

**A**

**Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 6 November 2014 in Magherafelt District Council Offices**

**Members Present:** In the Chair, Councillor Forde (Chair)  
  
Councillors Elattar, Mallaghan (7.09pm), McNamee, Molloy, C O'Neill, T Quinn, Reid, G Shiels and Wilson

**Members in Attendance:** Councillor Clarke

**Officers in Attendance:** Mr Tohill, Chief Executive  
Mr Barrett, Head of Recreation (DSTBC)  
Mr Cassells, Director of Technical Services and Leisure Services (MDC)  
Ms Campbell Director of Policy & Development (MDC)  
Mr Glavin, Head of Leisure Services (CDC)  
Mr Henry, Good Relations Officer (MDC)  
Mrs Forde, Mayor's PA/Member Support Officer (DSTBC)  
Mr McElhatton, Good Relations Officer (CDC)  
Ms McCloskey, PCSP Manager (CDC)  
Mr McCreesh, Acting Chief Executive (CDC)  
Miss Mullan, Learning & Development Manager (DSTBC)

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

**D33/14 Apologies**

Councillors Burton, McAleer, McEldowney and Monteith. Councillor Molloy advised that Councillor Mallaghan would be arriving late.

**D34/14 Election of Chair for Meeting**

The Chief Executive having received apologies for both the Chair and Vice Chair sought nomination for a Member to Chair the meeting.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson  
Seconded by Councillor Reid and

**Resolved** That Councillor Forde act in the position of Chairperson for the Development Committee meeting of 6 November 2014.

Councillor Forde took the Chair.

**D35/14 Declaration of Interest**

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

## **D36/14      Briefing on Seek Programme**

The Chair, Councillor Forde welcomed the SEEK representative to the meeting.

Miss Mullan drew attention to a powerpoint presentation detailing the aim of SEEK, “to increase the supply of skilled, educated, knowledge workers in our economy and help them gain sustained employment/ self-employment by providing training opportunities/skills development for approximately 60 unemployed people over a three year period.”

Drawing attention to the programme partners, make up of management committee and the transnational element Miss Mullan explained the curriculum of the course emphasising aspects of learning approaches, creative methodologies and the project outcomes. Advising that the current programme was not completed Miss Mullan said previous programme outcomes included 58 persons completing the training of which 21 went into further education training, 8 attained fulltime jobs, 12 attained part-time jobs and one became self-employed. All participants attained qualifications which included ECDL, NVQ levels 2 & 3, ESOL and ECDL.

*Councillor Mallaghan entered the meeting during the presentation at 7.09pm*

The Chair, Councillor Forde thanked Miss Mullan for the presentation commenting on the project outcomes. Councillor Quinn advised that Cookstown District Council was twinning with a town in Poland and sought clarification of the town visited by SEEK. In response Miss Mullan advised the town was Lobin in the South East of Poland.

In response to Councillor Molloy’s question on the future development of the programme Miss Mullan advised there was a new round of funding becoming available in the coming weeks and SEEK was now dealing with new partners in the cluster by meeting with colleges to establish level of interest. Miss Mullan added that the programme was funded through the Department of Employment and Learning with a core purpose to benefit the unemployed and employers in Dungannon but any widening out across Mid Ulster District Council area would have to be established together with new partners.

Responding to Councillor Wilson’s question on the budget Miss Mullan advised that the current programme was £465k which included match funding from public and in-kind sources.

*Miss Mullan left the meeting at 7.15pm.*

In response to Councillor Wilson’s request to discuss the programme the Chair, Councillor Forde, advised that the discussion should take place in committee.

## **Matters for Decision**

**D37/14      Receive and confirm minutes of the Development Committee meeting held on Thursday 9 October 2014**

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan  
Seconded by Councillor Quinn and

**Resolved**      That the minutes of the meeting of the Development Committee held on Thursday 9 October (items D20/14-D32/14), were considered and signed as accurate and correct.

**D38/14      Mid Ulster Good Relations Strategy and Plan**

Mr Henry advised that the purpose of the report was to update Members on the Good Relations Programmes currently delivered in Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt Councils and to seek direction on the development of the Mid Ulster Good Relations Strategy and Action Plan.

Stating that community relations first began in 1989 as an effort to bring the main traditions together, Mr Henry advised that various events, such as country and western concerts, have been organised as part of the process. Stating that things had moved on Mr Henry advised that the legal basis for Good Relations was borne out of Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act (1998) which states that 'public authorities are required to have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion and racial group'.

Drawing attention to key issues for a thematic approach for Mid Ulster District Council the undernoted issues were listed as areas of priority:

- Our Children and Young People;
- Our Shared Community;
- Our Safe Community;
- Our Cultural Expression; and
- Programme Actions.

Mr Henry referred to information being compiled through the community planning exercise and advised that following on from the 11 December 2014 it was proposed to compile a Mid Ulster District Council Action Plan for Good Relations and present to January committee. Mr Henry indicated that budget implications would be clearer following the forthcoming Good Relations Conference.

It was recommended that Members approve the thematic approach proposed for the development of the Good Relations Action Plan. Managers and Good Relations Officers from the three Council areas will continue to help inform the development of the action plan liaising with OFMDFM.

The Chair thanked Mr Henry for his presentation and asked how it was proposed to measure outcomes. In response Mr Henry advised that outcomes would be measured with questionnaires depicting attitudes before project and after project similar to that done with Peace III.

