

Report on	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme 2. Future Business Start Provision Research 3. NI Chamber of Commerce: Regional Networking Event 2021 4. DAERA Rural Policy Framework for NI – Consultation 5. Skills Strategy for NI – Consultation 6. MEGA Strategic Review and 3 Year Action Plan 7. ESF Call 3 Match Funding Requests (2022-23) 8. Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2021 9. Labour Market Partnerships (LMPs) 10. Mid Ulster Business Excellence Awards 2021
Date of Meeting	16 September 2021
Reporting Officer	Head of Economic Development

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To provide Members with an update on key activities as detailed below.
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>Mid Ulster Town & Village Spruce Up Scheme Phase 4</p> <p>The Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme offered discretionary grants of up to 75% eligible costs, capped at £5,000 per property for external and/or internal improvements. The Scheme was available to both occupied commercial premises and vacant/derelict units within the town centre boundary of each of the towns (Coalisland, Cookstown, Dungannon as per Area plan 2010; Maghera and Magherafelt as per Area Plan 2015) and development limits of the eligible villages as per the proposed Mid Ulster Settlement Report within the draft Local Development Plan (2030), published in February 2019, under the Mid Ulster Settlement Hierarchy, with the additional village of Moygashel. The scheme opened for applications on Monday 19 August 2019 and closed for applications at 4pm on Wednesday 18 September 2019.</p>

	<p>Knox & Clayton Chartered Architects were appointed to assist in the delivery of the Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme, including assessment of applications and management and monitoring of the successful projects. Applications, which proceeded to assessment, had to achieve a minimum threshold of 40% to be eligible for grant aid. 253 applications achieved over the 40% threshold to value of £912,306.29.</p> <p>In the financial year 2019-2020, under Phase 1 of the scheme there were 32 applicants accepted Letters of Offer and completed works to the value of grant aid of £112,771.42.</p> <p>In the financial year 2020-2021, under Phase 2 of the scheme there were 72 applicants accepted Letters of Offer and completed works to the value of grant aid of £250,812.13.</p> <p>In the financial year 2021-2022, Phase 3 is currently being delivered with up to 79 Letters of Offer issued to the value of £250,000.</p> <p>In the financial year 2022-2023, there remains 42 projects to be completed in Phase 4, to the value of £148,484.</p>
2.2	<p>Future Business Start Provision Research</p> <p>On 1 April 2015, local economic development functions were transferred from DETI to local Councils, including that of business start. This has been delivered via the 11 Council NIBSUP ('GoFort!'); the current Programme is part funded (80%) by Invest Northern Ireland and the European Regional Development Fund under the Investment for Growth and Jobs Northern Ireland (2014-2020) Programme and Mid Ulster District Council (20%) and is due to end on 31 March 2023.</p> <p>In May 2020, Belfast City Council commissioned a team from the Enterprise Research Centre (ERC) and Ulster University Economic Policy Centre (UUEPC) to carry out a study providing the evidence base for the future provision of business start-up support in Northern Ireland.</p>
2.3	<p>NI Chamber of Commerce: Regional Networking Event 2021</p> <p>Mid Ulster District Council has been a member of the NI Chamber of Commerce since 2016. The Chamber have hosted three of their Regional Network events in Mid Ulster over the past 4 years (in the Burnavon Theatre and Hill of the O'Neill, and one virtual in 2020), and have advised that they would like to deliver another Regional Networking event in Mid Ulster on Monday 8 November 2021.</p>
2.4	<p>DAERA Rural Policy Framework for NI – Consultation</p> <p>A public consultation on the draft Rural Policy Framework for NI was launched on the 7th July 2021 and closes for responses on 6th September 2021.</p>
2.5	<p>Skills Strategy for NI – Consultation</p> <p>The Department for the Economy (DfE) has launched a consultation paper for a new Skills Strategy for Northern Ireland: 'Skills for a 10x Economy'. 'Skills for a 10X Economy' is DfE's strategy to support more people to improve their job prospects and fulfil their economic potential.</p>

