



14 March 2024

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Development Committee to be held in The Chamber, Cookstown at Mid Ulster District Council, Council Offices, Burn Road, COOKSTOWN, BT80 8DT on Thursday, 14 March 2024 at 19:00 to transact the business noted below.

Yours faithfully

Adrian McCreesh  
Chief Executive

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## AGENDA

### OPEN BUSINESS

1. Notice of Recording  
This meeting will be webcast for live and subsequent broadcast on the Council's You Tube site [Live Broadcast Link](#)
2. Apologies
3. Declarations of Interest  
Members should declare any financial and non-financial interests they have in the items of business for consideration, identifying the relevant agenda item and the nature of their interest.
4. Chair's Business
5. Deputation: Benburb Priory

### Matters for Decision

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Matters for Information

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**Items restricted in accordance with Section 42, Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014. The public will be asked to withdraw from the meeting at this point.**

Matters for Decision

19. SHHP Bellaghy Bawn Writers Residency Project
20. Public Right of Way
21. Tender for Play Park facilities
22. Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership – Draft 3 Year Strategy and Action Plan 2024-2025
23. Collaboration Agreement with Belfast City Council for Go Succeed (NI Enterprise Support Service)

Matters for Information

24. Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 15 February 2024
25. Mid Ulster's Employer-led Disability Inclusion Programme Evaluation

<b>Report on</b>	Development Report
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Claire Linney, Assistant Director of Development
<b>Contact Officers</b>	Philip Clarke – Neighbourhood Development Manager, Catherine Fox – Arts Development Manager, Brian McCormick – Seamus Heaney HomePlace Manager, Martina Totten – Social Inclusion Manager

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

<b>1</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>												
1.1	<p>The purpose of this report is to update members and seek approval for the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rolling Community Grant Awards</li> <li>• Arts Council NI Consultation</li> <li>• Arts Development Plan</li> <li>• Hill of The O'Neill and Ranfurly House Plan</li> <li>• Mid Ulster General Advice Service Annual Review - For Information</li> <li>• Development Department -Update</li> </ul>												
<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>												
2.1	<p><b>Community Grants - Rolling Grants Programme 2023 – 2024</b></p> <p>Recommendations to award grants under the Good Relations Grant, Seachtain Na Gaelige and Sports Representative grant awards.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Grant</th> <th>No. of groups awarded</th> <th>Value of Grant Awards</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Good Relations Grant</td> <td>1</td> <td>£846</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sport Representative Grant</td> <td>1</td> <td>£200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Seachtain Na Gaeilge</td> <td>10</td> <td>£6,995</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Please see attached in <b>Appendix 1</b> grant award recommendations</p>	Grant	No. of groups awarded	Value of Grant Awards	Good Relations Grant	1	£846	Sport Representative Grant	1	£200	Seachtain Na Gaeilge	10	£6,995
Grant	No. of groups awarded	Value of Grant Awards											
Good Relations Grant	1	£846											
Sport Representative Grant	1	£200											
Seachtain Na Gaeilge	10	£6,995											
2.2	<p><b>Arts Council NI Consultation</b></p> <p>Arts Council NI is currently consulting on its new ten-year strategy (2024 to 2034). The proposals are geared towards the development of a clearly defined role for the Arts Council of Northern Ireland (ACNI) over the next 10 years.</p>												

	<p>Arts Council NI is welcoming feedback on the strategy through an online survey which can be found at the link below. The Public Consultation ends on Friday 5th April 2024 with the final 10-year strategy due for publication in Spring 2024. <a href="https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/dfc/acni-strategy-consultation/">https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/dfc/acni-strategy-consultation/</a></p> <p>Officers have prepared a draft response to the strategy which is attached at <b>Appendix 2.</b></p> <p><b>2.3 Arts Development Plan 24 - 25</b></p> <p>Council annually delivers an arts development plan, this includes partnering with the community in the development of arts across the District. The previous plan 23 - 24 was fully delivered, further detail can be provided by the staff team upon request.</p> <p>Please see a copy of the Arts Development Plan 24 – 25 at <b>Appendix 3</b> The Burnavon spring brochure for performances, workshops and events is also available at <a href="http://www.burnavon.com">www.burnavon.com</a></p> <p><b>2.4 Hill of The O’Neill and Ranfurly House Plan 24-25</b></p> <p>As part of the development of Hill of The O’Neill &amp; Ranfurly House Council seeks to deliver a robust plan to support the engagement of people in - the heritage of the site and complementary exhibition, the use of the site as an open park, and provision of community engagement in the facility. The level of activity and the numbers at Hill of The O’Neill &amp; Ranfurly House are continuing to develop. Further detail of any of the activity can be provided by the staff team upon request.</p> <p>Please see a copy of the Hill of The O’Neill and Ranfurly House Plan 24-25 at <b>Appendix 4</b></p> <p><b>2.5 Mid Ulster General Advice Service Annual Review - For Information</b></p> <p>As part of the delivery of the general advice service (part funded by DFC), via Mid Ulster Advice Service (STEP), an annual review is undertaken. This review provides a confirmation on the delivery of the advice service in line with the Department for Communities guidelines. The review has been independently completed by David Williamson Consulting. The review has resulted in confirmation of satisfactory delivery of the advice service contract with primary recommendation to extend this for a further year. This will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final year of the current contract requiring a renewal public tender to be undertaken in the Autumn.</p> <p><b>2.6 Development Update</b></p> <p><u>Neighbourhood/Community Development</u> The grants close on 8<sup>th</sup> March and officers commence assessment with a report to the April committee.</p> <p>Covid Small Settlement projects – Coalisland Canal – engagement is continuing on the final design, Moy PAN public consultation was held and the results of this are being prepared.</p>
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	<p>Railway Park – Update consultations are being arranged on the current designs and phased approach</p> <p>Connecting Pomeroy – The Forest building works are ongoing due to complete April 2024. A new Development officer has been appointed and will commence April with a move to the new building when complete.</p> <p><u>Social Inclusion</u> The delivery of the Test and Learn model for Community Wealth Building is continuing. The most recent meeting took place on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February, with the next meeting planned for April.</p> <p>The engagement on social housing for Mid Ulster is continuing, alongside the delivery of the poverty plan. An update meeting with members on the poverty plan will be arranged for March/April.</p> <p><u>Good Relations &amp; Peace</u> The new plan for 2024 – 25 has been submitted to TEO for funding.</p> <p>The final detail to support the agreed Peace Plus plan is being progressed for submission in March.</p> <p><u>Burnavon Arts Centre</u> The Spring programme has had positive response with the majority of all performances and activities sold out. The new programme is being finalised.</p> <p><u>Seamus Heaney Homeplace</u> The Winter/Spring programme sales have received a positive response with many shows at full capacity. The exhibition numbers continue to increase with the Spring Summer, alongside positive school engagement.</p> <p><u>Hill of The O’Neill &amp; Ranfurly House</u> Activities and events on Hill of The O’Neill &amp; Ranfurly House continue to develop and this will be further expanded with the new plan. A letter has been issued to the Minister on the issue of the Mast; pending a response.</p> <p><u>Regional and Minority Language</u> Seachtain Na Gaeilge is taking place in March with a number of events and activities planned across the District with community partners.</p> <p><u>PCSP</u> See minutes attached in <b>Appendix 5</b>.</p>
4.1	<p><b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b></p> <p>Financial:</p> <p>Good Relations Grant Awards - £846</p>

	Seachtain Na Gaeilge Grant - £6,995 Sports Representative Grant - £200
	Human: NA
	Risk Management: NA
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: NA
	Rural Needs Implications: NA
<b>5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
5.1	Members are recommended to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Approve the assessment panel recommendations under the community grants.</li> <li>(ii) Approve the response to the Arts Council NI Consultation</li> <li>(iii) Approve the annual Arts Development Plan</li> <li>(iv) Approve the annual Hill of The O'Neill &amp; Ranfurly House Development Plan</li> <li>(v) Note the Mid Ulster General Advice Service Annual Review</li> <li>(vi) Note the Development update.</li> </ul>
<b>6</b>	<b>List of Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1 Community Rolling Grant Awards Appendix 2 Arts Council NI Consultation Appendix 3 Arts Development Plan Appendix 4 Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House Development Plan Appendix 5 PCSP Minutes

## Appendix 1 Community Grants Allocation

Good Relations Grants – March 2024 (Maximum £1,500)

No	Organisation Name	Aim	Title Of Event/project	Request	Award
1	Cookstown & District Inter Churches Forum	Community	Church Forum Events & activity	£940.00	£846.00
2		Community			

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

## Seachtain na Gaeilge - Irish Language Week Grants 2024

Organisation	Date of event	Amount requested	Grant allocated
Pobal an Ghleanna, Ballygawley	1-17 March	£ 2,785.00	£735.00
Ballinderry Shamrocks GAC	5 February - 17 March	£ 1,100.00	£800.00
Aghaloo O'Neill's GFC	17-Mar	£ 370.00	£370.00
Naomh Padraig C.L.G. Loup	17-Mar	£ 1,630.00	£780.00
Coiste Forbartha Charn Tóchair	1-17 March	£ 3,205.00	£2,555.00
Institute of Irish Leadership, Pomeroy	08-Mar	£ 480.00	£480.00
Donaghmore GAA	17-Mar	£ 430.00	£250.00
Cairdeas Eoghain, Cookstown	8-20 March	£ 325.00	£325.00
Kildress Wolfe Tones GAA	1-17 March	£ 500.00	£500.00
St. Ciaran's College, Ballygawley	1-17 March	£ 640.00	£200.00
		<b>£ 11,465.00</b>	<b>£6,995.00</b>

## Individual Sports Awards - March 2024 (Maximum £250)

No	Applicant Name	Sport discipline	Title Of Event/project	Requested	Awarded
1	Hannah Kelly	Air pistol target shooting	British Air Pistol Schools Championship	£950.00	£200.00
				<b>Total</b>	<b>£200.00</b>



Ten Year Strategy Response  
Arts Council of Northern Ireland  
Linen Hill House  
23 Linenhall Street  
Lisburn  
BT28 1FJ

19<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

**RE: Response submission by Mid Ulster District Council to Arts Council of Northern Ireland new Ten-Year Strategy 2024 – 2034.**

Further to the Arts Council of Northern Ireland's call for feedback on the proposed ten-year strategy, Mid Ulster District Council would respond as follows.

It is important to reference from the outset that Arts organisations operating in Mid Ulster District Council are a significant contributor to the arts infrastructure within Northern Ireland. The District has a strong community and voluntary sector, with well-established amateur drama and music groups across the District with culturally diverse communities all engaging with arts and culture. It is imperative that the strategy acknowledges the invaluable contribution made by these organisations, many of whom are required to address more barriers to arts participation than those encountered by their urban counterparts and who quite often deliver arts product and programmes under difficult financial circumstances and in many cases in the absence of funding.

Mid Ulster District Council are responsible for the delivery of comprehensive and customer focused Arts programmes of activity that are specifically designed to deliver a diverse range of art products across a wide range of art and forms to encourage greater community engagement and wider audience participation by the inhabitants of and visitors to the Mid Ulster District.

In addition to the operation of its three distinct arts and cultural venues, namely The Hill of the O'Neill and Ranfurly House Arts and Visitor Centre, Dungannon, The Burnavon Arts and Cultural Centre, Cookstown; and the Seamus Heaney HomePlace,

Bellaghy, we have Strategic Arts Partners delivering arts events and activities in their own buildings and beyond, with close relationships with their local communities. It cannot be underestimated the significant impact of the Arts in maintaining, sustaining and developing rural communities, particularly in areas of Mid Ulster, where many arts organisations have become the social and cultural focus of an entire community.

With regard to the draft Strategy prepared by the Arts Council, Mid Ulster District Council (MUDC) would concur with the stated mission; *“to develop and champion the arts in Northern Ireland through investment and advocacy”* and vision; *“society where all people can experience a thriving arts sector that is recognised as essential to creativity, wellbeing and social and economic prosperity”*.

MUDC, as a rural Council, also welcome the statement that ACNI *“will forge partnerships, break down barriers, and ensure that the arts are integrated into every aspect of our community, from education to healthcare, from urban centres to rural landscapes.”*

The values outlined in the strategy are welcome, however we suggest that under Collaboration this should be amended to include the underlined:

*“We value our strong relationships with partners and their ability to enhance arts programmes across NI, in both rural and urban areas, and beyond.”*

MUDC would stress that there needs to be focused partnership approach with ACNI for the development of the Arts within Northern Ireland, particularly in rural areas which have been deeply impacted from Covid. Our Arts sector within Mid Ulster has been impacted severely by the pandemic and renewed effort will be required to ensure pre Covid levels of participation are achieved.

MUDC welcomes the fact that three-year business plans will be published and reviewed annually and will include monitoring and evaluation as the ratio of funding in urban and rural areas remains vast.

MUDC would concur with the outcomes identified in the strategy and comment as below:

## **Arts Sector**

- *A more financially stable arts sector.*
- *A sector that develops and looks after its people and is more inclusive.*
- *A sector that is better supported to develop through experimentation and innovation.*

MUDC welcome a strategic arts investment programme to support our Arts organisation across the District and would welcome further collaboration with groups who are currently not affiliated with ACNI. We are supportive of advocating to DfC for further investment in the Arts sector which has seen cuts in budgets year on year and would offer support, where relevant, to ACNI in developing any partnerships with the private sector.

MUDC are particularly keen to support “*working with local Authorities on areas of shared interest eg residencies, studio spaces*” as we have a wide range of arts and facilities throughout the District such as Hill of The O’Neill & Ranfurly House, The Burnavon, Seamus Heaney HomePlace as well as community hubs such as Craic Theatre, Coalisland, Bardic Theatre, Donaghmore, Glasgowbury, Draperstown, An Carn, Maghera and Brantry Bard, Brantry.

Whilst the Strategy aims to ensure “*Ringfencing investment with underrepresented groups (e.g. minority ethnic residencies and mentoring scheme, supporting rural artists) and Refreshing and developing Minority Ethnic and Rural Forums for artists to engage with the Arts Council*”, we would like to include that support is ringfenced for all forms of art in rural areas and that forums are extended to include the same.

MUDC also support the development of Creative Industries programmes and would like to see more investment of this nature in the rural areas; investment/development previously has been centrally focussed in urban areas.

## **Society**

- *A sector that contributes to social and economic benefits and cares about the environment.*
- *People from all backgrounds can enjoy arts experiences.*

- *A sector that is more valued across society and government.*

With a number of our Arts Partners and facilities in Mid Ulster facing challenges of sustainability, it is welcome that a climate theme has been an addition in the investment areas in the new strategy.

With a number of exhibition areas in both Council and community venues across the District, MUDC are willing to aid Arts Council Collection to reach more people and would welcome the support to develop audiences across the sector.

In reference to the outcome that the sector *is more valued across society and government*, MUDC would like to stress that our Strategic Arts partners are valued and held in high esteem, indeed without support from the Council through the annual Strategic Arts and Culture grant and from the local community, the Arts sector across the District would regress significantly.

We would welcome further engagement and support from ACNI in Mid Ulster, which to date has been underrepresented in funding allocations in the past. There remains a significant issue in terms of lower levels of engagement and inequality of access to the arts particularly in rural areas of the District. The strategy should highlight the need to engage more communities and the need to improve communities through the arts, specifically within rurally disadvantaged communities, where in many cases, participation and involvement in the arts is limited only by the lack of investment in arts activity and arts resources.

MUDC support the continuation of the Rural Arts Funding Programme specifically designed to support the development of the arts in rural areas specifically designed to address equitable access and Rural needs.

Should you require further clarification on any of the issues raised within this submission, please contact Catherine Fox, Arts and Facilities Development Manager on 03000 132 132 or by emailing [catherine.fox@midulstercouncil.org](mailto:catherine.fox@midulstercouncil.org).

Yours sincerely,

**Cllr Dominic Molloy**

Chair

Mid Ulster District Council

DRAFT



# Mid Ulster District Council Arts Plan 2024/2025



theburnavon

## **Burnavon Arts Centre Mid Ulster**

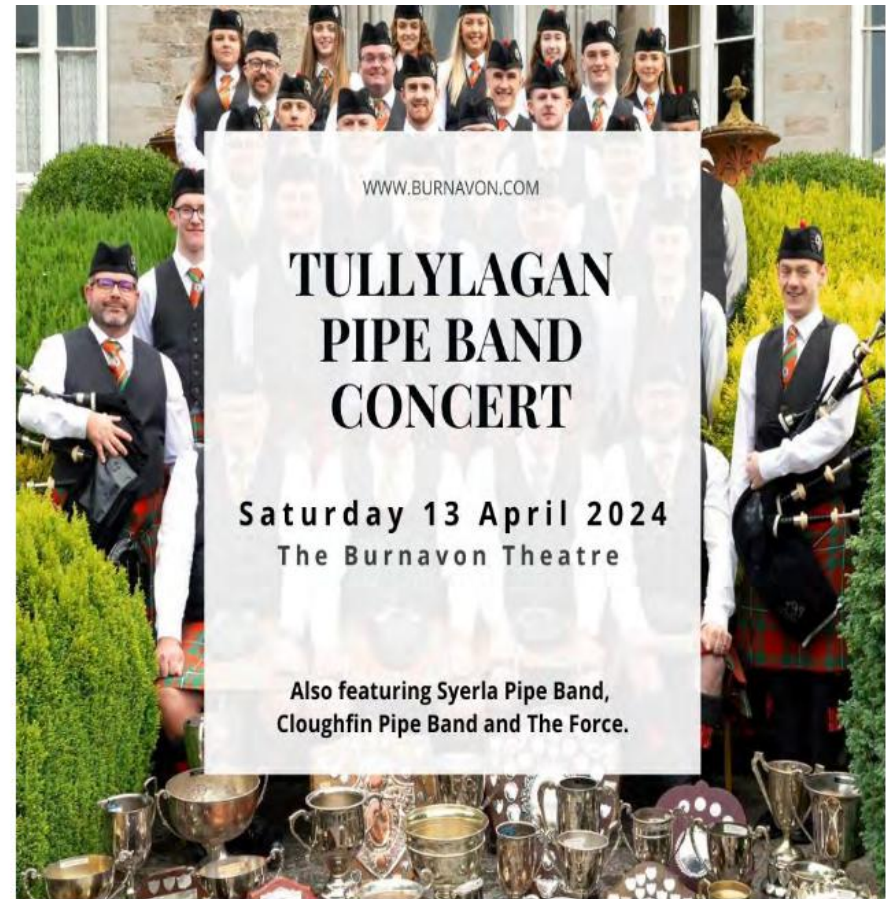
The Burnavon Arts Centre Mid Ulster opened in 1999 and since then has grown as a regional arts centre across the region providing a wide range of entertainment throughout the year including concerts, comedy, children's performances, dance, drama, educational performances, and community and visual arts.

In addition to delivering a diverse programme of performances live on stage, it also organises a number of community events each year such as Easter Family Fun Day, St Patrick's Celebration Concert, July Celebrations Concert and the Annual Craft & Food Fair.

Supporting the Creative Industries is an essential role of the facility be this through giving artists an opportunity and platform to perform, exhibiting in our Gallery space, employing them as facilitators for our workshops and events, displaying in our Craft Shop or providing advice and support from our staff.

The facility is further utilised by hiring groups for meetings and conferences to maximise usage. We continue to adapt our services to an ever-changing environment.

Moving into the 2024/25 Burnavon Arts Centre Mid Ulster will focus on providing a state of the arts facility and performances and range of art forms to meet the demands of our customers.





## Community Arts



Our Community Arts will form an important part of the development of arts activities within Mid Ulster. Mid Ulster District Council, seek to develop and deliver a district wide Community Arts Plan (linked to Burnavon Arts Centre) which will focus on offering activity to groups and individuals, in particular targeting those with limited access to the arts, “Bringing Art to the Community” and building opportunity within the Creative Industries sector. Council will seek to deliver this in partnership with local groups, schools, arts agencies, and our strategic arts theatre partners located in the community including: Bardic Theatre, Craic Theatre, An Carn Theatre, Glasgowbury, The Hub, Brantry Bard.

The Community Arts Plan will contribute and partner the direction of a number of strategies and plans for the District:

The Arts Council of Northern Ireland's 5 Year Strategy (2019/2024) outlines the key priorities as Inspire, Connect and Lead. Mid Ulster District Council will strive to take our programmes in this direction.

Mid Ulster Community Plan is built around five key themes and the Community Arts Plan will contribute to the development of Theme 3: Education & Skills and to Theme 4: Health & Wellbeing.

The Mid Ulster District Council Corporate Plan also outlines Five Key themes, the Community Arts Plan will seek to actively help achieve positive action under Themes 2: Service Delivery, 4: Environment and 5: Communities.

The Community Arts Plan will be delivered under the following themes:

**Youth Engagement Programme**

**Creative Industries Programme**

**Older People & Disability Arts Programme**

**Education Programme**

**Ulster Scots Programme**

**Art Engagement Programmes**

**Mid Ulster Arts Showcase**

## Youth Engagement Programme

Project	Detail	Participants	Duration	Budget	Lead
<b>Summer Activities</b>	<p>Deliver a number of interactive workshops for young people to participate in to develop their creative skills. i.e. Comic art, digital art; fun with felt; Kids pastels.</p> <p>Workshops will be held in the Burnavon.</p>	80 participants	June/July	Burnavon Programme	<p>Burnavon Arts Centre Activity</p> <p>7 x Arts Workshops – June/July</p>

## Education Programme

Project	Detail	Participants	Duration	Budget	Lead
<b>Traditional Music in Schools (Primary) Project</b>	Children P4 to P7 have an opportunity to learn to play the guitar, mandolin, tin whistle, flute, mandolin and banjo Delivered via cross community to support children to perform	400 children from various schools per week	Weekly (academic year)	£14,000  (£6000 GR £8000 Arts)	Good Relations
<b>Pre School First Theatre Visit</b>	Introduction of nursery schools to Burnavon to attend a show for their first theatre visit  This programme will be subsidised by the Burnavon to engage with a new audience and create an experience of live theatre.	600	2 individual shows pa target audience of 300 per show	Burnavon Programme	Burnavon Arts Centre Activity
<b>Schools Project</b>	Art delivery facilitators to deliver creative workshops	1500	98 primary schools – P6/P7 – every 2 <sup>nd</sup> year	£27,000	Arts  Delivery Partner

	engaging young people in primary schools to develop an early interest in the arts (link with curriculum learning)		98 primary schools in the District – schools will be engaged bi annually		
<b>Schools Project</b>	Recycling project in schools.	6 primary schools	Artists will engage with students in schools using recycled materials to create art projects.  Recycling officer will become involved to promote and encourage recycling.	Potential funding opportunity to be investigated.  Budget TBC Partner with Council's recycling officer	Arts & Recycling Officer
<b>Theatre Performances for schools</b>	Burnavon Arts Centre will hold a number of events targeting primary schools to visit the theatre space and enjoy live performances This programme will be subsidised to	600	2 shows per annum	Burnavon Programme	Burnavon Arts Centre Activity

	enable access to the arts and theatre space and build new audiences.				
<b>Creative Writing and Illustration Arts</b>	<p>To promote creative writing and poetry to school children Celebrate world book day.</p> <p>Engage with Children’s writing fellow – Poet “Bringing Poetry to Life” - P6/P7 schoolchildren</p> <p>Engage with Children’s writing fellow - P4 school children</p>	300	2 events per annum	Burnavon Programme	<p>Burnavon Arts Centre Activity</p> <p>Small fee charged for attendance</p>
<b>Special Education Project</b>	Engage young people in special education to use their senses skills to identify and explore different art forms	All special learning units	One project per School per annum.	£6,000 Arts	Arts 8 Special Schools – schools and learning units

## Creative Industries Development

Project	Detail	Participants	Duration	Budget	Lead
<b>Monthly exhibitions</b>	Exhibition space will offer a platform to artists / funded projects (Disability & inclusive arts / Sensory arts programme) as well as community arts projects to exhibit their work to the public.	Artists / Community Groups	monthly	N/A  Partner with Craft NI	Arts/Burnavon Arts Centre Activity
<b>Creative Industries Development</b>	Engage with key partners including Nerve Centre, AmmA Creative Hub and other artists to develop opportunities for Creative industries for young people via skills development in various art forms.	Target post primary schools.	Annually	£4,000 Arts	Arts  Partners AmmA, Nerve Centre, Creative Hub  Hybrid Delivery Model
<b>Screen Works NI</b>	Partner Screen Works Education Programme - Creative Industries	All Schools PP Community Planning	Annually		Link to LMP / SWC / Screen Works NI/BBC NI to target areas young people into film (Young People in Film Apprenticeship Programme)

	Apprenticeship Programme  Link to LMP / SWC / Screen Works NI/BBC NI to target areas young people into film (Young People in Film Apprenticeship Programme)	Careers Forum			
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**Ulster Scots Programme**

Project	Detail	Participants	Duration	Budget	Lead
<b>RPBSA NI &amp; Piping with Young Children</b>	Support Mid Ulster Pipe band in their Annual event and support young people to engage in the traditional music of piping. Delivered via cross community to support children to perform			£10,000  Good Relations	<b>Good Relations</b>



<p><b>Ulster Scots Leid Week</b></p>	<p>Promote Ulster Scots culture through a series of activity @ Burnavon &amp; Hill of The O'Neill &amp; Ranfurly House</p> <p>Talks/Creative Writing Programme on the Ulster Scots.</p> <p>A celebratory event with Scottish Ceilidh Dancing for the community. Linking with Ulster Scots Community Network/Ulster Scots Agency to raise profile of the event.</p>	<p>500 community/visitors</p>	<p>Ulster-Scots Leid Week 2024</p>	<p>£600 Hill of The O'Neill &amp; Burnavon Programme</p> <p>£2,000 Hill of The O'Neill &amp; RH Programme</p>	<p>Arts, Hill of The O'Neill and Ranfurly House</p>
<p><b>Culture Celebration Event</b></p>	<p>A series of events/workshop to celebrate Ulster Scots culture –</p> <p><u>Talk</u> - The Lang Dander 28 June</p> <p><u>Dance</u> Swing into summer with the Highland Fling (Highland dance workshop) 29 June ASD friendly session.</p>	<p>350</p>	<p>June</p>	<p>£1,400 Burnavon Programme</p>	<p>Burnavon Arts Centre Activity</p>

	Music Highland Bagpipe workshop 29 June				
<b>Partner Ulster Scots-Agency</b>	To partner with Ulster-Scots Agency to deliver programmes	Tbc	Tbc	As proposals are submitted	Tbc

## Art Engagement Programme

### Older People & Disabled People's Programme

Project	Description	Participants	Duration	Budget	Lead
<b>Creative Arts workshops for older people</b>	Host a series of workshops aimed at people aged 60y+ to learn new creative skills & meet new people.	30 – 40 older people	Delivered over 4 weeks (1 session per week) October - Positive Aging week	Burnavon programme /Age Friendly Co-Ordinator	Burnavon Arts Centre Activity Minimal Fee to Burnavon Workshop Programme
<b>Disability &amp; Inclusive Arts Programme</b>	Support to disability groups across the area with arts outreach activity to ensure arts is inclusive for all Engage with 23 centres	Groups – Day Centres, Day Opportunities (stat, voluntary)	Timeline developed to suit the groups	£25,500.00	Arts 23 groups

Project	Description	Participants	Duration	Budget	Lead
<b>Support community art groups to engage with the Burnavon</b>	Engage groups with the Arts Cookstown Youth Choir Mid Ulster Choral Group Dungannon Choral Group Superstars Cookstown Folk Group Mid Ulster Burnavon Writers	160	Regularly	£5,500 £2,000 GR	Arts Partner Good Relations
<b>Support Mental Health week</b>	Offer arts/craft activities to engage and develop an interest in the arts	30 – 40 adults	Mental Health Awareness week 6 - 11 May	Burnavon Programme	Burnavon Arts Centre Activity
<b>Easter Family Fun Day through Art</b>	Engaging families in arts and crafts.	1400	One per annum	Burnavon Programme	Burnavon Arts Centre Activity ASD Friendly  Free Event
<b>St Patrick's Community Concert</b>	Engaging families in arts	350	One per annum	Burnavon Programme	Burnavon Arts Centre Activity
<b>Winter Craft &amp; Food Fair</b>	Craft event within the Burnavon to	30 - 50 exhibitors	1 day event. November	Burnavon Programme	Burnavon Arts Centre Activity

	offer artisan crafters the opportunity to showcase and sell products.	event 2000			Partner local Creative Businesses
<b>Arts and Crafts Workshops Burnavon</b>	Workshops across the year in arts and crafts	1,250	Across the year	Burnavon programme	Burnavon Arts Centre Activity
<b>Bounce Festival</b>	Engage with Atypical to offer arts activities as part of their Festival	20	October	Burnavon Programme	Burnavon Arts Centre Activity
<b>Strategic Community Arts Partners</b>	Engage with the community arts partners re outreach programme delivery – Bardic, Craic, Glasgowbury, An Carn, The Hub, Brantry.	20,000	Annual	£65,000	Community Partners Link to Arts Showcase
<b>Community Arts Grant Aid Programme</b>	Partner with Community Development regarding delivery of small grants	20,000	Annual		Arts & Culture/Community Development

	programme to support local groups deliver on arts				
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**Brantry BARD**

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the burnavon

## Mid Ulster Arts Showcase



Project	Detail	Participants	Duration	Budget	Lead
<b>Mid Ulster Arts Showcase</b>	<p>Shining a light on our local arts scene over the month of March, celebrating various arts forms. Including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Music</li> <li>Drama</li> <li>Dance</li> <li>Family entertainment</li> <li>Workshops</li> <li>Exhibitions</li> <li>Taster Sessions</li> </ul> <p>Focusing on the creative work of the strategic arts partners and other arts delivery partners. taking place in: Seamus Heaney HomePlace, Bellaghy; Craic Theatre, Coalisland, Carntogher Community Association, Maghera; The Burnavon Theatre, Cookstown; Bardic Theatre, Donaghmore, plus many more local drama groups and venues across the district.</p>		March 2025	£10,000	<p>Strategic Partner Engagement</p> <p>Other organisations across the District may also have some drama offerings during the period and advertised as part of the programme</p> <p>Potential for engagement with local drama groups that tour with plays and acts</p> <p>Pomeroy Players Mid Ulster Drama Society Bright Young Things Castlehill Theatre Group</p>

	<p>It will seek to complement programmes being delivered by Seamus Heaney Homeplace, Hill of The O'Neill/Ranfurlly House events, Good Relations, Seachtain na Gaeilge</p> <p>Develop links with local businesses to offer pre-theatre meals</p>				
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**MID ULSTER**  
**ARTS**  
**SHOWCASE**

**Shining a light on our local arts scene**



## Additional Support / Facility Development

Project	Detail	Participants	Duration	Budget	Lead
<p><b>Equality and Access Standards Initiative (EASI)</b></p>	<p>Burnavon Arts Centre aims to become a Centre of Excellence. This means Equality, Access &amp; Inclusion Principals will be fully embedded in our culture. Staff at all levels within the centre will have ownership and will be committed to achieving the highest standards.</p>	<p>Burnavon Staff</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>N / A</p>	<p>Burnavon - Ongoing Initiative</p>
<p><b>Autism Friendly Initiative</b></p>	<p>Burnavon Arts Centre has been identified by the University of Atypical, as one of 10 organisations in NI, to take part in the EASI initiative.</p> <p>Will help the Burnavon to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that everyone has access to our services and activities. Remove any barriers that would exclude people from taking part in what we do.</li> <li>• To design systems and processes to optimise accessibility to our organisation, our services and to create opportunities for all.</li> </ul> <p>University of Atypical sets an agreed standard for Burnavon and an <b>Accreditation</b>. EASI branding material will be displayed to show members of the public the standard.</p>				

	<p>Burnavon Arts Centre has recently been accredited as an Autism Friendly facility. This means ensuring that all services and delivery takes account of people with autism. In addition we have received World Host Accreditation recognising the Burnavon as a facility providing excellent customer services.</p> <p>Burnavon staff also work with local groups and the Mid Ulster Disability Forum to ensure the facility and services/programmes are open and accessible to all.</p>				
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# HILL OF THE O'NEILL & RANFURLY HOUSE

## ACTION PLAN 2024 – 2025



## HERITAGE PRESERVATION & VISITOR EXPERIENCE

Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House is steeped in history with an abundance of rich engaging stories incorporating a vast history from the bronze age right up to the twentieth century when it was a barracks and arguably the present day as the chosen venue for the First and Deputy First Ministers press briefings during the pandemic. This presents a remarkable asset in terms of tourism potential for Mid Ulster District Council. It brings to life the most enigmatic and astonishing stories in Irish history – The Flight of The Earls and subsequent Plantation of Ulster of which Hugh O'Neill was the central character. These two seismic events dramatically changed Ireland and in particular Ulster and its landscape. We will continue to capitalise on opportunities to recount this fascinating period in our history and strive to elevate people's interest and curiosity surrounding the importance Dungannon played in significant events.



# HERITAGE PRESERVATION & VISITOR EXPERIENCE PLAN

Project	Detail	Target	Timeline	Budget	Lead
<b>Traditional Craft Workshops</b>	<p>Implement a programme of art classes including traditional Irish heritage crafts to engage residents and increase footfall.</p> <p>e.g. Textiles/linen, basket making, willow weaving, woodworking, ceramics, St Brigid's Day cross making, sewing, photography, crocheting.</p> <p>Programme to incorporate craft for key events in the calendar i.e. Halloween, Christmas, Mother's Day etc.</p>	<p>Minimum 20 x 1-day workshops</p> <p>4 x 4–6-week courses</p>	Ongoing	£10,000	<p>Manager</p> <p>Project Support Assistant</p>
<b>Walking Tours</b>	<p>Walking tour of Battle of The Yellow Ford with historian and archaeologist.</p> <p>Walking tour of Dungannon Town Centre</p>	<p>2 Walking tours</p> <p>40 people</p>	<p><b>May</b></p> <p><b>Summer</b></p>	£500	<p>Manager</p> <p>Education &amp; Visitor Experience Officer</p> <p>Project Support Assistant</p>
<b>Summer Craft School</b>	Organise and facilitate a four-day Summer Craft School for children. Children will get to experience different art forms in various mediums.	20 children	<b>July</b>	£1000	<p>Manager</p> <p>Project Support Assistant</p>
<b>History/Heritage Talks</b>	Deliver a series of history talks associated with the site including but not limited to The O'Neill's, Ranfurly, Flight of The Earls to instil an understanding and sense of place	10 per annum	Ongoing (excluding	£2000	<p>Manager</p> <p>Education &amp; Visitor Experience Officer</p>

	in terms of the integral position Dungannon has played within the context of Irish history.		July & August)		Project Support Assistant
<b>Heritage Preservation</b>	Regular NIEA engagement and maintenance		Ongoing	N/A	Manager
<b>Maintain connections internally and externally with interest groups</b>	Ensure linkages are sustained with history/heritage community groups, cross border links in Donegal. Explore the possibility of joint promotions and projects.		Ongoing	N/A	Manager Education & Visitor Experience Officer Project Support Assistant
<b>Promote Hill of The O’Neill complementing TNI Embrace a Giant Spirit experience</b>	Continued development and links with TNI Embrace A Giant Spirit Brand – Update digital assets and share with TNI.  The creation of marketing assets to effectively promote Hill of The O’Neill as a must see visitor attraction.	2 joint promotions	MUDC Tourism, Tourism NI, Tourism Ireland		Manager Project Support Assistant Visitor Experience & Education Officer Marketing & Sales Officer
<b>Hill of The O’Neill Heritage Tours</b>	Deliver heritage tours as requested, with proactive marketing campaign. Through increased marketing we will aim to increase visitor numbers/ tours to at least pre-2020 levels. Deliver tours in Irish, when requested, in collaboration with Irish Language Officers.	Increase tours by 20% from 2023 – 2024. Visitor numbers to exhibition 1000	Ongoing		Manager Visitor Experience & Education Officer Front of House Advisors/Guides Irish language Officers Specialist guides

<b>Redevelop a creative zone for schools</b>	Creating a bright, engaging, themed area for learning. This room can then also be utilised for evening classes and conference breakout (former arts studio)	School groups (Day time) Classes (Evening)		TBC	Manager Visitor Experience & Education officer Technical Supervisor
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## EDUCATION

Our award-winning programme for schools and colleges is designed to make the Hill's history come alive in the place where it happened. Prior to the pandemic the education programme attracted approx. 3000 pupils each year. The programme receives extremely positive feedback through its continual evaluation process.



The programme provides an excellent mechanism to engage local residents and enhance the understanding of future generations. The continual evolvement of the learning programme is critical in channelling our great stories. Therefore we will continue to review the current programme aligning it to the Hill's history in order to support the brand identity, positioning and promotion of Hill of The O'Neill; Incorporating programmes, pre and post plantation, to illuminate all aspects of cultural identity.

We will continue to strengthen our links and partnerships with schools and the education sector ensuring reflective linkages to the curriculum. The education programme, with additional support, has the potential to increase its participants incorporating a wider catchment throughout Northern Ireland including border counties in ROI. Notably The Sandford Award report highlights the need for additional staffing support to ensure sustainability and minimise current vulnerability from staff sickness etc.



# EDUCATION PLAN

Project	Detail	Target	Timeline	Budget	Lead
Heritage School Engagement	Guided class visits to the Flight of the Earls and Plantation of Ulster exhibition and Hill of The O'Neill. Targeting both Primary and post-primary pupils from schools and colleges across Northern Ireland and in ROI	Primary/Post-Primary	February to May	N/A	Visitor Experience & Education Officer
QUB Open Learning Course: Looking at the O'Neill County – Heritage of South Tyrone Part 2	Work in partnership with QUB to develop an open learning course focused on the heritage of Tyrone. This course aims to develop an awareness amongst the local community of the rich heritage in the area.	Adult 20 participants	April - May 2024 4 Weeks (Tuesdays) 6.30pm – 8.30pm	£650	QUB Visitor Experience & Education Officer
Heritage through celebration of Quarter Days: Bealtaine workshops for children	Children will learn about the traditions associated with Bealtaine and then will be taught how to celebrate the Quarter Day by a tutor.	Primary KS2 pupils in Dungannon area primary schools At least 3 classes, approx. 90 pupils.	First week in May 1 day session	£500	Visitor Experience & Education Officer Irish Language Officer Tutor to be appointed.
Heritage, art and STEM with young people: Print making	Combining history, art and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths). Pupils take a tour of the exhibition on the Flight of the Earls and the Plantation of Ulster and then explore Hill of The O'Neill. This is followed by a STEM workshop that involves the use of intaglio printmaking in which the O'Neill castle on Hill of	Post-Primary Key Stage 3 pupils	June 1 week 1 full day session per school	£1000	Visitor Experience & Education Officer AMMA

	The O'Neill is reimagined. The STEM workshop is delivered in partnership with the AMMA Centre, Armagh.	Dungannon post-primary schools 5 schools potentially			
<b>Heritage and STEM with young people: Reimagining Hill of The O'Neill with Minecraft</b>	Combining history and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths). Pupils take a tour of the exhibition on the Flight of the Earls and the Plantation of Ulster and then explore Hill of The O'Neill. This is followed by a STEM workshop that involves the use of Minecraft in which the O'Neill castle on Hill of The O'Neill is reimagined. The STEM workshop is delivered in partnership with the AMMA Centre, Armagh.	<b>Post-Primary</b> Key Stage 3 pupils Dungannon post-primary schools 5 schools potentially	<b>June</b> 1 week 1 full day session per school	£1000	Visitor Experience & Education Officer AMMA



<b>Heritage through Words on the Hill (incorporating National Poetry Day)</b>	Investigating and celebrating the heritage of the Hill of The O'Neill through storytelling and creative writing.  Celebrating National Poetry Day on Thursday 3 October 2024.	<b>Primary/Post-Primary KS2/3 pupils</b> in Mid Ulster  5 classes, 1 per day	<b>October</b>  1 week  ½ day session each day	£1000	Visitor Experience & Education Officer  Specialist facilitator
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<b>History on the Hill</b>	History on the Hill combines history, drama and puppetry. Pupils take a tour of the exhibition on the Flight of the Earls and the Plantation of Ulster  There follows an exploration of Hill of The O'Neill, followed by either a drama workshop (KS2) or a specially written puppet show (KS1) which continues the themes of the exhibition. Time Steps facilitates the drama/puppet show.	<b>Primary</b>  KS1/2 pupils in Mid Ulster primary schools  5 classes, approx. 140 pupils	<b>October</b>  1 week  1 x 2½ hour session each day beginning at 10.00am.	£750	Visitor Experience & Education Officer  Facilitated by Time Steps.
<b>Dungannon: Where I Live</b>	Dungannon: Where I Live is a learning activity which aims to assist school pupils to participate in learning outside the classroom by exploring the local built environment and heritage of Dungannon. This activity begins and concludes at Hill of The O'Neill, emphasising the important role this site played in the development of the town.	<b>Primary</b>  KS2 pupils in Dungannon primary schools  At least 5 classes, approx.140 pupils.	<b>November</b>  1 week  ½ day session	N/A	Visitor Experience & Education Officer
<b>A Heritage Christmas - Victorian Christmas in</b>	Pupils will learn about Christmas traditions, and the toys of the Victorian age through a living history presentation.	<b>Primary</b>	<b>Nov – December</b>	£1100	Visitor Experience & Education Officer

Ranfurly House: Old Time Toys

Foundation/KS1 pupils in Mid Ulster primary schools

Monday 25 – Friday 29 December 2024.  
2 x 1 hour sessions each day:  
10.00am and 11.15am.