Councillor Quinn stated that all should realise the importance of Good Relations within communities commending the three officers on exceptional work throughout the years. Emphasising that the work went well beyond country and western concerts Councillor Quinn stated that hardly a week would pass when he was not in touch with the Cookstown Good Relations Officer who deals regularly with difficult situations. Stating that the role of Good Relations was the responsibility of all Councillor Quinn recalled that in 1989 when Mr Jessie Jackson was visiting Belfast he delivered a speech separately to people on either side of the divide stating that 'racism and sectarianism hinders growth and destroys community spirit.' In response Mr Henry stated that the majority of Good Relations work was the same across the district with some differences for example Dungannon Council had a more diverse population.

Councillor Mallaghan thanked Mr Henry for the presentation stating that the role of the Good Relations officers is not the picture in the paper but the dealing of delicate matters, brawls stopped and hours of preparation prior to events.

Councillor G Shiels stated that he was aware that the success of Good Relations wasn't the 'in your face' approach but the incidental and accidental daily work which did not succeed if standing on ceremony.

Mr Henry stated that the Good Relations Officers would be working closely with the PCSP's action plans.

Proposed by Councillor Quinn  
Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council that approval be granted to the thematic approach proposed for the development of the Good Relations Action Plan and that Managers and Good Relations Officers from the three Council areas continue to help inform the development of the action plan liaising with OFMDFM

### **D39/14 Policing and Community Safety Partnerships**

Ms McCloskey presented a report seeking direction on development of a new PCSP Strategy and Action Plan for 1 April 2015. Advising that the PCSP will mirror the 11 new Council areas Ms McCloskey advised that the recruitment of independent members was launched on 5 November and would close on 29 November 2014. Outlining the range of duties of PCSPs which are set in legislation Members were advised that a strategy and action plan needed to be developed for the new Mid Ulster PCSP. In lieu of guidance from the Department of Justice and NI Policing Board the current PCSP Managers had compiled a paper and attention was drawn to undernoted options.

- 1 Develop and prepare a complete PCSP Strategy and action plan for 2015-2018 for implementation on 1 April 2015.

- 2 Develop a PCSP Strategy for 2015-16 with a one year transitional action plan for 2015-16 and then work with PCSP to develop new action plan for 2016 onwards.
- 3 Prepare a one year transitional strategy and action plan for 2015 and then work with new PCSP to develop new strategy and action plan for 2016 onwards.

Ms McCloskey recommended option three advising that the Managers would also work together on developing common consultation across the three existing PCSPs to help inform the development of the action plan. This consultation would be complementary to the community planning consultation. It was also noted that although not confirmed officially that PCSPs were preparing for a 15% budget cut.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee  
Seconded by Councillor Quinn and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council that option 3, 'Prepare a one year transitional strategy and action plan for 2015 and then work with new PCSP to develop new strategy and action plan for 2016 onwards.' be progressed.

Councillor McNamee stating it would appear that independent members would not be in place until May 2015 asked what their numbers would be on the partnership. Ms McCloskey advised that it would depend on the number of Council members.

Councillor Wilson advised that a query had been raised with him as to whether the attendance allowance would remain the same as that paid currently is £60 per meeting and that although people engaging as independent members were not necessarily doing it for the remuneration it did help.

Ms McCloskey stated that according to a recent press release members of PCSPs would not be remunerated and that the expenses were under review she would clarify and report back.

Councillor Mallaghan indicated that there was an information evening on the process scheduled for 19 November in the Glenavon Hotel, Cookstown but that it was on the same evening as the Fivemiletown Community Planning event.

## **For Information**

### **D40/14 Development and Regeneration Update**

Ms Campbell drew attention to report providing Members with a progress update on the Development and Regeneration Forward Work Plan previously presented to committee. Advising that three business workshops had now been held Ms

Campbell further advised that it was planned to consult with the community and voluntary sector by means of a questionnaire.

Stating that a comprehensive report would be brought to the December meeting which would focus on the needs of industry Ms Campbell sought the views of the committee as to whether the consultants should attend the meeting or if Members preferred a workshop approach.

In response to Councillor Wilson's question on the number of businesses Intertrade Ireland had worked with Ms Campbell advised that she would seek clarification.

Members noted that progress was being made on Development and Regeneration and that officers should continue to report to committee.

#### **D41/14      Mid Ulster Council Community Planning Process**

Mr McCreesh advised that the purpose of the report was to update Members on progress relating to the Mid Ulster Community Planning process. Mr McCreesh drew attention to the three community planning events held in Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt and stated that with the same energy it was hoped the rural events would attract the same success.

Referring to previous comments regarding consultation with youth, migrant workers and the elderly Mr McCreesh advised that there would be an event in each town for the aforementioned groups including a session for people with disabilities to include physical, learning disabilities and mental health issues as the community plan must reflect all.

Mr McCreesh confirmed that capacity building sessions were planned for January 2015.

With reference to Community Planning Partner Legislation Mr McCreesh drew attention to the consultation document making particular reference to statutory partners named and those that Members feel should be included giving examples of Sport NI, Forestry Commission, NI Water, Probation Board. Drawing attention to page 4 when the presumption is made that all government departments are involved Mr McCreesh emphasised that they should be named to secure input and there was sufficient time for the committee to prepare a response upon which Members could comment.