2.6	<p>MEGA Strategic Review and 3 Year Action Plan</p> <p>MEGA is supported by both Mid Ulster District Council and Invest NI. Its purpose is to address the immediate and medium-term skills shortages in the manufacturing and engineering industries in the Mid-Ulster area. MEGA is unique in that it is an industry-led collaborative network working towards attracting, retaining and upskilling the region's engineering and manufacturing workforce. In April 2021, the MEGA Network submitted a request for funding support to develop a strategic review and three year action plan for the next phase of industry development.</p>
2.7	<p>ESF Call 3 Match Funding Requests (2022-23)</p> <p>In May 2021, the Economy Minister launched a third and final call for projects to apply for funding under the Northern Ireland European Social Fund (NI ESF) programme. The extended funding period is from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023 and a competition for funding opened to applications on 14 June 2021 for a period of four weeks.</p>
2.8	<p>Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2021</p> <p>Council previously agreed to procure the services of an organisation(s) to co-ordinate, manage, promote and evaluate all virtual events during Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2021. An estimated global budget of £28,000 has been allocated for Enterprise Week 2021 within Council's economic development budget and proportion of these costs will be used to employ a management agency to carry out the services as outlined above.</p>
2.9	<p>Labour Market Partnerships (LMPs)</p> <p>The Department for Communities (DfC) is working with all NI Councils in the establishment of Labour Market Partnerships (LMPs). There will be one regional LMP, supported by local LMPs within each Council area. The aim of LMPs is to improve employability outcomes and labour market conditions locally by working through coordinated, collaborative, multiagency partnerships. The Labour Market Partnership (LMP) provides a unique opportunity to greatly impact Council's priorities for skills and employability ensuring that an appropriate skills pipeline is available to local industry both now and in the future.</p>
2.10	<p>Mid Ulster Business Excellence Awards 2021</p> <p>Historically, Mid Ulster District Council has provided funding towards the annual Mid Ulster Business Awards, which highlight and reward the achievements of local companies over the previous 12 months. Following receipt of JPI Media's Proposal for the 2020 Awards, Council's Development Committee agreed in principle to support the Category Sponsorship £1,750 – SME Business of the Year – subject to JPI's responses to the two issues below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Clarification provided from JPI Media of all other sponsors involved in the event, when available; and ii) Further detail being provided by JPI Media in relation to how they plan to promote the categories, which are awarded by public vote across the entire District, to take account of the Mid Ulster Mail not having as large a

	circulation in some areas of the District as others, (notably the Clogher Valley).
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme Phase 4</p> <p>Phases 1 and 2 of Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme are complete with 104 schemes successfully finished. An evaluation report for Phase 2 was carried out by Chartered Architects, Knox & Clayton, a copy of which is attached at Appendix 1.</p> <p>Phase 3 of the scheme is currently being delivered in this financial year (2021/2022) with 79 letters of offer issued to the value of £250,000.</p> <p>In Phase 4 (2022-23) there remains 42 projects to be completed to the value of £148,484.</p> <p>Members may recall that the Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme was originally estimated to complete within a 3 year period, however, due to the sheer volume of applications received when the scheme opened to public call in 2019, in order to fund all the successful applications, the scheme had to be delivered over a 4 year period instead. Back in 2019, a tender exercise was conducted to appoint a Chartered Architect to oversee the scheme and Knox and Clayton were appointed to undertake this role for a 3 year period also.</p> <p>In light of having 42 successful applicants remaining on the ranked reserve list for 2022-2023 for schemes totalling £148,484, approval is sought for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ring-fence funds in the economic development budget in 2022/2023, totalling £148,484, to fund the remaining successful businesses in Phase 4, currently held on the ranked reserve list. • To seek quotations and appoint an independent Chartered Architect to manage the delivery of the scheme for the final phase (Phase 4 - 2022/2023).
3.2	<p>Future Business Start Provision Research</p> <p>The 11 Council SOLACE Economic Recovery Group has now established a Working Group to progress the recommendations of the Report and Belfast City Council plans to appoint a service provider on behalf of the 11 Councils to undertake an options analysis to inform the potential delivery of business start-up support post 2023. The analysis will build on the research undertaken by ERC on the Future Provision of Business Start Up Support in Northern Ireland (2020). It will include a range of costed delivery options to be used to inform a business case for a future operating model, enabling Councils to understand the potential scale of the financial requirements and informing positioning and engagement with DfE, DfC and other potential funders.</p>