Facilitated by Time Steps.



<b>A Victorian Christmas in Ranfurly House: Victorian Christmas Art</b>	<p>In art workshops pupils will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be taught how to make Victorian-themed Christmas decorations</li> <li>• Be guided and assisted by an artist and centre staff</li> <li>• Create Christmas cornucopias and doves that they can take home</li> </ul>	<b>Primary/Post-Primary</b> KS2/3 pupils in Mid Ulster primary and post-primary schools and colleges.	Monday 2 – Friday 6 December / Monday 9 – Wednesday 11 December 2024.  2 x 1½ hour sessions each day: 10.00 and 12.30.	£2100	<b>Visitor Experience &amp; Education Officer</b>  <b>Facilitated by Artikles</b>
<b>A Victorian Christmas in Ranfurly House: Victorian Christmas Customs</b>	<p>In this activity pupils will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take part in a living history presentation, set in 1890 and led by Mrs. Smith, the housekeeper of Northland House, Dungannon</li> <li>• Learn about the traditions of the Victorian Christmas, finding out how these customs originated</li> <li>• Participate in Victorian parlour games, ask questions and make comment.</li> </ul>	<b>Primary/Post-Primary</b> KS2/3 pupils in Mid Ulster primary and post-primary schools and colleges.	Monday 2 – Friday 6 December / Monday 9 – Wednesday 11 December 2024.  2 x 1 hour sessions each day: 10.00 and 13.00.	£1200	Visitor Experience & Education Officer  Facilitated by Time Steps.
<b>Words on the Hill</b>	<p>Investigating and celebrating the heritage of the Hill of The O’Neill through storytelling and creative writing.</p> <p>One 2½ hour session each day, led by the EO and Liz Weir.</p>	<b>Primary/Post-Primary</b> KS2/3 pupils in Mid Ulster schools and colleges	<u>February</u> Monday 3 – Friday 7 February 2024	£1000	Visitor Experience & Education Officer  Specialist Facilitator

			One 2½ hour session each day,		
Heritage through celebration of Quarter Days: St Brigid's Cross workshops for children	Children will learn about the traditions associated with St Brigid's Day, and then will be taught how to make St Brigid's Crosses by a tutor.	<b>Primary</b> KS2 pupils in Dungannon area primary schools At least 3 classes, approx. 90 pupils.	First week in February. ½ day session	£500	Visitor Experience & Education Officer Tutor to be appointed.



<p>Heritage – Dungannon’s Workhouse: World Book Day Events</p> <p>World Book Day: Thursday 6 March 2025</p>	<p>Activity offered jointly with Dungannon Library. Through research and participating in living history, pupils find out about the Irish Famine and Dungannon Workhouse, the stimulus being the novel “Under the Hawthorn Tree”.</p> <p>Facilitated by Time Steps.</p>	<p>Primary KS2 pupils in Mid Ulster primary schools</p>	<p>February / March 2 weeks 1 x 1 hour session each day HOTON/RH and Library</p>	<p>£800</p>	
<p>Heritage Exploration - Create a Castle!</p>	<p>An activity for P3/4 pupils which combines learning about the buildings and people associated with Hill of The O’Neill, with an art workshop in which pupils construct castles from recycled materials.</p>	<p>Primary P3/4 pupils in Mid Ulster and beyond, primary schools. KS1 250 pupils approx. and staff</p>	<p>March 2 weeks 1 x 2½ hour session each day</p>	<p>£1600</p>	<p>Visitor Experience &amp; Education Officer Facilitator Artikles</p>
<p>Heritage School Engagement</p>	<p>Guided class visits to the Flight of the Earls and Plantation of Ulster exhibition and Hill of The O’Neill. Targeting both Primary and post-primary pupils from schools and colleges across Northern Ireland and in ROI</p>	<p>Primary/Post-Primary</p>	<p>February to May</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Visitor Experience &amp; Education Officer</p>
<p>Heritage and Forest School Development</p>	<p>From September to December, 6 schools participate in four sessions per school. Teachers and school staff involved are able to undertake a Forest School Leader</p>	<p>Nursery/Primary All Mid Ulster nursery and</p>	<p>September to December 2024</p>	<p>£3000</p>	<p>Visitor Experience &amp; Education Officer Parks Manager</p>

OCN Level 3 qualification, and they receive tuition from NIFSA personnel, thereby creating sustainability.

primary school – local to the Hill

Call for applications for 2024 -25 season

6 class places available

NIFSA Facilitator





# EVENTS

We will continue to deliver and host an array of events that incorporate our heritage and engage the local community and visitor.



## EVENTS

Project	Detail	Target	Timeline	Budget	Lead
<b>St Patrick's Day</b> (link to Arts Showcase in March)	<p>Celebration of Irish Culture including traditional music &amp; dance with additional arts &amp; crafts and various entertainment for families.</p> <p>Link with Irish Language Officer re: Seachtain na Gaeilge activities. Link with Community Cultural parade. Link with the Mid Ulster Arts Showcase</p>	3500 community/visitors	<b>March</b>	£8,000	Manager Link Seachtain Na Gaeilge Arts Development officer
<b>Summer Theatre</b>	Open air theatre performance on the hill to attract families and the wider community throughout the province.	250 Local community/visitors	<b>June/July</b>	£1000	Manager Project Support Assistant
<b>Shakespeare on the Hill 2024</b>	<p>A partnership project with Bardic Theatre. This two week theatre production of Shakespeare's Macbeth will provide an immersive theatrical experience aimed at both the public and school groups.</p> <p>The rationale for Shakespeare on the Hill is rooted in the fact that the Great O'Neill, as a well-known King throughout Europe, travelled across the UK and continental Europe engaging with royal families and leaders.</p>	<p>9 x morning performances 'Something wicked this Way Comes' Primary &amp; post primary</p> <p>12 performances in evening community/visitor</p>	<b>May, June or Sept 2024</b> Liaising with Bardic for conformation	£4,000	Manager Project Support Assistant Bardic

	<p>Around the same time Shakespeare was a noted playwright and moved in the same circles. It is highly likely that both historical figures would have been in the same places at the same time and that O'Neill would have experienced performances of Shakespeare's great works.</p>	<p>Performances target of 4,000 participants (TBA)</p>			
<p><b>Historic banquet – The wedding of Hugh O'Neill &amp; Mabel Bagenal</b></p>	<p>Work with private partners to deliver a Historic banquet. This banquet will be predominantly targeted at the travel trade and the International market via tour operators and through engagement with Tourism Ireland and NI.</p>	<p>2 banquets per year (tbc)</p> <p>Minimum 60 per banquet</p> <p>Community/visitors</p>	<p>TBC by hirer and MUDC Tourism</p>	<p>Reduced rate for hire facilities</p>	<p>Manager</p> <p>Tourism Officer (link to private promoter)</p> <p>Sales &amp; Marketing Officer</p>
<p><b>European Heritage Open Day</b></p>	<p>European Heritage Open Day is an annual event celebrating local architecture, history and culture throughout Europe.</p>	<p>50</p> <p>2x sessions (25 people per session)</p>	<p><b>September</b></p> <p>14<sup>th</sup> &amp; 15<sup>th</sup> September</p> <p>Free entry</p> <p>Craft classes</p>	<p>£600</p>	<p>Manager</p> <p>Visitor Experience &amp; Education Officer</p> <p>Project Support Officer</p>
<p><b>Murder Mystery</b></p>	<p>Organise and promote a historic Murder Mystery evening</p> <p>“Treachery in Tyrone” set in 1594 at the castle. The sudden and violent death of a nobleman, who has caused his untimely death and why, The Earl of Tyrone wants answers and the identity of the guilty party</p>	<p>60 participants</p> <p>Local community/visitors</p>	<p><b>October /November 2024</b></p> <p>December</p>	<p>£3,500</p>	<p>Manager</p> <p>Project Support Officer</p>

<p><b>Ulster Scots Language Week</b></p>	<p>A talk on the Ulster Scots language. A celebratory events with Scottish Ceilidh Dancing for the community.</p> <p>Link with Ulster Scots Community Network to raise profile of the event.</p>	<p>100 community /Visitors</p>	<p><b>November</b></p>	<p>£2000 Scottish Ceilidh</p>	<p>Manager Project Support Officer Ulster Scots Community Network</p>
<p><b>A Heritage Christmas at Hill of The O'Neill Santa's Grotto</b></p>	<p>Extend the Grotto for public. Incorporate schools for daytime sessions. Pupils will meet Santa Claus. Link to Council Corporate Events</p>	<p>600 community/ visitors</p>	<p><b>December 2024</b></p>	<p>£6,000</p>	<p>Manager Project Support Officer Marketing Officer</p>



## CONFERENCING & CIVIC SPACE

Mid Ulster, and indeed Northern Ireland, welcomes a significant number of business visitors (with and without family) for meetings, conferences and short-term working contracts. Tyrone is a significant hub for manufacturing and engineering. The Dungannon area in particular, with the largest crushing, screening and recycling sector in the world, offers a substantial untapped market with many global corporations in close proximity to Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House. This offers considerable potential to engage and attract the global businesses within our locality, enabling them to host events that impress and inspire their international clients at a unique location that provides an impressive backdrop and spectacular panoramas.

The unique selling point of its breathtaking views, combined with its heritage, presents the ability to create a sought-after location for all. The offering and expertise onsite could be exploited to provide bespoke options to enhance customer events such as food and wine tastings, craft demonstrations, lectures, banquets, workshops and of course entertainment.



## CONFERRING & CIVIC SPACE

Project	Detail	Target	Timeline	Budget	Lead
<b>Develop conferencing at Hill of The O'Neill and Ranfurly House</b>	Raise the profile of Hill of The O'Neill's suitability for conferences and meetings by showcasing its facilities with Visit Belfast Conferencing Team, local firms, Visit Derry and other channels  Develop dedicated, digital content to encourage business visitors to return/ or recommend HOTO&RH	Increase by a minimum of 10% from previous year	Ongoing	N/A	Manager Sales & Marketing Officer
<b>Viewing Tower</b>	Promote the viewing tower in all marketing materials and within the local community to increase usage	Local residents and visitor	Ongoing	N/A	Manager Sales & Marketing Officer
<b>Wedding Venue – for civic ceremonies</b>	Promote -Tower Room, Events Space, Plateau for Civic Ceremonies & afternoon tea	Local residents	Ongoing		Manager Sales & Marketing Officer

<b>Upgrade Square Box Technical Equipment</b>	Upgrade the facilities in the Square Box to keep up to date with technical advancements and attract greater footfall. Attract smaller hire uses e.g. community theatre etc.	Increase hires of space to attract different audiences			Manager Technical Supervisor
<b>Increase community engagement with local groups</b>	Facilitate the booking of the Hill of The O Neill, Ranfurly House and Gardiners Hall/venue for community use – balancing the other priority uses of the venue	Local residents and community groups	Ongoing	N/A	Manager Facility Supervisor Sales & Marketing Officer
<b>Chair Receptions</b>	Support the Chair's Dept. in the acknowledgement of civic accomplishments	N/A	Ongoing	N/A	Manager Chair's Office

## COMMUNITY PARK

We will enhance the facilities and opportunities for local residents through the creation and preservation of a picturesque, welcoming and clean space. We will ensure the maintenance and upkeep of the heritage park for both the local community and visitors. Through engagement with residents and landowners we will improve access to the Hill by reopening access routes; enabling residents to utilise the Town's EARLS Path.





# COMMUNITY PARK

Project	Description	Target	Timeline	Budget	Lead
<b>Mast</b>	Work towards the removal of the telecommunications mast. Feasibility study to ascertain the cost of removing the mast and the restoration of the sites landscape and recognition as a significant historical asset.	Local Residents & Visitors	Ongoing		Manager NI Water
<b>Enhancing access to Hill of The O'Neill via Circular Road, and Market Square</b>	Explore the feasibility of reopening of Circular Road entrance onto Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House to encourage residents to visit the heritage park and utilise the Earls Trail that had been previously developed. Explore potential of access to HOTO from Market Square through neighbouring property.	Local residents Land Owners	April 2024	Through funding opportunities	Manager Legal Services Property Services Land Owners

**Minutes of Mid Ulster Policing and Community Safety Partnership meeting held on 13 December 2023 in Council Chamber, Dungannon and via MS Teams at 3.30pm**

**Present:** Councillor Sean McPeake (Chair), Councillor Eva Cahoon, Councillor Eimear Carney, Councillor Clement Cuthbertson, Councillor Denise Johnston, Councillor Cathal Mallaghan, Councillor Brian McGuigan, Councillor John McNamee, Councillor Deirdre Varsani

Alexandra Black (Vice Chair), Sue Chada, Grace Meerbeek, Ciaran McElhone

Sharon Crooks (NIHE), Chris Morrison (NIFRS), Ryan McGee (EA), Superintendent Michael O'Loan (PSNI), Leo Quinn (EA)

**Apologies:** Alison Campbell-Smyth (NH&SCT), Councillor Anne Forde

**In Attendance:** Michael McCrory (PCSP Manager), Annette McGahan (PCSP Officer), Shauna McCloskey (PCSP Officer), Martina McCullagh (PCSP Assistant)

The Meeting commenced at 3.35pm.

**PCSP287/23 WELCOME**

The Chair, Councillor McPeake welcomed all to the meeting.

**PCSP288/23 DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Members were reminded of their obligation in relation to declarations of interest.

**PCSP289/23 MINUTES OF MID ULSTER POLICING & COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2023**

The Minutes of Mid Ulster Policing and Community Safety Partnership meeting held on Wednesday 6 September 2023 were approved by Members.

**Proposed by:** Councillor Brian McGuigan

**Seconded by:** Councillor Deirdre Varsani

**PCSP290/23 MATTERS ARISING**

**PCSP282/23 - RE-DEPLOYABLE CCTV CAMERAS**

The PCSP Manager advised Members that 10 re-deployable CCTV cameras have been procured, 3 of which are being utilised in areas referred by the Crime Prevention Officer to help reduce anti-social behaviour. There is a further 7 available to utilise in areas where issues might arise in the future.

**PCSP283/23 - THEMATIC & PCSP MEETING DATES & TIMES 2023/2024**

Councillor McNamee advised Members that the work is now complete in Cookstown Council offices to allow the facilitation of hybrid meetings.

The PCSP Manager advised that availability of Cooktown Chamber for meetings can now be re-visited.

## **PCSP285/23 - ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Focus Meeting to discuss flags and offensive posters erected in Town Centres across Mid Ulster District**

In response to an update request from Councillor McNamee, the PCSP Manager advised that a Focus Meeting to discuss flags and offensive posters erected in town centres across Mid Ulster will be arranged in January 2024, and Members will be updated when a date has been confirmed.

### **Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs)**

In response to a query from Alexandra Black, Vice Chair regarding SIDs, Shauna McCloskey, PCSP Officer advised that following a few issues all SIDs have been repaired and returned to us. The list of locations is with Technical Services and the SIDs will be erected over the next few weeks.

## **PCSP291/23 PROJECTS UPDATE**

The following Projects update was provided by PCSP Manager and Officers.

**Strategic Priority 1** – *to ensure effective delivery in response to local need, and improve the visibility and recognition of the work of the PCSP through effective consultation, communication, and engagement*

25 social media posts, 4 PR campaigns/projects developed and launched, approximately 2,500 PCSP posters/leaflets distributed and 3 public engagement & consultation events held.

**Strategic Priority 2** – *to improve community safety by prioritising and addressing local safety issues, tackling crime and anti-social behaviour*

### **Anti-social behaviour**

The incidents of ASB have reduced overall across the Mid Ulster district. The figures spiked in 2020/21, this was due to the inclusion of Covid offences. For 2021/22 and 2022/23 the figures are reduced, and the trend line demonstrates a downward trend for ASB. The PCSP Manager provided a brief overview of projects for the remainder of the year included anti-social driving reconstruction, crash car simulator, SIDs and YEPs. Currently EA Youth are looking at a youth engagement programme aimed at young women and girls, it is hoped to have 24 participants in Dungannon and Cookstown focusing on rape prevention education and self-defence.

Ryan McGee (EA Youth) advised that they have a programme called 'Youth Volunteer Academy' for the Dungannon area and is predominantly geared towards young males who have been highlighted by Police, Football Clubs and Dungannon Youth Resource Centre. It is due to commence in January 2024. The programme will consist of early intervention work to avoid the young people progressing into more serious crime. There is an accreditation on completion of the programme.

### **Night-Time Economy**

Annette McGahan, PCSP Officer, provided an update on night time economy Projects.

### **Penalty Notice Campaign**

The Penalty Notice Campaign which highlights the cost of your night out is currently running on various bus routes and outdoor advertising sites throughout Mid Ulster.

### **NTE Training**

The main bar and club owners throughout Mid Ulster will be contacted in the new year to ascertain if there is a desire for their staff to participate in a free one day Counter Measures Course.

### **Crime Prevention & Information Awareness Event**

Members were updated on a Crime Prevention & Information Awareness Event for Older People which is taking place on Thursday 18 January 2024 in the Valley Hotel, Fivemiletown at 10.30am. When the programme for the event is finalised, it will be circulated to Members.

In response to a question from Grace Meerbeek in relation to statistics for 'Ask for Angela' initiative, Superintendent O'Loan advised that they are not informed when this initiative is utilised by an individual, police only become involved if criminality is reported. This service has been rolled out across Northern Ireland, further checks will be made to ascertain if statistics are available.

### **Vulnerable Victims of Crime**

Shauna McCloskey, PCSP Officer provided an update on Vulnerable Victims of Crime Projects.

**Teen Safe Programme** – this was part of the Halloween Intervention in Draperstown which was well attended, and feedback was excellent.

**Internet Safety Programme** – Beam will deliver the Internet Safety Programme to Key Stage 2 pupils during January and February 2024. This will incorporate 'Safer Internet Day' on the 6 February 2024. Internet and cyber safety also forms part of the Positive Relationships Programme.

**Domestic Violence** - Provision and fitting of security equipment to high-risk Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) domestic violence victims. All referrals are identified by the CPO. During the period from April to September 2023 there has been 10 referrals with a total of 25 pieces of security equipment fitted in homes.

**Domestic Abuse Advertising Campaign** - 'Behind Closed Doors' campaign will commence on 20/12/2023 and will appear on backs of buses, adshels and via social media and will run for several weeks.

**Positive Relationships** – This programme will be delivered by Causeway and Mid Ulster Women's Aid. There is a keen interest in this programme and 11 schools to date have now expressed an interest, dates will be confirmed with all participating schools.

**Tracker Units** – There are 13 devices available, 5 applications have been received and 3 devices have been fitted to date, uptake is continuing to be low. Members were very willing to promote the initiative in their areas and Grace Meerbeek requested copies of leaflets to circulate with neighbours.

### **Up-coming Events**

Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) event is scheduled to take place on the 30 January 2024 in the Terrace Hotel, Magherafelt in partnership with the CPO.

Responding to a question from Councillor Cahoon in relation to the time of day events are held, Shauna McCloskey, PCSP Officer advised that timing of events are taken into consideration, it is a case of trying to get a date and time to suit all agencies involved as well as trying to maximise attendance numbers at the event itself.

There will be 3 Neighbourhood Watch events for co-ordinators in Dungannon, Cookstown and Magherafelt. Confirmation of dates will be circulated to Members in due course.

Alexandra Black, Vice Chair commended Inspector McNeill on the excellent event held at The Swifts FC grounds in Dungannon on the 6 December 2023, the White Ribbon Foundation gave a presentation, and it was attended by a range of sporting organisations.

Councillor Varsani stated that it would be very helpful where possible if upcoming events are included in Members' calendars for ease of access and reference purposes.

Councillor McGuigan extended his appreciation to PCSP, EA Youth Service and NPT for the programme of diversionary activities over the Halloween period in Draperstown, they were very successful and helped reduce incidents of anti-social behaviour.

Councillor McGuigan highlighted the need to ensure off licenses are adhering to the sale of alcohol legislation in relation to underage drinking.

### **Street Safe App**

The PCSP Manager informed Members about a 'Street Safe App' which is UK wide and allows individuals to report areas where they do not feel safe. All the information is received by Police, the results can then be looked at and areas of concern can be addressed, an example would be an area that may require additional lighting. The Street Safe App can be accessed on the Safer U App. This ties in with tackling Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) and will be promoted on social media.

### ***Strategic Priority 3 – to support confidence in policing, including through collaborative problem solving with communities***

This priority deals with ensuring local accountability through the Policing Committee's role in monitoring police performance, identifying priorities from the PCSP Plan, delivering initiatives that link to identified local problems that impact confidence in policing and provide a platform for PCSP and PSNI to engage with communities.

There are currently 32 Neighbourhood Watch Schemes across the district with upcoming engagement events being arranged for Dungannon, Cookstown and Magherafelt in quarter 4. A programme to engage with high risk youths to deter repeat behaviour and reoffending will take place in quarter 4, EA Youth Service and PSNI will work jointly.

**PCSP292/23 PCSP ACTION PLAN 24/25**

The PCSP Manager referred to the Strategic Plan covering 2022/2025 and that the PCSP Action Plan has been reviewed annually, 2024/25 being the final year for the current PCSP. The PCSP team have reviewed all projects, statistics and trend lines, the outcome of which is contained in the draft Action Plan for 2024/25, an overview of the document was provided to Members.

Members were invited to consider the draft Action Plan 2024/25, which will be re-visited in the new year with suggestions/amendments by Members taken into consideration.

The PCSP Manager advised that the Policing Plan meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 24 January 2024, it is proposed to hold a PCSP meeting just before this to solely discuss any additional information or amendments Members want included in the Action Plan for 2024/25. Members were in agreement.

**PCSP293/23 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business.

**PCSP294/23 Date of Next Meeting**

The next PCSP meeting will take place on Wednesday 6 March 2024 in Council Chamber, Dungannon and via MS Teams at 3.30pm.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending today's meeting and wished everyone a very Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year.

The meeting ended at 4.20pm.

<b>Report on</b>	Health, Leisure & Wellbeing Service Level Agreements 2024/25
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Martin Conlan, Recreation & Countryside Officer

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To agree proposals on Community Service Level Agreements (SLA's) for the financial year 2024/25 only.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	Previously in March 2016, the Development committee considered and resolved to adopt proposals for annual service levels agreements (minute reference: D075/16) and each year thereafter, a report has been brought forward for Members consideration on annual service level agreements.
2.2	Previously in March 2023, Members resolved to approve the approach for the April 23 – March 24 year (minute reference: D049/23): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fivemiletown College Youth Annexe - £50,000</li> <li>• Backrow Recreation Centre, Draperstown - £10,000</li> <li>• Battery Harbour Management Company, Battery Harbour - £16,011</li> <li>• Muintor na Mointeach Ltd, Washingbay Wetlands Park - £3,126</li> <li>• Pomeroy Community Projects, Pomeroy Forest - £6,500</li> <li>• Traad, Ballyronan and Ballyinderry Development Association (TABBDA) Ballyronan Marina - £6,000.</li> <li>• Kildress Community projects, Killucan Picnic Area - £3,365.</li> <li>• Traad Wildlife &amp; Conservation Club, Traad Point - £2,000</li> <li>• Broughderg Area Development Association (BADA) for provision of a caretaking/maintenance service at Davagh Forest MBT Trailhead - £11,434</li> <li>• Protect Slieve Gallion (PSG) Community Group Iniscarn for caretaker and cleansing duties within Iniscarn Forest - £6,427.20</li> </ul>
2.3	This report details proposals for the community SLA's for the financial year 2024/25 only.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	Council review all Service Level Agreements annually based on a mixture of performance indicators and service provision - this ensures that service level objectives meet with Council's satisfaction and are monitored continuously.
3.2	The following groups have met the agreed requirements for the 23/24 year and it is proposed therefore to continue into the 24/25 year on the basis of the of the current

	<p>arrangements with a renewed emphasis on the previously agreed key performance indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fivemiletown College Youth Annexe for provision of leisure services programmes including swimming activities - £50,000</li> <li>• Workspace Backrow Recreation Centre, Draperstown for provision of leisure services programmes - £10,000 <i>(note that Workspace also pay Council £10,000 per annum for lease of land that the Backrow Recreation Centre is built on)</i></li> <li>• Battery Harbour Management Company, Battery Harbour for inspection and maintenance requirements - £16,011</li> <li>• Muintor na Mointeach Ltd, Washingbay Wetlands Park for inspection and maintenance requirements - £3,126</li> <li>• Pomeroy Community Projects, Pomeroy Forest for inspection and maintenance requirements - £6,500</li> <li>• Traad, Ballyronan and Ballyinderry Development Association (TABBDA) Ballyronan Marina for idelivery of required services - £6,000</li> <li>• Kildress Community projects, Killucan Picnic Area for inspection and maintenance requirements - £3,365</li> <li>• Traad Wildlife &amp; Conservation Club, Traad Point for inspection and maintenance requirements - £2,000</li> <li>• Broughderg Area Development Association (BADA) Davagh Forest MBT Trailhead for inspection and maintenance requirements - £11.434</li> <li>• Protect Slieve Gallion (PSG) Community Group Iniscarn for caretaker and cleansing duties within Iniscarn Forest - £6,427.20</li> </ul> <p>3.3 Some groups have identified financial pressures with cost to deliver these services rising – therefore they may not be able to continue with current arrangements and there is potential that service delivery standards may need to be reviewed and reduced in line with the available budgets. It is recommended to permit Officers to deal with this on a case by case basis as and when required and going forward it is anticipated that all community partnership arrangements in respect of Council assets may be considered and reviewed as part of the recently agreed motion to develop a Community Wealth Building Framework.</p> <p>In advance of this, Officers will review SLA’s later in 2024 in terms of affordability, effectiveness and value for money, with any future proposals/inflationary monetary increases to be considered as part of the 2025/2026 rates estimates process.</p>
<p><b>4.0</b></p>	<p><b>Other Considerations</b></p>
<p><b>4.1</b></p>	<p><b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b></p>



	Financial: All Service Level Agreement payments are contained within existing budgets and there is provision within the 2024/25 Health, Leisure and Wellbeing budgets allocations.
	Human: Officer time to administer and monitor delivery of agreed SLA's.
	Risk Management: Considered in line with relevant policies and procedures.
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: None anticipated at this juncture.
	Rural Needs Implications: None anticipated at this juncture.
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	To note the contents of this report and give approval for the Health, Leisure & Wellbeing Service Level Agreements for the period 2024/25 financial year only
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
	N/A



<b>Report on</b>	Request for Support
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Leigh Gilmore, Health and Wellbeing Manager

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To provide information on a recent request for support for a project bid to a funder from the Clanrye Group.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	The Clanrye Group have advised Officers that they are currently working towards applying to the Peace Plus funding programme, more specifically Theme 4.1 Collaborative Health and Social Care. Peace Plus is administered by SEUPB
2.2	The Clanrye Group have therefore approached Council requesting a letter of support and permission to include this reference within their funding application.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	A high-level summary of the proposed application is enclosed within the appendix.
3.2	The Clanrye Group have requested a letter of support from various partners and confirmed that there is no financial requirement expected from Council with regards to this application or should the proposed project be awarded funding.  The Clanrye Group have noted that should their application be successful, they aspire for this to be a 4-year project, commencing 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2025 and would ask partner organisations (including Council) to promote amongst our ongoing support services and populations within Mid Ulster.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	Financial: No financial commitment or outlay from Council
	Human: No anticipated significant human commitment aside from coordinating the letter of support and thereafter if the project is successful then the ongoing promotion of this project through existing referral pathways.
	Risk Management: N/A
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>

	Equality & Good Relations Implications:
	Rural Needs Implications:
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	To note the contents of this report and to give consideration to supporting the Clanrye Group by way of issuing a letter of support for their project for submission as part of an application to Peace Plus.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	Appendix A: Project Proposal Appendix B: Draft Letter of Support

# Peace Plus Proposal: Theme 4.1 Collaborative Health and Social Care

A FAMILY BASED SOCIAL PRESCRIBING PROJECT

## The Problem

There is a high prevalence of mental health issues amongst families (both adults and children) cross our target area. These issues are caused by or compounded by a range of factors including (not exhaustive)

- Loneliness/isolation
- Addictions or hidden harm in the family home
- Trauma/Adverse Childhood Experiences
- Challenging behaviour in children
- Caring responsibilities for both children and adults
- Bereavement
- Social Determinant of health related issues such as unemployment, poverty, low education
- Underlying depression and anxiety

## Evidence

- High levels of waiting lists of CAMHs
- Recent evaluations of partner projects such as Beacon FSP and Mind Matters
- Research reports such as Bunting et al
- Tacit knowledge of partners
- Consultations with statutory and VCSE providers in the area

## The Intervention

To address the identified problem, partners are proposing the development and delivery of a family based Social Prescribing Project targeting **10,000** participants from across the SEHSCT, SHSCT and Community Healthcare Organisation 7 (comprising the Counties of Monaghan, Cavan and Louth). ***By family we mean the wider family unit in all its diversity, that this can include parents, children, siblings, grandparents and guardians. The project will work with participants across the life course.*** Our Social Prescribing Project proposes to achieve the following key outcomes:

People Based Outcomes (primarily adults)	Family Based Outcomes	System Based Outcomes
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Participants are empowered to better manage their own care</li> <li>2. Participants improve social connectedness</li> <li>3. Participants improve mental and emotional wellbeing</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improved overall family wellbeing where children and families are supported to thrive</li> <li>2. Improved family cohesion</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reduced pressure on mental health waiting lists (adult and children)</li> </ol>

We will measure change using a combination of validated evaluation tools including e.g. SWMWBS, WHO-5, Family Star, Social Connectedness Scale and through qualitative engagements with primary and secondary care waiting lists.

## The Participants

The project will target 10,000 participants over a 4 year period. Multiple individuals can be engaged from 1 family, we anticipate that the project will engage a minimum of 4000 families over the 4 year period. Examples of family composition include:

- a) An adult, single parent with 2 children who is struggling to cope with a child’s challenging behaviour linked to ADHD and where there is hidden harm/trauma in the household resulting from an adverse childhood experience. This impacts the other sibling.
- b) An adult who has caring responsibility for their elderly parent who is living with a disability and/or chronic pain. The individual has struggled to sustain employment as a result.

This reflects engagement of 148 participants per Social Prescriber per annum. Participants will be referred to the project from a wide range of sources, building on the existing relationships between the project partners and various referral agents across the target area. The focus on the entire family unit provides the flexibility to focus and refine our support on specific ages where there are strong existing services, ensuring that we complement rather than displace services in each area.



## The Project

The project will be delivered by a network of [XX] partner organisations who collectively will employ the following staff:

- a) **{XX} Social Prescribers** – responsible for directly engaging participants, carrying out person centred baseline assessments, developing family centred plans, facilitating direct interventions with families as well as signposting to additional community services.
- b) **{XX} Community Connectors** – responsible for maintaining a network of cross border peer support groups. These groups will be developed thematically based on the emerging needs and interests of participants (i.e. bereavement, trauma, isolation). Community connectors will facilitate online and in-person engagements for participants post their interactions with the Social Prescriber to sustain long term, cross border connections.

### Step 1 – Baseline Assessment by a Social Prescriber

On referral to the project, each participant will engage in a baseline assessment with a Social Prescriber. This baseline assessment will explore needs, interests and challenges. It can be delivered in a persons home to encourage uptake, or online. The baseline assessment will have a therapeutic component and will result in the development of a family centred plan aligned to emerging needs.

### Step 2 – Family Centred Plan

The family centred plan will be developed around 2 distinct components:

1. **Component 1 Direct Delivery by Social Prescriber** – each participant will have up to 4 engagements with the Social Prescriber (including the baseline assessment). These engagements will be person centred but are likely to include: mentoring, goal setting, confidence building, stress management and personal development.
2. **Component 2 Interventions delivered by a network of specialist facilitators** – the partners will procure a framework of delivery agents across the themes of: parenting support, physical activity & healthy eating, counselling, family support, social inclusion. Each participant will engage in at least 2 interventions from the menu of available support services. These will be delivered on a group and cross border basis.

*\*steps 1 and 2 comprise 2 distinct 'episodes of care'. Episode of Care 1 is up to 4 direct engagements with the Social Prescriber including baseline assessment. Episode of Care 2 is the 2 interventions by specialist facilitators\**



### Step 3 – After Care Support: Referral and Sustainable Support Networks

There are 3 key routes to sustainable ongoing support:

#### Onward Referral

Each participant will be supported to engage in an existing community based service, aligned to their specific areas of interest and to address their person centred challenge. This onward referral will represent the completion of the initial Social Prescribing Process

#### Locality Based Peer Support

Organised by individual Social Prescribers, this may include local walking groups, chatty benches and regular arts and crafts groups that will continue to meet – organised, led and facilitated by Social Prescribers

#### Cross Border Peer Support Groups

Organised by {XX} specifically appointed Community Connectors, this groups will be based on communities of interest, or based on emerging needs of families. For example, the establishment of a cross border bereavement support group, a cross border carer support group, a cross border trauma support group. The community connectors will organise meetings, invite guest speakers and experts, coordinate in person engagements and maintain a connected community to ensure sustainable peer support.

*\*participation in an after care peer support group represents Episode of Care 3\**

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## Key Outputs

The project will achieve the following key outputs:

1. 10,000 participants engaged over 4 years, representing a minimum of 4000 families
2. 10,000 participants receive at least 2 'episodes of care' comprising up to 6 interventions = 20,000 episodes of care and up to 60,000 interventions
3. Approximately **2,500 participants** will participate in Locality Based Peer Support Groups or Cross Border Peer Support Groups (a 3<sup>rd</sup> 'Episode of Care) = 2,500 Episodes of Care
4. Total of 22,500 Episodes of Care delivered by the Project.



<insert date>

Clanrye Group  
Drumalane Mill  
The Quays  
Newry  
BT35 8QS

Dear Liam,

**RE: - Letter of Support**

Mid Ulster District Council are aware of Clanrye Group's plan alongside partners County Down Rural Community Network and Family Resource Centre Monaghan for the development and delivery of a Social Prescribing project targeting participants from across the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust, Southern Health and Social Care Trust and Community Healthcare Organisation Ireland (Comprising Counties Monaghan, Cavan and Louth).

We are aware that the project will follow a family-based approach, meaning the wider family unit in all its diversity, to include parents, children, siblings, grandparents, and guardians. The project will work with participants across the life course to tackle the high-prevalence of mental health issues across the target area.

Mid Ulster District Council understand some of the project outputs will include –

- 10,000 participants engaged, representing a minimum of 4,000 families
- participants receiving up to 6 interventions of care
- participation in Locality Based Peer Support Groups or Cross Border Peer Support Groups.

The outputs identified will contribute to improved social connectedness, improved mental and emotional wellbeing, and improved overall family wellbeing and family cohesion.

We participated in the consultation process to inform a funding submission to the SEUPB. Mid Ulster District Council endorse the need for this project in the target area and believe that the proposed approach can deliver the anticipated outputs and results.

We pride ourselves on our continued support of local initiatives that tackle health inequalities whilst championing our residents to embrace lifelong healthy choices that improve wellbeing and their quality of life as residents of the Mid Ulster District. The proposed project dovetails with our strategic objectives and as such, we would welcome the development of a project of this nature and we will support the referral of participants annually onto this programme.

We would like to wish Clanrye Group and project partners County Down Rural Community Network and the Family Resource Centre every success with the project and are hopeful that the project application is looked upon favourably by the evaluation panel.

Yours Faithfully

<insert name>

<b>Report on</b>	Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI) Data Sharing Agreement with Mid Ulster District Council
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure and Wellbeing
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Melanie Patterson, Environmental Health Service Manager

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	For Members to consider a Data Sharing Agreement between the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI) and Mid Ulster District Council.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	The Data Sharing Agreement between HSENI and Mid Ulster District Council is an agreement which governs the sharing of information between the two organisations and facilitates their respective statutory regulatory role.
2.2	The data sharing agreement covers the routine or recurring transfer and access to personal data, including sensitive personal data.
2.3	The following relevant laws are acknowledged as binding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Data Protection Act 2018</li> <li>• The UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)</li> <li>• The Freedom of Information Act 2000</li> <li>• The Environmental Information Regulations 2004</li> </ul>
2.4	The parties will also be bound by the mandatory minimum measures for handling personal data as laid out by the Cabinet Office in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data Handling Procedures in Government.</li> <li>• Cross Government Action Mandatory Minimum Measures documentation.</li> </ul>
2.5	The parties have determined that it is fair, lawful and in the public interest to share this data.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	The purpose of the data sharing agreement set out in Appendix 1 is to acknowledge the sharing of information between the HSENI and Mid Ulster District Council which allows each to fulfil their statutory functions under certain Health and Safety legislation referred to below.

	<p><b>The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997 (RIDDOR).</b></p> <p>3.2 The enforcing authority under RIDDOR is either the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI) or the local Council and all incidents, diseases and dangerous occurrences are allocated to the respective regulator by means of the ‘Main Activity’ consideration and the location of where the incident occurred (as set out in the Health and Safety (Enforcing Authority) Regulations (NI) 1999).</p> <p>3.3 Since 1 April 2013, all employers have had the option to report any work-related incidents to HSENI regardless of who the relevant enforcing authority is for the business (via the online Centralised Accident Reporting System). HSENI process all notifications onto its RIDDOR database and where necessary, forward on / allocate to the appropriate local Council to register and process in the normal way.</p> <p>3.4 In addition to RIDDOR, other reports / notifications may also be made to each regulatory party under the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regulation 32 of the Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012</li> <li>• Construction (Design and Management) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 (CDM Regulations)</li> <li>• Regulation 9 of the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012</li> <li>• Regulation 10 of the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations (NI) 1999</li> <li>• Notifications of defects in lifting equipment which poses a danger to persons</li> <li>• Complaints about unsafe work activities</li> </ul> <p>3.5 On occasions notifications and reports are incorrectly submitted to a local Council in the first instance, thus requiring transfer back to the HSENI as the correct enforcing authority or incorrectly submitted to the HSENI requiring transfer to the appropriate Council.</p> <p>3.6 If agreed, each party will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be bound by the terms of this agreement;</li> <li>• Protect Crown Copyright and any intellectual property rights invested in the information provided;</li> <li>• Not exploit the information for commercial purposes;</li> <li>• Use the information only for the purposes stated;</li> <li>• Keep the data for no longer than is necessary;</li> <li>• Provide access to the minimum number of people for fulfilling the purpose;</li> <li>• Maintain a current list of those with access to the information;</li> </ul> <p>3.7 Each party to this agreement cannot pass on or disclose any of the information provided to them to any Third Party unless required to by law.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	Financial: N/A

	Human: No additional staff time required
	Risk Management: Considered in line with relevant council policies and procedures.
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	It is recommended that Members agree the Data Sharing Agreement between Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI) and Mid Ulster District Council as enclosed within the appendix.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	Appendix A - Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI) Data Sharing Agreement with Mid Ulster District Council



# Health & Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI)

## Data Sharing Agreement with Mid Ulster District Council

<b>Agreement Owner</b>	
<b>Version</b>	<b>1.0</b>
<b>Issue Date</b>	<b>13/12/ 2023</b>

## **INTRODUCTION**

This document is an agreement which governs the sharing of information between the Health and Safety Executive Northern Ireland (HSENI) and Mid Ulster District Council. It covers the routine or recurring transfer and access to personal data, including sensitive personal data.

The following relevant laws are acknowledged as binding:

- The Data Protection Act 2018
- The UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
- The Freedom of Information Act 2000
- The Environmental Information Regulations 2004

The parties will also be bound by the mandatory minimum measures for handling personal data as laid out by the Cabinet Office in:

- Data Handling Procedures in Government;
- Cross Government Action Mandatory Minimum Measures documentation.

The parties have determined that it is fair, lawful and in the public interest to share this data (see Annex 1).

