into a Northern Ireland law in '*The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulation (Northern Ireland) 2004*').

Determination

An SEA is not required because the Community Plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects, it is high level and any specific activities arising as a result of the outcomes contained within the plan will be separately screened either via the Local Development Planning process or the screening of another strategy. The Community Plan will consist of a series of outcomes, indicators/measures and strategic actions which will be delivered via the strategies and work programmes of various community planning partners.

**The Responsible Authority is Mid Ulster District Council.
Contact Officer: Martina Totten, Community Planning Coordinator**

Signed:.....Date:.....

Context of Mid Ulster Community Plan's SEA

Strategic Environmental Assessment ("SEA"), namely the environmental assessment of plans and programmes which exist to provide the framework for detailed decision making, was required to take effect within the Member States of the EU by July 21, 2004. It fills the gap not covered by environmental impact assessment Directive 85/337/EEC in requiring the transparent assessment of the likely environmental effects of the hierarchy of plans and programmes which have a strategic role in directing not only development but other interventions in the environment.

At the moment, major projects likely to have an impact on the environment must be assessed under Directive 85/337/EEC. However, this assessment takes place at a stage when options for significant change are often limited. Decisions on the site of a project, or on the choice of alternatives, may already have been taken in the context of plans for a whole sector or geographical area. The SEA Directive plugs this gap by requiring the environmental effects of a broad range of plans and programmes to be assessed, so that they can be taken into account while plans are actually being developed, and in due course adopted. The public must also be consulted on the draft plans and on the environmental assessment and their views must be taken into account.

The EU Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment – (commonly known as the 'SEA Directive') has the objective of providing for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation of and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development, by ensuring that, in accordance with the Directive, an environmental assessment is carried out of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.

Article 32 of the SEA Directive details the characteristics that 'plans and programmes' must possess for the SEA Directive to apply and include those:

'which are subject to preparation and/or adoption by authority at national, regional or local level or which are prepared by an authority for adoption, through a legislative procedure by parliament or Government, and, which are required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions'.

The Community Plan for Mid Ulster falls within the scope of Article 2 of the EU Directive 2001/42/EC as it is a plan that is (a) subject to adoption by the Council and (b) is directed by the legislative and regulatory provisions of the *Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014*.

The EU Directive 2001/42/EC has been transposed into Northern Ireland law within the *Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulation (Northern Ireland) 2004* and provides in Part I that a determination needs to be made as to whether certain plans or programmes are required to undertake an SEA process. Making a determination is the first stage of the SEA process and is referred to as 'screening'.

Screening is required under the above named regulations to determine whether the policies or objectives of any plan or programme would be likely to have significant effects on the environment.

The aim of this report is to determine if the Community Plan requires an SEA to be undertaken. The objectives are:

- To set out and consider the characteristics of the Community Plan.
- To set out and consider the characteristics of the environmental effects of the Community Plan and the areas likely to be affected.
- To inform and advise the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) and Mid Ulster's Community Planning Partnership of the determination made.

Article 2 and 3 of the SEA Directive sets out the criteria which determines the requirement for an SEA process to be processed. Article 3 provides for a determination on a case by case basis as to whether plans are likely to have a significant environmental effect taking into account the criteria of Annex II of the Directive (transposed into Northern Ireland law this refers to Schedule 1 of the *Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulation (Northern Ireland) 2004*).

Application of the Screening criteria was applied with guidance from 'A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive' from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and 'Strategic Environmental Assessment: Consultation Bodies' Services and Standards for Responsible Authorities' from the Northern Ireland Environment Agency.

Table 1

| | |
|--|---|
| Responsible Authority | Mid Ulster District Council (as facilitator of the Community Plan) |
| Contact Address/ Person | Martina Totten Community Planning Coordinator Mid Ulster District Council Burn Road Cookstown BT80 8DT T: 03000 132 132 E: martina.totten@midulstercouncil.org |
| Approval Signature | M. Totten |
| Date of Submission | September 2016 |
| Title of Plan | Our Community Plan: A 10 Year Plan for Mid Ulster |
| Purpose of Plan | The Community Plan will be a strategic long-term plan for the geographical area of Mid Ulster which will inform the design and delivery of public services. The Local Development Plan will provide the spatial strategy for the Community Plan. |
| What Prompted the Plan (i.e. legislation, regulatory or administrative provision) | The Council has a legislative duty, under the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 to 'initiate, maintain, facilitate, and participate in Community Planning'. The Community Planning (Partners) Act requires statutory partners to participate and assist the Council in the discharge of its duties in relation to Community Planning. |
| Subject | Community Planning |
| Period covered by the Plan | 10 years with a review of performance against outcomes published every two years and a review of the plan every four years. |
| Area covered by the Plan | Mid Ulster District Council area (map attached at appendix 1) |
| Summary of nature/ content of the Plan | The Community Plan will set out the long-term vision, desired outcomes and indicators for the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area. This will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of a baseline of the existing conditions in the area; - An integrated view of the social, economic and environmental needs of the area in the context of regional, national and European policies and strategies and taking account of communities and issues that extend into neighbouring council areas and jurisdictions; - Long-term vision for the area; - Long-term outcomes against which progress can be monitored and evaluated via a set of indicators; - A focus on delivering in the short to medium term to achieve the long-term vision - Governance structure and delivery arrangements |
| Are there any Proposed Plan objectives? a. Are these attached? | Our plan will have outcomes rather than objectives. These are still in development but our proposed vision, goals and commitments are attached for information (see appendix 2). |