In response to Councillor Wilson's questions on whether the current list of consultees named had attended local community planning events, Mr McCreesh said he would have to consult individual event registration lists.

Councillor Quinn extended his thanks to all staff for the tremendous effort in delivering the individual events but sought clarity as to whether or not the ethnic minority group ie the travelling community had been consulted as there was permanent sites in the district. Mr McCreesh advised that all groups in Section 75 had been covered but that the Member's point was a valid one and if it was the desire of Members an event would be organised for them.

Councillor O'Neill spoke of the noticeable lack of young people attending the events and that Magherafelt Youth Forum was delighted that their comments would now be taken on board. Mr McCreesh advised that it was proposed to host additional events through schools and youth clubs to ensure the youth voice of Mid Ulster is captured. Stating that in the short time frame available it would be impossible to get everyone Mr McCreesh stated that to date events were successful and the responses would be professionally collated by end of December for evidence.

Councillor Mallaghan commended everyone involved in the community planning events stating that it was no mean feat, over 400 people had participated thanks to the many hands, letters, phone calls and emails. He further stated that all Parties should go back and do work to address the issues on statutory partners as their presence was required. Councillor Wilson concurred and commended everyone involved, stating that the turnout had been phenomenal. Councillor Reid again concurring with previous comments stated that organisations such as boys/ girls brigades, scouts and guiding associations would all provide excellent feedback and it was a good means of collating opinions of all communities suggesting even a questionnaire.

Mr McCreesh stated that questionnaires were in use and that all mechanisms would be used to capture community thought. In relation to staff Mr McCreesh stated that staff at the events had carried out excellent work and with reference to the statutory agencies included in legislation Mr McCreesh stated that a balance would have to be established as a manageable partnership of elected members, statutory agencies and others was required.

Concluding the discussion the Chair, Councillor Forde, emphasised the importance of engaging with young people.

#### **D42/14      Development and Regeneration Risk Register**

The Development and Regeneration Risk Register Report was marked read.

#### **D43/14      Sport & Leisure Risk Register**

The Sport and Leisure Risk Register Report was marked read.

### **IN COMMITTEE**

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan  
Seconded by Councillor O'Neill and

**Resolved**      That item D44/14-D50/14 be taken in committee.

#### **D51/14      Duration of Meeting**

The meeting was called for 7pm and ended at 9.00pm



CHAIR \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**B**

<b>Subject</b>	Consultation response – Advising, Supporting Empowering – A strategy for the delivery of Generalist Advise Services in Northern Ireland 2015-2020
<b>Reporting Officers</b>	Anne-Marie Campbell, Adrian McCreesh, Iain Frazer

<b>1</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To consider response to the Consultation – Advising, Supporting Empowering – A strategy for the delivery of generalist advise services in Northern Ireland 2015-2020.

<b>2</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	The Department for Social Development have issued a proposed new strategy for the delivery of generalist advice services for the period 2015 - 2020. The strategy sets out a new vision, a series of high level strategic objectives and key priorities and proposals geared to support delivery of the strategic objectives.

<b>3</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
3.1	<p>The Reform of Local Government will see the Council taking greater responsibility for local delivery in their areas for generalist advice provision, having regard to guidance from DSD, including this new strategy for generalist advice services.</p> <p>The response highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The need to have an Advice Service that is accessible and has a high level of quality;</li> <li>• That individuals should be empowered to allow them to help themselves. However the use of self service and technological systems should not be introduced if the approach has a detrimental impact on the people within the district who are in most need of generalist advice. The Council would strongly urge that resources should be focused on face to face and telephone service provision.</li> <li>• That delivery approach for advice services should be aligned to avoid duplication and conflict;</li> <li>• Advice to the most vulnerable must be free. Council would have concerns about Advice providers being put under additional pressure to identify other sources of funding detracting from the quality of advice provision;</li> <li>• An advice quality standard should be introduced across the Advice Sector; and</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The role of volunteers within the sector is essential. The Council agrees that their contribution to the sector must be fully recognised and that their skills are used to full effect.</li> </ul>
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<b>4</b>	<b>Resources</b>
4.1	<b><u>Financial</u></b> None
4.2	<b><u>Human</u></b> None
4.3	<b><u>Basis for Professional/ Consultancy Support</u></b> None
4.4	<b><u>Other</u></b> None

<b>5</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
5.1	None

<b>6</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
6.1	Members are asked to consider and approve the attached response for submission to DSD.

<b>7</b>	<b>List of Documents Attached</b>
7.1	Appendix 1 - Response to the Consultation to Advising, Supporting Empowering – A strategy for the delivery of Generalist Advise Services in Northern Ireland 2015-2020.

**Advising, Supporting, Empowering.  
A strategy for the delivery of generalist advice services in Northern Ireland 2015-2020**

**Advice Strategy Consultation questionnaire.**

**Introduction and background**

The Department for Social Development is consulting on a new strategy for the provision of generalist advice services in Northern Ireland. This includes advice on issues like welfare benefits, housing, finance and consumer issues and employment issues.

This survey forms part of the public consultation process on the draft proposals for the new strategy. The survey should be completed in conjunction with the consultation document which sets out the background and detail of the proposals. The consultation document is called **'Advising, Supporting, Empowering' a Strategy for the Delivery of Generalist Advice Services in Northern Ireland 2015-2020**. It is available in the Consultation Zone on Department for Social Development (DSD) website  
<http://www.dsdni.gov.uk/index/consultations.htm>

This consultation will run from 22 September 2014 until 14 December 2014.