	<p>The substantive work to produce a draft report outlining a future operating model/ plans is to be completed by November 2021, to allow time for refinement with Councils and discussion in December 2021. It has been proposed that this consultancy stage is delivered through a Framework managed by Belfast City Council which will cost in the region of £19,075 (excluding VAT) requiring a contribution of £1,735 from each Council.</p>
3.3	<p>NI Chamber of Commerce: Regional Networking Event 2021</p> <p>As part of their Business Development & Networking Series, the NI Chamber of Commerce is proposing to deliver a physical event in the Hill of the O'Neill, Dungannon on Monday 8 November 2021 from 10.30am to 12 noon. This event is highly popular and could attract 100+ business delegates. The event will be delivered in compliance with Government's Covid regulations (at that time) so whilst it is planned for a blended physical/virtual event, if needed, there is the ability to switch to a full virtual event, if circumstances change.</p> <p>The event occurs at the start of Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2021, and the theme will focus on entrepreneurship, with speakers including a local Mid Ulster Business person (to be confirmed), Mid Ulster Council Chairman, NIE Networks representative (NI Chamber's networking partner); and an NI Chamber representative. Approval is sought for Council to fund the event for a fee not exceeding £700 (excluding Vat).</p>
3.4	<p>DAERA Rural Policy Framework for NI – Consultation</p> <p>DAERA published a consultation on the draft Rural Policy Framework for NI (Appendix 2). The Framework has been developed in the context of the current Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 coming to an end and to support the emergence of a new Rural Business and Community Investment programme as the successor to LEADER.</p> <p>The Framework aims to create a sustainable rural community where people want to live, work and be active. Five thematic pillars are included in the Framework which include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Innovation and Entrepreneurship 2. Sustainable tourism 3. Health and wellbeing 4. Employment 5. Connectivity <p>Feedback from the consultation will inform the proposed Rural Policy Framework and the subsequent interventions and Programme of support stemming from it.</p> <p>DAERA's 8 week consultation period closed on 6th September 2021 at 23:59. Due to responses needing to be submitted by 6th September 2021, the Chief Executive approved Council's <i>draft</i> Consultation Response (Appendix 3) to allow it to be submitted before the deadline, as the Development Committee was not due to meet again until 16 September 2021. If any Member wishes for additional comments to be submitted to DAERA to supplement Council's consultation</p>

	<p>response, these should be forwarded to the Head of Economic Development by 22 September 2021.</p>
3.5	<p>Skills Strategy for NI - Consultation</p> <p>The Department for the Economy (DfE) launched a consultation paper for a new Skills Strategy for NI: 'Skills for a 10x Economy' (Appendix 4). 'Skills for a 10X Economy' is DfE's strategy to support more people to improve their job prospects and fulfil their economic potential.</p> <p>In July 2021 Council approved that delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive to approve the response and submit to DfE before the deadline of 19th August 2021. A copy of Council's response is attached in Appendix 5. If any member wishes for additional comments to be forwarded to DfE to supplement Council's consultation response, these should be forwarded to the Head of Economic Development by 22 September 2021.</p>
3.6	<p>MEGA Strategic Review and 3 Year Action Plan</p> <p>In April 2021, the MEGA (Manufacturing & Engineering Growth & Advancement) Network submitted a funding request to Council seeking £5,000 financial support to prepare a Strategic Review and 3 year Action Plan for the next phase of the MEGA project to support Mid Ulster's manufacturing and engineering sector.</p> <p>The Council approved a funding contribution of £5,000 from Council's economic development budget, subject to MEGA securing match funding from Invest NI (circ. £15,000) under the Collaborative Growth Programme (Phase 1). It was also agreed to hold discussions first with MEGA at a strategic level to encourage Trade Union involvement.</p> <p>MEGA have now confirmed receipt of a letter of offer for £15,000 from Invest NI and that a Trade Union representative will be invited on to the Steering Group.</p> <p>It is therefore recommended that Council's match funding contribution of £5,000 be released for the preparation of MEGA's Strategic Review and 3 year Action Plan.</p>
3.7	<p>ESF Call 3 Match Funding Requests (2022-23)</p> <p>The European Social Fund (ESF) is designed to combat poverty and enhance social inclusion. It supports participants to progress into further education, training and ultimately employment through funding organisations to deliver programmes for the unemployed and the economically inactive as well as people with disabilities and young people not in education, employment or training.</p> <p>The lead organisations require match funding support as part of a wider cocktail of funding to allow the employability schemes to commence.</p> <p>In July 2021, the Council agreed to support the following 4 projects, which requested match funding from Council. The full amount of match funding each</p>