1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to –

(a) the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources;

Likely to have significant environmental effects YES ☐ NO ☒

Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)

The Community Plan is a long-term strategic framework for the Mid Ulster area developed by the Council and its partners as outlined in the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Act 2014; the Local Government (Community Planning Partners Order) 2014 and associated Community Planning guidance. It will provide the strategic and policy direction for the delivery of services by community planning partners within the Mid Ulster area.

Its key principles of the plan

- Community engagement and consultation are central and based on the values of transparency and inclusiveness.
- It is based on a strong evidential base.
- Transparency will be throughout the full process of the development of the Plan
- It is linked to the Local Development Plan.
- It gives consideration to equality, good relations, sustainable development, social inclusion and rural proofing.
- It is developed based on consensus between all partners.
- A robust monitoring and review process will be developed to delivery and manage the community plan.
- Communications will be central to all activity and regular notifications will be updated to all residents through Council and partner publications/mediums and direct notifications.

Mid Ulster's Community Plan will be centred on a number of strategic high-level outcomes, with corresponding indicators/measures and actions, which will hopefully be achieved via the development and implementation of strategies and programmes by various community planning partners. The Plan will not detail projects/activities or initiatives under these and therefore will not set any precedent for development.

(b) the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;

Likely to have significant environmental effects YES ☐ NO ☒

Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)

The Community Plan will be the influential and strategic plan governing the Mid Ulster geographic area. It will inform all other partner agency plans who are legally obliged to align plans and strategies to 'take account' of the Community Plan. The *Local Government (Northern Ireland) Act 2014* and the amendments to the *Planning Act (NI) 2011* provide a statutory link between the Community Plan and Local Development Plan. The Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Sustainable Development 2014 clearly states that Councils 'must take account of the Community Plan when preparing a Local Development Plan'.

Mid Ulster's Community Plan will be centred on a number of strategic high-level outcomes, with corresponding indicators/measures and actions, which will hopefully be achieved via the development and implementation of strategies and programmes by various community planning partners. Other Council plans, including the Economic Development Strategy, Tourism Strategy and Rural Development Strategy may be implementation vehicles for the delivery against the social, economic and environmental well-being outcomes and to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.

The Community Plan is strategic vision and plan for Mid Ulster and will not detail specific projects/activities or initiatives that should be undertaken through the strategic actions and therefore will not set a precedent to development.

(c) the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;

Likely to have significant environmental effects YES ☐ NO ☒

Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)

The *Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014* states that community planning will 'identify long-term objectives in relation to the district for contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in NI'. Community Planning Guidance (section 8 page 22) states that the Community Planning Partnership 'should set out sustainable development and integration of social, economic and environmental priorities as a key principle of their community plans and should have regard to the Executive's Sustainable Development Strategy in development of their Community Plan'. The community planning outcomes are based on the three pillars of sustainable development and will help promote social, economic and environmental wellbeing.

| | | |
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| (d) environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme; and | | |
| Likely to have significant environmental effects | YES <input type="checkbox"/> | NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive) | | |
| <p>Mid Ulster's Community Plan will be centred on a number of strategic high-level outcomes, with corresponding indicators/measures and actions, which will hopefully be achieved via the development and implementation of strategies and programmes by various community planning partners. The Community Plan will identify key priorities and outcomes and strategic actions in relation to the environmental well-being of the area but these will be taken forward via the development of action plans or via other strategies. The Community Plan is strategic vision and plan for Mid Ulster and will not detail specific projects/activities or initiatives that should be undertaken through the strategic actions and therefore will not set a precedent to development.</p> | | |
| (e) the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection). | | |
| Likely to have significant environmental effects | YES <input type="checkbox"/> | NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive) | | |
| <p>Mid Ulster's Community Plan will be centred on a number of strategic high-level outcomes, with corresponding indicators/measures and actions, which will hopefully be achieved via the development and implementation of strategies and programmes by various community planning partners. The Community Plan is the long-term strategic framework for the Mid Ulster area affecting the Council and its partners as outlined in <i>the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Act 2014; the Local Government (Community Planning Partners order) 2014 and associated guidance</i>. It will provide strategic and policy direction for the delivery of services by all of its partners. It is expected that all partners will take account of community planning outcomes in terms of their own corporate and business planning processes. However, legislative functions and responsibilities of each of the partners' will remain the duty of the designated body.</p> | | |

2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to –

a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;

Likely to have significant environmental effects YES ☐ NO ☒

Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)

The Community Plan will set the overall strategic and policy direction on issues relating to the environment which will be implemented utilising action plans and associated strategies where applicable. Strategic outcomes, indicators and actions identified within the Community Plan will have their own associated delivery mechanisms.