## **BACKGROUND**

The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997 (RIDDOR), places a legal duty on employers, self-employed people and people in control of premises to report deaths, certain types of injury, some occupational diseases and dangerous occurrences that *'arise out of or in connection with work'*. Generally, this covers incidents where the work activities, equipment or environment (including how work is carried out, organised or supervised) contributed in some way to the circumstances of the accident. RIDDOR reports alert enforcing authorities to events and helps them to decide whether to investigate serious incidents.

The enforcing authority under RIDDOR is either the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI) or the local Council and this is allocated by the Main Activity in the location the incident occurred (as set out in the Health and Safety (Enforcing Authority) Regulations (NI) 1999).



These reports enable the HSENI or local Councils (the 'enforcing authorities') to identify where and how health and safety risks arise, track trends and help target activities.

Since 1 April 2013, employers have the option to report all work-related incidents to HSENI regardless of who the relevant enforcing authority is for the business. HSENI will process all forms onto its RIDDOR database and where necessary, forward on to the appropriate local Council to register and process in the normal way.

In addition to RIDDOR, reports/notifications may also be made to the parties under:

**Regulation 32 of the Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012**

Placing a duty on those working on, or owning power network apparatus such as generators, distributors, meter operators and others to report injuries, near misses, fires or explosions which have occurred as a result of work on or near to electrical systems by others, or incidents arising from leisure and other non-work activities in proximity to electrical plant, or from equipment failure

**Construction (Design and Management) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 (CDM Regulations)**

The NI10 form is completed and submitted in order to make notifications of new construction projects as defined in the CDM regulations.

**Regulation 9 of the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012**

All asbestos removal work needs to be carried out with the appropriate controls in place. However, for some types of work, employers must meet additional requirements. Licensed asbestos removal work requires notification to the relevant enforcing authority 14 days prior to the work commencing. In addition, notifiable non-licensed work or NNLW, also requires employers to notify work with asbestos to the relevant enforcing authority before the work begins. In both cases, depending upon the circumstances, the enforcing authority for the removal may be either the relevant Council or HSENI.

**Regulation 10 of the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations (NI) 1999**

Notifications of defects in lifting equipment which poses a danger to persons

**Complaints about unsafe work activities**

Complaints made under the Health and Safety at Work (NI) Order 1978.

On occasion reports may incorrectly be submitted to a local Council, thus requiring transfer to the HSENI as the correct enforcing authority or incorrectly submitted to the HSENI requiring transfer to the appropriate Council.

The purpose of this data sharing agreement is to acknowledge the sharing of information between the HSENI and Mid Ulster District Council which allows each to fulfil their statutory functions under the legislation referred to above.

### **AGREEMENT**

- Be bound by the terms of this agreement;
- Protect Crown Copyright and any intellectual property rights invested in the information provided;
- Not exploit the information for commercial purposes;
- Use the information only for the purposes stated;
- Keep the data for no longer than is necessary;
- Provide access to the minimum number of people for fulfilling the purpose;
- Maintain a current list of those with access to the information;

Each party to this agreement will not pass on or disclose any of the information provided to them to any Third Party unless required to by law.

Material changes to the agreement may be made only with the consent of both signatories.

<b>General nature of the information transferred</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Name of person making the report;</li> <li>2. Person making the report – their job title;</li> <li>3. Person making report – their telephone number;</li> <li>4. Person making report – their email address;</li> <li>5. Signature of person making the report;</li> <li>6. Name of injured party/deceased;</li> <li>7. Address of the injured party/deceased;</li> <li>8. Home phone number of injured party/deceased;</li> <li>9. Employment details of injured party/deceased; and</li> <li>10. Details of Injury (health information).</li> </ol>
<b>Information Asset Owner for HSENI - Name:</b>	Danielle Mills
<b>Signature: (Deputy Principal level or above)</b>	Danielle Mills
<b>Date:</b>	13.12.2023
<b>DP Registration Number:</b> (mandatory where personal data is involved)	ZB395783
<b>Name of Council:</b> (legal entity and address)	Mid Ulster District Council
<b>Name of Responsible Officer:</b>	Melanie Patterson
<b>Position:</b>	Environmental Health Service Manager
<b>Signature:</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	02.01.2024
<b>Contact details:</b>	Tel : 03000 132 132
<b>DP Registration Number:</b> (mandatory where personal data is involved)	ZA086387

<b>General Details of the Information Transfer</b>	
Security Impact Level of data	Personal data and sensitive personal data
Is personal information included?	Yes
Is the data anonymised?	No
Protective Marking applied to the data	OFFICIAL - SENSITIVE
Scale, size or volume of data (e.g. no. of records and aggregation)	On-going and dependent upon reports/notifications made to the parties
Term of the agreement (duration)	On-going
Continuance agreed until (date)	On-going
Review period for the agreement (at least annual)	Annual
HSENI Operational Owner	Danielle Mills
Council operational owner and / or named recipient	Melanie Patterson
Contact Details	03000 132 132
<b>Details of the Transfer</b>	
Method of Transfer or Transport (e.g. – on-line, (secure file transfer protocol) SFTP, Iron Key, Post, CD)	Electronic Transfer. The data will be sent to and from a secure mailbox.
Transport Medium	Electronically via Email
Frequency of transfer / periodicity	As required
Transfer log required? (Typically required for occasional or sporadic transfers)	Receipt confirmation required
Encryption required	No
Packaging and external marking requirements	N/A
Destination area – UK, EU or non-EU (NB: Agency Security Unit must be consulted in all cases of non-UK destinations)	UK

<b>Handling &amp; Usage by Mid Ulster District Council</b>	
Responsible person maintaining logs of receipts and people with authorised access, for inspection	Melanie Patterson
Handling agency (e.g. a courier: not mandatory information)	N/A
Local Security measures and arrangements required	Stored in a secure folder with limited access.
Does the recipient fall within the EU Paying Agency requirements? (If so, they will be required to show compliance with IS 27001.)	N/A
Log of receipts required?	Yes
Treatment or disposition of Information after use (Normally destroyed or possibly returned)	As per Retention and Disposal schedule.
Retention period after use (if applicable)	As per Retention and Disposal schedule.
<b>Handling &amp; Usage by HSENI</b>	
Responsible person maintaining logs of receipts and people with authorised access, for inspection	Danielle Mills
Handling agency (e.g. a courier: not mandatory information)	N/A
Local Security measures and arrangements required	Stored in a secure folder with limited access.
Does the recipient fall within the EU Paying Agency requirements? (If so, they will be required to show compliance with IS 27001.)	N/A
Log of receipts required?	Yes
Treatment or disposition of Information after use (Normally destroyed or possibly returned)	As per Retention and Disposal schedules
Retention period after use (if applicable)	As per Retention and Disposal schedules

<b>List of Specific Data Items included in the Transfer</b>	
<p>RIDDOR</p> <p>Report an Injury (NI2508)</p> <p>Report a Dangerous Occurrence (NI2508)</p> <p>Report a Disease Case (NI2508A)</p> <p>Report a Railway Incident (at a level crossing) (NI2508RB)</p> <p>Report a Railway Incident (not at a level crossing) (NI2508RA)</p> <p>Report of a Dangerous Gas Fitting (NI2508G2)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Name of person making the report</li> <li>2. Person making the report – their job title</li> <li>3. Person making report – their telephone number</li> <li>4. Person making report – their email address</li> <li>5. Signature of person making the report</li> <li>6. Name of injured party/deceased</li> <li>7. Address of the injured party/deceased</li> <li>8. Home phone number of injured party/deceased.</li> <li>9. Employment details of injured party/deceased.</li> <li>10. Details of Injury</li> </ol>
<p>Regulation 32 of the Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Name of person making the report</li> <li>2. Person making report – their job title</li> <li>3. Person making report – their telephone number</li> <li>4. Person making report – their email address</li> <li>5. Signature of person making the report</li> <li>6. Name of person(s) involved</li> <li>7. That person's telephone number</li> <li>8. That person's email address</li> </ol>
<p>Construction (Design and Management) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 (CDM Regulations)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Client name</li> <li>2. Client email address</li> <li>3. Client address and postcode</li> <li>4. Client telephone number</li> <li>5. Client signature plus printed name</li> </ol>
<p>Regulation 9 of the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Name of person making notification</li> <li>2. That person's email address</li> <li>3. That person's phone number</li> </ol>
<p>Regulation 10 of the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations (NI) 1999</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Name of person making the report</li> <li>2. Person making report – their job title</li> <li>3. Person making report – their telephone number</li> <li>4. Person making report – their email address</li> <li>5. Signature of person making the report</li> </ol>
<p>Complaints about unsafe work activities</p> <p>Complaints made under the Health and safety at Work (NI) Order 1978.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Name of person making the complaint</li> <li>2. That person's email address</li> <li>3. That person's phone number</li> </ol>

**END**

## **ANNEX 1 – LEGAL BASIS OF DATA SHARING**

Both parties to this agreement rely upon Article 6(1)(c) (compliance with a legal obligation) and (e) (performance of a task carried out in the public interest) of the UK GDPR as the lawful basis for the sharing of the information to enable each to fulfil the statutory functions imposed upon them by the RIDDOR and the various statutory provisions referred to above.

Some of the information to be shared also falls within the scope of the definition of ‘*special category data*’ (*sensitive personal information*) under Article 9(1) of the UK GDPR, this refers to *personal data consisting of information as to –*

- (a) the racial or ethnic origin,*
- (b) political opinions,*
- (c) religious or philosophical beliefs,*
- (d) trade union membership*
- (e) data concerning health (whether physical or mental health or condition),*
- (f) data concerning a natural person’s sex life or sexual orientation*

The information reported to both the Council and HSENI can, on occasion, consist of information concerning an individual’s health.

Reliance is placed upon Article 9(2)(g) of the UK GDPR (substantial public interest) as a basis upon which such information is processed.

Section 10 (2) of the Data Protection Act 2018 requires, when relying upon Article 9(2)(g) of the UK GDPR, the processing must also to meet a condition in Part II of Schedule 1 to the DPA 2018. The relevant conditions for the processing of information identified above is that found in paragraph 6 of Part II of Schedule 1 to the DPA 2018 –

- (a) the exercise of a function conferred on a person by an enactment or rule of law;*
- (b) the exercise of a function of the Crown, a Minister of the Crown or a government department.*

The relevant functions are those conferred upon the parties to this agreement by RIDDOR and the various statutory provisions referred to above.





<b>Report on</b>	Mobile Vendor Opportunities
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director for Health, Leisure & Wellbeing
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Paul Bailie, Open Spaces & Outdoor Recreation Development Manager

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To seek Member's views on a proposed approach to make available specific Council managed open spaces & recreation sites for mobile vendors.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	Mobile vendors are recognised operators that sell prepared food or drink from a vehicle or trailer and can offer a wide range of hot/cold food, confectionery, and drink options to the passing public. Mobile vendors have become especially popular at outdoor venues and green spaces such as town and country parks and in normal times, can provide support of festivals or other events that require a food or drink source for visitors.
2.2	Previously in June 2021, following a procurement process, Council approved the contract awards to various suppliers for Brantry Wood, Dungannon Park, Knockmanny Forrest, Manor Park Moneymore, Pomeroy Forrest, Portglenone Riverside Walk and Round Lake Fivemiletown, The terms were for an initial period of 12 months with the option to extend for a further two, 12-month periods subject to satisfactory performance and subject to terms and conditions stipulated within the agreement which include an array of provisions for service operations.
2.3	Due to various factors, only one of the initial vendors are currently in situ (Knockmanny Forrest - until September 2024 with option to extend for one further 12 month period). All other agreements have lapsed and there currently are no approved mobile vendors on any Council managed open spaces & recreation sites. Council officers have fielded numerous enquiries during the latter part of 2023 and the early part of 2024 from prospective vendors therefore have prepared this report for Members consideration.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	Council officers have been approached by several potential providers in relation to offering mobile concession services in public parks. Taking into consideration current and medium-term options for public facing services it is now considered a feasible approach towards fulfilling a current service gap across selected public parks and visitor destinations.
3.2	Mobile vendors are regularly inspected by the environmental health service to make sure they comply with food safety and food standards legislation. The Food Standards Agency (FSA) have

<p>3.3</p> <p>3.4</p> <p>3.5</p>	<p>produced guidance on food safety management systems for mobile vendors to ensure compliance with food safety legislation and the achievement of best practice.</p> <p>It is proposed to seek the appointment of several mobile vendors for specific Council managed open spaces &amp; recreation sites through an open public tender exercise based on current procurement policy and in line with food safety regulations. It is proposed to offer these opportunities by way of an initial contractual period of 12 months with an option to extend for a further two, 12-month periods subject to satisfactory performance. Flexibility is expected to play a key role specifically when seasonal customer throughput variations are considered. It is proposed that there will only be one single vendor per location and tendering parties would be invited to make submissions for either single or multiple venues.</p> <p>The following Council managed open spaces &amp; recreation sites have been carefully considered in line with being significant customer footfall venues and ensuring there would be little or no potential for a conflict of interest for services that may already be in situ:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Iniscarn Forest</li> <li>• Mid Ulster Sports Arena - Cookstown</li> <li>• Pomeroy Forest</li> <li>• Round lake Fivemiletown</li> </ul> <p>Should Members be minded to approve the above list, then officers will proceed to release the tendering opportunity and bring back a further report to Development Committee for Members consideration prior to any decision being made on contract award(s).</p>
<p><b>4.0</b></p>	<p><b>Other Considerations</b></p>
<p><b>4.1</b></p>	<p><b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b></p> <p><b>Financial:</b> Income generation opportunity based on tendered submissions per location – unknown at this stage as the tender opportunity would invite prospective vendors to state their proposed fee and the tender would be assessed on a cost basis with bidders who present the most economically advantageous offer being awarded the higher scores.</p> <p><b>Human:</b> Ongoing Officer time to manage the procurement process and thereafter the contract, ongoing monitoring for compliance and effectiveness of the contract.</p> <p><b>Risk Management:</b> Considered in line with relevant Council Policies and Procedures. An evaluation process will be built into service delivery to ensure that performance feedback is regularly received to address concerns (if any) immediately. Successful tenders will be required to enter into a agreement for each site location with Mid Ulster District Council</p>
<p><b>4.2</b></p>	<p><b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b></p> <p><b>Equality &amp; Good Relations Implications:</b></p>

	<b>Rural Needs Implications:</b>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	That Members note the contents of this report and approve that officers commence the tendering process for making available the sites listed within section 3.4 of this report for the purpose of mobile vendors and thereafter present the outcome of the tendering process to a future Development Committee for Members consideration.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	N/A



<b>Report on</b>	Mid Ulster Sports Arena – Capital Project
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Denise Daly, Programme Co-Ordinator

<b>Is this report restricted for confidential business?</b>  If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	This report seeks to provide members with an update on the European Commissions ruling on 25th September 2023, in relation to the long-term control and management of the use of microplastics and to seek Members approval for the new MUSA pitch to be developed based on current internationally recognised standards to include modern containment methods.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	In 2017 the European Commission asked the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) to research the impact of intentionally added microplastics in a range of industries and applications.
2.2	In 2019, ECHA published a report which included a recommendation of a broad restriction on the use of intentionally added microplastics with the aim of reducing environmental pollution caused by microplastics.
2.3	In 2022, the European Commission released a statement which recommended the introduction of a ban on the future sale of 'intentionally added microplastics' onto the European market.
2.4	On 25th September 2023, the European Commission took a major step to protect the environment by adopting measures that restrict microplastics intentionally added to products under the EU chemical legislation REACH.
2.5	The new rules will prohibit the sale of microplastics, and of products to which microplastics have been added. The new rules imply a ban on the sale of all 'intentionally added microplastics' following an eight-year transition period. The rules were adopted on 25th September 2023, with the transition period ending October 2031.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	The rules under the EU chemical legislation REACH are now in place, which means the 8-year transition period has already begun. The new rules do not prevent the continued use of micro-plastic materials for synthetic surfaces, nor does it prevent the construction of new synthetic surfaces with rubber crumb infill before 2031.
3.2	At the end of the transition period (2031), it will not be possible to source rubber infills within the European Union, which will make maintenance of synthetic playing surfaces a significant challenge.

3.3	When the eight-year transition period has ended, only natural and fully biodegradable infill materials will be permitted for use in synthetic surfaces. Consequently, it is expected that synthetic pitch systems will change significantly in the coming years and costs of organic materials are likely to fluctuate in the short term, as commercial organisations compete for a share of the market.
3.4	Systems have already been developed using organic infill materials, including granulated cork, coconut fibre, olive stone husks, bark, sand, and corn kernels. These systems are currently being piloted across Europe, with the first organic infill pitch system on the island of Ireland expected to be installed in 2023/2024.
3.5	It is important to note that organic infill materials have yet to prove their durability and suitability for all UK/Irish weather conditions. Lifecycle costs are currently unclear, as is the ability to deliver the required performance standards over a longer period. It is only when these systems have been installed, and in use for longer periods, can advantages and disadvantages of these alternatives be analysed.
3.6	Organisations who own or operate existing synthetic surfaces with rubber infill will need to plan carefully for the end of lifecycle or maintenance ‘top-up’, should either of those dates fall outside of the transition period.
3.7	After the eight-year transition, there is no ban on the use of rubber infill, but it will be impossible to source rubber infill from within the EU member states. In the short to medium term, organisations with aspirations of developing new 3rd Generation pitches, must carefully consider the likely challenges that will arise after the transition period, as this is likely to come before the 10–12-year lifecycle of a new 3rd Generation surface.
3.8	Organisations developing new surfaces may wish to consider the use of organic infills, and those with existing surfaces should consider the adoption of containment measures, as this is a responsible approach to prevent the migration of microplastics. Studies from around Europe show containment measures can reduce infill loss by 98%.
3.9	MUDC currently own and maintain 14 x 3G surfaces across the Councils estate. Council may be required to maintain a supply of rubber crumb infill for the continued use of those facilities until they reach the end of their natural lifespan (typically 10 years, depending on usage and maintenance).
3.10	As part of the MUSA Multi Facility Fund programme, the project to date has been based on the delivery of a 3G synthetic pitch with rubber crumb infill. The project team are at a critical stage of design. All future decisions will be based on achieving the most economically and environmentally sustainable design, ensuring the pitch can be used for the full duration of its lifecycle.
3.11	Given the lack of research and evidence in relation to performance, durability, testing/accreditation, the ICT team have instructed Council that current 3G crumb infill design offers the optimum proposal technique.
3.12	The Council may therefore have to maintain a supply of rubber crumb infill in advance of 2031 which would be required as a top up for the remaining lifespan of the pitch (potentially 3 years). The Council will have a greater understanding of the level of supply that will be required after the pitch has been in use for the first 3 years.

3.13	In order to try to keep infill to a minimum, the Council will ensure that routine professional maintenance and containment barrier solutions are included within the specification for the appointment of contractors for all new 3G Pitch instalments.
3.14	Sport NI have recently prepared a position paper and the Irish Football Association have released a statement relating to this matter – both enclosed within the appendix.
3.15	In context of the current MUSA capital project, as this is currently a live project and subject to substantial external timebound funding (March 2025), Members approval is sought to develop 3G facilities based on current internationally recognised standards inclusive of rubber crumb infill utilising modern containment methods. These developments will be subject to continued planning consultations and guidance as part of the current planning approval process.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	Financial: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ SportNI funding deadline</li> <li>➤ Cost of infill alternatives</li> <li>➤ Costs associated with alternative maintenance contracts</li> <li>➤ At least 15% added to overall cost of a new 3G pitch installation by using alternative infills</li> </ul>
	Human: Staff Officer time included
	Risk Management: In order to decrease the associated risk of the use of rubber crumb infill, the Council will ensure that current state of the art containment solutions are implemented, and appropriate maintenance contracts are developed with IST's.
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: None anticipated at this juncture.
	Rural Needs Implications: None anticipated at this juncture.
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	To note the contents of this report and approve the recommendation for the new MUSA pitch to be developed based on current internationally recognised standards to include modern containment methods. These developments will be subject to continued planning consultations and guidance as part of planning approval processes.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; Reference</b>
6.1	Appendix A: Sport NI Information Paper and Position Statement <a href="http://www.sportni.net/facilities/microplastics">http://www.sportni.net/facilities/microplastics</a>  Appendix B: EU Microplastics Ban – Irish FA Statement





# SYNTHETIC TURF PITCHES AND MICROPLASTIC POLLUTION



## Information Paper & Sport NI Position Statement



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3. WHAT IS A 3RD GENERATION SYNTHETIC SURFACE?
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6. COST OF INFILL CONTAINMENT MEASURES?
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8. ARE THERE ANY ALTERNATIVE INFILL PRODUCTS?
9. CAN ORGANIC INFILLS REPLACE RUBBER INFILLS?
10. 4TH GENERATION SYNTHETIC PITCHES?
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## 1. BACKGROUND

In 2017 the European Commission asked the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) to research the impact of intentionally added microplastics in a range of industries and applications. In 2019, ECHA published a report which included a recommendation of a broad restriction on the use of intentionally added microplastics with the aim of reducing environmental pollution caused by microplastics.

In 2022, the European Commission released a statement which recommended the introduction of a ban on the future sale of 'intentionally added microplastics' onto the European market. On 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023, the European Commission took a major step to protect the environment by adopting measures that restrict microplastics intentionally added to products under the EU chemical legislation REACH. The new rules will prohibit the sale of microplastics, and of products to which microplastics have been added.

The new rules imply a ban on the sale of all 'intentionally added microplastics' following an eight-year transition period. The rules were adopted on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023, with the transition period ending October 2031.

## 2. WHAT ARE MICROPLASTICS?

Microplastics are defined as non-biodegradable polymeric (rubber or plastic) materials that are 5mm or less in size. Microplastics may be intentionally added to products (e.g., micro-beads in cosmetics) or unintentionally occur through wear and tear (e.g., micro-fibres from clothing) or through the breakdown of discarded polymeric products. Polymeric infills (which includes rubber infill used on 3rd Generation Synthetic Surfaces) meets the definition of an intentionally added microplastic.

## 3. WHAT IS A 3<sup>RD</sup> GENERATION SURFACE?

A 3rd Generation surface has a carpet pile made up of individual synthetic fibres which are typically between 40 mm and 60 mm in length. This is much longer than other forms of artificial grass that have pile lengths of between 10 mm and 25 mm, depending on intended use (i.e., sport to be played on the surface). To help provide the desired playing characteristics and to aid player comfort and protection, the spacing of the stitches forming a 3rd Generation carpet pile is quite open. This is to allow infill to be placed between the pile fibres.

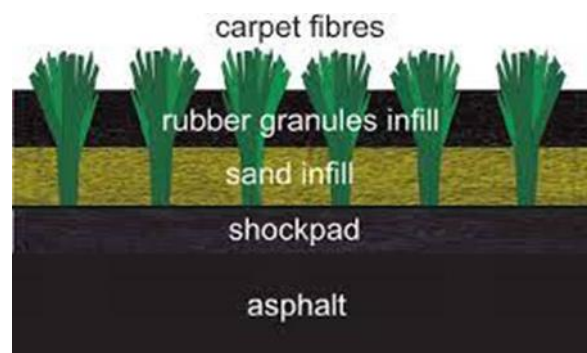


Figure 1

Figure 1 shows the layer construction used in 3rd Generation synthetic surfaces. The 'top layer' of infill used in 3rd Generation pitches is rubber granules (commonly referred to as rubber infill). This is what gives a pitch the desired playing characteristics. Traditionally rubber infill was sourced from recycled tyres. 3rd Generation synthetic pitches typically have a lifespan of 10-12 years, throughout which time the surface should be regularly brushed to redistribute and evenly spread rubber infill. Across the lifecycle of the pitch, it may also be a requirement to 'top-up' the rubber infill to maintain the performance characteristics of the surface.

## 4. HOW DO RUBBER INFILLS CAUSE POLLUTION?

The Sport and Play Construction Association (SAPCA) has indicated the potential environmental threat caused by rubber infill was first identified in Scandinavia. SAPCA claim that studies showed over 900kg of infill could be lost from a single pitch each year. However, 50% of this infill loss was due to the repeated clearance and disposal of snow containing infill during the Scandinavian winter months. In the UK, SAPCA claim studies have shown infill migration to be much less – around 500kg per pitch per year<sup>1</sup>.

Rubber infill migrates from 3rd Generation synthetic pitches in several ways. These include:

- On maintenance equipment, especially brushes.
- Migration to side of pitches and beyond, following use and maintenance.
- On players' clothing and footwear.
- Surface water run-off.

## 5. CAN ANYTHING BE DONE TO REDUCE RUBBER INFILL POLLUTION?

Independent studies<sup>2</sup> have shown that through good field design, operation and maintenance, infill migration from an artificial grass pitch can be reduced by up to 98% from typical worst-case situations. BSI Standards<sup>3</sup>, working with the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN), have developed a Technical Report describing the procedures that should be used to control infill migration. These include:

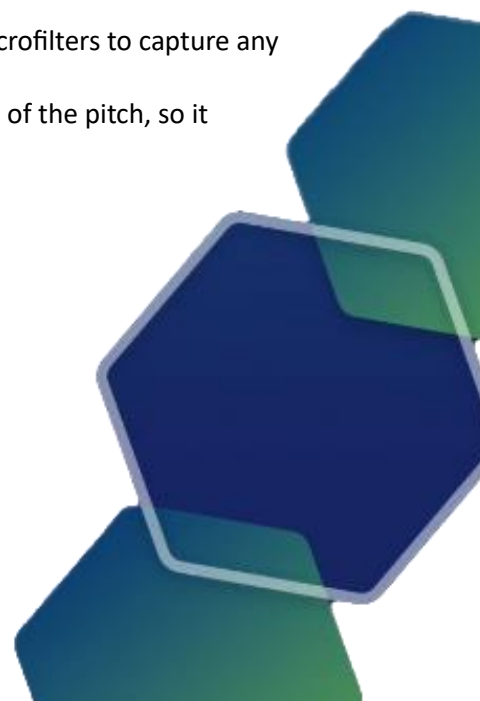
- Fitting containment barriers on a pitch's perimeter fencing.
- Installing decontamination grates and boot cleaning brushes at all player and vehicle entrance gates.
- Ensuring all stormwater drains around a pitch have suitable microfilters to capture any infill being carried by surface run-off, etc.
- Keeping a dedicated maintenance brush within the boundaries of the pitch, so it cannot carry infill into the surrounding environment.

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<sup>1</sup> Frequently Asked Questions – Use of Infill Materials in 3G artificial Grass Pitches. Sport and Play Construction Association (SAPCA), April 2023

<sup>2</sup> Determining the Effectiveness of Risk Management Measures to Minimize Infill Migration from Synthetic Turf Sports Fields. Magnusson & Mácsik, European Synthetic Turf Council (ESTC), August 2020

<sup>3</sup> Surfaces for Sports Areas — Synthetic Turf Sports Facilities — Guidance on How to Minimize Infill Dispersion into the Environment, BS PD CEN/TR 17519, July 2020



- Thoroughly removing any infill from maintenance tractors, etc. before they leave the pitch.

Further and more detailed information can be found on guidance published by SAPCA and the European Synthetic Turf Council (ESTC). FIFA, World Rugby, and the International Hockey Federation (FIH) have all included the recommendations of CEN into their certification programmes for artificial grass pitches. Contractors building synthetic pitches that require certification should therefore include the measures within their designs.

## 6. COST OF IMPLEMENTING INFILL CONTAINMENT MEASURES?

The cost of the necessary containment measures will become lower as the market evolves, and more companies develop products specifically for this application. SAPCA research<sup>4</sup> indicates measures are typically adding up to £20,000 plus VAT to the cost of a new full-size (soccer) pitch. As many of these features should function for at least 20 years, their life cycle costs are not considered to be disproportionate for the environmental benefits they bring.

## 7. IMPACT ON 3RD GENERATION SYNTHETIC PITCHES?

The rules under the EU chemical legislation REACH are now in place, which means the 8-year transition period has already begun. The new rules do not prevent the continued use of micro-plastic materials for synthetic surfaces, nor does it prevent the construction of new synthetic surfaces with rubber crumb infill before 2031. However, at the end of the transition period, it will not be possible to source rubber infills within the European Union, which will make maintenance of synthetic playing surfaces a significant challenge.

## 8. ARE THERE ANY ALTERNATIVE INFILL PRODUCTS?

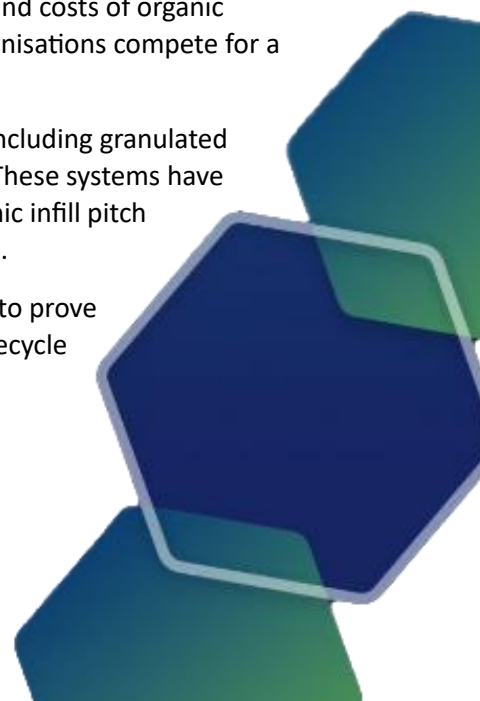
When the eight-year transition period has ended only natural and fully biodegradable infill materials will be permitted for use in synthetic surfaces. Consequently, it is expected that synthetic pitch systems will change significantly in the coming years and costs of organic materials are likely to fluctuate in the short term, as commercial organisations compete for a share of the market.

Systems have already been developed using organic infill materials, including granulated cork, coconut fibre, olive stone husks, bark, sand, and corn kernels. These systems have been tested and are already in use across Europe, with the first organic infill pitch system on the island of Ireland expected to be installed in 2023/2024.

However, it is important to note that organic infill materials have yet to prove their durability and suitability for all UK/Irish weather conditions. Lifecycle costs are currently unclear, as is the ability to deliver the required

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<sup>4</sup> Frequently Asked Questions – Use of Infill Materials in 3G artificial Grass Pitches. Sport and Play Construction Association (SAPCA), April 2023



performance standards over a longer period. It is only when these systems have been installed, and in use for longer periods, will we start to understand the advantages and disadvantages.

## 9. CAN ORGANIC INFILLS SIMPLY REPLACE RUBBER INFILLS?

This depends on multiple factors, including type of existing carpet, condition of existing carpet, if a shockpad is present, condition and quality of shockpad, and if the chosen contractor has equipment to extract? In theory, it may be possible to replace rubber infills with organic infills on some surfaces, but each surface needs to be assessed individually, and there is likely to be existing pitches where this process is simply not an option.

Synthetic turf systems are designed to provide playing and safety properties required for sport. Organic infills generally provide less energy absorption to players falling onto the surface than rubber infills, meaning the pitch systems in which they are used must include a shockpad underlayer. If an existing pitch does not have a shockpad (of suitable quality and performance) changing from a rubber to an organic infill is likely to result in an unsatisfactory and potentially unsafe playing surface.

## 10. WHAT ABOUT 4TH GENERATION SYNTHETIC PITCHES?

Responding to environmental concerns, a 4th Generation of artificial grass surfaces are being developed. These are artificial grass that either have no infill (non-filled) or are only partly filled with sand. 4th Generation surfaces have a much denser primary pile, and often a secondary pile or thatch zone, both of which are designed to ensure the primary pile is supported and remains standing upright.

To date, testing has shown that 4th Generation surfaces are not able to satisfy the FIFA criteria for artificial grass football surfaces and the World Rugby criteria for artificial grass rugby surfaces. This is primarily due to the surfaces' inability to satisfy the criteria for skin/surface friction, meaning there is an increased risk of a player suffering from a carpet burn when they slide on the surface. Low foot grip has also been found to be problem with some 4G pitch systems.

## 11. HOW DOES THIS POTENTIAL BAN AFFECT NORTHERN IRELAND?

Under the Windsor Framework, Northern Ireland will continue to follow rules recently added to the EU Chemical REACH legislation. REACH is the EU regulation governing the manufacture and import of chemical substances. REACH is an acronym for the "registration, evaluation and authorization of chemicals" and has been in force in all EU Member States since 2007.

This means owners/operators of 3rd Generation surfaces in Northern Ireland will have to comply with EU rules relating to intentionally added

microplastics. Northern Ireland, along with all EU Member States, has now entered an 8-year transition period (ending September 2031).

Sport NI's Active Places facilities database shows the scale of the challenge posed by EU rules in Northern Ireland. There are over 171\* 3rd Generation synthetic playing pitches (of various sizes) located throughout Northern Ireland. Table 1 shows the breakdown of 3rd Generation pitches in Northern Ireland by ownership, and Table 2 shows the spread of the 171\* 3rd Generation pitches by District Council area.

Table 1: Distribution of 3G by ownership\*

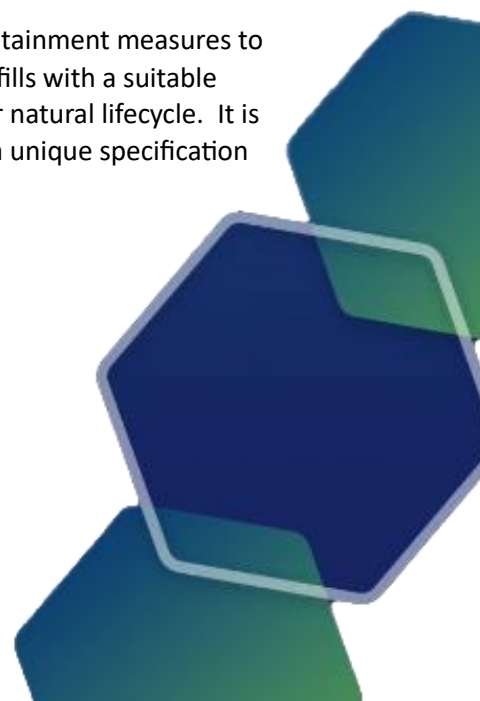
<b>Ownership:</b>	<b>Number of 3G Pitches:</b>
District Council owned sites:	78
Education owned sites:	26
Club owned sites:	33
Privately owned sites:	16
Community owned sites:	18
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>171</b>

Table 2: Distribution of 3G by Council Area\*

<b>Council Area:</b>	<b>Number of 3G Pitches:</b>
Antrim & Newtownabbey	14
Ards & North Down	14
Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon	15
Belfast City	67
Causeway Coast & Glens	8
Derry City & Strabane	10
Fermanagh & Omagh	8
Lisburn City & Castlereagh	10
Mid & East Antrim	4
Mid Ulster	14
Newry, Mourne & Down	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>171</b>

*\*Data from Sport NI'S Active Places Database. Information accurate as of 2016 – figures outlined may vary depending on development since Active Places database was last updated.*

Sport NI's data reflects the challenge, in terms of retrofitting infill containment measures to existing pitches, but also replacing shockpads, carpets, and rubber infills with a suitable alternative when each of these existing pitches reach the end of their natural lifecycle. It is difficult to estimate costs at this stage because every pitch will have a unique specification and the costs of organic infills are higher than rubber infill (for now).



## 12. HOW DOES THIS POTENTIAL BAN AFFECT THE REST OF THE UK?

The United Kingdom has left the European Union, and therefore the EU rules will not have a direct effect on England, Scotland, and Wales. However, this does not include Northern Ireland.

The UK government has not yet announced plans for measures to limit the sale or use of rubber infills in synthetic turf. UK REACH will carry out an assessment to determine whether the restriction measures are needed in the UK. At the time of writing, this work is ongoing, but it is unlikely that the UK will mirror the transition timescales introduced by the European Union. However, the UK (lead by SAPCA – Sport and Play Construction Association) has developed infill containment measures on new build pitches as best practice along with advocating improved maintenance measures (for all pitches) to ensure that infill does not leave the confines of the pitch facility. A summary of the measures has been provided at Section 5.

## 13. SPORT NI RECOMMENDATIONS?

EU rules on micro-plastics are now in place, and all European Member States (and Northern Ireland) have entered an eight-year transition period (ending September 2031). The rules do not prevent the continued use of micro-plastic materials for synthetic surfaces, nor does it prevent the construction of new synthetic surfaces with rubber crumb infill before 2031 – but it will make the maintenance of these pitches difficult after the transition period.

Organisations who own or operate existing synthetic surfaces with rubber infill will need to plan carefully for the end of lifecycle or maintenance ‘top-up’, should either of those dates fall outside of the transition period. After the eight-year transition, there is no ban on the use of rubber infill, but it will be impossible to source rubber infill from within the EU member states.

In the short to medium term, organisations with aspirations of developing new 3rd Generation pitches, must carefully consider the likely challenges that will arise after the transition period, as this is likely to come before the 10–12-year lifecycle of a new 3rd Generation surface. Organisations developing new surfaces may wish to consider the use of organic infills, and those with existing surfaces should consider the adoption of containment measures, as this is a responsible approach to prevent the migration of microplastics. Studies from around Europe show containment measures can reduce infill loss by 98%.





## 14. SPORT NI POSITION STATEMENT

Synthetic surfaces are recognised as a durable, safe, year-round playing surfaces, able to withstand intensive use. These pitches are used primarily by our 'larger' sports including Association Football, Gaelic Games, Rugby, and Hockey. They are also an important community resource enabling more people to benefit from participation in sport and physical activity.

A properly maintained synthetic surface can sustain up to 80 hours of use a week, providing an average of around 1,400 playing opportunities. This compares favourably to a good quality natural turf pitch, which can sustain just six/seven hours a week, accommodating an average of around 100 playing opportunities. This means many people can engage in sport and physical activity regardless of the weather when otherwise matches/training would be cancelled.

However, concerns have been raised about the environmental impact of these pitches. Specifically, pollution resulting from the migration of micro-plastics (i.e., rubber crumb infill). Sport Northern Ireland (Sport NI) understand these concerns and we are taking them very seriously.

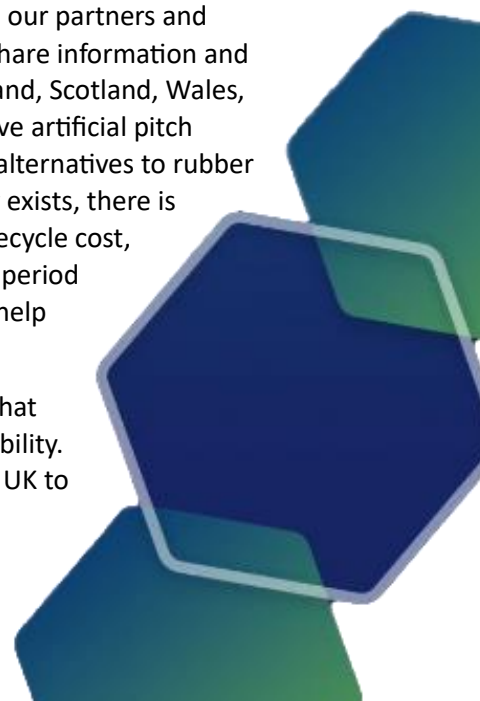
In September 2023 the European Commission completed the adoption of the EU REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals) rules on the sale of intentionally added microplastics onto the European market, which includes rubber infill for synthetic surfaces.

The Commission has confirmed an eight-year transition period before the new restriction becomes effective (ending October 2031). At this point, you will no longer be able to purchase rubber crumb within the European Union (EU). The ruling does not prevent the continued use of this material for synthetic surfaces, nor does it prevent the construction of new pitches with rubber crumb infill before 2031 – but it will make the maintenance of these pitches significantly challenging once the transition period has ended.

The transition period is important because it allows synthetic surfaces (with rubber infill) that are in widespread use by communities across Europe, to continue to be used and maintained until they reach their end-of-life. Replacement surfaces are very expensive, and many organisations could not afford to do so before the end of the transition.

As a result of the Windsor Framework, Northern Ireland remains subject to these EU rules. Sport NI is committed to these rules, and we endeavour to work with our partners and stakeholders from across Europe and within the United Kingdom to share information and guidance relevant to the sector. Along with our counterparts in England, Scotland, Wales, and Republic of Ireland, we are also committed to exploring alternative artificial pitch systems and more sustainable infill products. However, some of the alternatives to rubber crumb are relatively new to the market, and while some data already exists, there is still much to learn about their performance, durability, availability, lifecycle cost, and importantly the impact on player experience. We are entering a period where decisions must be made and it's important that data exists to help owners of synthetic surfaces make the right choices for their pitch.