	<p>organisation requested from Council was reduced to fit within Council's £50,000 available budget.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Step Up to Sustainable Employment Programme (SUSE+). 2. Up for Work Programme (UFWP) 3. Job Match Programme (JMP) 4. Women Towards Education and Employment Programme (WTEEP) <p>It was noted at the meeting that lead organisations may have the opportunity to secure match funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and this option is being explored by the Department for the Economy.</p> <p>Council officers are awaiting further information and direction from both the Department for Economy and Department for Communities in relation to match-funding.</p> <p>Council has received three additional match-funding requests from Enterprise NI, NOW Group and Specialisterne Northern Ireland.</p> <p>It is therefore recommended to defer consideration of the three match-funding requests until further information on match funding is received from the Department for Economy and Department for Communities. A further report will be brought to committee once the outcome of match funding is known to enable Council to make a definitive decision.</p>
3.8	<p>Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2021</p> <p>On 15 July 2021, eight organisations were issued with quotation documents. By the closing date of 12noon on 5 August 2021, one submission was received. The evaluation panel consisted of the Economic Strategies Manager, Funding and Investment Manager, Programme and Policy Officer and Project Officer. The contract award is based on the most economically advantageous quote. Following assessment of quotations, it is recommended to appoint ND Events at a cost of up to £8,000 (including expenses and excluding Vat).</p>
3.9	<p>Labour Market Partnerships (LMPs)</p> <p>Council, in February 2021, agreed to participate as a key stakeholder in the planning and development of Labour Market Partnerships (LMPs), which will coordinate activities relating to skills development, training and employability programmes in Mid Ulster. It was also agreed that when the new partnership is set up that a strong worker focus be included with a strategic input from the trade union movement.</p> <p>A key objective of the LMP approach is to develop a two year Interim LMP Action Plan (2021-23) which will be locally focused and aligned to key strategic objectives identified within the Programme for Government, Community Plan, Mid Ulster Skills Action Plan and LMP member organisations' corporate plans.</p> <p>In July 2021, Council agreed to procure external professional support to assist preparation of an Interim LMP Action Plan 2021-23. Following a procurement</p>

process, “Food for Thought” is recommended for appointment at a cost of £14,900 (including expenses and excluding vat). Once Council is in receipt of Mid Ulster’s LMP budget for 2021/22, officers will seek to ensure the costs for this assignment are recoverable from DfC’s budget allocation.

3.10 **Mid Ulster Business Excellence Awards 2021**

Due to the pandemic, no Business Awards event was held in 2020. This year a live event is planned, which will be the 10th Annual Mid Ulster Business Excellence Awards, scheduled for Thursday 18 November 2021 at 7pm in Corick House Hotel and Spa.

Council received a response from JPI Media, in relation to the two queries that Members sought clarification upon.

Query 1 – JPI Media to clarify details of all event sponsors

The status of each category and sponsors confirmed to date are provided below. Most are currently under discussion as first refusal to previous sponsors is always given as a courtesy. Further updates to be provided as more sponsors come on board.

Headline Sponsor	Henry Brothers	Confirmed
Associate Sponsor		Unconfirmed

Category Sponsors	Sponsor Name	Allocation Status
Best Manufacturer	Riada Resourcing	Confirmed
Best Start-Up Business	ASM Chartered Accountants	Confirmed
Excellence in Innovation	SWC Innotech Centre	Confirmed
Lifetime Achievement Award	Henry Brothers	Confirmed
Excellence in People Development	Steelweld Fabrications	Awaiting Confirmation
Business Person of the Year	Bank of Ireland	Awaiting Confirmation
SME Business of the Year		Provisionally held for Mid Ulster District Council – Awaiting Decision
Best Retailer		Unconfirmed
Excellence in Health and Wellbeing		Unconfirmed

Readers' Favourite Eating Establishment		Unconfirmed
Best Customer Service		Unconfirmed
Best Community Impact		Unconfirmed
Excellence in Tourism		Unconfirmed
Best Digital		Unconfirmed
Key Workers of the Year		Unconfirmed
10 Year Anniversary Special Award		Unconfirmed

JPI are unable to confirm any other sponsors at this juncture, however, 'SME Business of the Year' is being held provisionally for Mid Ulster District Council.