It is likely that other strategies and plans that have been informed by the Community Plan or that will help implement the aims and actions of the Community Plan could themselves have permanent and irreversible effects. These include, for example, decisions linked to the Local Development Plan such as housing development, road infrastructure and walking routes. These plans or activities will undoubtedly be subject to their own Environmental Impact Assessment or Strategic Environmental Assessment.

(b) the cumulative nature of the effects;

Likely to have significant environmental effects YES ☐ NO ☒

Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)

The Community Plan will be a collaborative document which is informed by a wide and diverse range of statutory and support partners as outlined in the *Local Government (Community Planning Partners Order) 2014*. The collation of data and evidence across boundaries in relation to social, economic and environmental well-being and development of associated long-term outcomes and actions will create a platform to develop real synergy across many service areas. The Community Plan will ultimately seek to improve environmental well-being and one of the goals of Mid Ulster's Community Plan is to create a sustainable, high quality and cohesive environment (built and natural) that is valued and accessible. The Community Plan is strategic vision and plan for Mid Ulster and will not detail specific projects/activities or initiatives that should be undertaken through the strategic actions and therefore will not set a precedent to development.

(e) the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).

Likely to have significant environmental effects YES ☐ NO ☒

Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)

Mid Ulster's Community Plan will be centred on a number of strategic high-level outcomes, with corresponding indicators/measures and actions, which will hopefully be achieved via the development and implementation of strategies and programmes by various community planning partners. The Community Plan is the long-term strategic framework for the Mid Ulster area affecting the Council and its partners as outlined in *the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Act 2014; the Local Government (Community Planning Partners order) 2014 and associated guidance*. It will provide strategic and policy direction for the delivery of services by all of its partners. It is expected that all partners will take account of community planning outcomes in terms of their own corporate and business planning processes. However, legislative functions and responsibilities of each of the partners' will remain the duty of the designated body.

2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to –

a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;

Likely to have significant environmental effects YES ☐ NO ☒

Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)

The Community Plan will set the overall strategic and policy direction on issues relating to the environment which will be implemented utilising action plans and associated strategies where applicable. Outcomes and indicators identified within the Community Plan will have their own associated delivery mechanisms.

It is likely that other strategies and plans that have been informed by the Community Plan or that will help implement the aims and actions of the Community Plan could themselves have permanent and irreversible effects. These include, for example, decisions linked to the Local Development Plan such as housing development, road infrastructure, walking routes and protection of coastal communities. These plans or activities will undoubtedly be subject to their own Environmental Impact Assessment or Strategic Environmental Assessment. The Community Plan is strategic vision and plan for Mid Ulster and will not detail specific projects/activities or initiatives that should be undertaken through the strategic actions and therefore will not set a precedent to development.

| | | |
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| (b) the cumulative nature of the effects; | | |
| Likely to have significant environmental effects | YES <input type="checkbox"/> | NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive) | | |
| <p>The Community Plan will be a collaborative document which is informed by a wide and diverse range of statutory and support partners as outlined in the <i>Local Government (Community Planning Partners Order) 2014</i>. The collation of data and evidence across boundaries in relation to social, economic and environmental well-being and development of associated long-term outcomes and actions will create a platform to develop real synergy across many service areas. The Community Plan will ultimately seek to improve environmental well-being and one of the goals of Mid Ulster's Community Plan is to create a sustainable, high quality and cohesive environment (built and natural) that is valued and accessible. However, the Community Plan is strategic and will not detail specific projects/activities or initiatives that should be undertaken through the strategic actions and therefore will not set a precedent to development.</p> | | |
| (c) the trans boundary nature of the effects; | | |
| Likely to have significant environmental effects | YES <input type="checkbox"/> | NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive) | | |
| <p>Mid Ulster borders with the Republic of Ireland and through the development of long term action plans there will be a need for discussion and engagement with neighbouring Councils to consider potential implications and areas of collaborative work that will increase the positive impact the Plan may have. However, the Community Plan will not detail specific projects/activities or initiatives that should be undertaken through the strategic actions and therefore will not set a precedent to development.</p> | | |
| (d) the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents) | | |
| Likely to have significant environmental effects | YES <input type="checkbox"/> | NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive) | | |
| <p>The overall purpose of the Community Plan is to improve health and well-being across social, economic and environmental issues for all the citizens that live, work or visit the Mid Ulster area. While the Community Plan will include outcomes, indicators and delivery mechanisms, it will not contain information on specific projects as these will be undertaken via a Community Planning partner and if specific projects would require a SEA these would be undertaken separately.</p> | | |