Sport NI acknowledge the challenge of balancing the many benefits that come from the use of synthetic surfaces with environmental sustainability. We will continue to work with partners across Europe and within the UK to



research and reduce the spread of microplastics into the environment. More information will be published as discussions progress and information is shared.

Information contained within accurate as of 21<sup>st</sup> November 2023





## **EU Microplastics Ban – Irish FA Statement**

*The EU has adopted a comprehensive ban on the sale of ‘intentionally added microplastics’ including rubber granular infill in synthetic football pitches.*

Artificial grass pitches (AGPs) provide a high-quality surface that are an integral part of modern community sport. AGPs are recognised as durable, safe, year-round playing surfaces, able to withstand intensive use in all kinds of weather. AGPs are widely used in football and are considered a good alternative to natural grass pitches in certain situations. According to FIFA a properly maintained AGP can sustain up to 60 hours of use a week. This compares favourably to a good quality grass pitch, which according to FIFA, can only sustain 6 hours per week. The benefit of AGPs is that they afford people to engage in sport and physical activity regardless of the weather when otherwise matches would be unplayable. 3G AGPs enable more people to experience the benefits of being active, such as improved physical health and mental wellbeing.

AGPs are used for playing many different sports, including football, hockey and rugby and provide spaces for people to come together, helping communities connect. It is critical that our sports facilities are flexible, durable and sustainable to reflect the real everyday requirements of all users and meet societal demands responsibly.

When considering the design and installation of a new AGP carpet, applicants should engage with a recognised synthetic turf consultant/ specialist for advice and may wish to access best practice synthetic turf sports pitch/ Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) design guidance available on FIFA’s website; <https://digitalhub.fifa.com/m/235e3d6a9a502840/original/Code-of-Practice-for-the-Design-and-Construction-of-Football-Turf-Fields-2023-edition.pdf> and the Sports and Play Construction Association’s (SAPCA) website; <https://sapca.org.uk/guide/codes-of-practice/>. Sport NI has published

an Information and Position Paper on their website in respect of the microplastics ban; <http://www.sportni.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Microplastics-Information-Paper-November-2023.pdf>.

The challenge faced is trying to balance the health and well-being benefits that come from the use of AGPs with environmental sustainability factors. In recent times, concerns have been raised about the environmental impact of these pitches. These have mostly related to the fibre-loss of microplastics and, in the case of third generation (3G) pitches, the presence of rubber infill, which is also a microplastic.

In September 2023 the EU adopted a comprehensive ban on the sale of ‘intentionally added microplastics’ onto the European market, including the use of granular infill material used on artificial sport surfaces. The ban refers to intentionally added microplastic infill and will have an eight-year transition period. According to the Information and Position Paper on the Microplastics Ban published by Sport NI, although part of the United Kingdom and under the Windsor Framework, NI will continue to follow rules added to the EU Chemical REACH legislation. REACH is the EU regulation governing the manufacture and import of chemical substances. REACH is an acronym for the ‘registration, evaluation and authorisation of chemicals’ and has been in force in all EU Member States since 2007. This means owners/operators of 3rd Generation surfaces in Northern Ireland will have to comply with EU rules relating to intentionally added microplastics. Northern Ireland, along with all EU Member States, has now entered the 8-year transition period (ending September 2031).

It should be noted that the ban is only for the sale of polymeric infill materials. The ruling does not prevent the continued use of this material for AGPs, nor does it prevent the construction of new pitches with rubber crumb infill before 2031, but it may make the maintenance of these pitches after this time difficult. The eight-year transition period is important because it allows the 3G AGPs that are in widespread use by communities across Europe, to continue to be used and maintained until they reach their end-of-life. Replacement 3G surfaces are very expensive, and many pitch owners and operators would simply be unable to afford to do so before the end of the transition.

Pitch systems have already been developed using organic infill materials, including granulated cork, coconut fibre, olive stone husks, bark, sand and corn kernels. However, it is important to note that there are currently no widely available alternative infill products with proven durability on the market, that are as effective as rubber crumb and are suitable for all UK weather conditions and deliver the required football performance standards. Many of the alternatives to rubber crumb are new to the UK market, and little is known about their performance, durability, availability, lifecycle cost and importantly the impact on player experience.

Early research has shown that the organic infill products are not as durable as the polymeric infill. AGP owners may need to top up with more organic infill compared with the amount of polymeric infill they current use (approximately 15% more infill required) and may need to invest in more advanced AGP maintenance equipment which is significantly more expensive than current AGP maintenance equipment. Therefore, further research is required to ascertain the durability of organic infill products in the UK climate and suitability and performance capabilities on AGPs that are used for the elite game. Organic infills generally provide less energy absorption to players falling onto the surface than rubber infills, meaning the pitch systems in which they are used must include a shockpad underlayer.

Until there is a clearer understanding of alternative infill products, the adoption of containment measures is an important and responsible approach to prevent the migration of microplastics. Studies from around Europe show good design can reduce infill loss by 98%. This includes introducing measures and practices that minimise the risk of microplastic migration into drainage systems and local water courses. This can include practices such as not overfilling the pitch to prevent excessive levels of microplastic infill, ensuring that infill products are stored in secure locations, ensuring that infill installation equipment and carpet brushes are thoroughly cleaned before leaving the pitch, installing low-level containment barriers around the spectator perimeter fencing and boot cleaning stations for boots post-match. Full details of best practice can be found in the British Standards publication BS PD CEN/TR 17519: Surfaces for sports areas - Synthetic turf sports facilities - Guidance on how to minimize infill dispersion into the environment and on the website of the European Synthetic Turf Council ([Knowledge Centre - Infill - ESTC - EMEA Synthetic Turf Council](#)).

We are entering a period where there will be choices for pitch owners and operators to make and it's important that data exists to help future 3G AGP owners/ operators make the right choice of pitch. There are no accurate figures available at present to confirm the total number of NI football AGPs that will be impacted by the ban.

In addition to the concerns about rubber infill, the potential for fibre debris to also become an environmental pollutant are also now being investigated. As synthetic turf surfaces age and weaken through use, the yarns marking up the playing surface will split and breakaway. If this fibre debris is not collected, they will be carried off the AGP and become another form of microplastic pollution. Specialist maintenance equipment is available that vacuum cleans the surface to collect the fibre debris. As this process is only effective when the surface is dry it is recommended that AGPs are deep cleaned biannually in the Spring and early autumn.

The Irish FA remains committed to supporting its member clubs through the transition period and to opening dialogue with 3G AGP key stakeholders including central and local Government to understand what the EU ban will mean for the existing stock of 3G football AGPs in NI and the timings for any legislative decisions.

More information will be published when more research data is made available to the Irish FA.

Information detailed above accurate as of 8 February 2024.



<b>Report on</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Town Centre Business Spruce Up Scheme</li> <li>2. ATCM Membership</li> <li>3. NABMA Membership</li> <li>4. Lough Neagh Rescue - Service Level Agreement (2024/2025)</li> <li>5. Labour Market Partnership (LMPs): Multiply Funding Programme Bid</li> <li>6. Sperrins Partnership Funding (October 2023 – March 2024)</li> </ol>
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	14 March 2024
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
<b>1.1</b>	To provide Members with an update on key activities as detailed below.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
<b>2.1</b>	<p><b>Town Business Spruce Up Scheme</b></p> <p>Council approval was granted in November 2023, to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress Spruce Up Scheme focusing on the four largest towns with a population over 5,000 in Mid Ulster (Dungannon, Cookstown, Magherafelt and Coalisland) and more specifically focusing upon the <i>'town centre boundaries'</i> in each town as defined within the respective Area Plans, in order to comply with Department for Communities requirements.</li> <li>• Chief Executive granted delegated authority to sign and return a Letter of Offer to the Department for Communities.</li> <li>• Undertake a procurement process to appoint an Independent Chartered Architect, at a cost of up to £30,000 to score, verify the applicants and oversee management of the scheme.</li> </ul>

<p><b>2.2</b></p>	<p><b>Association of Town Centre Management - Membership Renewal</b></p> <p>The Association of Town Centre Management (ATCM) is a respected voice for town and city management at both a European and wider global level. They are a not-for-profit organisation with members that come from the public, private and third sectors. They include key stakeholders and thought leaders who develop and implement shared visions, strategies and action plans for town and city centres throughout the UK and Ireland.</p>
<p><b>2.3</b></p>	<p><b>National Association of British Market Authorities – Membership</b></p> <p>The National Association of British Market Authorities (NABMA) is a leading retail and wholesome markets organisation in the UK. For 100 years it has promoted markets on a national stage and provides a wide portfolio of services for its members.</p>
<p><b>2.4</b></p>	<p><b>Lough Neagh Rescue – Service Level Agreement (2024-2025)</b></p> <p>Over the past number of years, the 3 Councils from around the shoreline of Lough Neagh (as listed below) have provided a financial contribution towards Lough Neagh Rescue to support their work; these are Mid Ulster District Council, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council and Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council.</p>
<p><b>2.5</b></p>	<p><b>Labour Market Partnership (LMPs): NI Multiply Programme Bid</b></p> <p>In October 2021, the UK Government announced ‘Multiply’, a new programme to improve the functional numeracy skills of adults. ‘Multiply’ is a ringfenced element of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and is part of government’s Levelling Up agenda which supports high quality skills training and employment.</p> <p>It is recognised that people who improve their numeracy skills are more likely to be in employment, have higher wages and better wellbeing. Following the announcement, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), undertook a brief scoping exercise locally, but no allocation was made from the UKSPF to Northern Ireland based providers.</p> <p>During the summer of 2023, DLUHC approached the Department for the Economy (DfE) with a request to lead on developing and managing a portfolio of interventions, as part of the “Multiply” programme, with the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• all provision to be completed by March 2025;</li> <li>• must be numeracy, or numeracy related training;</li> <li>• only open to adults, over 18 years old; and</li> <li>• up to level 2 or equivalent, with no qualification outcome required.</li> <li>• funding for the numeracy element of larger co-funded schemes; and</li> <li>• funding utilised for existing provision, with an element of re-badging.</li> </ul>



To progress the Multiply programme, DfE engaged with the Department of Education and Department for Communities in Northern Ireland, along with exploring what could be put in place with our FE colleges and universities.

Given the tight timescales to design and deliver any interventions, DfE welcomed any opportunities to work in partnership with local government and, as such, have identified LMPs as an ideal vehicle through which we may be able to deliver Multiply in Northern Ireland.

DfE joined an LMP Co-Design meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023 to give a brief overview and to request that LMPs deliver approximately £4m of the £11.8m funding allocated to the project over a 18 month period, with Universities and Colleges delivering the remaining £7.8m. A Letter of Offer to be issued by DfE, however this will be administered via DfC (mechanisms to be agreed).

DLUHC specifically mentioned the following as areas they would be interested in supporting:

- additional relevant maths modules embedded into other vocational courses;
- innovative programmes delivered together with employers – including courses designed to cover specific numeracy skills required in the workplace;
- new intensive and flexible courses targeted at people without Level 2 maths in Northern Ireland, leading to an equivalent qualification; and
- courses aimed at people who can't apply for certain jobs because of lack of numeracy skills or to encourage people to upskill in order to access a certain job.

Following a consultation on the types of initiatives which LMPs could potentially deliver, a collective approach was submitted in principle from all 11 Councils with the caveat that it will be dependent on each LMP Board and Council approval, as well as budget allocation for each Council area.

In November 2023, the UK government paused the Multiply funding bid for Northern Ireland. However, on 3 March 2024, DfE advised LMPs that DLUHC have now approved the NI bid, which is £5.9m for delivery between 1st April 2024 and 31st March 2025 through colleges, universities and LMPs.

## **2.6 Sperrins Partnership Funding (October 2023 – March 2024)**

The Sperrins Future Search Conference entitled 'The Sperrins – Reaching New Heights, Realising Our Potential' was held in the Glenavon House Hotel, Cookstown on 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> September 2017. The event brought together a group of key stakeholders to draft and agree an action plan for the future development of the Sperrins and in particular the designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

The Sperrins Partnership Project is a joint collaboration between 4 councils; Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, Derry City and Strabane District

	<p>Council, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council and Mid Ulster District Council, who back in 2018 committed to equal financial contribution towards its delivery and have also funded the Sperrins Future Search initiative.</p>
<p><b>3.0</b></p>	<p><b>Main Report</b></p>
<p><b>3.1</b></p>	<p><b>Town Business Spruce Up Scheme</b></p> <p>An application was submitted to Department of Communities (DfC), up to the value of £200,000, as detailed at the November 2023 Development Committee. The Scheme focuses on the four largest towns in Mid Ulster (Dungannon, Cookstown, Magherafelt and Coalisland) each with a population of 5,000+ people. A condition of Department for Communities funding is that the eligible area within each of the four towns must be focused specifically within the <i>'town centre boundaries'</i> as defined within the respective Area Plans. The application was successful, and a Letter of Offer has been duly signed and returned to DfC.</p> <p>The procurement process has been completed to appoint a Chartered Architect to oversee the management of the scheme, with the appointment of Knox Clayton Ltd.</p> <p>The Town Business Spruce Up Scheme, opened for applications Monday 19 February 2024 and closed for applications Friday 8 March 2024 @ 4pm. Guidance Notes and Application Forms were available to download from Mid Ulster District Council website and also upon request from Economic Development, Tourism &amp; Strategic Programmes Department.</p> <p>Details of the scheme were displayed on Mid Ulster District Council website and social media channels; local press and letter drop in each of the four town centres to eligible businesses. The Town Business Spruce Up Scheme offers discretionary grants of up to 80% eligible costs, capped at £4,000 per property for external and/or internal improvements.</p> <p>Four Drop-In Business Clinics were delivered during the month of February 2024. These included one half day workshop in each of the four towns across the district.</p> <p>The Drop-In Business Clinics provided the opportunity for potential applicants to gain advice and guidance from the Architect (Knox &amp; Clayton Chartered Architects) and deal with queries regarding the completion of the application form.</p> <p>Knox &amp; Clayton Chartered Architects have been appointed to assist in the delivery of the Town Business Spruce Up Scheme, including assessment of Applications, management and monitoring of the successful projects.</p> <p>Following the Scheme's closing date (Friday 8 March 2024 at 4pm), applications will be eligibility checked. Applications which meet the requirements of the eligibility check will proceeded to assessment.</p> <p>Applications which proceed to assessment must achieve a minimum threshold</p>

of 40% to be eligible for grant aid. On completion of the assessment of applications, scores will be ranked highest to lowest, with grant aid awarded until £200,000 is exhausted. Those who score above 40% and do not get funded under this Letter of Offer will be held on a reserve list. It is proposed an application will be made to Department for Communities to seek further funding in the financial year 2024-2025 to meet demand.

Successful applicants will receive a Letter of Offer by 29 March 2024 aligning to Department for Communities funding deadline.

3.2

### **Association of Town Centre Management - Membership Renewal**

ATCM Membership is now due for renewal for the period January 2024 – January 2025 at a fee of £620 (excluding Vat). Invoice attached on **Appendix 1**.

Membership provides a range of benefits to Council such as;

- Platform for knowledge exchange in Town and City Centre Management
- Access to written resources in Town and City Centre Management
- Access to town centre events information and a variety of webinars

3.3

### **National Association of British Market Authorities – Membership**

The membership cost of the National Association of British Market Authorities for a 12 month period (April 2024 – March 2025) is £768 (excluding VAT) as per quotation enclosed on **Appendix 2**).

Membership to NABMA would provide a range of benefits including:

- Exclusive website content with template documents, research and access to the NABMA library
- Virtual networking on Basecamp with over 250 markets professionals across the UK
- Social media benefits with dedicated channels promoting markets
- Access to market mentors to give you help and support
- National representation to government and high street leaders
- Professional development opportunities and training
- Legal advice on your market issues
- Online support sessions to help with your market issues
- Conferences and events
- Regular newsletters and updates
- Benchmarking and survey information
- Being part of NABMA campaigns such as Love Your Local Market and Great British Market Awards
- Subsidised Professional Training for the Level 4 Markets Diploma (DMA)

Membership of NABMA, will provide an opportunity to engage with the professional body and avail of expertise advice.

### **3.4 Lough Neagh Rescue – Service Level Agreement (2024-2025)**

Lough Neagh Rescue has submitted a request (**Appendix 3**) to Mid Ulster District Council for an annual financial contribution of £12,000 towards Search and Rescue and Flood/Swift water activities at Lough Neagh and its tributaries for the 2024/2025 financial year.

By way of update, they have also provided a copy of their Progress Report for the 2023/2024 financial year (**Appendix 4**).

Lough Neagh Rescue's base at Ardboe continues to benefit all of the western and south-western shores contiguous with Mid Ulster District Council area.

If Members are minded to approve the annual financial request of £12,000, it is recommended that the Service Level Agreement (SLA) on **Appendix 5** is issued to Lough Neagh Rescue to cover the period from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

### **3.5 Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP): Multiply Funding**

The 'Multiply' Programme is a government-funded programme to help adults to improve their numeracy skills and boost their number confidence. The government wants to help people unlock new job opportunities or progress in work, get higher wages, improve their wellbeing, and take the next step to higher levels of training. It is also recognised that boosting numeracy abilities can also help with everyday tasks like bills and budgeting or helping children with homework. Improved numeracy also matters to businesses by helping boost productivity and improve employee retention.

In November 2023, the UK government paused the Multiply funding bid for Northern Ireland. However, on 3 March 2024, DfE advised all LMPs that DLUHC have now approved the NI bid, which is £5.9m for delivery between 1st April 2024 and 31st March 2025 through colleges, universities and LMPs.

The NI bid has 6 focused delivery areas, with the aim to provide a mixture of qualifications and interventions:-

- Maths for speakers of other languages
- Numeracy for Mature learners
- Industry led numeracy interventions
- Numeracy bootcamps
- Adult/child numeracy collaboration
- Previous offenders/those in prison system

The Multiply Programme is considered to hold great promise in advancing critical maths skills and knowledge across various sectors of our society and a collaborative approach is essential to maximise the impact of these interventions and to avoid any unnecessary overlap or duplication of efforts.

Indicative Multiply Budget Allocation (Revenue) 2024-25

As part of the overall funding bid, it is anticipated that each Council will be allocated between £175k and £200k which covers the cost of a Multiply Officer/Numeracy Champion over this one-year period. A separate report on this matter will be brought to the Council's Policy & Resources Committee.

Following a workshop on 21 March 2023, decisions will be made as to the optimum provision for each of the 6 key delivery areas, and the role required from each of the partners. An Action Plan will be created for Northern Ireland and maintained by DfE, with local delivery agreed with each LMP. DfE have noted the tight timescales and recognise a simplified delivery approach is required to prioritise delivery. The types of initiatives/activity that Council/LMP will be expected to deliver are included in **Appendix 6**.

Mid Ulster LMP agreed at a board meeting on 14 September 2023 to participate in the delivery of the NI Multiply programme (subject to funding and Council approval) to ensure residents of the district benefit from the support and opportunities that would be available.

**3.6 Sperrins Partnership Funding (October 2023 – March 2024)**

As Members will be aware, Sperrins Partnership is funded by the four Councils at a total annual cost of c.£88,000 (£22,000 per Council, per annum). This contribution includes salary and programming costs.

Previous annual invoicing arrangements for Partner Council contributions to support the work of Sperrins Partnership related to the period October to October each year, to fall in line with staff employment dates.

However, upon receipt of a request from Sperrins Partnership, in October 2023, Council's Development Committee agreed to realign invoicing arrangements to tie in with financial years moving forward (ie, 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025).

Prior to the above arrangements commencing, on 7 March 2024, Sperrins Partnership issued correspondence to Partner Councils, stating that the last contributions sought from Councils was for the period October 2022 – October 2023 and respectively requested that Partner Councils contribute funding for the six month gap period, ie, October 2023 – March 2024, at a reduced rate of £2,500 (instead of £11,000).

**4.0 Other Considerations**

**4.1 Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications**

Financial:

	<p><b>4.1.1 Town Business Spruce Up Scheme</b>  Provision made within economic development budget for a Chartered Architect - £23,481, as councils' contribution to the scheme as per letter of offer. Department of Communities capital funding secured to value of £200,000 (project grant aid).</p> <p><b>4.1.2 Association of Town Centre Management - Membership Renewal</b>  Provision is made within the economic development budget to renew membership with the Association of Town Centre Management (ATCM) for a fee of £620 (excl. Vat) for the period January 2024 to January 2025.</p> <p><b>4.1.3 National Association of British Market Authorities – Membership</b>  Provision is made within the economic development budget for membership to the National Association of British Market Authorities (NABMA) for a fee of £768 (excl. Vat) for 2024/25 financial year.</p> <p><b>4.1.4 Lough Neagh Rescue – Service Level Agreement (2024-2025)</b>  Provision has been made for an annual financial contribution towards Lough Neagh Rescue of £12,000 from Council's Tourism budget.</p> <p><b>4.1.5 Labour Market Partnerships (LMPs): NI Multiply Programme Bid</b>  The new 'Multiply' project is fully funded by DLUHC and administered via DfC and DfE. DfE have also confirmed that for each delivery partner, there would be dedicated costs to support the salary of a Multiply Officer over this one year period.</p> <p><b>4.1.6 Sperrins Partnership Funding (October 2023 – March 2024)</b>  This funding is vital to ensure that Sperrins Partnership Project can deliver on its vision as outlined at the Sperrins Future Search Conference, subject to matching agreement from all partner councils. Recommended financial contribution of £2,500 ringfenced within the Council's Tourism Budget.</p>
	Human:
	Officer time
	Risk Management:  <p><b>4.1.1 Labour Market Partnerships (LMPs): Multiply Funding</b></p> <p>The risk level is mitigated as Multiply programme activity will be 100% externally funded and includes the employment of a Multiply Officer via a contract post.</p>
4.2	<p><b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b></p> <p><b>Town Business Spruce Up Scheme</b>  Equality Screening &amp; Rural Needs Completed</p>

	<b>Rural Needs Implications:</b>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
	It is recommended that Members;
<b>5.1</b>	<p><b>Town Business Spruce Up Scheme</b></p> <p><b>Approve</b> that Council’s Chief Executive be granted delegated authority to approve and issue Letters of Offers to successful applicants from the Town Business Spruce Up Scheme to meet Department for Communities funding timelines.</p>
<b>5.2</b>	<p><b>Association of Town Centre Management - Membership Renewal</b></p> <p><b>Approve</b> Council renew its annual ATCM membership (January 2024 – January 2025) at a cost of £620 (excluding Vat).</p>
<b>5.3</b>	<p><b>National Association of British Market Authorities – Membership</b></p> <p><b>Approve</b> Council to become a member of the National Association of British Market Authorities (NABMA) for the financial year 2024/2025 at a cost of £768 (excluding Vat).</p>
<b>5.4</b>	<p><b>Lough Neagh Rescue – Service Level Agreement (2024-2025)</b></p> <p>(i) <b>Note</b> Lough Neagh Rescue’s 2023/2024 Progress Report outlining actions completed against their SLA Targets.</p> <p>(ii) <b>Approve</b> Mid Ulster District Council’s Service Level Agreement with Lough Neagh Rescue for the year 2024/2025</p> <p>(iii) <b>Approve</b> the release of £12,000 to Lough Neagh Rescue from Council’s Tourism budget (2024/2025) subject to Council being provided with the requisite documentation as detailed in the Service Level Agreement.</p>
<b>5.5</b>	<p><b>Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMPs): NI Multiply Programme Bid</b></p> <p><b>5.5.1</b> Subject to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) formally confirming the successful bid;</p> <p>(i) <b>Approve</b> Council’s participation in the NI Multiply Programme.</p>

<p>5.6</p>	<p>(ii) <b>Approve</b> Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP) as the delivery vehicle for the Multiply Programme in Mid Ulster.</p> <p>(iii) <b>Approve</b> that delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive to;</p> <p>a) <b>Sign and return</b> the letter of offer from the Department for the Economy when it is received. It is expected that the letter of offer will provide funding in the region of £350-£400k to cover the period 1 April 2024 to March 2025. The types of initiatives/activity that Council are expected to deliver are included in <b>Appendix 6</b>. A copy of the letter of offer and programme of activity will be submitted to the Committee when available.</p> <p>b) <b>Procure</b> suitable organisations to deliver the agreed Programme of activity in adherence with Council policy and procedures to enable the Multiply Programme to commence as swiftly as possible.</p> <p><b>Sperrins Partnership Funding (October 2023 – March 2024)</b></p> <p><b>Approve</b> financial contribution of £2,500 to Sperrins Partnership, for the period 1 October 2023 until 31 March 2024.</p>
<p>6.0</p>	<p><b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b></p>
	<p>Appendix 1 - ATCM Membership Renewal Invoice 2024/2025</p> <p>Appendix 2 - NABMA Quotation for membership to the National Association of British Market Authorities.</p> <p>Appendix 3 - Lough Neagh Rescue - Request for Funding 2024/2025</p> <p>Appendix 4 - Lough Neagh Rescue Progress Report 2023/2024</p> <p>Appendix 5 - Lough Neagh Rescue - Service Level Agreement (April 2024 - March 2025)</p> <p>Appendix 6 – Outline of LMP ‘Multiply Programme Initiatives’</p>



APPENDIX 1

Association of Town Centre Management  
 PO Box 242  
 Westerham  
 TN16 9EU

*Invoice*



VAT Reg No: 629241833  
 Telephone: 44 (0) 300 330 0980  
 Email: accounts@atcm.org

Invoice Number:	24061
Invoice Date:	30/01/2024
Order Number:	
Our Ref:	COOKSTO

Mid Ulster District Council  
 FAO Mary Mc Cullagh, Town Strategy  
 Burn Road  
 Cookstown  
 Co Tyrone  
 BT80 8DT  
 VAT Reg No:

Quant Details	Unit	Net	VAT	VAT
1.00 2024 Full Band 1 Membership	620.00	620.00	20.00	124.00

Terms: 21 days from invoice date - please ensure invoice number is quoted on payment

**BACS Details**  
 Bank: Lloyds TSB  
 Account Name: Ass Twn Centre Man  
 Sort Code: 30-92-32  
 Account Number: 01440295

Total Net Amount (£)	620.00
Total VAT Amount (£)	124.00
Invoice Total (£)	744.00

Mid Ulster Council  
Council Offices  
Circular Road  
Dungannon  
BT71 6DT

# QUOTE

Mid Ulster District Council

<b>Finance Officer: Marina Atherton</b>		<b>QUOTE NUMBER</b> 23/ 1	
Tel No: 01691 680713			
E-mail: nabma@nabma.com		Tax Point and Invoice Date:	
Contact: Marina Atherton, Finance Officer		Your Reference: Mary McCullagh	
Payment Terms: <b>NET 30 DAYS</b>		Purchase Order No.	
VAT Reg: 696 4641 86			
Quantity	<b>ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION 2024/25</b>		
1	Quote for Subscription 2024/2025	£ 768.00	768.00
VAT rate		Amount	768.00

PLEASE MAKE REMITTANCE PAYABLE TO "NABMA" AND FORWARD TO THE TREASURER AT THE ADDRESS BELOW

**V.A.T.** 0.00

<b>Want to pay by BACS?</b>	<b>BANK DETAILS</b>	<b>please note</b>	<b>Amount Due</b>	<b>£ 768.00</b>
<b>Bank:</b>	HSBC Bank plc			
	The Cross, Oswestry, Shropshire. SY11 2SR			
<b>Ac Name:</b>	Nabma Ltd			
<b>Sort:</b>	40-35-32			
<b>Ac No:</b>	32027453			
<b>E-mail:</b>	nabma@nabma.com			
<b>Fax for statement:</b>	01691 671080			

Please remove and return with remittance

Date: 21-Feb-24

REMITTANCE ADVICE  
DR. TO NABMA

Invoice No: 23/ 1

Amount 768.00  
VAT 0.00  
**Amount Due £ 768.00**

Name: Mid Ulster District Council  
**ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION 2024/25**



**Martin McGuckin**  
**Ardboe Lifeboat Station**  
**205 Battery Road**  
**Cookstown**  
**BT80 0HY**

Dear Sir/Madam

27/01/2024

Lough Neagh Rescue wishes to make a formal request for an annual council contribution of £12,000 towards our search & rescue expenditure for the incoming financial year 2024/25. This request would represent £12,000 which will keep Mid Ulster Council contribution in line with Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon and Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Councils.

As an independent and competent organisation declared to the Coastguard through the PSNI we have a pivotal and central role in all search and rescue activities for Lough Neagh and its tributaries. We operate on a 24/7 365 voluntary service on behalf of the community and other statutory rescue agencies. As a voluntary organisation we operate to the levels consistent and required with the Declared Operational Status as recognised by the Coastguard. Our station at Ardboe covers all of the western and southwestern shores contiguous with Mid Ulster District Council's area and which represents the largest coverage of Lough Neagh.

Over the past 30 years we've had tremendous financial support from all councils around the Lough to include the three former councils which now form Mid Ulster District Council because of this support over those years we have past our strategic 10-year planning targets and now embarked on our new strategy which will see us into 2030. Our Search and Rescue and Flood/Swift water teams based in Ardboe, Antrim and Kinnego are recognised as key leaders in the voluntary rescue services on these islands and we operate not only to local NISAR but to the UK DEFRA boat code for Search and Rescue operations.

In 2022 the council reviewed its contribution level and set it at £12,000. This much appreciated contribution has indeed help bring us to into the next decade but now with two imminent investments in new equipment required, a new active Flood Water Response team in situ and increasing activity we find ourselves having to liaise with our councils in attempt to meet the SAR needs of Mid Ulster area. Any additional contributions in funding would be greatly appreciated during the current crisis, fuel cost alone represent a significant increase to our expenditure and is not in the gift of Lough Neagh Rescue to control.

**Lough Neagh Rescue**  
 Kinnego Bay, Lurgan,  
 Co Armagh, BT66 7NJ

**T:** 028 3834 5121  
**E:** secretary@loughneaghrescue.co.uk

**COMPANY NO.** NI30528  
**CHARITY NO.** NIC101051

It is our aim to have each of the three main councils match fund the organisation at a similar level on an annual basis. We would wish to revisit our service level agreement with Mid Ulster District Council since over the past three years major increases in costs and subsequent uplifting contributions from both other councils have created a funding anomaly across Lough Neagh and particularly for our station in Ardboe, Mid Ulster.

As always, we welcome visits from your Councillors and officials to see first-hand the work being carried out in the area and to this end we would welcome the council Chairperson and the Chair of your Development Committee to visit the Ardboe station. Mr. Wilson, as former Council Chair had previously indicated towards the end of his tenure that he would still be interested in visiting us formally and we would welcome their visit.

In the meantime, if you require any further information, please call myself (NO. 07738437886) or by visiting any of the three stations during training scheduled on a Tuesday evening at 7:30 PM. I look forward to hearing from you.

Martin McGuckin

Chairperson LNR

**Lough Neagh Rescue**  
Kinnego Bay, Lurgan,  
Co Armagh, BT66 7NJ

**T:** 028 3834 5121  
**E:** [secretary@loughneaghrescue.co.uk](mailto:secretary@loughneaghrescue.co.uk)

**COMPANY NO.** NI30528  
**CHARITY NO.** NIC101051

Lough Neagh Rescue Progress Report (2023-2024)



**Martin McGuckin**  
**Lough Neagh Rescue**  
**Chairperson**  
**Kinnego Lifeboat Station**  
**Kinnego Marina**  
**Oxford Island**  
**Lurgan**  
**BT66 7NJ**

	<u>Objectives</u>	<u>Outputs</u>
1.	LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE will continue to provide a pivotal and central role in all search and rescue activities for Lough Neagh and its tributaries.	During year 2023, LNR attended 31 callouts. Currently on day 46 of a long term search for a missing person.
2.	LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE will operate to the levels consistent and required with the Declare Operational Status as recognised by the Coastguard.	Agreed  LNR were awarded the Declared Facility Agreement from Belfast Coast Guard and we were the first independent lifeboat service in the UK and Ireland to achieve this. The boats are to Rescue Boat Code specification
3.	LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE Search and Rescue and Flood/Swift Teams will operate not only to local NISAR but also to UK DEFRA boat code for Search and Rescue.	Station Officers work to ensure compliance with both NISAR and UK DEFRA boat code.
4.	LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE will continue to base Search and Rescue and Flood/Swift teams at Ardboe, Kinnego and Antrim, to operate a 24 hr per day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year service on behalf of community and statutory rescue agencies, to cover all of the western and south western shores contiguous with Mid Ulster District Council area.	Lough Neagh Rescue has just reaffirmed its commitment to NISAR to provide 4 Lifeboats on Lough Neagh, its tributary rivers and beyond. Also 2 type c rescue teams to deploy all over N Ireland and MUDC areas. 24/7 365 days per year.

**Lough Neagh Rescue**  
 Kinnego Bay, Lurgan,  
 Co Armagh, BT66 7NJ

**T:** 028 3834 5121  
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**COMPANY NO.** NI30528  
**CHARITY NO.** NIC101051

5.	LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE will have responsibility to ensure all equipment is serviced and maintained to standards pertinent to delivery Search and Rescue and ensure all staff and volunteers working as part of Search and Rescue and Flood/Swift teams are trained and qualified to standards recognised by the Coastguard, Northern Ireland Search and Rescue and UK DEFRA.	A new programme was rolled out to replace PPE with 20 new dry-suits having been purchased. This should be added to in the coming year. Other gear, such as, gloves and under-suits should also be replaced and kept up to date and the SO's will be working hard to keep this right.  Aim should be that every crew has their own personal kit.
6.	LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE will ensure adequate insurances are in place to cover all potential liabilities.	Liabilities up to £10m in place
7.	LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE will provide a 10 year strategic plan with targets up to 2030	Strategy up to 2030 in place
8.	LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE will organise Best Practice Visits of both elected members and officials as and when required.	Elected members and officials are always welcome to attend any LNR facility at anytime
9.	LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE will submit an annual report by detailing progress on all key areas of work and its contributions. Report to be submitted by end of March 2023.	Report submitted February 2024 due to SLA pending
10.	LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE will administer all structures necessary to manage and implement the funds appropriately.	Agreed
11.	LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE will facilitate the involvement of Council staff and elected members in its work.	Agreed
12.	LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE will provide ongoing support to Council's objectives.	Agreed
13.	LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE will meet with Council's Tourism Service Manager to discuss progress prior to the end of March 2024.	LNR met with M McKeown, Tourism Service Manager and A O'Keefe May 23 at Ardboe station and showed them one of the new lifeboats, explaining the additional

**Lough Neagh Rescue**

Kinnego Bay, Lurgan,  
Co Armagh, BT66 7NJ

**T:** 028 3834 5121

**E:** secretary@loughneaghrescue.co.uk

**COMPANY NO.** NI30528  
**CHARITY NO.** NIC101051

		benefits to the lough. We would like to invite other members and officials to meet with us so we can give a show and tell of the services we provide and our capabilities as an organisation.
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Martin McGuckin, Chairperson LNR

**Lough Neagh Rescue**  
Kinnego Bay, Lurgan,  
Co Armagh, BT66 7NJ

**T:** 028 3834 5121  
**E:** [secretary@loughneaghrescue.co.uk](mailto:secretary@loughneaghrescue.co.uk)

**COMPANY NO.** NI30528  
**CHARITY NO.** NIC101051

**SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT**

**BETWEEN**

**MID ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**AND**

**LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE**

**April 2024 – March 2025**

DRAFT



**THIS AGREEMENT** is made on the **??/??/2024 ENTER FULL DATE ONCE AGREED**

## **PARTIES**

- (1) MID ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL whose address is at Dungannon Office, 15 Circular Road, Dungannon BT71 6DT (the "**Council**"); and
- (2) LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE (Charity no. NIC 101051 and Company no. NI 30528) whose registered office is at, Kinnego Bay, Lurgan Co Armagh BT66 7NJ.

## **BACKGROUND**

- a) LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE is an independent and voluntary organisation, declared to the Coastguard through the PSNI, as having a pivotal and central role in all search and rescue activities for Lough Neagh and its tributaries. LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE operate to the levels consistent and required with the Declared Operational Status as recognised by the Coastguard. The Search and Rescue and Flood/Swift teams are recognised as key leaders in the voluntary rescue services on these islands and operate not only to local Northern Ireland Search and Rescue (NISAR) but also to UK DEFRA boat code for Search and Rescue.
- b) Search and Rescue and Flood/Swift teams based at Ardboe, Kinnego and Antrim, LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE operate a 24 hr per day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year service on behalf of community and statutory rescue agencies.
- c) LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE receive financial support from all the councils surrounding the Lough (Mid Ulster District Council, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council and Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council. This has enabled LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE to meet their strategic 10 year planning targets and embark on a new strategy up to 2030.
- d) Financial support provided by Mid Ulster District Council will assist Lough Neagh Rescue to carry out the search and rescue needs of all of the Western and South Western shores, (contiguous with Mid Ulster District Council area) as further detailed in Schedule 1 of this Agreement.
- e) The Council have been made aware of two new imminent investments of new equipment, specifically required for a new active Flood Water Response team in situ and increasing activity on the Lough for, which requires part of Mid Ulster District Council's funding contribution to meet the Search and Rescue needs of Mid Ulster area.

## **1. DEFINITIONS**

"Charges" shall mean the charges which shall become due and payable by the Council to (2) LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE in respect of the Services in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement. Such charges are further set out in **Schedule 2 of this Agreement**

“Commencement Date” shall mean 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024.

“Data Protection Legislation” means all applicable data protection and privacy legislation in force from time to time in the UK including the UK GDPR; the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA 2018) (and regulations made thereunder) and the Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations 2003 (SI 2003/2426) as amended and the guidance and codes of practice issued by the Information Commissioner or other relevant regulatory authority and applicable to a party.

“Law” shall mean the laws of Northern Ireland and any other laws or regulations, regulatory policies, guidelines or industry codes which apply to the provision of the Services or with which LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE is bound to comply.

“Services” shall mean those services specified in **Schedule 1 of this Agreement** and any other such services which may be agreed between the parties from time to time.

“Term” shall mean from the Commencement Date until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025

“Working Day” shall mean Monday to Friday, excluding any public holidays in Northern Ireland.

## 2. COMMENCEMENT AND DURATION

This Agreement shall take effect on the Commencement Date and unless terminated earlier is in accordance with the terms of this Agreement, shall continue for the Term.

## 3. SUPPLY OF SERVICES

- a. LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE shall provide the Services and provide secretariat to LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE Company and its structures with a view to providing Search and Rescue needs of Mid Ulster area as set out in Schedule 1 of this Agreement.
- b. Responsibility for the management of the LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE will be vested in the Board of Directors of LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE.
- c. The parties’ authorised representatives for the purpose of this Agreement shall be Council’s Tourism Manager and the Chairman of LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE.
- d. The Council reserves the right to withdraw funding should the LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE fail to adequately provide the service as outlined in Schedule 1 of this Agreement which forms the basis of the Council’s agreement to commit funds to it. Funding will be reviewed by the Council on an annual basis on receipt of the written request from LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE and will require LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE to **submit end of year progress reports for each year of the Agreement showing progress against activities**. In addition LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE may be required to attend a committee meeting of Council.

#### **4. COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE**

- a. LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE shall operate a procedure for dealing with the repercussions of defaulting on any of its obligations under this Agreement and/or complaints about its provision of the Service.

#### **5. COMPLIANCE AND CHANGE IN LAWS**

- a. In performing its obligations under this Agreement LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE shall have regard to and comply with all applicable Law (including but not limited to the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 and any other Law relating to/about health and safety).
- b. LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE shall monitor and shall keep the Council informed in writing of any changes in the Law which may impact the Services and shall provide the Council with timely details of measures it proposes to take and changes it proposes to make to comply with any such changes.
- c. LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE shall neither be relieved of its obligations to supply the Services in accordance with the terms of this Agreement nor be entitled to an increase in the Charges as the result of a change in Law.

#### **6. INSURANCE Required**

- a. LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE shall at its own cost effect and maintain with reputable insurance companies adequate insurance to cover all such risks and liabilities as may arise in the course of providing the Services including death or personal injury, loss of or damage to property or any other loss (the "Required Insurances"). Such policies shall include cover in respect of any financial loss arising from any advice given or omitted to be given by the The Council, in their limited role in providing financial support to LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE. This is, in part, to ensure the risk is minimised to the Council against all claims, demands, actions or proceedings made or brought and all losses, damages, costs, expenses and liabilities incurred, suffered or arising directly or indirectly in respect of or otherwise connected with the actions of the Services provided by LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE.
- b. If, for whatever reason, LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE fails to give effect to and maintain the Required Insurances, the Authority may make alternative arrangements to protect its interests and may recover the costs of such arrangements from the LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE.
- c. The terms of any insurance or the amount of cover shall not relieve the LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE of any liabilities under the agreement.