DSD have commissioned the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency's Analytical Services Unit to collate the consultation responses. All responses will be treated as confidential and no individual or organisation will be identifiable from the responses given.

If you have any queries on this survey please do not hesitate to contact the Analytical Services Unit:

[asu@dsdni.gov.uk](mailto:asu@dsdni.gov.uk)

## About you

### Your details

No individual will be identified in the analysis of responses, however under the Freedom of Information Act anonymised individual responses may be disclosed.

#### 1. Please provide your details below (\* denotes required text):

Name: *	Mr Anthony Tohill
Address:	C/O Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council Council Offices Circular Road
City/Town: *	Dungannon
Post Code:	BT71 6DT
Email Address:	Anthony.Tohill@midulstercouncil.org
Phone Number:	028 8772 0300

#### 2. Please tick the box below if you wish your response to be held confidential

[ ] I wish my response to be confidential

Are you responding as an individual or as a representative on behalf of another group or organisation?

☐

As an individual.

☒

As a representative on behalf of another group or organisation (including charities, advocacy groups, representative bodies and other organisations).

What is the name of the organisation?

Mid Ulster District Council

## The Vision and Values for a new strategy

The background and details behind the priorities and proposals are in section of the consultation document titled “*The Vision and Values for a new strategy*”.

**Question:** To what extent do you agree with the following priorities and proposals?

<b>Priorities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>That a new Vision for the new strategy be agreed.</li> <li>That underpinning values be agreed.</li> </ul>					
	Strongly Agree	<u>Agree</u>	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No view /not sure
<b>Proposal 1</b>	Vision statement – “To have in place accessible, quality generalist advice services for the people of Northern Ireland”.					
	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No view /not sure
<b>Proposal 2</b>	The underpinning values of the Vision are - Impartiality, Accessibility, Confidentiality, Independence, Effectiveness, Accountability, Free to the user.					
	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No view /not sure

**For consideration:** Please provide details of any other components that you feel should be included, in the Vision or underpinning values?

Mid Ulster District Council considers that the vision for the provision of generalist advice services must reflect the need to have a service that is accessible and has a high level of quality. The values suggested are relevant and necessary to ensure that the most vulnerable in our society are supported in a confidential and effective manner.

## Objective 1: To empower and enable people to help themselves

The background and details behind the priorities and proposals are in the section of the consultation document titled “**Strategic Objective 1: To empower and enable people to help themselves**”.

**Question:** To what extent do you agree with the following priorities and proposals?

<b>Priorities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide services in a way that empowers and enables people to better manage their own affairs.</li> <li>Increase self service provision and its use.</li> </ul>					
	Strongly Agree	<u>Agree</u>	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No view /not sure
<b>Proposal 3</b>	Generalist advice providers should work to provide people with the skills and confidence to manage their affairs effectively.					
	Strongly Agree	<u>Agree</u>	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No view /not sure
<b>Proposal 4</b>	Generalist advice providers should increase self service provision and actively promote its use.					
	Strongly Agree	Agree	<u>Neither Agree nor Disagree</u>	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No view /not sure

**For consideration:** Do these priorities and proposals address the main issues? Responses are especially welcome that offer suggestions about how the proposals might be implemented or that raise issues that have not been covered.

Mid Ulster District Council agrees that individuals should be empowered to allow them to help themselves. However, self service will only be effective if it meets the needs of customers and they have the capacity to use this approach. The statistics quoted in the consultation document indicates that 51% of appointments are face to face or drop in/home visits. This indicates that this method of engagement is still the main way of dealing with enquiries. This reflects the fact that even in this age of technology, clients still do not have the capacity to use digital provision or have access to same. The Mid Ulster District Council area is very rural in nature and suffers from a lack of access to fast broadband provision. The Council would be concerned that focusing resources on the self service approach will have a detrimental impact on the people within the district who are in most need of generalist advice. The Council would strongly urge that resources should be focused on face to face and telephone service provision.



## Objective 2: To have an aligned and complementary approach to the delivery of advice services

The background and details behind the priorities and proposals are in the section of the consultation document titled “**Strategic Objective 2: To have an aligned and complementary approach to the delivery of advice services**”.

**Question:** To what extent do you agree with the following priorities and proposals?

<b>Priorities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Service delivery should be organised to take account of changes arising from the Reform of Local Government.</li> <li>Deliver efficient services, which are aligned, minimising duplication and overlap.</li> </ul>					
	Strongly Agree	<u>Agree</u>	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No view /not sure
<b>Proposal 5</b>	Funders and advice providers should align, simplify and streamline the present mechanisms to work closer, more collaboratively and minimise duplication.					
	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No view /not sure
<b>Proposal 6</b>	Promote the use of signposting and referrals to maximise service delivery.					
	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No view /not sure

**For consideration:** Do these priorities and proposals address the main issues? Responses are especially welcome that offer suggestions about how the proposals might be implemented or that raise issues that have not been covered.

Mid Ulster District Council would strongly agree that services should be aligned to avoid duplication and conflict. Whilst the consultation document states that arrangements should be in place to eliminate duplication, it is unclear how this will actually be realised. The alignment of funders needs to occur across all the Government Departments and further detail should be provided on how this will happen.