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| (e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected); | |
| Likely to have significant environmental effects | YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive) | |
| <p>Mid Ulster is home to 141,000 people over 1714 km with 1 in 4 residents living in outside our 4 urban towns. Approximately 18 miles of Lough Neagh shoreline is in the Mid Ulster District. The Community Plan covers the whole of the district and all the services that are delivered for the benefit of people in the district. Community planning focuses on improving social, economic and environmental well-being and the outcomes currently being discussed relate to our natural environment being protected, accessible, enhanced and understood. The Plan may seek to improve our understanding of local environmental systems and help people adapt to the impact of coastal processes by increasing their own resilience and ability to cope.</p> <p>The Community Plan is strategic vision and plan for Mid Ulster and will not detail specific projects/activities or initiatives that should be undertaken through the strategic actions and therefore will not set a precedent to development.</p> | |
| (f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to – | |
| (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; | |
| (ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or | |
| (iii) intensive land-use; | |
| Likely to have significant environmental effects | YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive) | |
| <p>Mid Ulster's Community Plan will be centred on a number of strategic high-level outcomes, with corresponding indicators/measures and actions, which will hopefully be achieved via the development and implementation of strategies and programmes by various community planning partners.</p> <p>The Community Plan is unlikely to have a significant impact on the environment. Quality and accessibility of the local environment as well as understanding and living in harmony with environmental processes are potential priority issues that will be addressed within the Community Plan.</p> | |

(g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international Protection status.

Likely to have significant environmental effects

YES ☐ NO ☒

Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)

Mid Ulster's Community Plan will be centred on a number of strategic high-level outcomes, with corresponding indicators/measures and actions, which will hopefully be achieved via the development and implementation of strategies and programmes by various community planning partners.

There are a diverse range of conservation sites of international, national and local importance throughout the Mid Ulster area. The sites have been designated to preserve a wide range of NI priority habitats and species. In Mid Ulster there are the following designated sites:

- 173 scheduled and 1312 unscheduled monuments
- 1 Area of Significant Archaeological Interest & 25 Areas of Archaeological Potential
- 1234 Listed Buildings
- 19 Historic Parks, Gardens, Demesnes
- 5 Conservation Areas and 26 Areas of Townscape / Village scape Character
- 57 Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPAs)
- 4 RAMSAR sites & 10 Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)
- 2 Special Protected Areas (SPAs) & 48 Areas of Special Scientific interest (ASSI's)
- 5 National Nature Reserves & 3 Local Nature Reserves
- 131 Sites of Local Conservation Importance (SLNCI)

The Community Plan is strategic vision and plan for Mid Ulster and will not detail specific projects/activities or initiatives that should be undertaken through the strategic actions and therefore will not set a precedent to development.

Summary of Screening Report and the significant environmental effects of Mid Ulster's Community Plan.

The Community Plan will be the long-term strategic framework document providing the overarching policy and strategic outcomes focused framework for the delivery of services by community planning partners within the Mid Ulster area.

The Plan will be focused on outcomes, indicators and delivery mechanisms to ensure that the vision and commitments contained within the Plan are realised. Sustainable development and its principles have been integrated into the community planning process and the Plan will focus on improving the social, economic and environmental well-being of the Borough.

The Community Plan falls within the scope of Section 5(4) but as it does not set a precedent for development, and due to it being based on a series of high-level outcomes, the implementation of the plan will not have a significant environmental impact.

Following careful review and consideration it is recognised that the Community Plan does not require an SEA because it falls short of the scope of Section 5(1). The Community Plan will not set a precedent to development and will not specify specific locations for activities.

Appendix 1 – Geographical area covered by Mid Ulster



Appendix 2 – 15 High Level Outcomes

We will enjoy and prosper in a stronger and more competitive economy.

We will have more people at work and in a growing variety of jobs.

Our towns and villages will be vibrant and competitive.

We will be better connected through appropriate infrastructure.

We will increasingly value our environment and enhance it for our children.

We will enjoy increased access to affordable quality housing.

Our people are better qualified and more skilled.

We give our children and young people the best chance in life.

We are more entrepreneurial, innovative and creative.

We are better enabled to live longer healthier and more active lives.

We have better availability to the right service, in the right place at the right time.

We care more for those most vulnerable and in need.

We are a safer community.

We have a greater value and respect for diversity.

We have fewer people living in poverty and fewer areas of disadvantage.

Mid Ulster's Community Plan Habitats Regulations Assessment

In accordance with Regulation 43(1) of the Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc) (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended), **Mid Ulster District Council** has considered whether the application or the application (not being directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site) is likely to have a significant effect on the Natura 2000 site. This screening template was created by Omagh and Fermanagh District Council and adopted by Mid Ulster District Council. It was completed by MUDC's Community Planning Coordinator with the assistance of MUDC's Biodiversity Officer.