#### **7. LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE VOLUNTEERS**

- a. In relation to the employment of staff/volunteers, employment/volunteering conditions and practices must comply with all the relevant Law and should take account of current good practice in relation to employment/volunteering rights and the promotion of equality of opportunity and good relations.

- b. The Parties believe that the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 (the "Employment Regulations") will not apply to this Agreement, whether on its commencement, during the Term on expiry or termination of the Agreement in whole or in part. In the event that, contrary to the expressed understanding of the Parties, the Employment Regulations are alleged by any person (including a Party, any trade union or staff association, employee representative or employee) to apply, or held by court of competent jurisdiction to apply, LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE shall indemnify the Council for all liabilities, claims, losses, damages, costs and expenses arising out of or in connection with the application of the Employment Regulations.

## **8. AUDIT**

- a. During the Term and up to 7 years following completion, LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE shall allow the Council (acting by itself or via any representatives authorised to act on behalf of the Council) to access any of LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE'S premises, records, financial or otherwise, systems, personnel or equipment as may be required for the purposes of (*inter alia*) fulfilling any legally enforceable request by a regulatory body, monitoring and evaluating LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE'S compliance with its obligations under this Agreement, verify the accuracy of the Charges or identify suspected fraud and to verify the achievement or objectives or progress towards such objectives.

## **9. CHARGES**

- a. The Council shall pay the Charges to the LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE in accordance with Schedule 2.
- b. If LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE is in breach of any of its obligations relating to this Agreement as detailed in Schedule 1, then the Council may require LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE to pay the Council the aggregate of all Charges paid to LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE during the Term or such lesser amount as the Council may determine.
- c. Mid Ulster District Council shall be entitled to publish details of the assistance referred to in this letter at such times and in such manner as they may decide.
- d. The Council would expect that its contribution would receive formal recognition by way of an invitation to the Council Chair to any appropriate regional event/official opening and mention in publicity pertaining to the event/facility.

## **10. INDEMNITY**

- a. LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE shall indemnify and keep indemnified the Council against all liabilities, costs, expenses, damages and losses incurred by the Council arising out of or in connection with:
  - i. LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE'S breach or negligent performance or nonperformance of this Agreement;

- ii. any claim made against the Council arising out of or in connection with the provision of the Services, to the extent that such claim arises out of the breach, negligent performance or failure or delay in performance of this Agreement by LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE.

## **11. LIABILITY**

- a. Nothing in this Agreement limits any liability which cannot legally be limited, including for:
  - i. death and personal injury caused by negligence; and
  - ii. fraud or fraudulent misrepresentation.
- b. Subject to clause 10(a), the Council's total aggregate liability under this Agreement shall be limited to the Charges.

## **12. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION**

- a. The Council is subject to the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the "Act"). Any information, which comes into the possession of the Council may be subject to disclosure under the provisions of that Act, unless an exemption applies. Only the Council can make the decision regarding whether information is disclosable or not. In arriving at the decision, The Council will take account of the nature of the information, exemptions provided by the Act, and the public interest. If the information is disclosable in accordance with the terms of the Council has no discretion to prevent its disclosure.
- b. LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE will:
  - i. provide all necessary assistance and cooperation as reasonably requested by the Council to enable the Authority to comply with its obligations under the Act;
  - ii. transfer to the Council all requests for Information relating to this Agreement that it receives as soon as practicable and in any event within 2 Working Days of receipt;
  - iii. provide the Council with a copy of all information belonging to the Authority requested in the request for information which is in its possession or control in the form that the Council requires within 5 Working Days (or such other period as the Council may reasonably specify) of the Council's request for such information; and
  - iv. not respond directly to a request for information unless authorised in writing to do so by the Council.

## **13. DATA PROCESSING**

- a. Both parties acknowledge that the only personal data which will be exchanged between the parties is details of employee/volunteer names of each party. Both parties acknowledge that they shall each act as independent controllers in respect of these employee/volunteer names.
- b. Both parties will comply with all applicable requirements of the Data Protection Legislation. This clause is in addition to, and does not relieve, remove or replace, a party's obligations or rights under the Data Protection Legislation.

- c. LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE shall ensure that it has an appropriate privacy policy in place with those of its employees/volunteers whom shall have their name shared with the Council.

#### 14. NO PARTNERSHIP OR AGENCY

- a. Nothing in this Agreement is intended to, or shall be deemed to, establish any partnership or joint venture between any of the parties, constitute any party the agent of another party, or authorise any party to make or enter into any commitments for or on behalf of any other party.
- b. Each party confirms it is acting on its own behalf and not for the benefit of any other person.

#### 15. CONFIDENTIALITY

- a. The provisions of this clause do not apply to any Confidential information:
  - i. is or becomes available to the public (other than as a result of its disclosure by the receiving party or its representatives in breach of this clause);
  - ii. was available to the receiving party on a non-confidential basis before disclosure by the disclosing party;
  - iii. was, is, or becomes available to the receiving party on a nonconfidential basis from a person who, to the receiving party's knowledge, is not bound by a confidentiality agreement with the disclosing party or otherwise prohibited from disclosing the information to the receiving party;
  - iv. the parties agree in writing is not confidential or may be disclosed;
  - v. which is disclosed by the Authority on a confidential basis to any central government or regulatory body.
- b. Each party shall keep the other party's Confidential Information secret and confidential and shall not:
  - i. use such Confidential Information except for the purpose of exercising or performing its rights and obligations under or in connection with this Agreement (**Permitted Purpose**); or
  - ii. disclose such Confidential information in whole or in part to any third party, except as expressly permitted by this.
- c. A party may disclose the other party's Confidential information to those of its representatives who need to know such Confidential Information for the Permitted Purpose, provided that:
  - i. it informs such representatives of the confidential nature of the Confidential Information before disclosure; and
  - ii. it procures that its representatives shall, in relation to any Confidential Information disclosed to them, comply with the obligations set out in this clause as if they were a party to this Agreement,
  - iii. and at all times, it is liable for the failure of any Representatives to comply with the obligations set out in this clause.

- d. A party may disclose Confidential Information to the extent such Confidential Information is required to be disclosed by Law (including under the Act), by any governmental or other regulatory authority or by a court or other authority of competent jurisdiction provided that, to the extent it is legally permitted to do so, it gives the other party as much notice of such disclosure as possible.

## **16. REMEDIATION PROCESS**

- a. If LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE is in default in complying with any of its obligations under this Agreement the Council may, at its sole discretion, choose to terminate this Agreement in accordance with clause 17 or enter into a remediation plan process. If the Council chooses to enter into a remediation plan process, it shall give a remediation notice to LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE which shall specify the default in outline and the actions LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE needs to take to remedy the default.
- b. The Council shall be under no obligation to initiate a remediation plan process.
- c. Within 5 Business Days of receipt of a Remediation Notice, LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE shall:
  - i. submit a draft remediation plan, even if it disputes that it is responsible for the matters which are the subject of the remediation notice; or
  - ii. inform the Council that it does not intend to submit a remediation plan, in which event the Council shall be entitled to serve a termination notice.
- d. The Council shall either approve the draft remediation plan within 5 Business Days of its receipt or it shall inform LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE why it cannot accept the draft remediation plan. In such circumstances, LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE shall address all such concerns in a revised remediation plan, which it shall submit to the Council within 5 Business Days of its receipt of the Council's comments. If no such notice is given, LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE draft remediation plan shall be deemed to be agreed.
- e. Once agreed, LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE shall immediately start work on the actions set out in the remediation plan.
- f. If a remediation plan cannot be agreed within 5 Business Days then the Council may elect to end the remediation plan process and serve a termination notice.
- g. If a remediation plan is agreed between the parties, but LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE fails to implement or successfully complete the remediation plan by the required completion date, the Council may:
  - i. terminate this Agreement by serving a termination notice; or
  - ii. give LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE a further opportunity to resume full implementation of the remediation plan.

## **17. TERMINATION**

- a. Without affecting any other right or remedy available to it the Council may terminate this Agreement with immediate effect or on the expiry of the period specified in the Termination Notice by giving written notice to LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE if one or more of the following circumstances occurs or exists:
  - i. if LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE is in material breach of this Agreement, which is irremediable;
  - ii. if LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE is in material breach of this Agreement (where, for the avoidance of doubt, failure to adequately provide the

services shall constitute a material breach) and, where such breach is remediable, fails to remedy such breach within 3 days of being notified of such breach;

- iii. if there is an Insolvency Event; or
- iv. the Council reasonably believes that the circumstances set out in regulation 73(1) of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 apply.

**18. TERMINATION ON NOTICE**

Without affecting any other right or remedy available to it, the Council may terminate this Agreement at any time by giving one month's written notice to LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE.



**19. WAIVER**

- a. A waiver of any right or remedy is only effective if given in writing and shall not be deemed a waiver of any subsequent right or remedy.
- b. A delay or failure to exercise, or the single or partial exercise of, any right or remedy shall not waive that or any other right or remedy, nor shall it prevent or restrict the further exercise of that or any other right or remedy.

**20. SEVERANCE**

- a. If any provision or part-provision of this Agreement is or becomes invalid, illegal or unenforceable, it shall be deemed deleted, but that shall not affect the validity and enforceability of the rest of this Agreement.

**21. ASSIGNMENT AND OTHER DEALINGS**

- a. The Council may at any time assign, mortgage, charge, subcontract, delegate, declare a trust over or deal in any other manner with any or all of its rights and obligations under this Agreement.
- b. LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE shall not assign, transfer, mortgage, charge, subcontract, delegate, declare a trust over or deal in any other manner with any of its rights and obligations under this Agreement without the prior written consent of the Authority.

**22. ENTIRE AGREEMENT AND VARIATION**

- a. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties and supersedes and extinguishes all previous and contemporaneous agreements, promises, assurances and understandings between them, whether written or oral, relating to its subject matter.
- b. No variation of this Agreement shall be effective unless it is in writing and signed by the parties.

**23. GOVERNING LAW**

- a. This Agreement and any dispute or claim arising out of or in connection with it or its subject matter or formation (including non-contractual disputes or claims) shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the law of Northern Ireland.

**24. JURISDICTION**

- a. Each party irrevocably agrees that the courts of Northern Ireland shall have exclusive jurisdiction to settle any dispute or claim arising out of or in connection with this Agreement or its subject matter or formation (including non-contractual disputes or claims).

## **Schedule 1 – SERVICE OBJECTIVES & SPECIFICATION**

### **1. AIMS OF THE SERVICE**

LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE will provide a Search and Rescue service to Mid Ulster District Council (MUDC) and the wider areas as specified.

### **2. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

**2.1.** LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE will provide the following services for the Council:

- 2.1.1.** LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE will continue to provide a pivotal and central role in all search and rescue activities for Lough Neagh and its tributaries.
- 2.1.2.** LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE will operate to the levels consistent and required with the Declare Operational Status as recognised by the Coastguard.
- 2.1.3.** LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE Search and Rescue and Flood/Swift Teams will operate not only to local NISAR but also to UK DEFRA boat code for Search and Rescue.
- 2.1.4.** LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE will continue to base Search and Rescue and Flood/Swift teams at Ardboe, Kinnego and Antrim, to operate a 24 hr per day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year service on behalf of community and statutory rescue agencies, to cover all of the western and south western shores contiguous with Mid Ulster District Council area.
- 2.1.5.** LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE will have responsibility to ensure all equipment is serviced and maintained to standards pertinent to delivery Search and Rescue and ensure all staff and volunteers working as part of Search and Rescue and Flood/Swift teams are trained and qualified to standards recognised by the Coastguard, Northern Ireland Search and Rescue and UK DEFRA.
- 2.1.6.** LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE will ensure adequate insurances are in place to cover all potential liabilities.
- 2.1.7.** LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE will provide a 10 year strategic plan with targets up to 2030
- 2.1.8.** LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE will organise Best Practice Visits of both elected members and officials as and when required.
- 2.1.9.** LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE will submit an annual report by detailing progress on all key areas of work and its contributions. Report to be submitted by end of March 2025.
- 2.1.10.** LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE will administer all structures necessary to manage and implement the funds appropriately.
- 2.1.11.** LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE will facilitate the involvement of Council staff and elected members in its work.

**2.1.12.** LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE will provide ongoing support to Council's objectives.

**2.1.13.** LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE will meet with Council's Tourism Service Manager to discuss progress prior to the end of March 2025.

## **SCHEDULE 2 – FINANCIAL & RESOURCING ARRANGEMENT**

3.1 The Council has agreed that payment of £12,000 sterling (Twelve Thousand Pounds) will be paid to LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE for their exclusive use towards the organisation costs for year 1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025. Payment will be released only upon the following conditions:

- Submission of an original invoice. Copies are **NOT** acceptable.
- Provision of completed and signed Declaration Form confirming LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE has all requisite documentation in place.
- Submission of annual progress report detailing progress on all key areas of work and its contributions.
- Mid Ulster District Council will have the right to request repayment of all or part of the assistance if the conditions outlined in this Agreement are not met.

**ANNEX ONE**

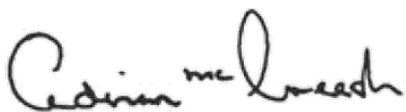
**ACCEPTANCE FORM**

I, Martin McGuckin, as Chairperson of LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE have read and understood the Council's Service Level Agreement between LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE and Mid Ulster District Council.

I agree to comply with the conditions as detailed in these documents and to abide by those principles and procedures in my role as Chairperson of LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE.

**COUNCIL OFFICIAL**

**LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE (Chairperson)**

Signed: 

Signed:

**ADRIAN MCCREESH**

**MARTIN MCGUCKIN**

**Position: Chief Executive**

**Position: Chairperson**

**DATE: 16.02.2024**

**DATE:**

Please sign two copies of this Agreement, one to be returned to Mid Ulster District Council and one to be retained by LOUGH NEAGH RESCUE.

## APPENDIX 6

### Potential Labour Market Partnership (LMP) 'Multiply' Programme Initiatives

MULTIPLY INITIATIVE	HOW WOULD THIS BE DELIVERED? IS PROCUREMENT REQUIRED?
<p><b>Maths for speakers of other languages – for non English speakers, this award would provide a qualification or place individuals on pathway to improving numeracy and language skills.</b></p>	<p>Procurement required – delivery most likely via community based organisations who already work with the migrant community.</p>
<p><b>Engaging Mature Learners - Making It Count – Target specifically over 40's, who have some of the lowest numeracy skills in Northern Ireland, with pastoral and additional support structures to complete informal training or to gain a numeracy related qualification.</b></p>	<p>Procurement required for accredited courses. Remaining delivery by Numeracy Champions</p> <p>Formal qualifications such as ICT, Excel, Book-keeping</p> <p>Soft skills via workshops such as pension advice, budgeting, nutrition, grant advice for farming community</p>
<p><b>Counting on you - Industry Upskilling – Numeracy classes in the workplace with additional support to gain a qualification or informal recognition of numeracy learning.</b></p>	<p>Procurement required for accredited courses. Remaining delivery by Numeracy Champions</p> <p>Primarily accredited courses to assist in upskilling/reskilling workforce particularly in IT skills – e.g. excel, advanced excel, SEO and digital marketing; and finance skills – e.g. Finance for non finance managers, Bookkeeping, Payroll, Provision of Level 1 or Level 2 numeracy where needed</p> <p>Workshops re workplace pensions, HMRC reporting requirements, accessing funding</p>
<p><b>Supporting previous offenders and those in prison system – Numeracy programme designed to support those in the prison system or former offenders, complementing and expanding on existing schemes.</b></p>	<p>N/A – Project by NIACRO covers all previous offenders within the Mid Ulster area under SPF funding. Any further activity would be duplication.</p>

<p><b>Numeracy Boot Camps – Short term numeracy learning through real life issues (nutrition, household finances, sport, pensions etc). Short courses, informal recognition, sign posting to formal qualifications.</b></p>	<p>Procurement required for Gamified Learning. Remaining delivery by Numeracy Champions</p> <p>Numeracy based Gamified Learning Project Soft skills workshops such as cookery, nutrition and meal planning; budgeting and household finances; energy detective; sport related numeracy</p>
<p><b>Bring your grown up – Numeracy programme through community and educational settings for children and parents to learn numeracy together.</b></p>	<p>Delivery by Numeracy Champion</p> <p>Soft skills programmes such as Homework Helper, Early Years play and coding and gaming</p>
<p><b>Multiply officers – to promote and engage with community groups and employers to take advantage of existing and new numeracy provision.</b></p>	<p>Recruitment of a multiply officer to deliver, co-ordinate and monitor all elements of the multiply programme and engage with community groups across the district to maximise impact</p>

**Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 15 February 2024 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon and by Virtual Means**

**Members Present**

Councillor McNamee, Chair

Councillors Black, W Buchanan\*, F Burton, Clarke\*, Corry\*, Forde\*, Gildernew, McLernon, McQuade, Milne\*, Molloy, Monteith, Quinn\*, Wilson\*

**Officers in Attendance**

Mr Black, Strategic Director of Communities & Place (SD: C&P)  
Ms Linney, Assistant Director of Development (AD: Dev)\*\*  
Ms McKeown, Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes (AD: EDT&SP)\*\*  
Ms McCartney, Strategic Programme Development Manager (SPDM)  
Mr Brown, ICT Support  
Mrs Grogan, Committee and Member Services Officer

**Others in Attendance**

Agenda Item 5 – Deputation – Cairdre Ní Néill (Irish Language Hubs)  
Mr Séamus Ó Gealbháin (Cathaoirleach – Chair)  
Mr Damian Ó Néill (Oifigeach Forbartha Gaeilge – Irish Development Officer)  
Mr Gerry Ó Gealbháin (Oifigeach Forbatha – Development Officer)

Councillor J Burton\*\*\*  
Councillor Kerr\*\*\*  
Councillor S McPeake\*\*\*

\* Denotes Members present in remote attendance

\*\* Denotes Officers present by remote means

\*\*\* Denotes Others present by remote means

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

*The Chair, Councillor McNamee welcomed everyone to the meeting and those watching the meeting through the Live Broadcast. Councillor McNamee in introducing the meeting detailed the operational arrangements for transacting the business of the committee in the chamber and by virtual means, by referring to Annex A to this minute.*

**D018/24 Notice of Recording**

This meeting will be webcast for live and subsequent broadcast on the Council's YouTube site.

## **D019/24 Apologies**

Councillor Bell

Mr Gordon, Assistant Director of Health, Leisure and Wellbeing (AD: HL&W)

## **D020/24 Declaration of Interests**

The Chair, Councillor McNamee reminded Members of their responsibility with regard to declaration of interest.

*Councillor Gildernew declared an interest in Mid Ulster Swim Academy 2023 Review as relative works in Leisure Centre.*

*Councillor F Burton declared an interest in Agewell.*

*Councillor Corry declared an interest in Agewell.*

*Councillor Milne declared an interest in Agewell.*

*Councillor Wilson declared an interest in Good Relations - Mid Ulster Pipe Bands.*

## **D021/24 Chair's Business**

Councillor Molloy said he wished to raise an issue regarding Aughnacloy Playgroup. The member advised that he had been approached by a member of the board raising concerns about inadequate facilities at the site. The playgroup is situated beside Aughnacloy pitches which is our property, and they lease a portion of the land. The member advised that the playgroup is having issues with toilet facilities and sewage and unfortunately had to close this week due to trying to get these concerns resolved. He asked that the different agencies be approached i.e. NI Water or DfI or whoever is responsible to come together to get a long-term solution as this has been going on now for several years.

Councillor F Burton said that she supported comments by the previous speaker as this was a very well-run playgroup but unfortunately, they are encountering these issues on a regular basis and said that any support that could be provided would be very much welcomed.

Councillor Gildernew concurred with previous comments and said that the playgroup does not have much available money and cannot run a facility without toilets and asked that anything that can be done to support the playgroup so this matter is resolved would be very welcome.

## **D022/24 Deputation – Cairde Uí Néill (Irish Language Hubs)**



The Chair, Councillor McNamee welcomed Mr Séamus Ó Gealbháin, Mr Damian Ó Néill and Mr Gerry Ó Gealbháin from Cairde Uí Néill and invited them to make their presentation (appendix 1).

The representatives provided presentation on the work of Cairde Uí Néill. Cairde Uí Néill are a Irish Language Voluntary Community Group which was founded in 1992 and registered as a Charities Commission in 2016, which serves the Coalisland/Clonoe Parishes and surrounding areas in Mid Ulster.

Cairde Uí Néill promotes:

- Irish Medium Education (IME)
- Community Engagement
- Expansion of Objectives
- Accountability and All-Ireland Recognition

Challenges to overcome -

Deficiencies/Inefficiencies in Current Service Provision:

- Lack of permanent facility
- Restricted class availability & inadequate ICT and internet access
- Venue limitations for events
- Youth Club challenges
- Examination preparation constraints
- Accessibility issues with the office for the Language Development Officer
- Despite these challenges, Cairde Uí Néill remain proud of its achievements in service provision, community uptake, program visibility, and outreach to users of all ages

How can Mid Ulster District Council help:

- Cairde Uí Néill have successfully secured Letter of Offer for £198k to purchase building and grounds from Dept of Communities under Indigenous Languages Capital Fund.
- Cairde Uí Néill have successfully secured match funding for £150k from Ciste Infhéistíochta na Gaeilge to help with purchase and initial basic renovation of building and grounds.
- Additional match funding available from Ciste Infhéistíochta na Gaeilge of £50k dependent on Cairde Uí Néill securing a further £50k. A letter of Offer from Council for £50k automatically secures Cairde Uí Néill the matched funding from Ciste, without this, the project is in danger of not happening.
- This is a key project in terms of Irish Language and Community Development both for Cairde Uí Néill and for the Councils own language strategy.

The Chair thanked Seamus, Gerry and Damian for their presentation and said that the group were doing brilliant work throughout Mid Ulster, particular in the Coalisland area. He said that he liked their vision for the future as it will compliment all the work the group was doing and would be fully supportive of supporting this initiative going forward.

Councillor McLernon wished to thank Cairde Uí Néill for their presentation this evening. The member said that she was very aware of this project and the massive

benefits this will have, not only to the Irish speaking community and the promotion of the Irish language, but to the wider community of Coalisland, the hub will be an immense benefit to the Coalisland community and the wider catchment area as it will be another element to that area of the town which will link up the Irish school and the development of Gortgonis. The member advised that this was a great foresight for Cairde Uí Néill to see this massive potential for what it will have for the community and felt that Council should see no reason not to support this application for funding as it was in line with Council's regeneration plans for that area of the town. She said that there was a need to recognise all the hard work that has been put in by Cairde Uí Néill as most of the work that has been done down through the years has been done voluntarily and community supported and as stated tonight in the presentation, the project is on the button in terms of what the Council is asking community groups to do, the group has went and done all the hard work, secured other funding and would encourage the group to work along with Council Officers to get the right funding package. The member wished Cairde Uí Néill every success on their application for the project and looked forward to seeing it delivered.

Councillor Molloy thanked the group for their presentation and stated that Cairde Uí Néill have always been to the fore promoting the Irish language and doing the groundwork in terms of what is happening over this last 30 years, not only in Coalisland but across South Tyrone and now Mid Ulster area. The member wished the group well with their project and whatever help is required through Council, to please come forward.

Councillor Quinn thanked Cairde Uí Néill for their excellent presentation and referred to all the great work the group has done over the years in Coalisland, which was plain to see. He said that given the fact the group does not have a hub or a centre but continue to do all the fantastic work in which they have done, speaks volumes. The member advised that he had lived in the Gaeltacht area of West Belfast as a student and had always thought it was fantastic idea, and through conversations with representatives from Cairde Uí Néill over this last couple of months, this could be a name that we could get and really develop the initiative. The member said that their aim to develop an area of the town that is a key part for this Council and certainly for funding, he did not see any reason why this Council would not be supporting the group as they provide fantastic work and look forward to see what the outcome is in the future.

Councillor Quinn referred to the site of the old boxing club, which is now a coffee shop called Uppercut, already a lot of development has been done which was basically an eyesore in the past and Mr Quinn has turned this into a great business. He enquired what Cairde Uí Néill's plans were and asked if they were working with Mr Quinn.

The representatives advised that they were working with Mr Quinn every step of the way and he was very supportive of the project as he sees it as bringing business to his business as well. The group are currently with McKeown & Shields Architects to reconfigure the site to try and retain Mr Quinn on the site. Gaelscoil at Gortgonis is anticipated to be up and going in the next year or 18 months which is a quite a rapid build and hoped that this would be operational by summer 2025, until that point the afterschool facility would not move in and had advised Mr Quinn to retain his lease

and they would work with him. One of the other aspects that had been mentioned earlier was about linking in with the Canal Path, it actually backs on to the Canal Path and at some point in the future with Phase 2 or Phase 3 of the development, a coffee shop is being looked at as a drop-in centre for the Cairde Uí Néill and Irish speakers within the town which would open onto the Canal and conversations has taken place with Mr Quinn giving him first refusal on the lease with Mr Quinn thinking it was a fantastic opportunity for his business.

Councillor Quinn felt that this was a fantastic idea as our Council has tried this over the recent years and had hit a brick wall. The member stated that if the site was opened up onto the Canal, the possibilities would be endless and a fantastic opportunity and great to see an organisation like Cairde Uí Néill doing that. The member wished the group well in their future endeavours and said that anything that he could do to help, to get in contact.

Councillor Kerr paid special thanks to Gerry, Seamus and Damian as it was good to see arguably three Coalisland Fianna men giving a presentation. The member said that this was a fantastic opportunity for the community of Coalisland to potentially turn a derelict building into a thriving community hub. In the recent Census, Coalisland had a high concentration of Irish language speakers and his cousins had attended the primary school in Clonoe, hundreds of children have passed through the corridors of the school and had provided a great platform and not just about education, but about community involvement. The member stated that he had absolutely no doubt that Council would be very keen to engage with the group and provide the extra funding required to make this reality into a flourishing community initiative. The member said that if the group need any help from the Torrent Councillors, then don't be afraid to reach out as we all have a vested interest in trying to promote our native language.

The Chair thanked representatives for attending the meeting tonight and said that the group could see for themselves the support from throughout the Chamber and advised that Officers would be in touch to discuss options for funding. The Chair wished Cairde Uí Néill all the best going forward.

*The representatives from Cairde Uí Néill withdraw from the meeting at 7.29 pm.*

## **Matters for Decision**

### **D023/24      Development Report**

The Assistant Director of Development (AD: Dev) presented previously circulated report which sought approval for the following –

- Rolling Community Grants
- Hill of the O'Neill Telecommunications Mast - Update
- Good Relations Plan 2024 - 2025
- Development Department - Update

Councillor Molloy referred to NI Water – Telecommunications mast and said that this news was seriously disappointing and almost an act of bad faith in what was previously agreed. The member advised that discussions had taken place over 12 months ago and at that stage his understanding was that NI Water was agreeing there and then to a feasibility study to look at the mast in partnership with the Council and now hearing the rollback that it is not in the budget, not a priority for them, same old, same old. The member stated that Council needed to be holding them to account and suggested writing to the now installed Minister inviting him to attend an onsite meeting to have a look at the situation, to discuss a way forward as a priority.

Councillor Monteith said that this was nothing short of a disgrace, this Council has been treated atrociously, the people of Dungannon have been treated atrociously, the wider area has been treated atrociously and this is the worst acts of ignorance of opinion right across the board he has seen in 20 years as a Councillor. This way forward was not of our choosing, it was NI Water who wanted to go down this path, it was NI Water who stated that this needed to go down a route of a feasibility study despite repeated requests from elected members as to updates and where we were at and were met with silence. The member said that it was the very good faith of this Council to agree to pay 50% of the costs in the first instance, given the fact that this mast is the sole responsibility of NI Water. The member referred to what Councillor Molloy previously alluded to that over 12 months ago NI Water lead Council to believe that there end of the bargain was secured and finds it incredibly difficult to get his head around how this would have been put to tender without them having the money in place to back it up.

The Strategic Director of Communities and Place (SD: C&P) said that it was his understanding that NI Water were looking to appoint through a framework or contract they had in place and were engaging with this company to try and ascertain a price. The price which was initially quoted to Council increased and we went back to seek approval to uplift the amount of money the Council were bringing. The SD: C&P said that he would agree with members comments as he too was at the meeting and was also under the impression that NI Water had agreed to this, and had their finances secured.

Councillor Monteith enquired how could a public body initially tender for a process without having the money in place to do so and found it nothing short of a disgrace. He said that this will be the same process again going out and being more expensive, talk about a waste of money. The member felt that there was a need to put the pressure on but said that we were now well past feasibility studies as everyone knows what the answer is and that the monstrosity on the Hill has to go. The member stated that he was not massively in favour of the line of attack in the first place, but there was a need to take these people at good face value which has now basically been threw back in our faces. He said another 12 months has been wasted and seemed to him that every time there is any sort of pulling with this organisation in the last 20 years, that anytime you think you are getting anywhere, it's stalled and a stalling tactic all the time. The member said that there was a serious need to look at the issues around the site as it is a natural heritage site and planning permission submitted all the time for further antenna and that mast wouldn't have received planning permission if it wasn't there. He said that this is one of the worst examples he had witnessed in his lifetime as a Councillor and was absolutely

flabbergasted when he read the minutes of the meeting as it was an absolute disgrace.

The Chair also concurred with previous comments and agreed that this was a disgrace, NI Water approached Council to ask if we wanted to pay for it all, given the fact it was their apparatus.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy  
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to write to the now installed Minister responsible inviting him to attend an onsite meeting to discuss a way forward as a priority.

Councillor Gildernew referred to point 2.3 of Good Relations Plan for 2024/25 and said that it was great to see it there and hoped that Good Relations funding would be based on the 2022/23 level of funding and not on the lower budget that was set last year. The member said that in terms of the Good Relations Working Group, she was nominated to the group when she became a new Councillor and asked if there was any update as she was not aware of any meetings taking place.

The AD: Dev advised that the Good Relations Working Group operates under Corporate Services and aligns mainly to Equality Section 75 and the decoupling of the Good Relations and would take consideration of a Good Relations issue that may come from a Section 75 review. The AD: Dev said that if there were any strategic issues potentially at a corporate level it does come together. The AD: Dev advised that she would check if the group is anticipated to meet.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy  
Seconded by Councillor McLernon and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to –

- Approve the assessment panel recommendations under the Sport Representative grants.
- Approve the Good Relations Plan 2024 -2025
- Note the update from the Development update.

#### **D024/24 DfC Letter of Variance – Active Travel & Covid Small Settlements**

The Strategic Director of Communities and Place (SD: C&P) presented previously circulated report to:

- Provide members with an update on Covid-19 Recovery Revitalisation Programme – Active Travel and to seek approval to accept Letter of Variance
- Provide members with an update on Covid Recovery Small Settlements Regeneration Programme and to seek approval to accept Letter of Variance

Councillor F Burton said that she would be happy to propose the report as it was great to see that they are proposing to extend to March 2025. The member referred

to Active Travel Schemes and enquired where the new Council was currently at. She also enquired going forward would there be an opportunity to add in new areas into this scheme and when they anticipated to meet.

The SD: C&P advised that Council had appointed a contractor to work with us on the development of an Active Travel masterplan for the district. The starting meeting of the contractor had commenced a number of weeks ago, with Officers currently agreeing the timeline in relation to engagement. The SD: C&P stated that there would be specific engagement with elected members as well as wider engagement with the community and other partners.

Councillor F Burton referred to Aughnacloy Village Plan going forward, and said there was talk about areas that wished to be included the plan and felt it was a good way of lining up what people are seeking from that area and hoped that this could be progressed.

Proposed by Councillor F Burton  
Seconded by Councillor Gildernew and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to note the contents of the reports and due to the deadline for return, that retrospective approval be given to signing of the Covid-19 Recovery programme and Covid Recovery Small Settlements Regeneration Programme Letters of Variance as enclosed within the appendix which grants an extension of the period of funding to 31 March 2025.

#### **D025/24 Mid Ulster Swim Academy 2023 Review**

The Strategic Director of Communities and Place (SD: C&P) presented previously circulated report to provide an update on the Mid Ulster District Council swim lesson programme and to give due consideration to proposed enhancements of the current programme and investment in a be-spoke swim lesson online management module.

Councillor Gildernew said that this all sounded very progressive and should no doubt ease the frustration experienced by parents trying to get swimming lessons booked term after term. The member said that she hoped that Council would fully train and resource the swim teachers when the time comes for the new assessment, and this be reflected in any future pay discussions taking place.

Councillor Molloy said that he was sure that members have been inundated with issues around swimming lessons and bookings and felt there needed to be a better solution with technology the way it is. People queuing up at leisure centres in the rain to enlist for swimming lessons is not an ideal way and also not ideal for staff's time at the front desk signing people up. The member said it was interesting to see the increase in the number of people coming into the leisure centres since covid as initially he thought our leisure centres may have taken a downfall, but those numbers have increased steadily. 35% of leisure income was from swimming which was encouraging and for young people in particular, a life-skill to learn to swim can be a lifesaver, this encourages people into swimming and improves our registration process in the meantime.

Councillor Monteith advised that he had been approached regarding private swimming tutors and was aware of an ad hoc system ongoing in Dungannon which was suspended with a review to trying to regularise it and come up with a way forward and enquired if Council was any further on with that. The member said that after speaking with Officers they had hoped to bring something early this year.

The SD: C&P advised that a number of reports was to come back, and the next report was in relation to this matter, a policy has been drafted and being reviewed internally before being brought to members attention.

Councillor J Burton welcomed the report in the attempt to tackle the waiting list for the people of Dungannon as he had been contacted by parents waiting for months to enrol for swimming lessons. He was aware of people saying how tricky it was to enrol at reception but enquired if people would still be able to use this facility for enrolling in person across the three sites going forward as not everyone is tech savvy.

The SD: C&P said that it was his understanding that all of the functionality through the leisure hub system that people can access offsite will also be available at our receptions.

Councillor F Burton referred to comments regarding lessons all being booked out and had recently seen that Fivemiletown College Youth Annex swimming pool had availability and felt that this could be an ideal opportunity to use their facilities. The member said that it would be beneficial for children and schools from the Clogher Valley area to use this facility as it is quite a distance to use the pool in Dungannon. She asked if this could be investigated if there was a lack of availability in Dungannon that people are signposted to Fivemiletown Annex as it was a fantastic facility. Some people from Dungannon travel to Fivemiletown as they also have a fantastic fitness suite also.

The Chair felt that there could be more awareness after the new World Champion from County Armagh yesterday, first ever Irish swimmer to win a gold medal.

Councillor W Buchanan enquired if the latest strike had impacted on swimming lessons.

The SD: C&P stated that there was some impact, but Officers were trying to deal with it the best they can.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy  
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council that approval be given for the direct award contract to the current provider of the leisure IT system for the be-spoke swim lesson management IT module.

## **D026/24 Communities & Place Scale of Charges 2024/25**

The Assistant Director of Development (AD: Dev) presented previously circulated report which provided information to members on the proposed Scale of Charges April 2024 – March 2025 for Communities & Place Directorate and to seek approval to implement from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024.

Councillor F Burton advised that she had been contacted by email along with the rest of the Clogher Valley Councillors on behalf of Ballygawley Area Development Association (BADA) advising of an office at the Playing Fields being available to hire out to the community and hoped that this could be added in for people who may require a smaller room to hire. The member said that it was at a very reasonable price of £15 per hour or £20 for two hours and was an ideal opportunity to make people aware of this facility.

The AD: Dev said that she would take on board as it was an ideal opportunity to help promote other areas.

Proposed by Councillor F Burton  
Seconded by Councillor McQuade and

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

- Communities & Place Scale of Charges 2024/25 as outlined within the appendices of the report.
- Amended campsite tariffs as per section 3.5 of the report.

## **D027/24 Economic Development – Broadband Working Group – Terms of Reference**

The Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes (AD: EDT&SP) presented previously circulated report to seek approval for updated Terms of Reference enclosed for Mid Ulster's Broadband Working Group.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy  
Seconded by Councillor F Burton and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve Council's updated Broadband Working Group Terms of Reference as enclosed on Appendix 1.

## **Matters for Information**

### **D028/24 Minutes of Development Committee held on 10 January 2024**

Members noted Minutes of Development Committee held on 10 January 2024.



Councillor Quinn referred to D010/24 – Dredging of River Blackwater update and stated there was a report to be brought to the Development or Environment Committees which never materialised. The member enquired if dredging has taken place yet and whether the report was to be brought to this committee or Environment Committee.

The SD: C&P advised that the report was due to be brought to the Environment Committee and as previously agreed the Environment Committee would have the oversight on this matter.

The Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes (AD: EDT&SP) said that the SD: Env had convened a meeting this week with officers from Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon (ABC) Council and DfI Inland Waterways team to discuss the dredging issues. The AD: EDT&SP said she understood the SD: Env would bring a composite report to the Environment Committee to update Members.

The Chair hoped that the report could be brought next month.

#### **D029/24 Economic Development Report - OBFI**

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on the key activities as detailed below –

- Tourism Development Group Minutes – 19 October 2023
- Mid Ulster International Women’s Day Events
- Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2023 Evaluation
- Taste Mid Ulster Food Heritage Events

Councillor Corry said she wished to raise two comments regarding Mid Ulster International Women’s Day Events and Taste Mid Ulster Food Heritage Events which were both held in Cookstown and Dungannon end and asked if Magherafelt area could be kept in mind for the future as there were some excellent venues in Bellaghy, Maghera, Magherafelt and Draperstown and beyond.

Councillor Corry referred to the speakers for International Women’s Day and said that last year there were some very good events and hitting it a bit harder than previous years in bringing in topics about women’s health, women’s health strategy, healthy relationships, violence against women and girls and menopause strategies etc. and wanted to make sure that these were not excluded due to issues women may be facing on a daily basis.

The Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes (AD: EDT&SP) stated that Officers had been in liaison with the Council Chair to agree speakers for the events and these have now been confirmed. She advised information will be sent to all members to update them on the events and indicated the speakers will address key issues to support women’s health, wellbeing, etc, under this year’s International Women’s theme *‘inspire inclusion’*.

The AD: EDT&SP advised that Officers do try and move events around the district each year. She advised this is the first time one of the International Women's events will be held in Cookstown, as to date they've been held in Magherafelt, Dungannon, Moy and Clogher Valley areas. She noted next year the plan would be to have one of the events within the Magherafelt area again, in a central venue convenient for people to travel to from other parts of Mid Ulster.

Councillor Burton said that it would be important not to forget about rural women from rural areas who have to travel to towns. The member noted that it was previously held in the Clogher Valley and said that this must be a very long time ago as she does not remember it being held there. The member referred to venues available, the fantastic Valley Hotel - Fivemiletown, Corick House which is equally fantastic between Augher and Clogher. The member said that she was aware that we have to go around different areas but wants to make sure that everyone gets a chance as they were all ratepayers.

Councillor Wilson referred to Taste Mid Ulster Food and said that he had been contacted by a number of residents concerned about the hosting on the Sunday at 1 pm especially for those coming from Churches, Chapels or places of worship in Moy as some places do not finish until 1 pm. The member said that some residents were concerned about getting back which may be an issue and enquired if Officers had been in contact with all Churches and places of worship regarding this. The member said that a suggestion was made to him about moving the time of the event to 1.30 pm.

The AD: EDT&SP advised the member that Officers have been liaising with local Churches from the outset and that liaison had continued, as recently as this week to make sure the Churches were content with the times and to put in place arrangements for stewards to keep church entrances clear. She advised local Church contacts were content with the time of the event and this was confirmed again with them this week. Furthermore, she advised that music was not planned to start until 1pm, however to alleviate any concerns, she would ensure the music did not commence until 1.30pm. The AD: EDT&SP indicated that as one of the Churches holds an evening service and to be respectful of that, the Food Heritage event would finish at 5pm on the Sunday evening, to ensure there is no noise or disruption to the Church service.

*The live broadcast ended at 8.05 pm.*

## **Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business**

Proposed by Councillor Molloy  
Seconded by Councillor McLernon and

**Resolved** In accordance with Section 42, Part 1 Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 that Members of the public in accordance with Section 42, Part 1 Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 that Members of the public be asked to withdraw from the meeting whilst members consider items D030/24 to D034/24.

**Matters for Decision**

- D030/24 SHHP Bellaghy Bawn Writers Residency Project
- D031/24 Macmillan Move More Programme

**Matters for Information**

- D032/24 Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 10 January 2024
- D033/24 Food Standards Agency Audit
- D034/24 Agewell Project Update

**D035/24 Duration of Meeting**

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

Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Annex A – Introductory Remarks from the Chairperson

Good evening and welcome to the Council's [Policy & Resources/Environment/Development] Committee in the Chamber, [Dungannon/Magherafelt] and virtually.