Query 2 – JPI Media to provide further details in relation to how they plan to promote the categories, which are awarded by public vote across the entire District, to take account of the Mid Ulster Mail not having as large a circulation in some areas of the District as others, (notably the Clogher Valley).

JPI Media has advised a range of actions is being proposed to promote the award categories, which are by public vote across the entire District (including the Clogher Valley) as follows:

- a) During Reader Vote time, a member of the JPI team will spend time in the Clogher area promoting the Awards, visiting businesses, coffee shops, community meeting places etc.
- b) JPI will explore if there's an option of increasing coverage in the Clogher Valley area with a local radio station
- c) People will be encouraged to sign up to and follow JPI's Mid-Ulster Mail Facebook and Twitter feeds and visit JPI dedicated Awards Website to sign up to receive information about the awards
- d) Emails sent to events database encouraging entries with sponsor logos featuring in each mailer;
- e) Regular editorial features in print, online and across social media platforms, and;
- f) This year, to help attract more entries, businesses and organisations entering, our JPI have joined forces with Pure Awards who will host a 'free' entry writing webinar to give hints and tips on submitting the very best entry possible. People will be invited to register for their free spot on the online workshop, which will take place in October. They will also hear from JPI's Editor on the key points that judges look for, and from a past winner who will be sharing their own experiences.

	JPI have also advised that, alongside the live event this year, they will offer a complementary virtual element allowing live and online audiences to have a similar experience, which will significantly increase the potential audience reach.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <p>Financial: Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme Grant Aid £148,484 (2022/2023 budget); Architect Fees To Be Confirmed (2022/2023 budget)</p> <p>Future Business Start Provision Research £1,735 is available from within the Economic Development budget 2021/22</p> <p>NI Chamber of Commerce: Regional Networking Event 2021 £700 is available from within the Economic Development budget 2021/22</p> <p>MEGA Strategic Review and 3 Year Action Plan £5,000 has been provisionally ring-fenced in Council's economic development budget (2021/22) as match funding towards MEGA's Strategic Review and 3 Year Action Plan.</p> <p>Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2021 Provision of £8,000 for "ND Events" to act as management agents for Enterprise Week. These costs (£8,000) have been ring-fenced within the overall estimated budget for Enterprise Week (circ. £28,000).</p> <p>Labour Market Partnerships (LMPs) Provision of £14,900 to "Food for Thought" for preparation of a two year Interim LMP Action Plan for the period 2021-2023.</p> <p>Mid Ulster Business Excellence Awards 2021 Provision of Category Sponsorship costs can be funded at £1,750+vat, should Members agree to award funding.</p> <p>Human: Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme Officers' time</p> <p>Future Business Start Provision Officers' time</p> <p>NI Chamber of Commerce: Regional Networking Event 2021 Officers' time</p> <p>Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2021 Officers' time.</p>

	<p>Labour Market Partnerships (LMPs) Officers' time</p> <p>Mid Ulster Business Excellence Awards 2021 Officers' time</p>
	<p>Risk Management: Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme Phase 4 Funding required in 2022/23 to meet the demands of the reserve list</p> <p>Future Business Start Provision Research Funding required to support the report being developed</p> <p>NI Chamber of Commerce: Regional Networking Event 2021 Funding required to support the event in Dungannon</p> <p>DAERA Rural Policy Framework for NI – public consultation Need to submit a Council response</p> <p>MEGA Strategic Review and 3 Year Action Plan The risk level is mitigated as Council's contribution has been subject to confirmation of funding from Invest NI.</p> <p>Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2021 Due to the Covid19 pandemic, all events apart for the NI Chamber of Commerce event have been organised as virtual this year.</p> <p>Labour Market Partnerships (LMPs) Consultant will be managed on a weekly basis against a delivery framework and timeline.</p>
4.2	<p>Screening & Impact Assessments Labour Market Partnerships (LMPs) To be considered.</p> <p>Equality & Good Relations Implications:</p> <p>Labour Market Partnerships (LMPs) To be considered.</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications:</p> <p>Labour Market Partnerships (LMPs) To be considered.</p>