## Objective 3 To have a sustainable Advice Sector which maximises the impact of resources

The background and details behind the priorities and proposals are in the section of the consultation document titled “**Strategic Objective 3: To have a sustainable Advice Sector which maximises the impact of resources**”.

**Question:** To what extent do you agree with the following priorities and proposals?

<b>Priorities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Find new and innovative ways to provide better value for money.</li> <li>Enhance the sustainability of the Advice Sector.</li> </ul>					
	Strongly Agree	<u>Agree</u>	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No view /not sure
<b>Proposal 7</b>	Review organisational structures and create a more efficient delivery model through the sharing or pooling of resources and adoption of common systems.					
	Strongly Agree	<u>Agree</u>	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No view /not sure
<b>Proposal 8</b>	Develop new and innovative ways to deliver current services more effectively.					
	Strongly Agree	<u>Agree</u>	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No view /not sure
<b>Proposal 9</b>	Explore alternative funding sources and models.					
	Strongly Agree	<u>Agree</u>	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No view /not sure
<b>Proposal 10</b>	Consider a new model for delivery of representation services.					
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	<u>Disagree</u>	Strongly Disagree	No view /not sure
<b>Proposal 11</b>	Develop opportunities for diversification and income generation.					
	Strongly Agree	Agree	<u>Neither Agree nor Disagree</u>	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No view /not sure
<b>Proposal 12</b>	Develop services to meet well evidenced need.					
	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No view /not sure

**For consideration:** Do these priorities and proposals address the main issues? Responses are especially welcome that offer suggestions about how the proposals might be implemented or that raise issues that have not been covered.

The Mid Ulster District Council agrees that the sustainability of the Advice Sector is key and in a challenging funding environment that innovative ways should be considered to provide better value for money. The Council considers that regional bodies such as NIACAB and Advice NI also need to be part of the review of organisational structures so that the most efficient delivery model is created. Whilst it is important to develop new ways of delivering current services more effectively, this must not be done at the expense of the most vulnerable who may not have access to digital services. Advice Services is funded by a variety of funders and Government Departments. The Council would consider it necessary that DSD works with all these bodies to avoid duplication. Representation at appeal tribunals is considered by the Council as being essential. The Council would be concerned that any new

model for the delivery of representation services could have a significant negative impact on clients. Equality proofing any changes would be essential.

Whilst the Council supports the proposal to develop opportunities for the Advice sector to diversify and generate more income, it is difficult for the Council to see how this proposal could actually be delivered. Council would be of a strong opinion that advice to the most vulnerable must be free which means that Advice Services will need government subvention to continue. If Advice providers are put under additional pressure to identify other sources of funding, Council would consider that this could detract resources from the priority of providing quality advice services to the most vulnerable and needy in our society.

Council strongly supports that the provision of Advice Services should be based on well evidenced need. Funding should not be provided to areas where need cannot be identified or where bad practice is occurring e.g. duplicate funding.

## Objective 4: To maximise accessibility to quality generalist advice services

The background and details behind the priorities and proposals are in the section of the consultation document titled “**Strategic Objective 4: To maximise accessibility to quality generalist advice services**”.

**Question:** To what extent do you agree with the following priorities and proposals?

<b>Priorities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good quality advice services are available to those who need them.</li> <li>• Services are readily available and easily accessed.</li> <li>• Increase the provision and use of telephony and digital services.</li> </ul>					
	Strongly Agree	<u>Agree</u>	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No view /not sure
<b>Proposal 13</b>	Introduce an agreed advice quality standard across the Advice Sector					
	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No view /not sure
<b>Proposal 14</b>	Extend and promote the use of high quality digital and telephone services.					
	Strongly Agree	Agree	<u>Neither Agree nor Disagree</u>	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No view /not sure
<b>Proposal 15</b>	Provide a full range of services using multiple channels and include face to face services for those who need them most.					
	Strongly Agree	<u>Agree</u>	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No view /not sure
<b>Proposal 16</b>	Generalist advice providers should have appropriate mechanisms in place to provide advice to people with specific accessibility needs.					
	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No view /not sure
<b>Proposal 17</b>	Funders of generalist advice services should seek assurance that services meet an agreed quality standard.					
	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No view /not sure

**For consideration:** Do these priorities and proposals address the main issues? Responses are especially welcome that offer suggestions about how the proposals might be implemented or that raise issues that have not been covered.

Mid Ulster District Council strongly agrees that an advice quality standard should be introduced across the Advice Sector. The Council would be concerned that the extension and promotion of digital and telephony services may result in those who can't access them being disadvantaged. These people are likely to be the most vulnerable in our community and it is essential that the extension of the digital system does not mean that they lose out. Council would agree that services should be provided through a range of channels. However the needs of the customer and their preferred method of accessing services must always be fully considered when making decisions regarding the allocation of resources to different delivery channels. The Mid Ulster Council strongly agrees that all providers of advice should meet an agreed quality standard and that this should be a condition of any funding that may be provided to them.

## Objective 5: To encourage the role of the Advice Sector in contributing to the policy development cycle

The background and details behind the priorities and proposals are in the section of the consultation document titled “**Strategic Objective 5: To encourage the role of the Advice Sector in contributing to the policy development cycle**”.