I specifically welcome the public watching us through the Live Broadcast. The Live Broadcast will run for the period of our Open Business but will end just before we move into Confidential Business. I let you know before this happens.

Just some housekeeping before we commence. Can I remind you:-

- If you have joined the meeting remotely please keep your audio on mute unless invited to speak and then turn it off when finished speaking
- Keep your video on at all times, unless you have bandwidth or internet connection issues, where you are advised to try turning your video off
- If you wish to speak please raise your hand in the meeting or on screen and keep raised until observed by an Officer or myself
- Should we need to take a vote this evening I will ask each member to confirm whether they are for or against the proposal or abstaining
- When invited to speak please introduce yourself by name to the meeting
- For any member attending remotely, if you declare an interest in an item, please turn off your video and keep your audio on mute for the duration of the item
- If referring to a specific report please reference the report, page or slide being referred to
- Lastly, I remind the public and press that taking photographs of proceedings or using any means to enable anyone not present to see or hear proceedings, or making a simultaneous oral report of the proceedings are not permitted

Thank you and we will now move to the first item on the agenda.

## Gael-Ionad Uí Néill

(Irish Language Community Hub)

Presentation to MUDC  
Thursday 15 Feb 2024

*Cairde Uí Néill*  
*Teanga Bheo, Pobal Beo*



## Cé hiad Cairde Uí Néill?

(Who are Cairde Uí Néill?)

- Irish Language Voluntary community Group
- Founded 1992
- Charities Commission Registered 2016
- Serving Coalisland/Clonoe Parishes & Surrounding Areas in Mid Ulster



## Stair Chairde Uí Néill?

(Where have we come from?)

### **Irish Medium Education (IM):**

- Established first Irish Language School in Tyrone 1992
- Sustained Gaelscoil Uí Néill financially for 3 years via fundraising until the Nursery and Primary school received official recognition from Dept. Of Education
- Continued to provide Financial Support for Irish Medium Education i.e. purchase of classroom mobiles and facilities
- Developed Prenursery (Naiscoil Bheag) and Social Services registered Afterschools (Iarscoil) services providing employment for 3 full-time workers - eg

### **Community Engagement:**

- Operating in an area of social deprivation, Cairde Uí Néill collaborates with the Neighbourhood Renewal initiative to deliver Irish Language Classes aimed at improving outcomes for residents within the community.

## Stair Chairde Uí Néill?

(Where have we come from?)

### **Expansion of Objectives:**

- Over time, Cairde Uí Néill broadened its goals to encompass the promotion of the Irish language for learners & speakers at all levels across the local community. Irish Language Development Officer (ILDO) employed under the Foras na Gaeilge Irish in the Community Schemes:
  - Scéim Pobal Gaeilge (SPG) 2011-2020
  - Scéim Forbartha Líonra Gaeilge (SFLG) 2021-present

### **Accountability and All-Ireland Recognition!**

- The ILDO's work overseen by Cairde Uí Néill sub-committee & monitored/reported to Foras na Gaeilge on a quarterly basis.
- Cairde Uí Néill submits comprehensive reports to the annual Comórtas Ghlór na nGael All-Ireland competition, where it has received National Prizes for its quality, breadth, and sustainability in local provision.



## **Cad é a dhéanann muid? Cúram Leanaí** (What do we provide? Child Provision )

- **An Naiscoil Bheag** – Premursery for 3 year olds
- **Iarscoil Uí Néill** - Afterschool for primary age pupils -- registered and inspected by Social Services
- **Other Support Initiatives:**
  - 'An Club Bricfesta' - Breakfast Club
  - Maidín Caife – Coffee mornings for Parent & Toddlers
- **Cultural and Educational Events:**
  - Feis Oileáin agus Cluaine – Primary and Secondary school levels
  - Tuairimí debating competition
  - An Rang is Gaelaí - The most Irish speaking Class
  - Scoil Spreagtha – ILDO working in partnership with Gael Tinn across local Primary schools

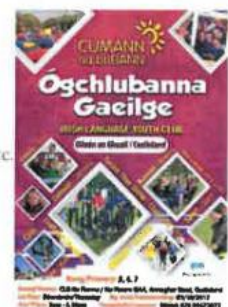


## Cad é a dhéanann muid? - Idir Shean & Óg

(What do we provide? Both Young and Old)

### Cultural and Educational Events for Youth:

- Collaborate with Fóram na nÓg - youth club development / adventure days / Youth Leader Development to enhancing young people's recreational opportunities through Irish
- Lá Gaelige at local GAA clubs' summer camps
- Campa Samhraidh Uí Néill - 2 week All-Irish Summer camp
- Club Scrúduithe - Exam classes and prep for local GCSE and AS/A Level students
- Cainteanna agus Forbairt Pearsanta an Duine – youth talks and presentations on areas such as Online Safety etc.







## Cad é a dhéanann muid? - Idir Shean & Óg

(What do we provide? Both Young and Old)

### • **Community Engagement and Adult Learning:**

- Adult learner classes and strong ties with Ulster University Diploma/Degree/Masters courses in the Irish Language
- Gaeilge sa bhaile – Irish in the Home classes for families of pupils in IM schools and wider afield
- Pop Up Gaeltacht, Conversation Circle, Quizzes & Guest Lectures
- Club Amhránaíochta Singing club, SIÚIL Walking Club, Léigh Leat Reading Group, An Paidrín Prayer group
- Trips to the Gaeltacht regions

### • **Family and Community Events:**

- Cairde Uí Néill organizes family-oriented events, such as children's discos, dinners for religious ceremonies, street festivals like Féasta Sráide, and St. Patrick's Day celebrations, Santa Dash
- Family picnic days, Interactive workshops such as Irish Harp Day and Family Storytelling events with children's writers such as Máirc Zephf



## Cad a dhéanann muid? Pobal na Gaeilge

(What do we provide? Local Community)

- **Promotion of Irish in the community:**
  - GAA Forum & Fondúireacht Sheosaimh Mhic Dhonncha
  - Established Lá na Gaeilge at Meadh Thír Eoghain with Coalisland/Clonoe Comhaltas
  - ILDO has strong working ties with Council Irish Language Officers
  - Gradaim Gnó - Irish in the business community



## Srianta ar ár gcuid Solathair? (Challenges to overcome?)

### Deficiencies/Inefficiencies in Current Service Provision:

- Lack of Permanent Facility
- Restricted Class Availability & Inadequate ICT and internet access
- Venue Limitations for Events
- Youth Club Challenges
- Examination Preparation Constraints
- Accessibility Issues with the office for the Language Development Officer
- Despite these challenges, Cairde Uí Néill remains proud of its achievements in service provision, community uptake, program visibility, and outreach to users of all ages

## **Cad chuige 'Gael Ionad Uí Néill'?** (Why do we need the Irish Language Community Hub?)

### **Impact of no new centre!**

- Risk of Programmes Ceasing due to closer of current facilities on Gaelscoil Uí Néill once new school opens in Gortgonis
- Youth Club Constraints: Lack of a central facility will leave youth provision unfulfilled despite high demand.
- Adult Language Class Challenges
- Accessibility Concerns : Current office facilities for the Language Development Officer are inaccessible, hindering community access to support services; new facilities at the proposed site would alleviate these concerns and improve community access.

### **How the centre helps the community!**

- Addressing Deprivation in location featured in the top 10 deprivation areas' of NI
- Health and Environmental Activities
- Support Services: vital support for parents and young children, addressing isolation issues, especially among single-parent families
- Boosting Confidence: Irish language engagement boosts self-esteem and confidence, with the Láirionad serving as a hub to combat deprivation in the community.
- Positive Impact of New Gaelscoil: The proximity of the new Gaelscoil to the Láirionad site will further contribute to reducing deprivation figures in the area.
- Combating Loneliness & Mental Health: range of activities on offer will combat depression, raise self-esteem, and foster friendships, expanding participation.
- Affordable Childcare: Naíscóil Bheag and Iarscoil provide low-cost childcare for low-income families in the area, further addressing socio-economic challenges.
- Forms part of the Council's strategy

## **Gael-Ionad Uí Néill - ár dTochaí!?** (Irish Language Community Hub – Our Future?)

- Very important for achieving Lónra Language Planning status for this part of Mid Ulster.
- Central base to integrate and grow the Irish language community – one of the most concentrated areas for Irish speakers in the north according to the last census yet no central base to call 'Baile.'
- It will house all of our activities: Development Office; Prenursery; Afterschool; Café; Youth Club; Drop-in centre; Classes; Talks; Conversation Circle; Singing Group, Walking Group al...
- Re-generation of a derelict building and adds to Council's current work to reinvigorate Coalisland Canal area.

## Tacaíocht ó Chomhairle Ceantair Lár Uladh? (How can Mid Ulster Council help?)

- Cairde Uí Néill have successfully secured Letter of Offer for £198k to purchase building & grounds from Dept of Communities under Indigenous Languages Capital Fund.
- Cairde Uí Néill have successfully secured matched funding for £150k from Ciste Infheistíochta na Gaeilge to help with purchase and initial basic renovation of building and grounds.
- Additional matched funding available from Ciste Infheistíochta na Gaeilge of £50k dependent on Cairde Uí Néill securing a further £50k. A Letter of Offer from council for £50k automatically secures Cairde Uí Néill the matched funding from Ciste - without this – the project is in danger of not happening!
- This is a key project in terms of Irish Language and Community Development both for Cairde Uí Néill and for the council's own language strategy.



## An dtig libh cuidiú? (Can you help?)

### Projected Project Costs

- £198,000 purchase of facility
  - £202,000 projected costs of renovation
- 
- £400,000 total project value

**CURRENT SHORTFALL OF  
£100,000 IN SECURED FUNDING  
BUT £100,000 MATCHED  
FUNDING WAITING TO BE  
CLAIMED**

### Current Funding Secured

- £150,000 DCAL
  - £150,000 matched Ciste funding
  - **£50,000 Comhairle Ceantair Lár Uladh?**
  - **£50,000 matched Ciste funding**
- 
- £400,000 total project value

**£400,000 REGENERATION PROJECT  
WILL BE SECURED WITH 50K  
SUPPORT FROM COUNCIL**









<b>Report on</b>	Corporate Events 2024
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Sharon Arbuthnot, Events & Promotions Manager

<b>Is this report restricted for confidential business?</b>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To provide information on the proposed Mid Ulster District Council Corporate Events Programme for April 2024 – March 2025.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	The schedule of corporate events are coordinated by officers within the Health, Leisure & Wellbeing service area however as Members will be aware, these events are not solely delivered by one Department or one team within council. It is essential to recognise that the successful execution of these events relies heavily on the collaborative efforts of various departments and services within the Council. The involvement and support of these interdepartmental teams are crucial for ensuring the delivery of high-quality events that resonate with the community.
2.2	The coordination between different departments highlights the collective commitment towards event management. Each departmental team within Council each bring unique expertise and resources to the table, contributing to the overall success of the events. It is evident that there is a sense of pride among the teams involved when participating in corporate events, underscoring their dedication to serving the community
2.3	Furthermore, beyond the direct impacts such as increased footfall and visitor numbers in town centres, corporate events have broader implications for the local community. While these social benefits may be less visible, they are equally significant. Events play a vital role in fostering community pride, offering people new experiences, and strengthening relationships among residents.
2.4	Recognising the multifaceted impact of events, both tangible and intangible, underscores the importance of continued collaboration among departments and services within the Council. By working together, the Council can maximize the positive outcomes of corporate events, contributing to the growth and well-being of the community as a whole.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	Event budgets will continue to be under pressure for operational, health and safety and event programming expenditures. Costs have increased significantly, shortages in specialist equipment/services along with increases costs to insurance, fuel and staffing

	<p>have all been contributing factors. The Events Team in partnership with the various Council event leads continually assess budgets with the aim of reaching the maximum outputs for both safety precautions and visitor satisfaction.</p>
3.2	<p>The proposed schedule of corporate events for the 2024 year is enclosed within the appendix. It should be noted that this proposed schedule is similar in nature to those approved by members in 2023, reflecting our ongoing commitment to delivering high-quality events that contribute positively to the vibrancy and well-being of our district. After a postponement in 2023, the Cookstown Continental Market is due to return on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> May 2024.</p>
3.3	<p>In planning our events, we prioritise engagement with relevant stakeholders to ensure that our programming is inclusive and aligns with the needs of our community. As part of this approach, we aim to incorporate relevant actions from the Council Disability Action Plan 2021-2026 into our event planning processes, thereby fostering accessibility and inclusivity for all attendees.</p>
3.4	<p>Due to the nature of many of the events, planning needs to commence as soon as possible and in many cases, procurement exercises need to be conducted along with application for any statutory approvals, ie. road closures. It should be noted to Members that in order to proceed with the planning and execution of these events, elements of the event planning will need to proceed “at risk” and should any of the events need to be scaled back or cancelled with consideration of any future weather warnings, public health impacts or budget constraints at any given time, then Council may not have any recourse over any expenditure that has been incurred. Officers plan to take all reasonable steps to ensure financial risks are mitigated so far as reasonably practicable and will engage the support and advice of Councils procurement and insurance team.</p>
	<p><b>Other Considerations</b></p>
	<p><b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b></p>
4.1	<p>Financial: Delivered within departmental budget allocation as per the 2024/25 rates estimates process. Elements of the event planning is currently proceeding “at risk” with expenditure to be incurred and should any of the events need to be scaled back or cancelled with future weather warnings, public health impacts or budget constraints (if any) at any given time, then Council may not have any recourse over any expenditure that has been incurred.</p>
	<p>Human: Delivered with staff from various departments/services.</p>
	<p>Risk Management: Risk Assessments to be continually reviewed with assistance from Council Corporate Health &amp; Safety team. Assessing each event will need to be considered on its individual merits - Events plans are also presented to the Safety Advisory Group (SAG) at relevant times in the year.</p>
	<p><b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b></p>
4.2	<p>Equality &amp; Good Relations Implications: None anticipated at this juncture.</p>
	<p>Rural Needs Implications: None anticipated at this juncture.</p>

<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	To note the contents of this report.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	Appendix A Proposed Corporate Events Schedule for 2024.



**Appendix A: Corporate Events Schedule for 2024**

<b>Date of Event</b>	<b>Name of Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
11 & 12 May 2024	Continental Market	Cookstown
17 August 2024	Lumarina	Ballyronan
07 September 2024	Walled Garden Event	Maghera
25 October 2024	Dungannon Halloween	Dungannon
26 October 2024	Cookstown Halloween	MUSA, Cookstown
31 October 2024	Coalisland Halloween	Coalisland – split site
31 October 2024	Maghera Halloween	Maghera – split site
22 November 2024	Cookstown Xmas Switch On	Cookstown
23 November 2024	Dungannon Xmas Switch On	Dungannon
23 November 2024	Magherafelt Xmas Switch On	Magherafelt
30 November 2024	Maghera Xmas Switch On	Maghera
01 December 2024	Coalisland Xmas Switch On	Coalisland

**\*\* Dates may be subject to change\*\***



<b>Report on</b>	Environmental Health Service Update
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Melanie Patterson, Environmental Health Service Manager

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	At the meeting of the Development Committee in September 2023, Members resolved that a regular update on the work of Mid Ulster District Council's Environmental Health Service should be provided to committee. This report seeks to provide Members with an update on the work of the Environmental Health Service during the period 9 <sup>th</sup> December 2023 to 16 <sup>th</sup> February 2024.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	The Health, Leisure, and Wellbeing Department's 'Environmental Health Service' provides a statutory regulatory service on behalf of Mid Ulster District Council.
2.2	The Environmental Health Service provides a range of Environmental Health and licensing services across the Mid Ulster District Council area, together with an animal welfare function which is currently delivered by Fermanagh and Omagh District Council as part of a Service Level Agreement, administered on our behalf.
2.3	The MUDC Environmental Health team are also contracted to deliver a range of other regulatory services on behalf of third-party statutory agencies, namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The assessment of Category 3 and 4 fireworks displays and the inspection of premises storing / selling fireworks on behalf of the Department of Justice</li> <li>• The sampling of private drinking water and completion of associated drinking water risk assessments on behalf of the Drinking Water Inspectorate for Northern Ireland.</li> <li>• House Fitness inspections on behalf of Northern Ireland Housing Executive</li> </ul>
2.4	The Environmental Health Service also works in partnership with a diverse range of stakeholders, both internal and external, in striving to improve the health, safety and wellbeing of those who live, work, and visit the Mid Ulster District Council area.
2.5	The Environmental Health Service is currently delivered by officers who work across three functional areas and who are supported by key Business Support Officers within the team: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food Safety, Consumer Safety and Tobacco Control</li> <li>• Health and Safety, Planning and Environment</li> <li>• Neighbourhoods and Licensing</li> </ul>

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>																						
3.1	The Environmental Health Service update set out below provides a substantial reflection of the work undertaken by the team in the period between 9 <sup>th</sup> December 2023 to 16 <sup>th</sup> February 2024.																						
3.2	The statistics within this report are indicative of the requests for service received by the Department within the specified period and these new demands are in addition to officers' ongoing work on existing caseloads.																						
3.3	<p><b>Food Safety, Consumer Safety and Tobacco Control</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Nature of Regulatory Work</th> <th>Number Undertaken</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Food hygiene inspections / visits</td> <td>62</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Food standards inspections / visits</td> <td>34</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Food Samples taken for analysis</td> <td>48</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Food Hygiene requests for service / advice</td> <td>34</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Food Standards requests for service / advice</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Response to Infectious Disease Notifications</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Consumer Protection requests for service / advice</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Consumer Protection inspections / visits</td> <td>n/a</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Consumer Protection Initiatives Undertaken</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Smoke Free Inspections / Visits</td> <td>66</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The 'Food Safety, Consumer Safety and Tobacco Control' team also undertook risk assessment work under the service level agreement with the Drinking Water Inspectorate.</p>	Nature of Regulatory Work	Number Undertaken	Food hygiene inspections / visits	62	Food standards inspections / visits	34	Food Samples taken for analysis	48	Food Hygiene requests for service / advice	34	Food Standards requests for service / advice	6	Response to Infectious Disease Notifications	10	Consumer Protection requests for service / advice	5	Consumer Protection inspections / visits	n/a	Consumer Protection Initiatives Undertaken	1	Smoke Free Inspections / Visits	66
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3.5	The 'Health and Safety, Planning and Environment' team also served four Prohibition Notices served during reporting period and conducted an out of hours match day inspection in relation to sports ground safety work.																						



3.6	<p><b>Neighbourhoods and Licensing</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Nature of Regulatory Work</th> <th>Number Undertaken</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Public Health requests for service</td> <td>76</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Environmental Protection requests for service</td> <td>94</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Private Tenancy requests for service</td> <td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Licensing Requests for Service (non-dogs related)</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Licensing inspections (non-dogs related)</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Complaints related to Dogs (all)</td> <td>94</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Stray dog complaints</td> <td>33</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Stray dogs impounded</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Investigation into dog attacks on persons</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Investigation into dog attacks on livestock</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Investigation into dog attacks on other dogs</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Nature of Regulatory Work	Number Undertaken	Public Health requests for service	76	Environmental Protection requests for service	94	Private Tenancy requests for service	11	Licensing Requests for Service (non-dogs related)	10	Licensing inspections (non-dogs related)	1	Complaints related to Dogs (all)	94	Stray dog complaints	33	Stray dogs impounded	15	Investigation into dog attacks on persons	1	Investigation into dog attacks on livestock	1	Investigation into dog attacks on other dogs	5
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3.7	<p><b>Freedom of Information Requests</b></p> <p>During this reporting period, the Environmental Health Service provided relevant information in relation to 13 freedom of information requests and also provided ongoing support to the communications team within Council for a number of press queries.</p>																								
3.8	<p>A further update on Councils Environmental Health Service will be brought to the Development Committee in May 2024.</p>																								
4.0	<p><b>Other Considerations</b></p>																								
4.1	<p><b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b></p> <p>Financial: N/A</p> <p>Human: N/A</p> <p>Risk Management: N/A</p>																								
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<b>Report on</b>	Mid Ulster District Council Air Quality Report 2023
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Melanie Patterson, Environmental Health Service Manager Anne Caldwell, Principal Environmental Health Officer

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To update members on the Draft Air Quality Monitoring report 2023 for the Mid Ulster District Council area and of the ongoing monitoring currently being undertaken in relation to this.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) provides the framework within which air quality is managed by Northern Ireland's local authorities. The LAQM process places an obligation on all local authorities to regularly review and assess air quality in their areas, and to determine whether air quality objectives are likely to be achieved.
2.2	In Northern Ireland, Local Authorities report annually on air quality within their districts via Progress Reports.
2.3	Air Quality Progress Reports have been submitted by the former Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council, Cookstown District Council, and Magherafelt District Council since 2002 and more recently since 2015 via Mid Ulster District Council.
2.4	These initial air quality reports looked at a number of pollutants listed under European Directives and examined whether air quality objectives were likely to be met in each of the three districts. A list of the pollutants and the relevant air quality objectives are set out within the body of the draft report.
2.5	After the initial assessment it was determined that air quality objectives for four of these seven pollutants would be comfortably met within each of the three Districts. However, it was felt that further examination would need to be undertaken for the remaining three pollutants.
2.6	These pollutants were Nitrogen Dioxide (NO <sub>2</sub> ), Sulphur Dioxide (SO <sub>2</sub> ) and PM10. For a number of years, the levels of SO <sub>2</sub> and PM10 were monitored at areas identified as worst-case scenarios in each of the Districts. These areas were chosen due to the relatively high number of solid fuel burning properties near by the monitoring sites. After several years of monitoring, it was found that all the areas chosen were well within the air quality objectives and were extremely unlikely to exceed the objectives in the future. As a result, monitoring was discontinued for these two pollutants. The only remaining pollutant that is routinely monitored in the Mid Ulster District is Nitrogen dioxide.

2.7	If a local authority finds any places where the objectives are not likely to be achieved, it must declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) at this location. This area could be just one or two streets, or it could be much bigger.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	Monitoring for NO <sub>2</sub> takes place along the roads that are more heavily congested throughout the District. Congestion generally occurs along the main North-South transport route identified in the Local Development Plan 2030 – Draft Plan Strategy. The roads in question link the three main towns of Magherafelt, Cookstown and Dungannon. Two of the smaller villages that this traffic passes through are also monitoring sites, namely Moneymore and Moy. The chosen sites tend to be located close to residential dwellings at points where the traffic is slowing down or idling at busy junctions or traffic lights.
3.2	In April 2023 the number of diffusion tube monitoring locations across the district was expanded. The new monitoring sites are located at Moy; Newell Road, Dungannon; Circular Road, Dungannon; and Coalisland.
3.3	It should be noted that the 2023 Draft Air quality report set out in Appendix A only considers 2022 data, so monitoring data from the aforementioned new sites will not be considered until the Updating and Screen Assessment report is completed later this year.
3.4	There were previously five AQMA's declared for NO <sub>2</sub> within the Mid Ulster District Council area, two of which have already been revoked due to improvements in the air quality at those locations. Ongoing monitoring has however shown continued exceedances of the air quality objective for NO <sub>2</sub> at two of the remaining AQMA's.
3.5	The third AQMA located in Magherafelt Town Centre has consistently shown no exceedances at any of the six monitoring sites for the past five years in a row, with all results being below 37 µg/m <sup>3</sup> .
3.6	When last year's report was submitted it was anticipated that the Magherafelt AQMA could be revoked if the air quality monitoring showed improved results within air quality objectives for the third consecutive year. Due to the impacts of Covid-19 a precautionary approach was previously taken where it was decided that a further year's results would need to be considered before any decision was taken in relation to potential revocation.
3.7	The addition year's results presented within the attached report (Appendix A) continue to show no exceedances of the NO <sub>2</sub> within the Magherafelt AQMA. The Environmental Health Service intend to review the information associated with the Magherafelt AQMA and subsequently make a determination on revoking the AQMA, in accordance with Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs guidance: <i>Local Air Quality Management during the COVID-19 Outbreak: Update, dated August 2021 and Supplementary Guidance for Councils RE: Revocation/Designation of AQMAs (Updated 2023)</i> .
3.8	It could be argued that the improvement in the air quality at Magherafelt is most likely linked to the construction of the A31 Magherafelt by-pass. The by-pass consists of a 5.9km single carriageway to the east of Magherafelt town, and now diverts a lot of the through traffic that previously passed through the town centre around the outskirts of the town. The recommendation regarding the potential revocation of this AQMA will be brought to Members for decision at a future committee.

3.9	Diffusion Tube monitoring at locations within the AQMA's in Dungannon and Moy have demonstrated that there are 2 sites where NO <sub>2</sub> levels continue to exceed the objective limit of 40ug/m <sup>3</sup> , namely Newell Road, Dungannon and Charlemont Street in Moy.
3.10	Diffusion tube monitoring at eight locations along the main thoroughfare in Cookstown and Moneymore did not demonstrate any exceedances of the air quality objective. This is probably due to the wide-open nature of the streets in question. Routine monitoring will continue at these locations.
3.11	The report also considers the likely impacts of any new developments on air quality within the District. These are dealt with through the planning process whereby an applicant for a development may be asked to forward an air quality appraisal for their proposal, detailing the potential impact on air quality within the district.
3.12	In summary, the proposed 2023 Air Quality report has examined the results from the ongoing monitoring exercises across the district.
3.13	Outside of the AQMAs it was found that concentrations of Nitrogen Dioxide were below the objectives, therefore there is no requirement to proceed to a further Detailed Assessment at these relevant locations.
3.14	The Environmental Health Service intend to continue to monitor pollutants at their current locations and submit an Updating and Screening assessment report later in 2024.
3.15	Further information and access to relevant reports are also publicly accessible via the following website: <a href="https://www.airqualityni.co.uk/">https://www.airqualityni.co.uk/</a>
3.16	In addition to the Progress report, a recent Air Quality stakeholder meeting was held at on 29 <sup>th</sup> January 2024 to review the air quality issues within the District. Stakeholders from other statutory agencies and a number of elected Members attended the meeting – a copy of the presentation slides are enclosed within Appendix B. A further meeting is planned for June 2024 and meeting invitations will be extended to stakeholders from other statutory agencies and all MUDC elected Members.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	Financial: £7300 from DAERA's Local Air Quality Management grant
	Human: Officer time – 50 % grant funded up to maximum of £6,000 (23/24)
	Risk Management: Considered in line with relevant policies and procedures.
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A

<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	To note the contents of this report.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	Appendix A: Draft Air Quality Progress Report 2023 Appendix B: Presentation slides from Air Quality stakeholder meeting held on 29 <sup>th</sup> January 2024.



## Mid Ulster District Council

# 2023 Air Quality Progress Report

In fulfilment of Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002

Local Air Quality Management

Date: March 2024



<b>Information</b>	<b>Mid Ulster District Council</b>
<b>Local Authority Officer</b>	Anne Caldwell
<b>Department</b>	Health Leisure and Wellbeing
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<b>Telephone</b>	03000 132 132
<b>E-mail</b>	environmentalhealth@midulstercouncil.org
<b>Report Reference Number</b>	AQ/MUDC/2023
<b>Date</b>	March 2024

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## Executive Summary

Mid Ulster District Council undertakes non-automatic monitoring for NO<sub>2</sub> in a number of towns and villages across the District. These are generally located close to the centres of the towns and villages along the main North to South A29 road transport system. This road runs from the North to the South of Northern Ireland and connects the three main towns in the District of Magherafelt, Cookstown and Dungannon.

There were previously five AQMA's declared for NO<sub>2</sub> in the District, two of which have been revoked due to improvements in the air quality at these locations. Ongoing monitoring has shown continued exceedances of the air quality objective for NO<sub>2</sub> at two of the AQMA's.

The third AQMA in Magherafelt Town Centre has now shown no exceedances at any of the six monitoring sites for five straight years with all results being below 37µg/m<sup>3</sup>. Over the course of the forthcoming year, Mid Ulster District Council now plan to review the available information for the Magherafelt AQMA and make a determination on revoking the AQMA in accordance with Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs guidance: Local Air Quality Management during the COVID-19 Outbreak: Update, dated August 2021 and Supplementary Guidance for Councils RE: Revocation/Designation of AQMAs (Updated 2023).

The improvement in the air quality at Magherafelt is most likely linked to the construction of the A31 Magherafelt by-pass. The by-pass consists of a 5.9km single carriageway to the east of Magherafelt town, and now diverts a lot of the through traffic that previously passed through the town centre around the outskirts of the town.

Diffusion Tube monitoring at locations within the AQMA's in Dungannon and Moy has demonstrated that there are 2 sites where NO<sub>2</sub> levels continue to exceed the objective limit of 40µg/m<sup>3</sup>, namely Newell Road, Dungannon and Charlemont Street in Moy.

Diffusion tube monitoring at eight locations along the main thoroughfare in Cookstown and Moneymore did not demonstrate any exceedances of the air quality objective limit. Routine

monitoring of these locations will continue to help monitor trends in the air quality at these locations.

The report concludes that a detailed assessment is not required for any of the pollutants.

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Description of Local Authority Area

The Mid Ulster District straddles two counties running from Swatragh in the north to Fivemiletown in the south and from the Sperrin Mountains in the west to Lough Neagh in the east. It comprises of an area of 1955km<sup>2</sup> with a varied landscape and a diverse mix of rural and urban communities. It is characterised by its rural nature, given the large proportion of households which are located in the small towns, villages and countryside.

### Demographics

Mid Ulster is the 6th most populous District in Northern Ireland with a population of 150,293. This is an increase of 8.4% since the 2011 census (Census 2021). The population is an ageing one with a greater proportion of people aged over 64 than in previous years. Another marked demographic feature of our District is the relatively high migrant population. 9% of the population was born outside the UK and ROI, as opposed to a Northern Ireland average figure of 7%

This trend can partly be explained by the success of the agri-food industry in attracting migrant labour, particularly in and around the Dungannon area. The average household size is 2.76 people per household. This is the highest of all the 11 Local Government Districts. Mid Ulster has 15% of its population living in a household with more than 5 people compared to a Northern Ireland average of 9%.

Mid Ulster is also a very rural District with 72% of the population living in a rural area, as defined by the inter-departmental rural urban definition group. This definition of rural means that everywhere in the District is classed as rural apart from Cookstown, Dungannon, Magherafelt and Coalisland. Additionally, 40% of households are located with the countryside.

## **Economic Trend**

Unemployment levels in Mid Ulster are in line with the Northern Ireland average of just under 5% (Census 2011). The District is significantly more dependent on the construction and manufacturing sectors than the rest of Northern Ireland. For instance, 27.5% of all jobs in Mid Ulster are in manufacturing and 8% are in construction, compared to regional figures of 11% and 4.2% respectively (Census for Employment, NISRA, July 2014). The high prevalence of manufacturing is in part linked to a thriving minerals industry in the District, particularly the extraction of sand and gravel. As a spin off to this extraction activity, there is a very strong manufacturing sector specialising in crushing and screening equipment. It has been estimated that Northern Ireland provides 40% of the world's mobile screening and crushing equipment and undoubtedly, a large proportion of this is supplied by companies within Mid Ulster.

## **Infrastructure**

In terms of infrastructure, the A29 which runs throughout Northern Ireland from north to south, is the spine of the District and the main transport corridor. The A29 also connects the 3 main towns in the District, or what may be referred to as the three main "hubs" i.e. Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt. Of these 3 towns, Dungannon and Cookstown are classed as "medium towns" by NISRA due to having a population of more than 10,000 whilst Magherafelt is considered a "small town."

The A4 which is an important east-west transport corridor also runs through the southern part of the District as does the A5 which is the main link between Dublin/ROI and the northwest of Northern Ireland. The A6 runs through the northern portion of the District, and this is a vital corridor which connects the two main cities in Northern Ireland. Travel times from some parts of Mid Ulster to an A&E hospital is over 50 minutes, making the need for improved roads and infrastructure a significant priority.

## **Environment**

Mid Ulster is home to some of the most picturesque and high value landscapes in Northern Ireland. A significant portion of the northern half of the District is included within the Sperrin Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, including the summit of Slieve Gallion which is a prominent feature in the Mid Ulster landscape. The Clogher Valley



is also an area of high scenic importance and in addition to important landscapes, Mid Ulster is also home to numerous important habitats including Lough Neagh, Lough Beg and Slieve Beagh, all of which are internationally important habitats.

## 1.2 Purpose of Progress Report

This report fulfils the requirements of the Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) process as set out in the Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002, the Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland 2007 and the relevant Policy and Technical Guidance documents. The LAQM process places an obligation on all local authorities to regularly review and assess air quality in their areas, and to determine whether or not the air quality objectives are likely to be achieved. Where exceedances are considered likely, the local authority must then declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and prepare an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) setting out the measures it intends to put in place in pursuit of the objectives.

For Local Authorities in Northern Ireland, Progress Reports are required in the intervening years between the three-yearly Updating and Screening Assessment reports. Their purpose is to maintain continuity in the LAQM process.

They are not intended to be as detailed as Updating and Screening Assessment Reports, or to require as much effort. However, if the Progress Report identifies the risk of exceedance of an Air Quality Objective, the Local Authority (LA) should undertake a Detailed Assessment immediately, and not wait until the next round of Review and Assessment.

## 1.3 Air Quality Objectives

The air quality objectives applicable to LAQM in **Northern Ireland** are set out in the Air Quality Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003, Statutory Rules of Northern Ireland 2003, no. 342, and are shown in Table 1.1. This table shows the objectives in units of microgrammes per cubic metre  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  (milligrammes per cubic metre,  $\text{mg}/\text{m}^3$  for carbon

monoxide) with the number of exceedances in each year that are permitted (where applicable).

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**Table 1.1 – Air Quality Objectives included in Regulations for the purpose of LAQM in Northern Ireland**

Pollutant	Air Quality Objective		Date to be achieved by
	Concentration	Measured as	
Benzene	16.25 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	Running annual mean	31.12.2003
	3.25 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	Running annual mean	31.12.2010
1,3-butadiene	2.25 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	Running annual mean	31.12.2003
Carbon monoxide	10 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	Running 8-hour mean	31.12.2003
Lead	0.50 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	Annual mean	31.12.2004
	0.25 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	Annual mean	31.12.2008
Nitrogen dioxide	200 µg/m <sup>3</sup> not to be exceeded more than 18 times a year	1-hour mean	31.12.2005
	40 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	Annual mean	31.12.2005
Particulate matter (PM <sub>10</sub> ) (gravimetric)	50 µg/m <sup>3</sup> , not to be exceeded more than 35 times a year	24-hour mean	31.12.2004
	40 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	Annual mean	31.12.2004
Sulphur dioxide	350 µg/m <sup>3</sup> , not to be exceeded more than 24 times a year	1-hour mean	31.12.2004
	125 µg/m <sup>3</sup> , not to be exceeded more than 3 times a year	24-hour mean	31.12.2004
	266 µg/m <sup>3</sup> , not to be exceeded more than 35 times a year	15-minute mean	31.12.2005

## 1.4 Summary of Previous Review and Assessments

The Updating and Screening Assessment of 2015 was the first Report submitted on behalf of the newly established Mid Ulster District Council. Previous reports submitted by both Dungannon and South Tyrone borough Council, and by Magherafelt District Council had identified a number of problematic areas in relation to areas where the air quality objective of  $40\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  for Nitrogen dioxide ( $\text{NO}_2$ ) was exceeded. Routine air quality monitoring for Nitrogen Dioxide using diffusion tubes had identified the exceedances of this objective. As a result of this monitoring a number of Air Quality Management (AQMA's) were established in various areas throughout the District. There has been a total of five AQMA's declared within the Mid Ulster area since routine monitoring began. Four of these were located in the former Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough and one in the former Magherafelt District. However, following improvements in the air quality in two of these AQMA's for three successive years during which time the air quality objective was not exceeded the AQMA for these areas were revoked.

The AQMA's were revoked for the following areas:

1. Church Street, Dungannon
2. Stewartstown Road, Coalisland.

There are still three remaining AQMA's in the District located at the following locations:

1. Newell Road, Dungannon.
2. Charlemont Street, Moy.
3. Church Street & King Street, Magherafelt.

It is hoped to revoke the Magherafelt AQMA soon.

Figure 1.1 – Map of AQMA Boundary at Church Street/ King Street Magherafelt

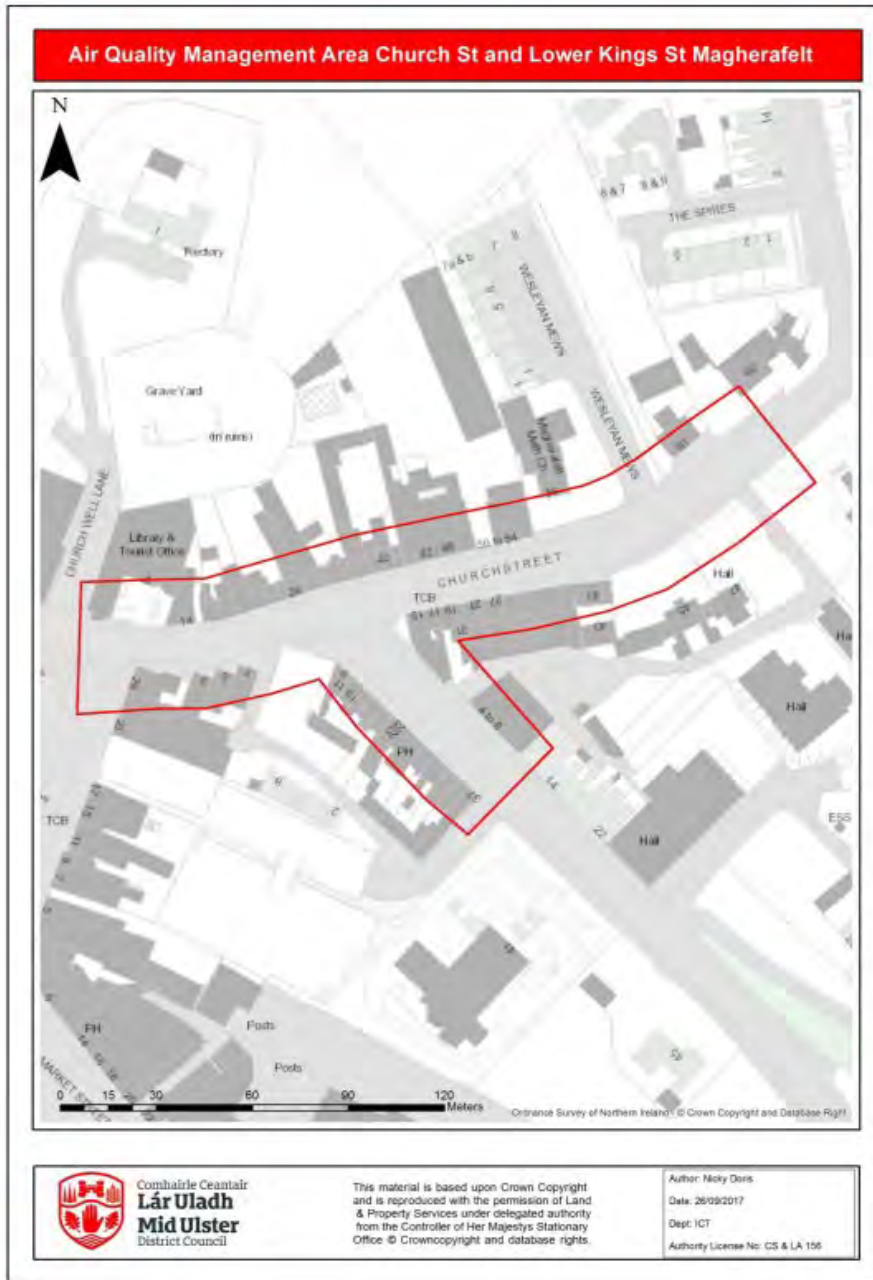
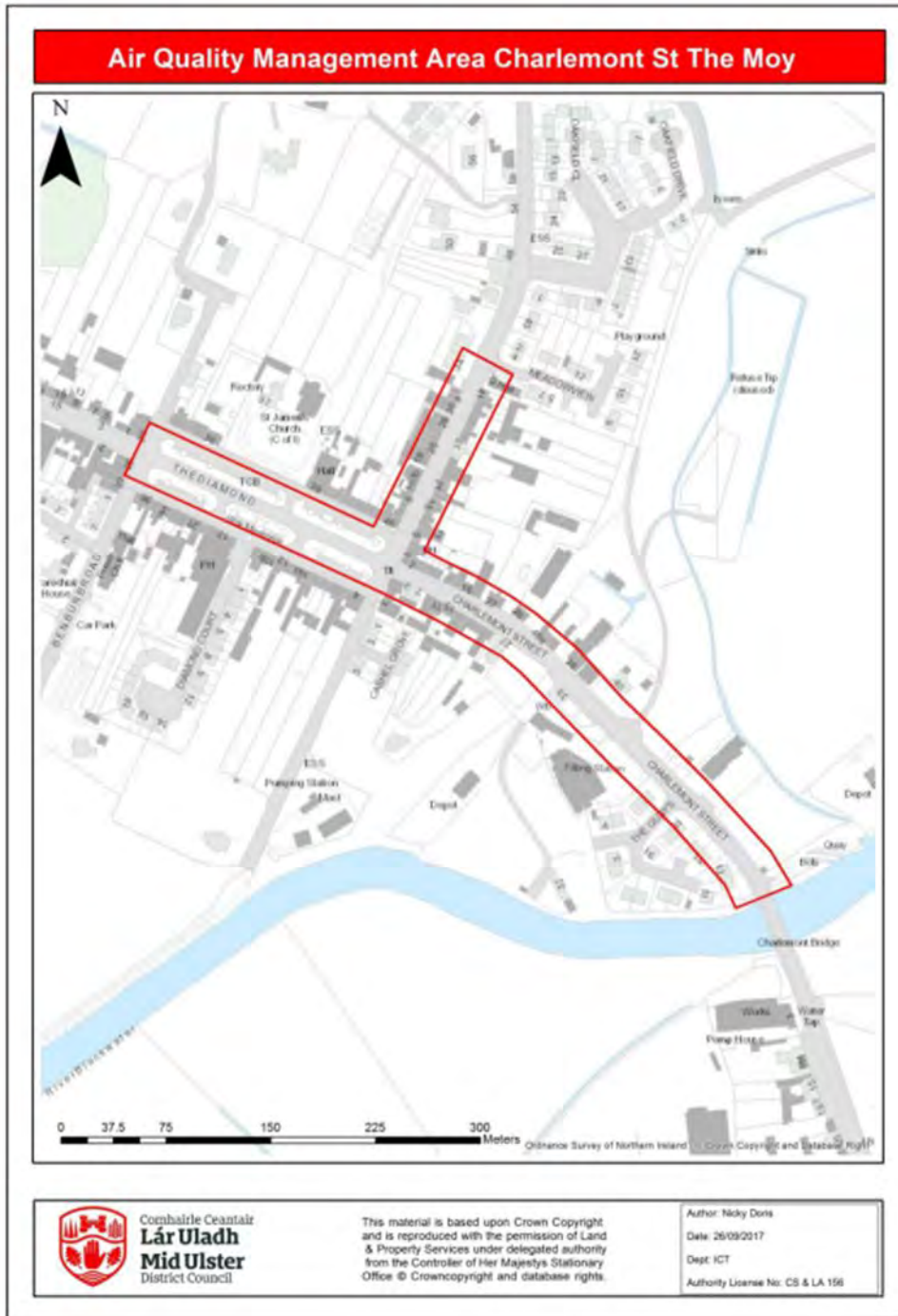


Figure 1.2 – Map of AQMA Boundary Newell Road, Dungannon



Figure 1.3 – Map of AQMA Boundary Charlemont Street, Moy



## 2 New Monitoring Data

### 2.1 Summary of Monitoring Undertaken

#### 2.1.1 Automatic Monitoring Sites

There are no automatic monitoring sites in the Mid Ulster Council area. All monitoring is undertaken by diffusion tube at present.