5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	<p>It is recommended that Members;</p> <p>Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme</p> <p>5.1.1 Note Evaluation Report for Phase 2 of Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme (2020/2021)</p> <p>5.1.2 Approval to ring-fence funds in the economic development budget in 2022/2023, totalling £148,484, to fund the remaining successful businesses in Phase 4, currently held on the ranked reserve list.</p> <p>5.1.3 Approval for officers to seek quotations to appoint an independent Chartered Architect to manage the delivery of the scheme for the final year (Phase 4 - 2022/2023).</p>
5.2	<p>Future Business Start Provision Research</p> <p>Approve a financial contribution from Mid Ulster District Council of £1,735 (excluding Vat) towards the costs of undertaking an options analysis to inform the potential delivery of business start-up support post 2023 using Belfast City Council's Consultancy Framework to appoint a service provider on behalf of the 11 Councils.</p>
5.3	<p>NI Chamber of Commerce: Regional Networking Event 2021</p> <p>Approve request from NI Chamber of Commerce to fund a Mid Ulster Regional Networking Event on 8 November 2021 at Hill of the O'Neill, Dungannon, for a fee not exceeding £700 (excluding Vat) for catering and room hire, subject to the alignment of attendee numbers being in accordance with government guidelines.</p>
5.4	<p>DAERA Rural Policy Framework for NI – Consultation</p> <p>Retrospectively approve Council's consultation response to DAERA's Rural Policy Framework as the response had to be submitted by the deadline of 6th September 2021. If any Member wishes for additional comments to be forwarded to DAERA to supplement Council's consultation response, these should be forwarded to the Head of Economic Development by 22 September 2021.</p>
5.5	<p>Skills Strategy for NI – Consultation</p> <p>Retrospectively approve Council's consultation response to the NI Skills Strategy: Skills for a 10x Economy, which was submitted to the Department for the Economy by the deadline of 19 August 2021. If any member wishes for additional comments to be forwarded to DfE to supplement Council's consultation response, these should be forwarded to the Head of Economic Development by 22 September 2021.</p>

5.6	<p>MEGA Strategic Review and 3 Year Action Plan Approve Council's match funding contribution of £5,000 is released to the MEGA Network for the preparation of MEGA's Strategic Review and 3 year Action Plan.</p>
5.7	<p>ESF Call 3 Match Funding Requests (2022-23) To defer consideration of match-funding requests from Enterprise NI, NOW Group and Specialisterne Northern Ireland, until further information on match funding is received from the Department for Economy and Department for Communities. A further report will be brought to committee once the outcome of match-funding is known.</p>
5.8	<p>Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2021 Approve appointment of "ND Events" to co-ordinate, manage and organise all virtual events and promote and evaluate Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2021 at a cost of up to £8,000 (including expenses and excluding vat) subject to the completion of all contract requirements.</p>
5.9	<p>Labour Market Partnerships (LMPs) Approve the appointment of "Food for Thought" to prepare an Interim LMP Action Plan for 2021-2023, at a cost of up to £14,900 (including expenses and excluding Vat).</p>
5.10	<p>Mid Ulster Business Excellence Awards 2021 Consider if Mid Ulster District Council wishes to sponsor the 'SME Business of the Year' category at the Mid Ulster Business Awards 2021 at a cost of £1,750+Vat, based on the information received from JPI Media. A decision is now time critical.</p>
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	<p>Appendix 1 – Mid Ulster Town & Village Spruce Up Scheme Phase 2 (2020/2021) Evaluation Report</p> <p>Appendix 2 - DAERA Rural Policy Framework for NI – Consultation Document</p> <p>Appendix 3 - Mid Ulster Council's Consultation Response to DAERA's Rural Policy Framework for NI</p> <p>Appendix 4 - DfE's Skills Strategy Consultation Document - Executive Summary</p> <p>Appendix 5 – Mid Ulster Council's Consultation Response to DfE's NI Skills Strategy</p>