**Question:** To what extent do you agree with the following priorities and proposals?

<b>Priorities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Advice Sector contributes to the policy development cycle, particularly in terms of independent evidence based input.</li> </ul>	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No view /not sure
<b>Proposal 18</b>	Policy makers should seek the contribution of the Advice Sector when developing, reviewing or evaluating policies.	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No view /not sure
<b>Proposal 19</b>	The Advice Sector should contribute to the formulation, development, review and evaluation of policies and to the evidence base that supports these.	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No view /not sure

**For consideration:** Do these priorities and proposals address the main issues? Responses are especially welcome that offer suggestions about how the proposals might be implemented or that raise issues that have not been covered.

The Mid Ulster Council would strongly support the active participation and contribution of the Advice Sector in the development, review and evaluation of policies relevant to them.

## Objective 6: To support the delivery of the strategy

The background and details behind the priorities and proposals are in the section of the consultation document titled “**Strategic Objective 6: To support the delivery of the strategy**”.

**Question:** To what extent do you agree with the following priorities and proposals?

<b>Priorities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>That consistent training, quality standards and IT systems are in place across the advice network.</li> <li>Develop communications structures to support the changing advice environment.</li> <li>Develop volunteering within the Advice Sector.</li> </ul>					
	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No view /not sure
<b>Proposal 20</b>	Training should be consistent, to a standard that is set out in an advice quality standard and providers should not duplicate or overlap training services.					
	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No view /not sure
<b>Proposal 21</b>	A single IT system (that includes Management Information Statistics) should be encouraged across the advice network to improve consistency, reduce costs and improve support for frontline staff and volunteers.					
	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No view /not sure
<b>Proposal 22</b>	Develop an integrated communications strategy.					
	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No view /not sure
<b>Proposal 23</b>	Retain experienced volunteers, recognise their contribution and develop new volunteering opportunities to help ensure the ongoing involvement of volunteers in advice provision.					
	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No view /not sure

**For consideration:** Do these priorities and proposals address the main issues? Responses are especially welcome that offer suggestions about how the proposals might be implemented or that raise issues that have not been covered.

The Mid Ulster Council considers that all the proposals listed above are vital to the delivery of a quality advice service. The Council believes that the proposals must be underpinned by an integrated communication strategy that reflects and supports the changing advice environment. The role of volunteers within the sector is essential. The Council agrees that their contribution to the sector must be fully recognised and that their skills are used to full effect. Opportunities must be sought to ensure the continued involvement of volunteers in advice provision.

## Objective 7: To deliver the strategy

The background and details behind the priorities and proposals are in the section of the consultation document titled “**Strategic Objective 7: To deliver the strategy**”.

**Question:** To what extent do you agree with the following priorities and proposals?

<b>Priorities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To ensure the strategy and its associated Action Plan are implemented, monitored and evaluated.</li> <li>To ensure strong, effective engagement structures are in place to support delivery.</li> </ul>					
	Strongly Agree	<u>Agree</u>	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No view /not sure
<b>Proposal 24</b>	The strategy will have an Action Plan setting out how the strategy will be implemented and which can be adapted to reflect future needs and priorities.					
	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No view /not sure
<b>Proposal 25</b>	DSD will establish a Steering Group to oversee the implementation of the Action Plan and monitor the strategy's delivery and evaluation.					
	Strongly Agree	<u>Agree</u>	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No view /not sure
<b>Proposal 26</b>	The cross cutting nature and the need to provide aligned and complementary advice services should also be reflected in the makeup and work of the Steering Group.					
	Strongly Agree	<u>Agree</u>	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No view /not sure
<b>Proposal 27</b>	The implementation of the strategy will be monitored and reported on throughout its lifetime and there will be interim and final evaluation reports with recommendations.					
	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No view /not sure
<b>Proposal 28</b>	Have in place supporting structures to ensure that the cross cutting nature of advice provision is reflected.					
	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No view /not sure

**For consideration:** Do these priorities and proposals address the main issues? Responses are especially welcome that offer suggestions about how the proposals might be implemented or that raise issues that have not been covered.

Mid Ulster District Council would welcome the development of an action plan that sets out how the strategy will be implemented. It would query however who sits on the steering group and what role Council would have on this. The Council would encourage the ongoing monitoring of the implementation of the strategy on a timely basis so that any lessons learnt allow changes to the strategy to be made quickly and effectively.

## About the overall strategy

The following questions ask you about the objectives we have set for the strategy and whether you think the priorities and proposals we have set out will achieve the strategy's Vision.

**Question:** To what extent do you agree with the objectives we have set for the new strategy?

<b>Objective 1</b>	To empower and enable people to help themselves					
	Strongly Agree	<u>Agree</u>	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No view /not sure
<b>Objective 2</b>	To have an aligned and complementary approach to the delivery of advice services					
	Strongly Agree	<u>Agree</u>	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No view /not sure
<b>Objective 3</b>	To have a sustainable Advice Sector which maximises the impact of resources					
	Strongly Agree	<u>Agree</u>	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No view /not sure
<b>Objective 4</b>	To maximise accessibility to quality generalist advice services					
	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No view /not sure
<b>Objective 5</b>	To encourage the role of the Advice Sector in contributing to the policy development cycle					
	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No view /not sure
<b>Objective 6</b>	To support the delivery of the strategy					
	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No view /not sure
<b>Objective 7</b>	To deliver the strategy					
	<u>Strongly Agree</u>	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No view /not sure

**Question:** Overall do you think the priorities and proposals we have put forward will be successful in achieving the Vision of having in place accessible, quality generalist advice services for the people of Northern Ireland?