#### 2.1.2 Non-Automatic Monitoring Sites

Mid Ulster District Council monitors 22 separate locations for Nitrogen dioxide NO<sub>2</sub>. This is done using 44 tubes which are changed on a monthly basis. The tubes located in the Air Quality Management Areas are in triplicate while single tubes are used to monitor other locations.

The Air quality monitoring takes place along the roads that are more heavily congested throughout the District. This generally occurs along the main North-South transport route identified in the Local Development Plan 2030 – Draft Plan Strategy. The roads in question link the three main towns of Magherafelt, Cookstown and Dungannon. Two of the smaller villages that this traffic passes through are also monitoring sites, namely Moneymore and Moy. The chosen sites tend to be located close to residential dwellings at points where the traffic is slowing down or idling at busy junctions or traffic lights.

#### Laboratories Used

The laboratory used for the 2022 year was Somerset Scientific Services. The methodology used was 20% T.E.A. in water. Laboratory Quality Assurance

AIR is an independent analytical proficiency-testing (PT) scheme, operated by LGC Standards and supported by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). AIR PT is a new scheme, started in April 2014, which combined two long running PT schemes: LGC Standards STACKS PT scheme and HSE WASP PT scheme.

Defra and the Devolved Administrations advise that diffusion tubes used for Local Air Quality Management should be obtained from laboratories that have demonstrated



satisfactory performance in the AIR PT scheme. Laboratory performance in AIR PT is also assessed, by the National Physical Laboratory (NPL), alongside laboratory data from the monthly NPL Field Intercomparison Exercise carried out at Marylebone Road, central London. The information is used to help the laboratories to identify if they have problems and may assist devising measures to improve their performance and forms part of work for Defra and the Devolved Administrations under the Local Air Quality Management Services Contract.

For the Air PT rounds of testing from July/August 2021 to January/ February 2023 (AR045- AR055) Somerset Scientific Services laboratory scored 100% on five out of seven rounds. For the remaining rounds Somerset Scientific Services scored 75% (AR049 and AR052). From their participation in this scheme and the results obtained we can safely assume that the laboratories show a satisfactory performance level.

**Figure 2.2 – Map(s) of Non-Automatic Monitoring Sites**

**Fig.2.2.1 Map Overview of Magherafelt Town Centre**

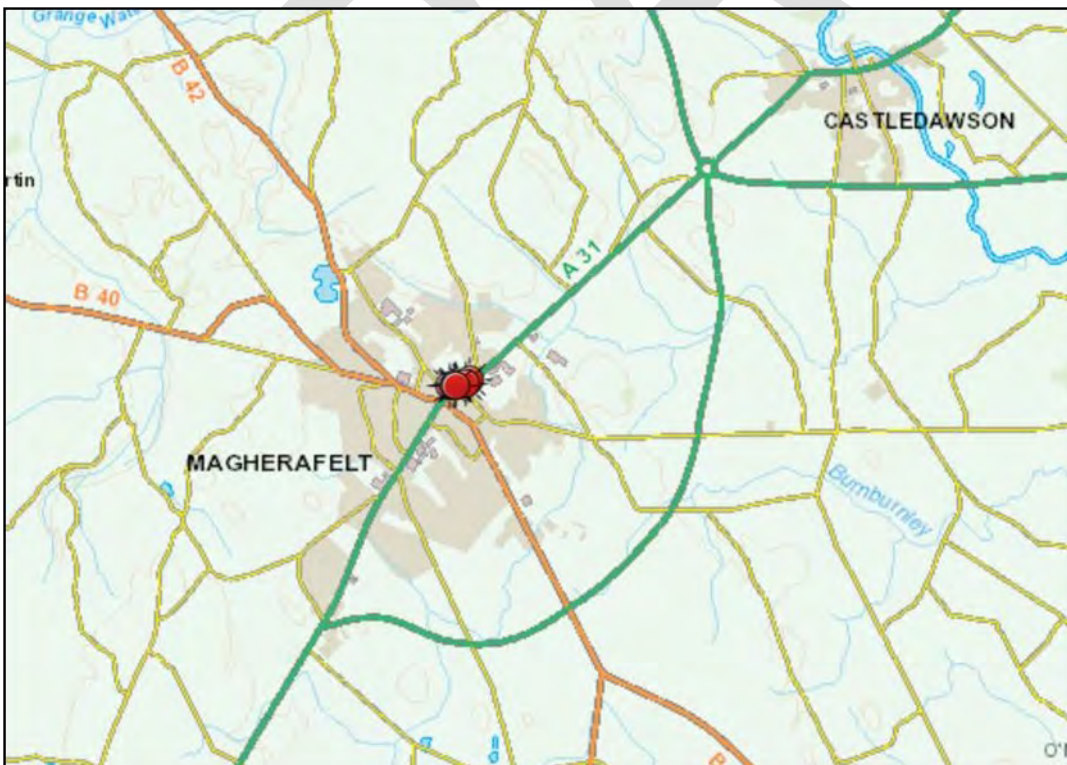
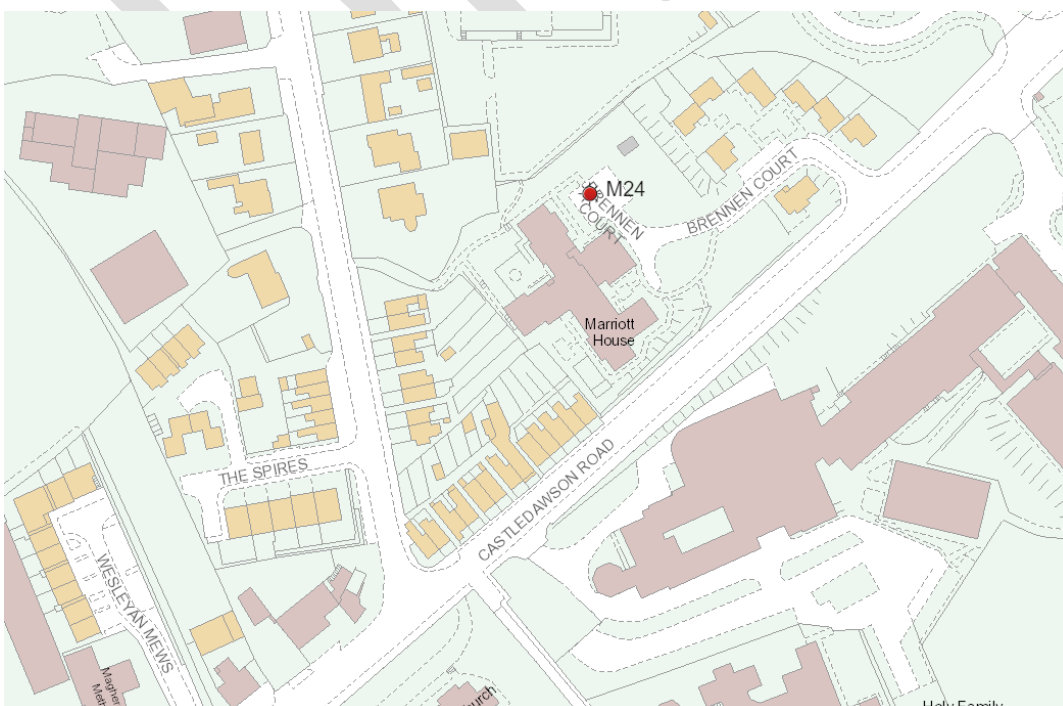


Figure 2.2.1 shows that the monitoring tubes are clustered in the town centre along the previous main thoroughfare of the A31 (route shown in green). The new Magherafelt bypass is also shown in green, and it can be seen that this loops around Magherafelt to the South and is now the main route for all through traffic.

**Fig. 2.2.2 Map Showing Location of Diffusion Tubes in Magherafelt Town Centre along Church St. and King St**



**Fig. 2.2.3 Map Showing Location of Diffusion Tubes in Magherafelt Town Centre at Marriott House**



The air quality monitoring sites for Magherafelt in Figures 2.2.2 and 2.2.3 above. It can be seen that the monitoring sites are located in the Church Street/ King Street areas in the centre of the town. These sites correspond with the AQMA area for the town outlined in Figure 1.1. Routine monitoring of other areas in the Magherafelt town centre in previous years indicated compliance with the air quality objective. Consequently, the focus of the monitoring is now within the AQMA. The new urban background location can be seen at Marriott House labelled M24.

**Fig. 2.2.4- Overview of Air Quality Monitoring Sites in Moneymore**



The village of Moneymore receives a lot of through traffic from Cookstown to Magherafelt, and from Cookstown to the north coast. The air quality monitoring sites in Moneymore are located close to residential properties on the main roads into and out of the village, and in the cases of the Stonard Street and Conyngham Street locations along inclines where traffic is likely to be moving slowly.

The sites shown are from top to bottom Smith Street, Lawford Street, Conyngham Street and Stonard Street.

**Fig. 2.2.5 Overview of Air Quality Monitoring Sites in Cookstown**



Fig. 2.2.5 above shows the monitoring site locations along Cookstown's main thoroughfare. As can be seen the sites are located close to busy road junctions and traffic lights where high volumes of traffic will frequently be idling.

**Fig. 2.2.6. Monitoring Locations at William Street and James Street**



Figure 2.2.6 above shows the town centre monitoring locations along the town centre area of Cookstown in the main retail area of the town.

**Fig. 2.2.7. Monitoring Locations at Church Street and Killymoon Street**

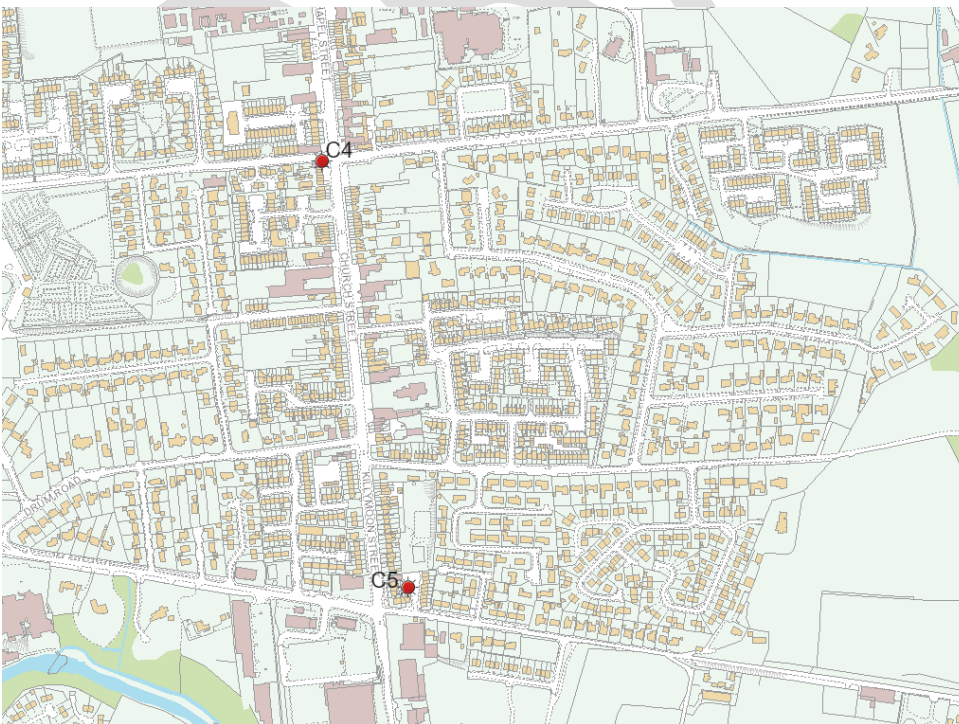


Figure 2.2.7 above shows the town centre monitoring locations at the busy Church Street junction (top) and at the traffic lights beside the Sweep Road Asda/ McDonald's development.

**Fig. 2.2.8 Overview of Monitoring Locations in Dungannon**

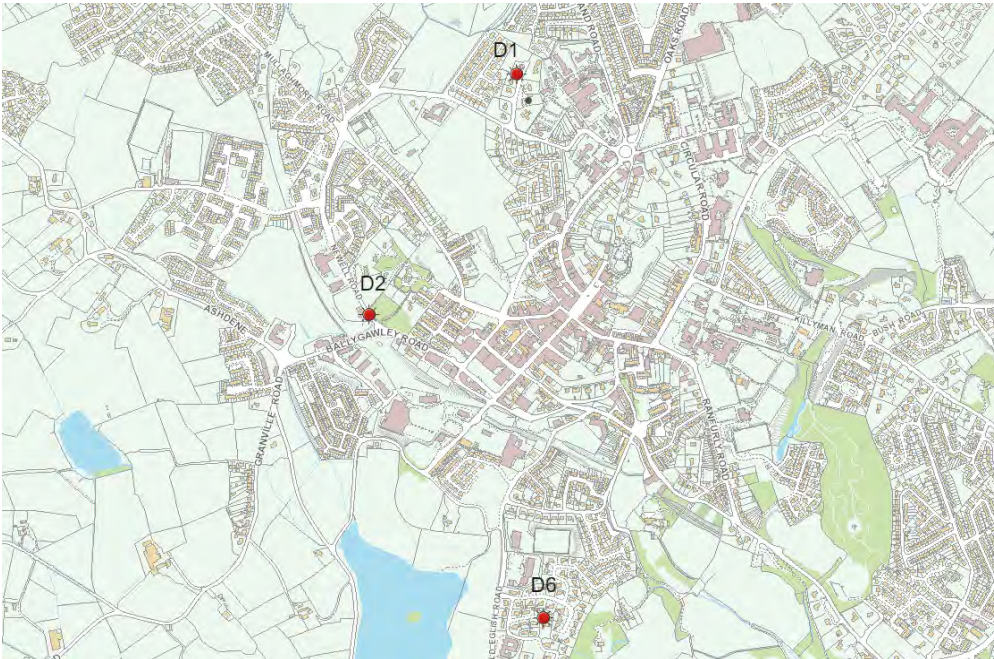


Fig. 2.2.8. shows the three monitoring sites in Dungannon showing from top to bottom sites at Ardgannon, Newell Road, and Dunclare Way.

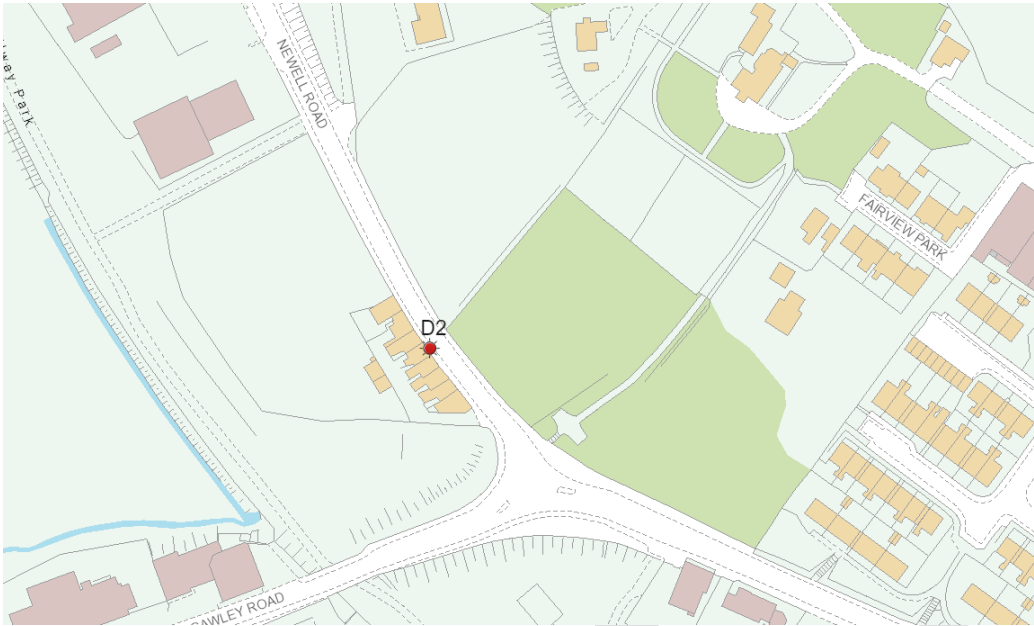
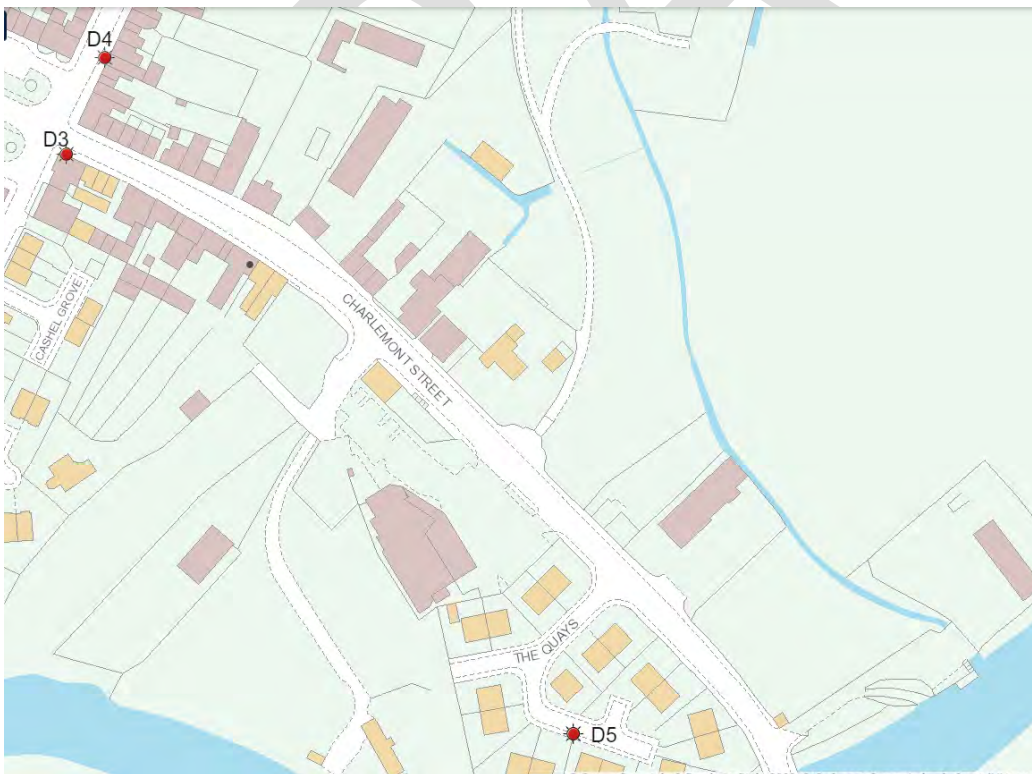
**Fig. 2.2.9 Position of Monitoring Site at Newell Road, Dungannon**

Fig.2.2.9. shows the location of the monitoring site at the AQMA on Newell Road. The site is framed by terraced houses on one side and a steep bank on the other. The route is along the main thoroughfare through the town from North to South. The proximity of the receptors to the main road can clearly be seen in the photograph.

**Fig. 2.2.10 Overview of Monitoring Locations in Moy**



**Fig. 2.2.11 Shows the three monitoring sites in the village of Moy along the main Armagh to Dungannon Road.**



The air quality monitoring sites for Moy are shown above.



The Charlemont Street site is shown at the junction of Charlemont Street running into the Square. The Killyman Street site (top site in Map) is located at a busy traffic light junction feeding into the main Square as well. These two sites are located within the AQMA. The urban background site located in the Quays residential area is also shown.

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Table 2.2 – Details of Non-Automatic Monitoring Sites

Site ID	Site Name	Site Type	X OS Grid Ref (Easting)	Y OS Grid Ref (Northing)	Pollutants Monitored	In AQMA	Distance to Relevant Exposure (m)	Distance to Kerb of Nearest Road (m)	Tube Co-located with a Continuous Analyser	Height (m)
M2	22 Church St	Roadside	289771	390728	NO2	Yes	1.0	2.0	No	2.5
M9	12 Church St	Roadside	289745	390722	NO2	Yes	1.0	2.0	No	2.5
M10	30 Church St	Roadside	289794	390735	NO2	Yes	15.0	2.0	No	2.5
M11	27 King St	Roadside	289798	390706	NO2	Yes	1.0	2.0	No	2.5
M13	47 Church St	Roadside	289903	390778	NO2	Yes	1.0	2.0	No	2.5
M23	47 Church St	Roadside	289860	390734	NO2	Yes	1.0	2.0	No	2.5
M24	Marriott House	Urban Background	290012	390944	NO2	N	5.0	50.0	No	2.5
D1	Ardgannon	Urban Background	279576	363173	NO2	N	5.0	50.0	No	2.5
D2	Newell Rd	Roadside	279139	362445	NO2	Yes	0.0	2.0	No	2.5
D3	Charlemont St	Roadside	284969	356128	NO2	Yes	1.0	2.0	No	2.5
D4	Killyman St	Roadside	284984	356161	NO2	Yes	1.0	2.0	No	2.5
D5	The Quays	Suburban	285171	355922	NO2	No	1.0	30.0	No	2.5
D6	Dunclare Way	Urban Background	279568	361548	NO2	No	1.0	3.0	No	2.5
D7	Eskragh Road	Roadside	277660	361492	NO2	No	8.0	1.0	No	2.5
C1	Lawford St	Kerbside	285770	383510	NO2	No	1.0	2.0	No	2.5
C8	Smith St	Roadside	285813	383458	NO2	No	1.0	2.0	No	2.5
C10	Conyngham St	Kerbside	285759	383333	NO2	No	1.0	2.0	No	2.5
C11	Stonard St	Roadside	285874	383341	NO2	No	1.0	2.0	No	2.5
C2	William St	Kerbside	281071	378445	NO2	No	2.0	1.0	No	2.5
C5	Killymoon St	Kerbside	281053	378197	NO2	No	5.0	1.0	No	2.5
C4	Church St	Kerbside	281121	377537	NO2	No	1.0	1.0	No	2.5
C3	James St	Roadside	281225	376939	NO2	No	4.0	2.0	No	2.5

## 2.2 Comparison of Monitoring Results with Air Quality Objectives

### 2.2.1 Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>)

Throughout the period of this monitoring there was little interruption to the air quality monitoring schedule except for continuing staff shortages due to illness and staff covering other posts.

#### **Automatic Monitoring Data**

There is no automatic monitoring data for the Mid Ulster District Council area.

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### Diffusion Tube Monitoring Data

The results for the diffusion tube monitoring are shown in Table 2.5 below. The results have been bias adjusted in accordance with the National Diffusion Tube Bias Adjustment Factor Spreadsheet (Version Number 09/23).

**Fig 2.212 Showing National Bias Adjustment Factor for Somerset.**

National Diffusion Tube Bias Adjustment Factor Spreadsheet						Spreadsheet Version Number: 09/23				
Follow the steps below in the correct order to show the results of relevant co-location studies Data only apply to tubes exposed monthly and are not suitable for correcting individual short-term monitoring periods Whenever presenting adjusted data, you should state the adjustment factor used and the version of the spreadsheet This spreadsheet will be updated every few months; the factors may therefore be subject to change. This should not discourage their immediate use.						This spreadsheet will be updated at the end of March 2024 <a href="#">LAQM Helpdesk Website</a>				
The LAQM Helpdesk is operated on behalf of Defra and the Devolved Administrations by Bureau Veritas, in conjunction with contract partners AECOM and the National Physical Laboratory.						Spreadsheet maintained by the National Physical Laboratory. Original compiled by Air Quality Consultants Ltd.				
Step 1:		Step 2:	Step 3:	Step 4:						
Select the Laboratory that Analyses Your Tubes from the Drop-Down List  If a laboratory is not shown, we have no data for this laboratory.		Select a Preparation Method from the Drop-Down List  If a preparation method is not shown, we have no data for this method at this laboratory.	Select a Year from the Drop-Down List  If a year is not shown, we have no data.	Where there is only one study for a chosen combination, you should use the adjustment factor shown with caution. Where there is more than one study, use the overall factor shown in blue at the foot of the final column.  If you have your own co-location study then see footnote 1. If uncertain what to do then contact the Local Air Quality Management Helpdesk at LAQMhelpdesk@bureauveritas.com or 0800 0327953						
Analysed By	Method	Year	Site Type	Local Authority	Length of Study (months)	Diffusion Tube Mean Conc. (Dm) (µg/m <sup>3</sup> )	Automatic Monitor Mean Conc. (Cm) (µg/m <sup>3</sup> )	Bias (B)	Tube Precision <sup>1</sup>	Bias Adjustment Factor (A) (Cm/Dm)
Somerset County Council	20% TEA in water	2022		Overall Factor <sup>1</sup> (14 studies)				Use	0.85	

As can be seen from the above figures the Bias Adjustment chosen for Somerset County Council (Somerset Scientific Services) was 0.85. This factor was based on 14 studies.

Table 2.5 – Results of NO<sub>2</sub> Diffusion Tubes 2022

Site ID	Location	Site Type	Within AQMA?	Triplicate or Co-located Tube	Full Calendar Year Data Capture 2022 (Number of Months)	2022 Annual Mean Concentration ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) Bias Adjustment factor = 0.85
M2	22 Church St, Magherafelt	Roadside	Y	Triplicate	10	32.1
M9	12 Church St, Magherafelt	Roadside	Y	Triplicate	10	28.8
M10	30 Church St, Magherafelt	Roadside	Y	Triplicate	10	33.7
M11	27 King St, Magherafelt	Roadside	Y	Triplicate	10	19.9
M13	47 Church St, Magherafelt	Roadside	Y	Triplicate	10	22.3
M23	47 Church St, Magherafelt	Roadside	Y	Triplicate	10	28.4

Site ID	Location	Site Type	Within AQMA?	Triplicate or Co-located Tube	Full Calendar Year Data Capture 2022 (Number of Months)	2022 Annual Mean Concentration ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) Bias Adjustment factor = 0.85
M24	Marriott House, Magherafelt	Urban Background	N	Triplicate	9	10.0
D1	Ardgannon, Dungannon	Urban Background	N	Single	11	10.1
D2	Newell Rd, Dungannon	Roadside	Y	Triplicate	11	<b>42.7</b>
D3	Charlemont St, Moy	Roadside	Y	Triplicate	11	<b>46.9</b>
D4	Killyman St, Moy	Roadside	Y	Triplicate	11	20.7
D5	The Quays, Moy	Suburban	N	Triplicate	9	5.9
D6	Dunclare Way, Dungannon	Urban Background	N	Single	10	5.9

Site ID	Location	Site Type	Within AQMA?	Triplicate or Co-located Tube	Full Calendar Year Data Capture 2022 (Number of Months)	2022 Annual Mean Concentration ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) Bias Adjustment factor = 0.85
D7	Eskragh Road, Dungannon	Roadside	N	Single	10	8.3
C1	Lawford St, Moneymore	Kerbside	N	Single	10	31.4
C8	Smith St, Moneymore	Roadside	N	Single	11	23.4
C10	Conyngnam St Moneymore	Kerbside	N	Single	11	12.1
C11	Stonard St Moneymore	Roadside	N	Single	11	29.5
C2	William St Cookstown	Kerbside	N	Single	11	24.4

Site ID	Location	Site Type	Within AQMA?	Triplicate or Co-located Tube	Full Calendar Year Data Capture 2022 (Number of Months)	2022 Annual Mean Concentration ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) Bias Adjustment factor = 0.85
C5	Killymoon St, Cookstown	Kerbside	N	Single	11	20.7
C4	Church St, Cookstown	Kerbside	N	Single	11	22.9
C3	James St, Cookstown	Roadside	N	Single	11	27.4

**In bold**, exceedance of the NO<sub>2</sub> annual mean AQS objective of 40 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

Underlined, annual mean > 60 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ , indicating a potential exceedance of the NO<sub>2</sub> hourly mean AQS objective

<sup>a</sup> Means should be “annualised” as in Boxes 7.9 and 7.10 of LAQM.TG22, if full calendar year data capture is less than 75%

<sup>b</sup> If an exceedance is measured at a monitoring site not representative of public exposure, NO<sub>2</sub> concentration at the nearest relevant exposure should be estimated based on the [NO<sub>2</sub> fall-off with distance calculator](#), and results should be discussed in a specific section. The procedure is also explained in paragraphs 7.82 to 7.85 of LAQM.TG22.



Table 2.6 – Results of NO<sub>2</sub> Diffusion Tubes (2018 to 2022)

Site ID	Site Type	Within AQMA?	Annual Mean Concentration ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) - Adjusted for Bias <sup>a</sup>				
			2018 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.76)	2019 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.77)	2020 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.77)	2021 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.78 & 0.86)	2022 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.85)
M2	Roadside	Y	35	35	28	32	32
M9	Roadside	Y	30	31	25	26	29
M10	Roadside	Y	35	27	31	35	34
M11	Roadside	Y	24	22	18	17a	20
M13	Roadside	Y	23	19	15	19a	22
M23	Roadside	Y	33	29	21	26	28
M24	Urban Background	N	0	10	8	9	10

Site ID	Site Type	Within AQMA?	Annual Mean Concentration ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) - Adjusted for Bias <sup>a</sup>				
			2018 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.76)	2019 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.77)	2020 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.77)	2021 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.78 & 0.86)	2022 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.85)
D1	Urban Background	N	12	11	9	10	10
D2	Roadside	Y	<b>50</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>43</b>
D3	Roadside	Y	<b>55</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>47</b>
D4	Roadside	Y	26	26	20	22	21
D5	Suburban	N	8	8	7	8	6
D6	Urban Background	N	9	9	7	7	6
D7	Roadside	N	0	0	0	9a	8
C1	Kerbside	N	35	33	26	29	31
C8	Roadside	N	25	24	19	20	23

Site ID	Site Type	Within AQMA?	Annual Mean Concentration ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) - Adjusted for Bias <sup>a</sup>				
			2018 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.76)	2019 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.77)	2020 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.77)	2021 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.78 & 0.86)	2022 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.85)
C10	Kerbside	N	17	13	13	11	12
C11	Roadside	N	37	27	27	24	29.5
C2	Kerbside	N	25	26	26	22	24
C5	Kerbside	N	30	27	27	19	21
C4	Kerbside	N	26	24	24	20	23
C3	Roadside	N	31	27	27	25	27

**In bold**, exceedance of the NO<sub>2</sub> annual mean AQS objective of 40 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

Underlined, annual mean > 60 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ , indicating a potential exceedance of the NO<sub>2</sub> hourly mean AQS objective

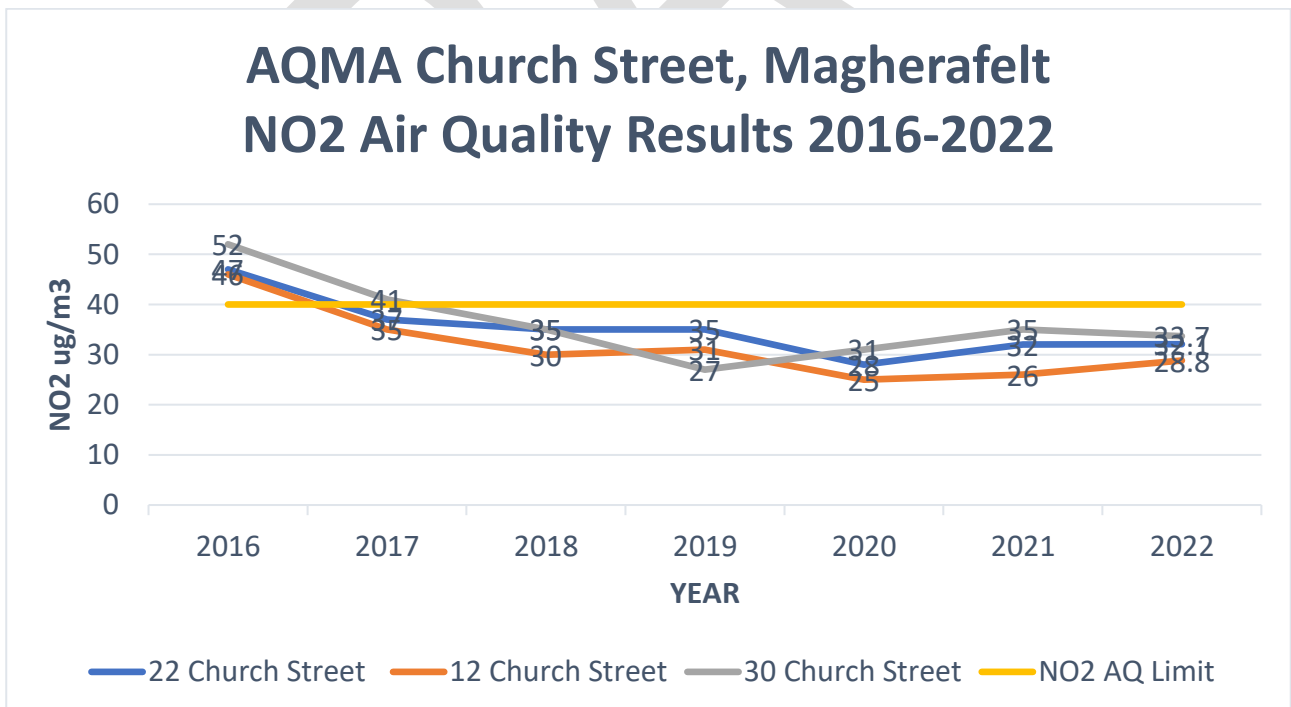
<sup>a</sup> Means should be “annualised” as in Boxes 7.9 and 7.10 of LAQM.TG22, if full calendar year data capture is less than 75%

**Figure 2.4 – Trends in Annual Mean Nitrogen Dioxide Concentrations Measured at Diffusion Tube Monitoring Sites**

In recent years there has been a steady downwards trend since 2016 with most years continuing this trend. The Covid-19 pandemic of 2020 sharpened the rate of decline due to the massive decrease in traffic due to lockdown. Results for 2021 were generally slightly higher than for 2020 due to an increase in traffic to more normal pre pandemic times. In 2022, of the 24 locations monitored, 13 showed results slightly higher than 2021, 11 sites had a lower result than 2021 and the remaining sites had no change to the 2021 levels. Following the pandemic, we are continuing to monitor if the sites will increase again towards pre-pandemic levels or continue to decline or level off as happened during and post pandemic.

A number of sites from within the AQMA’s have been selected along within one of the Urban Background sites for comparison purposes below.

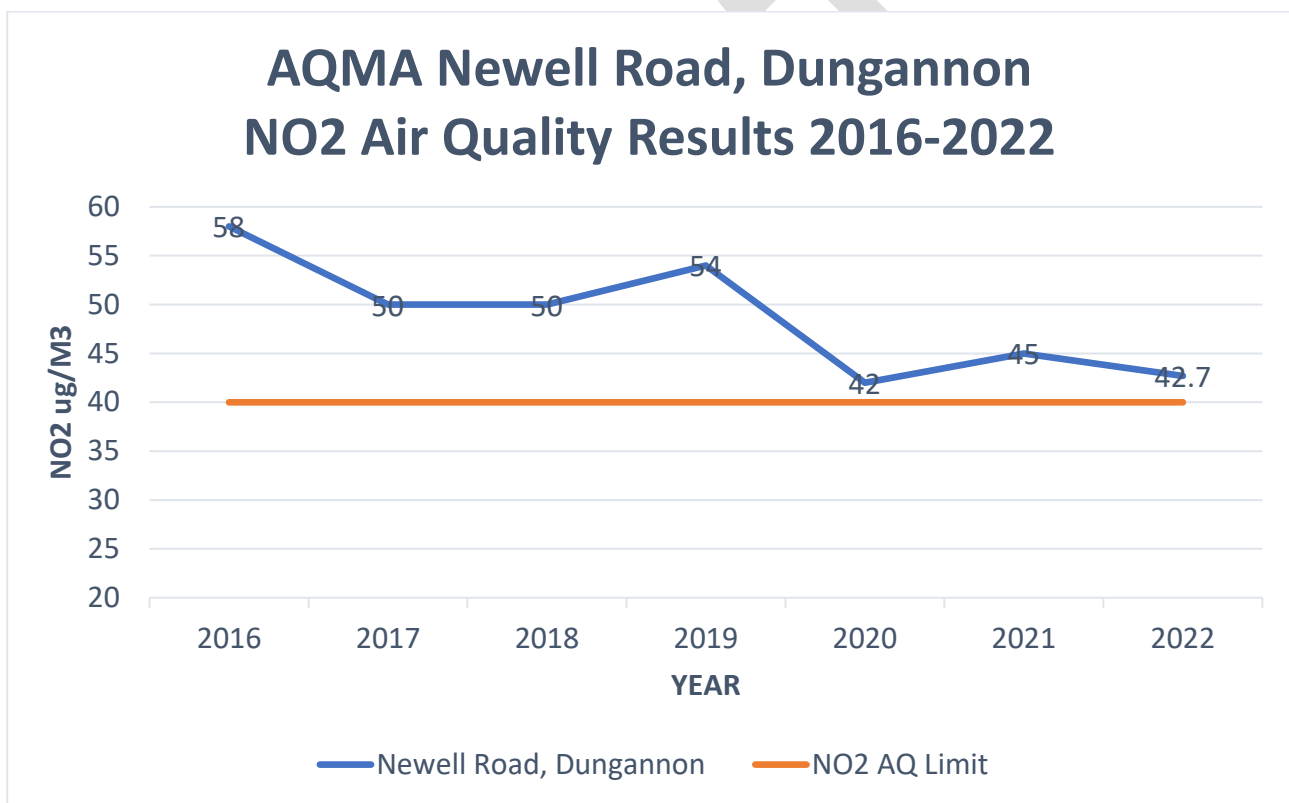
**Fig. 2.41 Seven Year Trend at Church Street, Magherafelt**



The graph above shows the seven-year trend within the AQMA in Magherafelt town centre. The graph shows a trend downwards from values which exceeded the air quality objective in 2016 to having no exceedances for the last five years at 30 Church Street, and

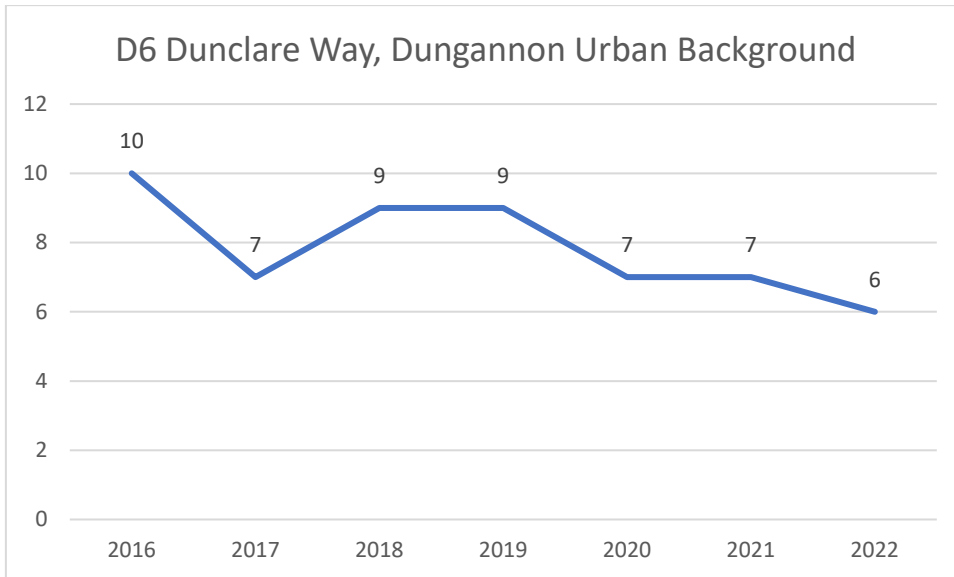
no exceedances at 12 Church Street and 22 Church Street for the last six years. Some caution must be taken for the figures for 2020 and 2021 due to Covid impacts. There have now been no exceedances within the AQMA at any monitoring point for five years. Mid Ulster District Council will now review the results and make a determination on revoking the AQMA in accordance with Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs guidance: Local Air Quality Management during the COVID-19 Outbreak: Update, dated August 2021 and Supplementary Guidance for Councils RE: Revocation/Designation of AQMAs (Updated 2023).