As part of that consideration, Mid Ulster District Council (MUDC) has:-

- a) Taken into account the mitigation measures contained in each application, along with all legally enforceable obligations designed to avoid environmental effects; and
- b) Applied the precautionary approach set out in Commission Guidance: Managing Natura 2000 Sites and as required by the European Court of Justice in C 127/02 (Waddenzee).

Stage 1: Test of Likely Significance (Screening)

Screening Matrix

| | |
|--|--|
| Name of Project or Plan: | Mid Ulster Community Plan |
| Name and location of Natura 2000 site: | See map highlighting all Natura 2000 sites in the MUDC area; 4 Ramsar sites 10 Special Areas of Conservation 2 Special Protection Areas |
| Natura 2000 site features: | Numerous features of all sites highlighted in attached document detailing all Natura 2k sites. |
| Description of the Project or Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Size and scale; · Land-take; · Distance from Natura 2000 site or key features of the site; · Resource requirements (water abstraction etc); · Emission (disposal to land, water or air); · Excavation requirements; · Transportation requirements; | <p><u>Size and scale</u> The Community Plan for the MUDC area will encompass objectives and potential actions that will affect the whole of the district. The Vision is of a vibrant, living place where people enjoy improved prosperity and wellbeing in a safe, shared, connected and sustainable environment.</p> <p>The Community Plan, at writing (March 2017) is in Draft form and will be published in April 2017. The Community Plan is strategic vision for Mid Ulster and will not detail specific projects/activities or initiatives that should be undertaken through the strategic actions.</p> <p>The delivery, monitoring and review stage will see individual strategic actions being carried forward. At this stage, screening and if required Appropriate</p> |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Duration of construction, operation, de-commissioning etc; Other. | <p>Assessment should take place with the HRA process followed to take into account mitigation measures and apply where necessary, the precautionary principle approach.</p> <p>As the Community Plan and Local Development Plan are interlinked, maps of N2K sites are integrated into an Environmental Assets map as part of the current Preferred Options Paper and Future LDP.</p> |
| <p>Is the Project or Plan directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site (provide details)?</p> <p>If yes proceed no further.</p> | <p>N/A at this stage</p> <p>The Community Plan is strategic vision and plan for Mid Ulster and will not detail specific projects/activities or initiatives that should be undertaken through the strategic actions.</p> <p>The delivery, monitoring and review stage will see individual strategic actions being carried forward. At this stage, screening and if required Appropriate Assessment should take place with the HRA process followed to take into account mitigation measures and apply where necessary, the precautionary principle approach.</p> |
| <p>Describe the individual elements of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) likely to give rise to effects on the Natura 2000 site.</p> | <p>N/A at this stage</p> <p>The Community Plan is strategic vision and plan for Mid Ulster and will not detail specific projects/activities or initiatives that should be undertaken through the strategic actions.</p> <p>The delivery, monitoring and review stage will see individual strategic actions being carried forward. At this stage, screening and if required Appropriate Assessment should take place with the HRA process followed to take into account mitigation measures and apply where necessary, the precautionary principle approach.</p> |

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| <p>N2K Feature affected (all features to be assessed at this stage):</p> | <p>Describe any likely direct, indirect effects to the N2K features arising as a result of:</p> <p>Reduction of habitat area; disturbance;</p> | <p>*Effect Significant/Not Significant? Explain why (for each feature below in spaces provided).</p> <p>N/A at this stage</p> <p>The Community Plan is strategic vision and plan for Mid Ulster and will not detail specific</p> |
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| | Habitat or species fragmentation; Reduction in species density; Changes in key indicators of conservation value (e.g. water quality, climate change). | <p>projects/activities or initiatives that should be undertaken through the strategic actions.</p> <p>The delivery, monitoring and review stage will see individual strategic actions being carried forward. At this stage, screening and if required Appropriate Assessment should take place with the HRA process followed to take into account mitigation measures and apply where necessary, the precautionary principle approach.</p> |
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***Only mitigation measures designed within the application can be considered at this stage. Any conditions that Mid Ulster District Council would impose must be assessed through the appropriate assessment stage.**

| | |
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| Describe any potential effects on the Natura 2000 site as a whole in terms of: interference with the key relationships that define the structure or function of the site | Effect considered significant/non-significant: Finding of No significant effects Matrix |
| <p>N/A at this stage</p> <p>The Community Plan is strategic vision and plan for Mid Ulster and will not detail specific projects/activities or initiatives that should be undertaken through the strategic actions.</p> <p>The delivery, monitoring and review stage will see individual strategic actions being carried forward. At this stage, screening and if required Appropriate Assessment should take place with the HRA process followed to take into account mitigation measures and apply where necessary, the precautionary principle approach.</p> | <p>N/A at this stage</p> <p>The Community Plan is strategic vision and plan for Mid Ulster and will not detail specific projects/activities or initiatives that should be undertaken through the strategic actions.</p> <p>The delivery, monitoring and review stage will see individual strategic actions being carried forward. At this stage, screening and if required Appropriate Assessment should take place with the HRA process followed to take into account mitigation measures and apply where necessary, the precautionary principle approach.</p> |