Yes                      No                      Partially                      No view /not sure

**For consideration:** Are there any other objectives that you think the strategy should have and is there anything else we should consider to achieve the Vision?



C

<b>Subject</b>	Development and Regeneration update
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Anne-Marie Campbell, Adrian McCreesh and Iain Frazer

<b>1</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To provide members with an update regarding progress on the Development and Regeneration Forward Work Plan previously presented.

<b>2</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	The Committee agreed the forward work plan of Development and Regeneration Working Group at its July Committee meeting. This included a number of key activities that the group had to complete by the 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2015.

<b>3</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
3.1	<p>A number of key activities have been progressed as detailed in Appendix 1. In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <p><b>• Local Economic Development Plan (2014-2016)</b></p> <p>Work is progressing well on a new Local Economic Development Plan for Mid Ulster.</p> <p>Four consultation sessions were held with Town Centre Forum/Chamber of Commerce representatives in Magherafelt, Cookstown, Dungannon and Coalisland during November 2014. Twenty-four in-depth company interviews are currently being conducted with a mix of businesses across the Mid Ulster region. The community planning events also continues to pick up additional business information to inform Mid Ulster's Economic Development Plan.</p> <p>The majority of consultations are now complete. One of the remaining sessions to be held is with Council Officers and this will be organised once the consultants have formulated their high level concepts into proposed economic priorities and projects. It is anticipated the consultants will deliver a presentation to the Mid Ulster Council's Development Committee early in 2015 to seek comments and views from members on proposed projects.</p> </li> <li> <p><b>• Review of Financial Assistance Policy and Process for the Community and Voluntary Sector</b></p> <p>Williamson Consulting has held an initiation meeting with the Chief Executive. They have initiated a review of existing documentation and processes within the three existing Councils. Two officer meetings have occurred with the Development and Regeneration working group and other</p> </li> </ul>

	<p>relevant officers to consider high level policy and operational issues. Questionnaires have been issued to community groups within each Council area. Notifications have been put on Council websites, social media, flyers and hard copies used when necessary with a follow up period of 10 days. The overall process will be reviewed after returns have been received. 45 consultees from across MUDC area have been identified for the three focus groups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Social Economic and Environmental Data Analysis</b></li> </ul> <p>Oxford Economics has undertaken some initial analysis of the Mid Ulster area's social, economic and environmental aspects across the three merging councils. They have provided a presentation for use at the community planning sessions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Good Relations strategy and plan for Mid Ulster</b></li> </ul> <p>Commissioning letters from OFMDFM are to be issued to Mid Ulster District Council in January 2015. It is likely that the Good Relations Plan for the Council will have to be ready for February 2015. Officers are currently drafting the plan for Council consideration.</p>
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<b>4</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
4.1	<p><b><u>Financial</u></b> All financial commitments have been previously approved.</p>
4.2	<p><b><u>Human Resources</u></b> It is envisaged that the human resources required will be met within existing staffing complements.</p>
4.3	<p><b><u>Basis for Professional/ Consultancy Support</u></b> Use of consultancies identified have been previously approved.</p>
4.4	<p><b><u>Other</u></b> None</p>

<b>5</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
5.1	None

<b>6</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
6.1	Members are asked to note progress that is being made.

<b>7</b>	<b>List of Documents Attached</b>
7.1	Appendix 1 – Development and Regeneration Progress Report for December 2014.

## Development and Regeneration Working Group

### Progress Report for December 2014

Activity	Target Completion Date	Status
Pursue and secure match funding for production of new Baseline Study for Cookstown, Dungannon, Magherafelt, Coalisand and Maghera)	31/3/15	Terms of Reference prepared. Awaiting decision from DSD on availability of funding.
Complete Mid Ulster Tourism Plan	31/3/15	TOR will be issued after Community Planning consultation process with a view to appointment of professional support before March 2015.
Provide necessary input data and evidence towards ongoing preparation of Mid Ulster Community Plan	31/3/15	Verification of data collated ongoing. Overarching statistics produced in form of presentation for Community Planning consultation events. Draft document with steering group with final report due at end of Dec '14.
Produce a new Foreign Direct Investment App for Mid Ulster	31/3/15	App is now being tested and will be amended accordingly on completion of testing.
Mid Ulster Advice Service – review of current provision and recommendations for future delivery	31/3/15	Consultants have initiated review of existing documentation and process. One workshop has been held with party leaders and two with officers to consider high level policy and operational issues. Officers have prepared a Council response for the development Committee consideration regarding the 'Advising Supporting Empowering' – strategy for the delivery of generalist advice services in Northern Ireland
Produce a Mid Ulster Business Directory	31/3/15	A dedicated part-time member of staff has been assigned to update & verify business information. Consultant has been appointed to develop the on-line business directory as part of MUDC website development. This is a work in progress as Council over the coming months will attempt to identify and make contact with as many of the 8,000 businesses located in the area as possible.
To develop and agree an approach towards Grant – Aid consideration and allocation across Mid Ulster, commencing	31/3/15	Questionnaires have been issued to community groups within each Council area. Notifications put on Council