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| Provide details of any other projects or plans that together with the project or plan being assessed could (directly or indirectly) affect the site. | Provide details of any likely in-combination effects and quantify their significance - |
| <p>N/A at this stage</p> <p>The Community Plan is strategic vision and plan for Mid Ulster and will not detail specific projects/activities or initiatives that</p> | <p>N/A at this stage</p> <p>The Community Plan is strategic vision and plan for Mid Ulster and will not detail specific</p> |

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| <p>should be undertaken through the strategic actions.</p> <p>The delivery, monitoring and review stage will see individual strategic actions being carried forward. At this stage, screening and if required Appropriate Assessment should take place with the HRA process followed to take into account mitigation measures and apply where necessary, the precautionary principle approach.</p> | <p>projects/activities or initiatives that should be undertaken through the strategic actions.</p> <p>The delivery, monitoring and review stage will see individual strategic actions being carried forward. At this stage, screening and if required Appropriate Assessment should take place with the HRA process followed to take into account mitigation measures and apply where necessary, the precautionary principle approach.</p> |
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| Is the potential scale or magnitude of any effect likely to be significant? | |
| Alone? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| In-combination with other projects of plans? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |

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| List of Agencies Consulted: Provide contact name and telephone or email address. | |
| Summary of response to consultation received. | |

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| <p>Conclusion: Is the proposal likely to have a significant effect on an N2K site?</p> | <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Inconclusive at this stage so a return to this process will happen as individual strategic actions/projects are progressed.</p> |
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| <p>IF IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED THAT THE PROPOSAL WILL NOT HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT THEN ASSESSMENT IS COMPLETED.</p> <p>IF ANY PART OF THE PROPOSAL IS LIKELY TO HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT AN APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT WILL BE REQUIRED – STAGE 2 APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT.</p> |
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| Subject | Consultations notified to Mid Ulster District Council |
| Reporting Officer | Philip Moffett, Head of Democratic Services |
| Contact Officer | Ann McAleer, Corporate Policy and Equality Officer |

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| 1 | Purpose of Report |
| 1.1 | To update members on the consultations notified to Mid Ulster District Council for comment, since the last meeting of Council. |

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| 2 | Background |
| 2.1 | Council is a consultee for many government departments, statutory agencies and other bodies, and as such receives consultation documentation inviting commentary on a wide range of issues which may be pertinent to council services and/or the District. |

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| 3 | Key Issues |
| 3.1 | Documentation relating to the aforementioned consultations can be accessed via the links provided in the table below: |

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| 4 | Resources |
| 4.1 | <u>Financial</u> - N/A |
| 4.2 | <u>Human</u> - N/A |
| 4.3 | <u>Basis for Professional/ Consultancy Support</u> - N/A |
| 4.4 | <u>Other</u> - N/A |

| | |
|----------|-----------------------------|
| 5 | Other Considerations |
| 5.1 | Not applicable |

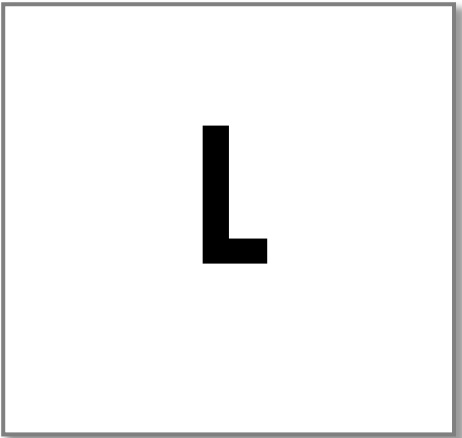
| | |
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| 6 | Recommendations |
| 6.1 | Members review and note consultations notified to Mid Ulster District Council. |

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| 7 | List of documents attached |
| 7.1 | Appendix A: Details of Current Consultations |

Appendix A: Consultations

| Organisation | Consultation Title | Issue | Closing Date | Response Currently Being Developed |
|--|--|--|---------------|------------------------------------|
| Department of Infrastructure | Draft Equality Scheme | Following the Departments Act (NI) 2016, it was necessary to develop an Equality Scheme for the new Department for Infrastructure. The Draft Equality Scheme sets out how the Department proposes to fulfil the Section 75 statutory duties. | 15 May 2017 | |
| | Link to Consultation Document | https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/consultations/draft-dfi-equality-scheme-consultation | | |
| Organisation | Consultation Title | Issue | Closing Date | Response Currently Being Developed |
| Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon | Disability Action Plan for 2017-2019 | Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon is formally consulting on its updated Disability Action Plan for 2017-2019. Should you have any comments to make on this consultation exercise please forward them to Mary Hanna by Wednesday 24 May 2017 at the address below. | 24 May 2017 | |
| | Link to Consultation Document | http://www.armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/consultations | | |
| Organisation | Consultation Title | Issue | Closing Date | Response Currently Being Developed |
| Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs | Consultation on Proposed Water Resources Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations | The consultation paper seeks views on proposals to update the Water Resources (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005 – views are not sought on the wider environmental impact assessment process or on other environmental impact assessment legislation. | 26 April 2017 | |
| | Link to Consultation Document | https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations | | |
| Organisation | Consultation Title | Issue | Closing Date | Response Currently Being Developed |
| Monaghan County Council | Monaghan County Development Plan 2013-2019 Review | Review of the existing Monaghan County Development Plan 2013-2019 and the preparation of a new County Development Plan for the period 2019-2025. | 5 May 2017 | |
| | Link to Consultation Document | https://monaghan.ie/planning/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2017/03/Consultation-Paper-Read-Version-1.pdf | | |

| Organisation | Consultation Title | Issue | Closing Date | Response Currently Being Developed |
|--|--|---|---------------|------------------------------------|
| Department for Infrastructure | Proposal for the Harbour Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) | This consultation relates to the introduction of legislation to transpose the requirements of European Council Directive 2014/52/EU. These Regulations apply to harbour works below the low water mark of medium tides that are not subject to planning control nor the subject of a fish culture license. | 21 April 2017 | |
| | Link to Consultation Document | https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/ProposalfortheHarbourWorksEnvironmentalImpactAssessmentRegulationsNorthernIreland | | |
| Organisation | Consultation Title | Issue | Closing Date | Response Currently Being Developed |
| NI Local Government Officers Superannuation Committee | Updated Equality Scheme | The purpose of this consultation exercise is to obtain views on the revised Equality Scheme. | 1 June 2017 | |
| | Link to Consultation Document | http://www.nilgosc.org.uk/equality-scheme | | |
| Organisation | Consultation Title | Issue | Closing Date | Response Currently Being Developed |
| Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs | Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 | Forest Service are consulting on a proposed amendment to the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006. | 5 April 2017 | |
| | Link to Consultation Document | https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/daera-forest-service/amending-the-environmental-impact-assessment-fores/supporting_documents/EIA%20Forestry%20Consultation%20Document.pdf | | |
| Organisation | Consultation Title | Issue | Closing Date | Response Currently Being Developed |
| Department of Infrastructure | Proposal for the Roads (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations | The Department of Infrastructure proposes to introduce legislation to transpose the European Directive in relation to the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment. | 21 April 2017 | |
| | Link to Consultation Document | An electronic version of the consultation papers can be viewed at www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk | | |



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| Subject | Correspondence to Council – March 2017 |
| Reporting Officer | P Moffett, Head of Democratic Services |

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| 1 | Purpose of Report |
| 1.1 | Provide an update on correspondence received for attention of Council. |

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| 2 | Background |
| 2.1 | This paper makes reference to correspondence received to be brought to the attention of Council. Items are referred to in 3.0 below. |

| 3 | Key Issues | | | | |
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| 3.1 | <p>Correspondence from Dept of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government – Irish Government</p> <p>The council carried a motion at its November meeting on the recommendation by the Constitutional Convention on voting in future Irish Presidential elections.</p> <p><i>“This Council supports the call to implement the recommendation by the Constitutional Convention to extend the franchise to include all Irish citizens, regardless of their place of residency, to vote in the next and all future Presidential elections”.</i></p> <p>The Office of the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government has responded and the response is attached as (Appendix A).</p> | | | | |
| 3.2 | <p>Correspondence from BT on removal of Payphone (Tamlaght O’Crilly)</p> <p>BT has corresponded with Council to give notification of its intention to remove a payphone from service. The letter is attached as Appendix B and refers to a payphone at Tamlaght O’Crilly Post Office, 27 Main Street, Tamlaght O’Crilly</p> <p>BT is undertaking a 90 consultation seeking representations from interested parties. They have identified the Council as a consultee. A notice was placed at the Payphone by BT advising the public to submit any views to the Council within 42 days of the notice placed. One submission has been made as below, which is proposed to be fed back to BT along with any comment from council:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Member of Public</th><th>Comment</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td><td><i>I'm looking to investigate the possibility of the Parish of Tamlaght O'Crilly Upper 'adopting' the village telephone kiosk shown in the picture. Please register our interest.</i></td></tr> </tbody> </table> | Member of Public | Comment | 1 | <i>I'm looking to investigate the possibility of the Parish of Tamlaght O'Crilly Upper 'adopting' the village telephone kiosk shown in the picture. Please register our interest.</i> |
| Member of Public | Comment | | | | |
| 1 | <i>I'm looking to investigate the possibility of the Parish of Tamlaght O'Crilly Upper 'adopting' the village telephone kiosk shown in the picture. Please register our interest.</i> | | | | |