Activity	Target Completion Date	Status
1 <sup>st</sup> April 2015		websites, social media, flyers and hard copies used when necessary with a follow up period of 10 days. The overall process will be reviewed after returns have been received. 45 consultees from across MUDC area have been identified for the three focus groups.
Complete an interim Mid Ulster Economic Development Action for 2014-2016	31/12/14	<p>Consultants are continuing their consultation work with a wide range of key stakeholders across Mid Ulster. 100 businesses attended workshops across the MUDC area. Information is currently being analysed on a sectoral basis from the workshops and questionnaires. 24 number in-depth business interviews are currently being conducted with companies across Mid Ulster. The community planning sessions are continuing and include a business theme to provide an opportunity for further business feedback. Four consultation meetings were held in Magherafelt, Cookstown, Dungannon and Coalisland with town centre forum/chamber of commerce groupings during November 2014.</p> <p>With the majority of consultations now complete, the remaining session with Council Officers will be organised once the consultants have formalised their high level concepts into proposed key economic priorities and projects. It is anticipated that the consultants will deliver a presentation to the Mid Ulster Council's Development Committee early in 2015 to seek comments and views from Members on proposed projects.</p>
To have an agreed approach for Arts, Culture and Heritage offering	31/3/15	Audit being undertaken to review current approaches.
Prepare a Good Relations Strategy for Mid Ulster	31/3/15	Staff are currently preparing a Good relations Plan for council consideration. Commissioning letters from OFMDFM are to be issued January 2015 asking that the Good Relations Plan be ready for February 2015.
Finalise discussions with DSD on Urban Regeneration, Community Development and Neighbourhood Renewal. Determine viability of four Environmental Improvement Schemes	31/3/15	Council currently awaiting legislation approval. Discussions ongoing with DSD.

Activity	Target Completion Date	Status
Shape the structure and approach for the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mid Ulster Rural Development Programme (2014-2020); and</li> <li>• PEACE IV Plan (2014-2020)</li> </ul>	31/3/15	A separate report will be presented at the Committee meeting regarding the Rural Development Programme.  PEACE IV plan to be produced by May 2015 following the issue of guidelines in December 2014. SEUPB will meet with Councils after the guidance is produced.
Shape the content of future European Programmes, including Interreg V, ERDF, ESF etc	31/3/15	Project proposals being prepared for MUDC consideration as to how Council could avail of ESF funding. Lobbying and responses being provided as required. Officers are meeting to review and consider all funding options.
Discuss and agree Town Centre Action Plans and associated funding for 2015/2016	31/3/15	Officers have met to identify current activity and best practice as well as future priorities. Initial scoping paper to be produced on town centre needs.
Review existing programmes to determine if any 'gaps in provision' will occur before future funding becomes available	31/3/15	Ongoing. Report prepared and presented on events.
Develop Development budget for 2015/16	30/11/14	Officer meetings have been held. Current and future budgets have been identified.

**D**

<b>Subject</b>	PEACE IV
<b>Reporting Officers</b>	Anne-Marie Campbell, Adrian McCreesh, Iain Frazer

<b>1</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To update members on recent correspondence received in relation to the progress of PEACE IV.

<b>2</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	<p>The PEACE programme has worked closely with Local Government in Northern Ireland, and the Border Region of Ireland, in the past. The Cooperation Programme was approved by the NI Executive and Government of Ireland and was submitted to the European Commission. The Cooperation Programme recommends that PEACE IV again work closely with local government.</p> <p>Formal comments from the Commission will be available in December 2014, subsequent amendments to the Programme, that has been submitted, may be made.</p> <p>As a result Guidance Notes on the Programme will not be issued by SEUPB until at least December 2014. Shortly after the release of Guidance SEUPB intend to hold meetings with the Local Authority Sector.</p>

<b>3</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
3.1	<p>SEUPB anticipate that the PEACE IV Programme will be approved by the Commission in May 2015. They therefore expect that Local action plans will be developed between December 2014 and May 2015, and submitted to SEUPB shortly after this date.</p> <p>It is likely that SEUPB will be inviting Local Authorities, on behalf of a Peace Partnership, to submit proposals for up to 100% funding in three areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children and Young People</li> <li>• Shared Space and</li> <li>• Building Positive Relations at a Local Level</li> </ul> <p>Officers have requested a meeting with SEUPB to discuss a number of matters including partnership makeup, delivery mechanisms, budgets and new arrangements regarding vouching requirements. This meeting is unlikely to occur until after the Guidance Notes have been issued.</p> <p>Information that can be used to inform the Local PEACE IV Action Plan is being gathered as part of the community planning consultation process and surveys. It</p>



	is essential that the Local PEACE IV Action Plan is integrated with and complements the Good Relations Plan for Mid Ulster. As more information becomes available for SEUPB, the process of developing the PEACE IV plan will be agreed with Council.
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<b>4</b>	<b>Resources</b>
4.1	<p><b><u>Financial</u></b></p> <p>It is envisaged that £15,000 will be required to procure consultancy support to develop the Local PEACE IV Action Plan.</p>
4.2	<p><b><u>Human</u></b></p> <p>It is envisaged that the human resources required to develop the Local Action Plan will be met within existing staffing complements.</p>
4.3	<p><b><u>Basis for Professional/ Consultancy Support</u></b></p> <p>It is envisaged that consultancy support may be required to assist the existing staff complement to develop the Local Action Plan.</p>
4.4	<p><b><u>Other</u></b></p> <p>None</p>

<b>5</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
5.1	None

<b>6</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
6.1	Members are asked to note the information provided. Officers from the three Council areas will continue to liaise with SEUPB regarding the PEACE IV Programme.

<b>7</b>	<b>List of Documents Attached</b>
7.1	None