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| 3.3 | <p>Derry & Strabane District Council – Support for Cystic Fibrosis</p> <p>Derry City & Strabane Council has written to the council confirming that it has written to the Minister of Health & Minister of Finance to support the campaign to have the Orkambi drug for Cystic Fibrosis sufferers in Northern Ireland (Appendix C). The council has requested the support of all councils for this campaign.</p> |
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| 4 | Resources |
| 4.1 | <u>Financial</u> N/A |
| 4.2 | <u>Human</u> N/A |
| 4.3 | <u>Basis for Professional/ Consultancy Support</u> N/A |
| 4.4 | <u>Other</u> N/A |

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| 5 | Other Considerations |
| 5.1 | N/A |

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| 6 | Recommendations |
| 6.1 | That Council notes and consider, as necessary, the correspondence received. |

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| 7 | List of Documents Attached |
| 7.1 | <p>Appendix A Office of the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government - Irish Government</p> <p>Appendix B BT on removal of Payphone (Tamlaght O'Crilly)</p> <p>Appendix C Derry City & Strabane District Council motion on Orkambi Drug</p> |



An Roinn Tithíochta, Pleanála,
Pobail agus Rialtais Áitiúil
Department of Housing, Planning,
Community and Local Government



Oifig an Aire
Office of the Minister

13 January 2017.

Cllr Trevor Wilson,
Chair,
Mid Ulster District Council,
Cookstown Office,
Burn Road,
Cookstown,
Co. Tyrone.
BT80 8DT.

RE: REP2241/SC/16

Dear Councillor Wilson,

I have been asked by Mr Simon Coveney T.D., Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government to refer to the motion carried by Mid Ulster District Council on 23 November 2016 in support of the recommendation of the Convention on the Constitution to extend the right to vote at Presidential elections to Irish citizens resident outside the State.

The Government considered the Convention's recommendation in February 2015 and decided that it would be necessary to analyse the full range of legal, practical and policy issues arising before any decision could be made on the holding of a referendum on the matter. A referendum to amend the Irish Constitution would be required to implement the recommendation. The Government has asked the Minister, in co-operation with the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Minister of State with responsibility for diaspora affairs, to analyse these issues and to report back to the Government in due course. This work is ongoing with a view to its completion as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,


Niamh Redmond,
Private Secretary





+
Planning Department
Mid Ulster District Council
Magherafelt Office
Ballyronan Road
Magherafelt
BT45 6EN

14 February 2017

TIME SENSITIVE DOCUMENT – REPLY REQUIRED

Our reference: - JB-02825821200

Dear Sir or Madam,

REMOVAL OF PUBLIC PAYPHONE:

Having completed an assessment of the area and the need for a telephone kiosk at Tamllagh O’Crilly Post Office, 27 Main Street, Tamllagh O’Crilly Magherafelt. BT46 5XF. We discovered that the payphone has received very low or no use during the past twelve months. Due to the high costs to maintain the kiosk, we are proposing to permanently cease service at this site.

Our obligation to provide a Universal Service will be maintained, as there are other kiosks within the vicinity.

Before we can permanently remove a kiosk we have an obligation to consult with relevant public bodies on the proposed removal. As part of the consultation process it is a requirement that the Council reply in writing to BT within 90-days giving their comments or any objections received from the local community. Further information on the consultation process can be found at: http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/binaries/consultations/uso/statement/removing_callboxes.pdf

If you do not reply, it will be taken that the council and interested parties have no objection to the permanent removal of this payphone.

A notice of our proposal has been included with this letter, as you may wish to display this near the site of the recovered kiosk.

If you require any further information or have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me via email at btpcf@bt.com

Yours faithfully

Jim Blanch

BT Payphones - Commercial Field Officer



Derry City & Strabane
District Council

Comhairle
**Chathair Dhoire &
Cheantar an tSraitha Báin**

Derry Citty & Strabane
Destrack Council

24 February 2017

To: All Councils in Northern Ireland

Dear Chief Executive

Re: Cystic Fibrosis – Life Changing Drug Orkambi

Derry City and Strabane District Council recently received a deputation from representatives of a local branch of the Cystic Fibrosis Trust.

Members agreed to write to the Minister of Health and the Minister of Finance seeking their support for the campaign to have the Orkambi drug for Cystic Fibrosis sufferers funded in Northern Ireland.

In addition Members encouraged further ministerial discussions with Vertex Pharmaceuticals regarding the cost of the supply of the Orkambi drug.

It was also agreed to seek the support of all Councils in Northern Ireland for the campaign.

If you require any further information in this regard, please do not hesitate to contact us.

I would be grateful if you could bring this to the attention of your Members.

Yours faithfully

John Kelpie
Chief Executive

Derry

C/o Council Offices
98 Strand Road
Derry
BT48 7NN

Strabane

C/o Council Offices
47 Derry Road
Strabane
BT82 8DY

John Kelpie MEng., CEng., MStructE., MIEI

Chief Executive
Derry City and Strabane District Council

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@dcsdcouncil