**Fig 2.42 Seven Year Trend at Newell Road, Dungannon**



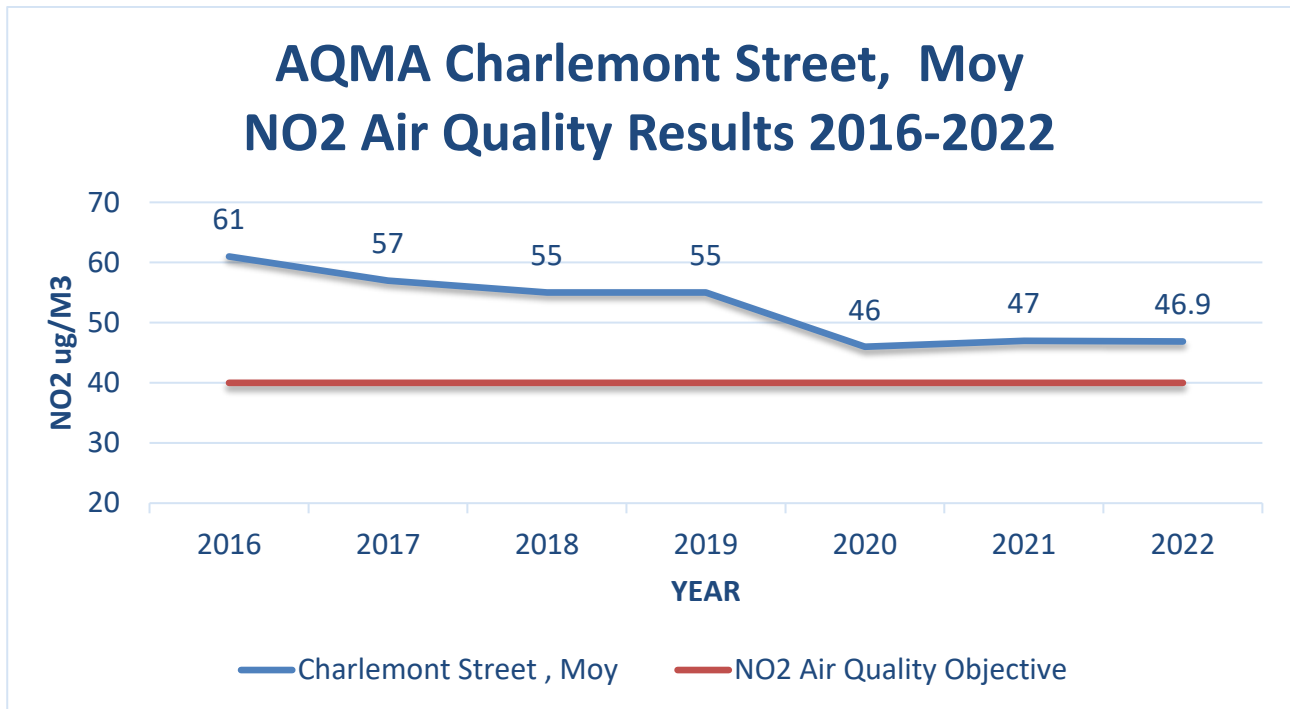
The trend for the Newell Road AQMA has been one of a gradual reduction. It is disappointing that even in a period with Covid restrictions that the air quality at this spot exceeds the Air Quality Objective. It is believed that this stretch of road is affected by the canyoning effect of tall houses on one side and a steep bank on the other which elevate pollution levels beyond what they would be if the site was more open. The trend graph show the level of NO2 has plateaued in the lasy 3 years at just above the Air Quality objective level.

**Fig. 2.43 Seven Year Trend at Dunclare Way, Dungannon.**

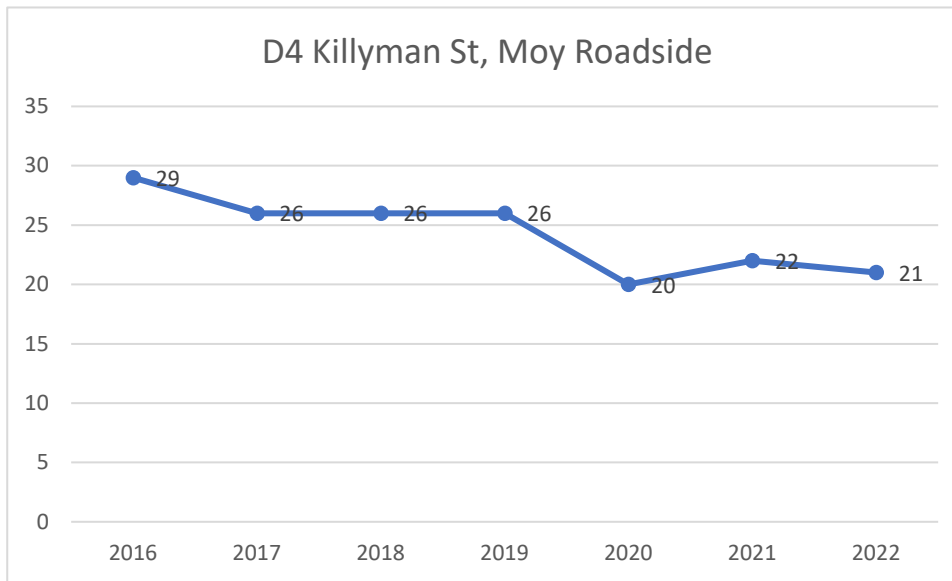


The urban background monitoring site at Dunclare Way, Dungannon provides an interesting comparison with the Newell Road site. It is located over 50m away from the main arterial route through the town. Background levels have been under 10µg/m<sup>3</sup> for the last seven years and continue to show a gradual decline in line with generally improving air quality throughout the District.

Fig 2.44 Seven Year Trend at Charlemont Street, Moy



The seven-year trend at Charlemont Street in Moy shows a similarity to that of the other AQMA at Newell Road in Dungannon. The monitoring site is at a busy set of traffic lights on an incline. The site has shown a gradual decline from 2016 when it had a result of 61 µg/m<sup>3</sup> to 55 µg/m<sup>3</sup> in 2019. The site showed a reduction to 46 µg/m<sup>3</sup> in 2020. Encouragingly this figure only rose to 47 µg/m<sup>3</sup> in 2021 and remained steady at 46.9 µg/m<sup>3</sup> in 2022. At present the downward trend appears to have plateaued. The site continues to consistently exceed the 40 µg/m<sup>3</sup> air quality objective.

**Fig. 2.45 Seven Year Trend for Killyman Road, Moy**

The trend chart for the Killyman Road in Moy is like many of the other trend charts throughout the District. The overall trend is down from 29  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  in 2016 to 21  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  in 2022 with a low of 20  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  in 2020 reflecting the reduction in traffic due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It is hoped that the overall downward trend will continue. All the results for this site which is in the AQMA for Moy are well within the air quality objective of 40  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . This is despite the monitoring site being located less than 35m from the site at Charlemont Street which has consistently breached the air quality objective.



### **2.2.2 Particulate Matter (PM<sub>10</sub>)**

Mid Ulster District Council does not monitor for particulate matter PM<sub>10</sub>.

### **2.2.3 Sulphur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>)**

Mid Ulster District Council does not monitor for Sulphur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>).

### **2.2.4 Benzene**

Mid Ulster District Council does not monitor for benzene.

### **2.2.5 Other Pollutants Monitored**

Mid Ulster District Council does not monitor for other pollutants.

### **2.2.6 Summary of Compliance with AQS Objectives**

Mid Ulster District Council has examined the results from monitoring in the district. Concentrations outside of the AQMA's are all below the objectives at relevant locations, therefore there is no need to proceed to a Detailed Assessment.

## 3 New Local Developments

### 3.1 Road Traffic Sources

There are three new major road projects in the Mid Ulster District Council area currently proposed, or recently completed.

The 14.7km Randalstown to Castledawson scheme opened in May 2021. Mid Ulster District Council

Details of the air quality assessment undertaken for this development are available at the hyperlink below:

<https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/infrastructure/a6-toome-bypass-environmental-statement-volume-1.pdf>

The air quality assessments undertaken for the A29 Cookstown by-pass can be found at the link below.

<https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/infrastructure/sar-report-cookstown-bypass-2021.pdf>

The air quality assessment for the A5 Western Transport corridor part of which runs through the District can be found at the link below.

<https://www.a5wtc.com/Environmental-Consultation-2022>

In general, it can be said that these schemes will improve air quality in the district by reducing areas of urban congestion. This is best illustrated by the Magherafelt By-pass which has resulted in an improvement in air quality in the town centre since its construction.

Mid Ulster District Council has assessed new/proposed roads meeting the criteria in Table 7.10 of Chapter 7 of LAQM.TG22 and concluded that it will not be necessary to proceed to a Detailed Assessment.

### 3.2 Other Transport Sources

There are no large airports, ports or railways located in the Mid Ulster District at present.

### 3.3 Industrial Sources

The planning applications below were all considered for air quality impacts. Further industrial applications are outlined in the planning section (S.4) where an air quality assessment may have been requested as part of the planning process.

**Table 3.21 Planning Applications for Industrial Sources**

Planning Reference	Application	Location
LA09/2021/0583/F	Retrospective extension to existing factory building	Specialist Joinery Group 100 Coleraine Road Maghera 100 Coleraine Road Maghera
LA09/2021/0135/F	Cunningham Covers Proposed factory within existing complex	Glenshane Industrial Park

		Tobermore Road Maghera 42 Tobermore Road Maghera
LA09/2021/0217/F	Section 54 of the Planning Act (NI) BT80 9PL Cookstown (Access From 2011 seeking to vary condition The Killeenan Road) BT80 No.2 of planning permission I/2006/1166/F granted permission for gravel extraction & restoration to agricultural on these lands.	Land 50M SW Of 11 A planning application made under Aggregates Cookstown Killeenan Road
LA09/2021/0402/F	Retention of workshop, storage building, portable office cabin & machine testing shed used in association with established engineering business (certified under LA09/2020/1579/LDE).	Screenpod) 30 Tullyodonnell Road Rock Dungannon
LA09/2021/1339/F	Extension to existing factory to provide additional storage/dispatch area. Replacement of existing W.C. portacabin with new W.C. block to provide staff welfare facilities	Uform 9 Creagh Business PK Hillhead Road Toomebridge
LA09/2019/1633/DC	Discharge of Planning Condition 10 of Planning Application M/2014/0567/F (Development of an In Vessel Composting Facility IVCF)	Lands At & To The South Of 17 Aghnagar Road Ballygawley
LA09/2020/0847/F	Retention of existing boiler house and feed bin	65 Legilly Road Dungannon BT70 1PE
LA09/2021/0716/LDE	1 no. digester tank; Combined Heat and Power (CHP) engine container; retaining wall; and sump for the collection of contaminated runoff associated with on farm AD Plant	100M South Of 156 Coash Road Dungannon BT71 6JB
LA09/2021/0374/F	Proposed battery energy storage system, access lane and ancillary development	Lands C. 160M S.E Of 17 Quintinmanus Road Newmills
LA09/2020/1571/F	Retrospective application for the retention of livestock shed, silage pit, and extension to existing agricultural storage/equipment/machinery shed and all associated site development and drainage works	Approx. 200M South East Of 68 Kilnacart Road Dungannon
LA09/2021/0936/F	Proposed expansion of existing truss production facilities to include a proposed truss production & timber storage unit	Site 30M N.E. Of 74 Kilmascally Road Ardboe Dungannon BT71 5BJ
LA09/2019/1503/F	Erection of free range poultry laying unit (max no. of birds 16,000), litter shed, 2 no. feed bins, new access to public road and	Approx. 115M NW Of No. 25A Old

	associated works (revised plans showing levels)	Monaghan Road Clogher Co Tyrone
LA09/2021/1759/F	Dairy shed including automated milking facilities with feed bin, a silo, shed and associated site works ( to contain 120 dairy cows).	Land Approx. 150M East Of 28 Mullaghcreevy Road Dungannon BT70 1RJ.
LA09/2022/0240/LDP	Proposed slurry separator & bunker for use in connection with an existing AD plant	Land Approx. 300M Ne Of 17 Annaghroe Road Caledon
LA09/2021/0111/F	Erection of free range poultry unit (max no. birds 16000) litter shed 2feed bins and associated works	Land Approx. 170M S.E. Of 15 Halftown Road Ballylagan Augher
LA09/2022/0095/LDP	Proposed erection of a farm shed to contain a feed kitchen for preparation of animal feed including 2No. meal bins and associated yard and wall	27 Terryscollop Road Dungannon
LA09/2020/1644/F	Proposed retaining walls, roof to existing storage bays. Intake hopper and conveyors	14 Granville Ind. Estate Granville Road Dungannon
LA09/2021/0553/F	Proposed extension & alterations to existing farm supplies shop, stores & offices (revised description of proposal)	78 Gortindarragh Road Pomeroy BT70 3DX.
LA09/2021/0509/F	Proposed erection of 6 Industrial units, parking, 2.4m paladin fence and ancillary site works	Ronan Valey Business Park 58 Ballyronan Road Magherafelt 58 Ballyronan Road Magherafelt
LA09/2020/1262/F	Warehouse/Distribution centre with ancillary offices to include site security kiosk, car parking and HGV parking	Approx. 135M South East Of Former Brickworks Site And Between 48 Coalisland Road And 11 Cookstown Road Dungannon
LA09/2020/1196/F	Extension to existing compost manufacturing facility to facilitate the relocation of existing bagging plant	Evergreen Horticulture 10A Ferry Road Coalisland
LA09/2021/0685/F	Proposed whey protein concentrate (WPC) processing, storage and dispatch project at existing cheese processing factory including 2 chiller units, 5No. 100000L silos 2No. 150000L silos within a 3m high bund area and associated equipment and site works including acoustic fencing	Lands At 141 Moneymore Road Dunman Bridge Cookstown
LA09/2021/1567/F	Proposed 1no. pig shed with 1no. feed bin, loading bay and associated site works (pig sheds to contain 4,500 weaner pigs <30kg).	Land To The Rear Of 7 Desertlyn Road Moneymore BT45 7TY.
LA09/2022/0206/PAN	Proposed North Easterly lateral extension to the existing sand and gravel pit at Murnells,	Murnells Pit

	with phased mineral working, progressive restoration and final restoration of the pit to nature conservation habitats.	Lands North Of 40 Murnells Road And West Of 56 Cavanoneill Road Pomeroy
LA09/2022/0212/PAN	Proposed rationalisation & northerly extension to the existing sand & gravel pit at Brackagh, with phased mineral development, restoration undertakings & final restoration to nature conservations habitats	Lands Directly North Of The Existing Sand & Gravel Pit At Brackagh 29 Disert Road Draperstown
LA09/2022/0030/F	Proposed new free range poultry unit and ancillary shed for storage of equipment and plant for up to 16000 free range birds ,new concrete aprons, meal silos, landscaping and new storm water attenuation utilising existing access onto Killygarvan Road	Land Approx. 242M North East Of 27 Killygarvan Road Dungannon
LA09/2021/1585/F	Extension to right side, change of use from 1 unit to 7 no units. Recladding to existing facade and new entrance to light industrial units	10 Derryloran Industrial Estate Sandholes Road Cookstown
LA09/2021/0368/F	Proposed free range poultry shed with 4 feed bins, a storage shed, a standby generator building and associated site works (Poultry shed to contain 32000 free range egg laying hens)	Land Approx. 500M North East Of 8 Mallabeny Road Clogher
LA09/2019/1458/F	Proposed light industrial unit (class B3 General Industrial) and associated ancillary office accommodation	Lands 275M South East Of Bradmount 14 Desertmartin Road Moneymore
LA09/2021/1545/F	New building for existing manufacturing business for light industrial engineering use.	Adjacent To And 30M Ne Of 13 Mountjoy Road Coalisland BT71 5DQ.
LA09/2021/0946/F	Proposed Free Range Poultry Unit (Layers) Max 3000 Birds with 2 no Meal Bins	Approximately 100M North West Of 17 Fogart Road Ballagneed Clogher
LA09/2021/0995/F	Extension to existing mushroom storage & distribution facility	118 Trewmount Road Dungannon
LA09/2022/0153/F	Proposed regularisation of an operational Anaerobic Digestion (AD) plant including extension to curtilage and shed (housing feedstock hopper), hopper access lane, digestate storage tank, relocated pasteurisation tanks, macerator and heat exchanger within extension and proposed extension to shed, carbon filter and amendment to previously approved digestate storage tank	Lands Approximately 200 M North East Of 14 Tullywiggan Cottages Tullywiggan Road Tullywiggan Cookstown

LA09/2019/1016/F	Redevelopment of gortgonis leisure centre and playing fields comprising of the demolition and general site clearance of existing facilities and erection of a new leisure centre on the gortgonis site. The proposed leisure centre will house a community hall, gym, day care facilities and associated ancillary accommodation. It is proposed to replace the existing pitch with a floodlit 3G synthetic pitch and 6 lane running track with outdoor play areas. The site works to the new centre and recreation facilities include modification and improvement of the existing vehicular entrance, the addition of a right hand turn land, car parking, pavements, fencing and amenity lighting.	Adjacent To The Gortgonis Sports Pavillion Gortgonis Road Coalisland
LA09/2020/1239/F	Change of use of enclosed yard from disused vehicular storage yard for DRD, to an area for the storage and bagging of peat	45 Cravenny Road Martray Ballygawley Co Tyrone BT70 2JU.
LA09/2021/0141/F	Proposed retention of alterations to in Vessel Composting Facility approved under M/2014/0567/F and LA09/2016/0729/NMC comprising additional bay and vent scoops to bunker building raised platform to tunnel building, bio filter enclosure , de watering plant, storage areas and ancillary plant, tanks, conveyors and ducting	Lands At Northway Mushrooms 24M South Of 17 Aghnagar Road Ballygawley
LA09/2021/0717/F	Proposed storage warehouse for use in association with proposed peat storage and distribution yard (currently being assessed under LA09/2020/1239/F) with associated single storey canteen ,toilets. office reception area and ancillary works	45 Cravenny Road Martray Ballygawley
LA09/2020/0557/F	Retention of filtration unit for a plasma cutter including its proposed enclosure (Additional Information Noise Assessment Provided)	Premises At 51 And 55 Knockanroe Road Cookstown
LA09/2021/1564/F	Retention of farm buildings & animal feed bin.	37M NW Of 21 Dumard Cross Roads Dungannon Co Tyrone BT71 6RP.
LA09/2021/1684/F	Proposed portal framed shed for the dry storage of aggregate and the secure storage of the plant and equipment.	190M South Of 60 Knockaleery Road Cookstown.
LA09/2020/0011/F	Proposed new paint work shop	30 Farlough Road & Adjacent To And South Of 30 Farlough Road Newmills Dungannon BT71 4DT.

LA09/2022/1110/F	Construction of proposed motorsport racetrack to include: ancillary buildings	Clay Pits Dungannon Road Coalisland BT71 4JA
LA09/2021/0634/F	Proposed Sand and gravel washing unit, associated fixed plant and new filtration/settlement pond	Within Existing Sand And Gravel Quarry 320M North Of Nr.17 Brackaghislea Road Draperstown

### 3.4 Commercial and Domestic Sources

New commercial or domestic sources identified since the last Updating and Screening Assessment:

LA09/2021/0716/LDE (See Table 3.21)

### 3.5 New Developments with Fugitive or Uncontrolled Sources

New developments with fugitive or uncontrolled sources of particulate matter identified since the last Updating and Screening Assessment:

LA09/2022/0206/PAN (See Table 3.21)

LA09/2022/0212/PAN (See Table 3.21)



Mid Ulster District Council confirms that the above listed new or newly identified local developments may have an impact on air quality. These will be taken into consideration in the next Update and Screening Assessment.

Mid Ulster District Council confirms that all the following have been considered:

- **Road traffic sources**
- **Other transport sources**
- **Industrial sources**
- **Commercial and domestic sources**
- **New developments with fugitive or uncontrolled sources.**

DRAFT

## 4 Planning Applications

The Environmental Health Service are consulted on a range of planning applications where their input is considered necessary. They consider the applications in relation to noise, air quality, contaminated land, and odour. Environmental Health may request that assessments are submitted in relation to these where they believe an application has the potential to impact on residential amenity. The following is a list of approved applications considered by Environmental Health in 2022. Some other applications have been considered in a previous chapter of this Progress Report.

**Table 5.1 Planning Applications for Other Industrial Sources**

Planning Reference	Application	Location
LA09/2021/1390/F	Proposed Farm Machinery/General Store Permission Granted	26 Carricknakielt Magherafelt BT46 5EQ Site 140M North East Of 32 & 200M South Of 26 Carricknakielt Road Maghera
LA09/2021/1510/F	Retrospective alterations & additions to industrial approved under LA09/2020/0721/F and LA09/2020/1673/F.	202M Se Of 24 Lisgorgan Lane Upperlands BT46 5TE.
LA09/2021/1341/F	Extension to existing warehouse to include replacement office accommodation, welfare and additional storage space	25 Magherafelt Road Moneymore
LA09/2021/1664/LDE	150MTS South Of 92 Old Eglisk Road Cottagequinn Dungannon BT71 7PG.	3no existing large portal frame sheds accessed off the Old Eglisk Road used exclusively for the commercial storage of large (200kilo) straw bales for processing and manufacturing purposes at the straw bale plant at their operations site Capper Trading Ltd, 124 Tamnamore Road Dungannon.
LA09/2021/0888/F	Retention of existing shed for agricultural use, which replaced demolished agricultural shed	Site 260M NW Of 1 Loveshill Road Castledawson
LA09/2020/1556/F	Retention of unauthorised infilling with inert material	Lands Approx. 289M Ne Of 209A Termon Road Pomeroy Co Tyrone.
LA09/2021/1554/F	Proposed free range poultry shed with 4 feed bins , a storage shed a standby generator building and	Lands Approx. 200M West Of 85 Springhill Road Moneymore

	associated site works ( Poultry shed to contain 32000 free range egg laying hens)	Magherafelt
LA09/2019/0784/F	Proposed farm shed to include feeding & shelter area, storage area and underground slurry tanks - new access to be taken from Drumlamph Lane	Approx 130M South East Of 9 Drumlamph Lane Castledawson
LA09/2022/0236/F	Erection of spectators stand with 202 seats, 2 wheelchair spaces with associated access facilities (previously approved under M/2010/0795/F)	Owen Roes Gfcbrackaville Roadcoalisland
LA09/2022/0081/F	Replacement of existing poultry shed to proposed storage shed for agricultural purposes	Land Approx. 120M South Of 28A Tullyaran Road Dungannon
LA09/2021/1763/F	Garage/workshop/stores with portal frame structure	100M South Of 8 Lurganagoose Road Knockloghrim
LA09/2020/1021/O	Site for small business park to include light & general industrial use/assembly/storage/business (20,000sq ft total), with parking, turning, loading, new access, boundary treatments & site works including landscaped buffer. Enterprise to be contained within 4 no. buildings approximately 5000 squ ft each	Adjacent To Eurosprings 127 Ballynakilly Road Coalisland
LA09/2020/0600/F	Proposed industrial development consisting of 3 industrial units for light industrial and storage use	Lands To The Rear Of 17A Deerpark Road Bellaghy BT45 8LB
LA09/2022/0432/F	Proposed industrial unit	Creagh Business Park Toomebridge BT413UF

**Table 5.2 Planning Applications for Residential Properties**

Planning reference	Application	Location
LA09/2021/1234/O	Proposed housing development (two pairs of semi detached dwellings and 2 detached dwellings)	28 Longfield Road Desertmartin Magherafelt Adjacent To And North West Of 3 Tobermore Road Desertmartin
LA09/2020/0319/F	Proposed new housing development for include 23 dwellings (3 detached and 20 semi-detached), garages, associated access and landscaping	Lands To The North Of 28 & 30 Aughrim Road Magherafelt
LA09/2020/1493/F	Erection of 35 dwellings consisting of 2 detached, 3 blocks of terraced houses (3	East Of 6-12 Coolreaghs Road And South Of 29 Coolreaghs Road

	houses per block) & 24 semi detached houses, access roads, footpaths, open space, site drainage & associated site works and on-site pumping station (Amended description to include pumping station)	And 10 Claggan Lane Cookstown
LA09/2021/0556/F	Proposed 10No dwellings (6 semi- detached & 4 detached) with detached garages.	Lands Accessed Through And To The Rear Of Gortead Park Upperlands BT46 5DZ.
LA09/2020/1454/F	Construction of 29 dwelling units with associated parking, access, landscaping and wastewater treatment (reduced from 35 to 29 units)	15-17 Oaks Road Dungannon BT71 4AR
LA09/2021/1202/F	Erection of 10 Houses, access, landscaping and associated site works (change of dwelling types from permission H/2010/0177/F including removal of townhouse house types to semi detached and detached dwellings)	Bracken Bawn Ballyheifer Road Magherafelt
LA09/2020/0951/F	Application under section 54 of the Planning Act (NI) 2011 in respect of Planning Approval LA09/2018/1510/F comprising of 33 dwellings. Application seeks to vary Condition No. 09 to replace stamped approved drawing No. 22/1 which required the provision of a right hand turning lane on Coolshinney Road to drawing no. 120-068-P-100 which shows the creation of T-junction in lieu of the right hand turning lane	Lands At 14 Moneymore Road Situated Adjacent And South West Of Oakvale Manor  Adjacent And North East Of Thornhill Avenue Between Coolshinney Road And Moneymore Road Magherafelt
LA09/2022/0295/PAN	Proposed Extension to existing hardstanding yard for storage area	Macrete Ireland Ltd 50 Creagh Road Toomebridge BT41 3SE
LA09/2020/0486/RM	Residential development (Reserved Matters application. Outline permission LA09/2016/0697/O) for 17 apartments (amended proposal from 18 units)	Vacant Site At Lands Between 39 - 27 Charlemont Street Moy
LA09/2020/0615/O	Proposed housing development	156 Annagher Road Coalisland
LA09/2021/0138/O	Proposed housing development (revised road details)	26 Coalisland Road Dungannon
LA09/2021/1029/F	Residential development comprising of 9 no dwellings (3 no detached, 6 no semi-	64 Hospital Road Magherafelt

	detached dwellings), garages, associated roads access, and all other associated works	
LA09/2016/1141/F	Proposed housing development comprising of detached and semi detached two storey dwellings and associated access road	Approx 80M South East Of 16 Queens Park Fivemiletown Accessing On To Altaveedan Road Ballyvaddan Fivemiletown
LA09/2022/0014/F	Residential development Phase 1 to provide 45 no houses, to include 19 no detached & 26 no semi-detached houses with associated gardens, open-space & garages	50 St. Patricks Street Draperstown Londonderry BT45 7AL
LA09/2020/0667/F	Housing development of 7 no dwelling units made up of 3 no detached units and 2 no sets of semi-detached units	Adjacent To And Immediately West Of 10 Oldmill Court Moneymore
LA09/2018/1564/F	Proposed 4 No apartments, 2 No 2 bedroom and 2No 1 bedroom with associated parking with access onto Woodlawn Park and on site waste water treatment plant. (Noise and Odour Assessment Provided)	10M To The Rear Of 60 Union Place Dungannon
LA09/2022/0377/O	Housing development- the erection of 33 units- Renewal of planning permission LA09/2017/1303/O	Lands At Tobermore Road (North Of Former Maghera High School Site And South Of Largentogher Park) Maghera
LA09/2021/0907/F	Land Adjacent To & To The Rear Of 24 Mullan Road Ballinderry Coagh. Proposed residential development of 6 detached dwellings, garages and associated works	20 Mullan Road Ballinderry Coagh BT80 0JE
LA09/2021/1487/F	Erection of 4 two bed apartments	Between 240 And 246 Mayogall Road Clady Portglenone
LA09/2022/0101/F	Proposed residential development of 11 dwellings ,comprising of 8 semi detached and 3 detached with associated garages, site access and ancillary site works	30M West Of 15 Blackpark Road Toomebridge
LA09/2021/1370/F	Proposed extension of existing flue by 10m	Site 1 And 2 Dungannon Business Park

		Extended Granville Inds Estate Killyliss Road Dungannon
LA09/2022/0014/F	Residential development Phase 1 to provide 45 no houses, to include 19 no detached & 26 no semi-detached houses with associated gardens, open-space & garages	50 St. Patricks Street Draperstown Londonderry BT45 7AL
LA09/2021/1572/F	Proposed residential development consisting of 29No. dwellings made up of a range of 3 & 4 bed detached and semi detached houses with associated access & parking and public open space.	32 & 34 Lisnamonaghan Road And Directly To The Se Of And Adjacent To Blessed Patrick O'Loughran Primary School Castlecaulfield Dungannon.
LA09/2021/1530/RM	Proposed Housing development consisting of 2 no two storey detached, 4 no two storey semi-detached, access road, footpaths, services and landscaping	Lands Immediately East Of 5-11 Cavehill Drive On Kilmascally Road Ardboe Cookstown
LA09/2020/1211/O	Proposed residential development comprising 38 units (comprising 24 semi detached and 14 detached) open space, private amenity space, landscaping, access onto Moneymore Road and ancillary site works.	Lands At 93 Moneymore Road Magherafelt
LA09/2022/0027/F	Proposed residential development to erect 7 No. dwellings (5 No. detached and 2 No. semi-detached) with associated garden amenities and garages. (Previous planning on lands H/2009/0275/F)	Land Opposite 55-57 Sixtowns Road Straw Draperstown

**Table 5.3 Planning Applications for Commercial Activities**

Planning Reference	Application	Location
LA09/2021/1439/F	Proposed change of use from education & training facility to a fast food takeaway.	10 Cedar Park Magherafelt Ground Floor 118- 120 Main Street Maghera BT46 5AF.
LA09/2020/1498/F	Retention of the Gym and Wellbeing Facility currently under construction on this site. This will comprise of a portal framed and cladding building 297sqm in floor space, tarmac car parking surface and	99 Ardboe Road Ardboe BT80 0HU Site Adjacent To 99 Ardboe Road Ardboe Co Tyrone

	associated drainage and septic tank.	
LA09/2020/0010/F	Proposed new creche building, car parking and all associated site works	Specialist Joinery Group 100 Coleraine Road Maghera BT46 5BP Lands 75M Ne Of 100 Coleraine Road Maghera.
LA09/2021/1190/F	Change of use from retail unit and yard to sit in take away food outlet with outside sitting area (no change to elevations)	30 Killyman Street Moy
LA09/2021/1163/F	Change of use from gym to cafe.	125 Main Street Pomeroy Co Tyrone.
LA09/2021/0622/F	Proposed extension and alterations to existing clubhouse to provide multi-purpose sports hall, associated changing facilities, community gym and associated parking and site works	St Colms Gaa Ballinascreen 10 Corrick Road Straw Draperstown
LA09/2020/1378/F	Proposed 2 blocks of 5 No glamping accommodation to provide tourist facilities at Fishermans Walk.	Site 380M East Of 23A Ballymacombs Road Bellaghy.
LA09/2021/0266/F	Demolition of shop, petrol pumps and 3 dwellings. Replace with 3 shop units including off sales, post office, chip shop & offices	1-3 The Villas Sessiagh Scott Road Dungannon
LA09/2021/1254/F	The proposal is for the construction of a new gym building for the use of the club members of Greenlough GAC	Oliver Plunkett's Gac, Greenlough 231 - 235 Mayogall Road Clady Portglenone BT44 8LG
LA09/2021/0184/F	Proposed extension to the existing Petrol Filling Station/ shop and 2 additional fuel pumps to the forecourt (additional information and plans to address DfI Roads concerns)	21 Pomeroy Road Donaghmore
LA09/2022/0284/LDP	Proposed completion of three storey development with a commercial unit, business stores & parking on ground floor, & 4 no. one bedroom apartments to first and second floors with balconies as ancillary space and associated site works granted permission 17th October 2007 under planning ref. H/2006/0868/F	44 Garden Street Magherafelt BT45

LA09/2021/1594/F	Part retrospective application for extension to existing car parking area	80M NW Of 48 Cookstown Road Moneymore
LA09/2021/1317/F	Proposed revised layout to existing car park and service road, to include upgrade of access onto main road and boundary fence/gates	Land Currently Car Parking Of Industrial Units 1 Loves Hill Magherafelt BT45 8DP
LA09/2019/0929/F	Redevelopment of lands to provide petrol filling station, forecourt with canopy and associated parking to include retail space, deli, seating area, public toilets, storage, service compound, ATM, underground storage tank. The relocation of public bus stop and the realignment of a private driveway	Unit 10 A45 Complex Ballynagilly Road Dungannon Lands At 66 Brackville Road Coalisland
LA09/2022/0094/F	Retention of 3No. retail units with associated car parking and ground works (Amended Description)	Lands Approx. 45-55M Of 40 Ballyronan Road Magherafelt

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## 5 Air Quality Planning Policies

Mid Ulster District Council's Local Development Plan 2030 (Draft Plan Strategy) prioritises a number of issues which relate to both air quality and transportation issues throughout the District.

Chapter 4 outlines the growth strategy and spatial planning framework for the District. This spatial planning framework has been considered in formulating the subject planning policy within this Plan and will act as a guide when preparing the Local Policies Plan.

The air quality improvements necessary are outlined within SPF8 and SPF 9 of the document. This outlines the Council's commitment to improving the infrastructure along the main A29 North to South transportation link. It also highlights the importance of moving individuals away from private cars and other forms of transport, and highlights planning considerations to be given to encourage greater cycling and pedestrian movement within the main towns and villages.

### **SPF 8 – Encourage improvements to public and private transportation provision including railway lines and upgrading of the road network.**

In Mid Ulster public transport is essential for those people who do not have access to the private car. At present, there are limited services across the District, although the links to Belfast along the main northwest and southwest transport corridors are reasonably strong. It is therefore important that encouragement is given to local services particularly transport which can help to link up our family of settlements to the Ulster Bus Translink provision along the key transport corridors.

This means ensuring that new development for housing estate developments or when improvements are made to existing streets, consideration is given to allowing sufficient movement for local buses. Also, in the interest of promoting sustainable transport, consideration needs to be given to providing safe environs for the pedestrian and cyclist. This does not necessarily mean the provision of dedicated cycle ways as it can often be achieved through careful design of roads and promotion of safer routes, particularly when it comes to children travelling to school.

We best link public transport to land use by adopting a town centre first approach to the development of new shops, leisure, and other uses which people need to travel to.

In selecting land use zonings, particularly in our towns, consideration will be given to overall accessibility, with greater priority given to land within walking distance of town centres and other services followed by sites with good links to public transport.

In looking at travel times and the connectivity between our hubs and settlements we are keen to ensure opportunities for improvements to transportation are not lost and therefore, we will protect disused railways from development that would prejudice their future use. We will also protect the Ulster Canal and a Blueway along the River Bann. We will also protect the riverbanks of our other main rivers to ensure that the possibility of riverside walkways and cycle ways is not lost for future generations.

By designing for public transport and encouraging walking and cycling this will also lead to improvements for private transport as a result of taking people off the road.

**SPF 9 – Facilitate improvements to the A29 which acts as the transportation spine and link between Mid Ulster’s hubs and other trunk roads crossing the District.**

For the three hubs of Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt to act as a cluster it is essential that travel times between these settlements are reduced. This means there is a need to bring forward improvements to the A29 and A31.

We remain committed to the provision of a by-pass around Cookstown and Dungannon and will use our powers to protect any road line identified for development. We also recognise that as opportunities arise, new road schemes such as road widening, straightening and provision of overtaking lanes will also help to improve connectivity and help people move across the District quicker in order to connect with the southwest and northwest transport corridor but also directly to Dublin and the north coast.

The importance of improvement to the A29 should not be underestimated as it is critical to address the existing problem of heavy traffic choosing rural routes along the lough shore in order to avoid congestion in Cookstown and Dungannon.

The importance of the more rural roads such as the A505 should not be forgotten for the remoter rural communities where travel times to essential acute hospital services are greatest.

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## 6 Local Transport Plans and Strategies

Mid Ulster District Council's Local Development Plan 2030 (Draft Plan Strategy) prioritises a number of issues which relate to transportation issues throughout the District.

These are outlined below

### TRANSPORTATION

#### Overview

Good quality transport infrastructure is fundamental to achieving sustainable growth and vibrant communities within Mid Ulster. In terms of travel to work, the vast majority of our working population travel by private car, however the majority of our employed population also work within the District. By contrast only a very small percentage of the working population travel to work by public transport. There is a high reliance on the private car as Mid Ulster is a predominantly rural population, with limited access to public transport and a complete absence of railways.

Given the dispersed nature of Mid Ulster's rural population, access to transportation is a key element in developing vibrant rural communities and will assist in alleviating social isolation. Regarding health and well-being, Mid Ulster residents have an average 50-minute travel time to the nearest acute hospital. This demonstrates the importance of improving the local road network in Mid Ulster.

Therefore, the focus is on developing the key and link transportation corridors between the three main hubs of Dungannon, Cookstown and Magherafelt, the two local towns of Maghera and Coalisland and the rural hinterland. Mid Ulster will identify the routes of future infrastructure works to upgrade the A29 trunk road and will think of safeguarding other protected routes within our District.

#### Regional Policy Context

The Regional Development Strategy 2035 (RDS) advocates managing our road and rail space in a more efficient way and this is to be achieved through a number of key objectives. These are improving connectivity, maximising the potential of the Regional Strategic Transport Network, improving social exclusion and accessibility and road

safety. The RDS establishes the three main towns have the potential to form a cluster and are well positioned on key transport corridors.

Strategic planning policy aims to encourage greater integration of transportation within land use planning. The strategic objectives focus on promoting sustainable transport choices such as walking and cycling and providing more facilities for cyclists. The SPPS also focuses on reducing the reliance on the private car through appropriate car parking policies. To achieve this Local Development Plans are expected to consider transportation in the allocation of land use, and zoning of housing land. Consideration should also be given to new transport schemes, opportunities from disused railways, provision of car parking and protected routes.

### **Community Plan**

Our Community Plan recognises the importance of the roads and public transport infrastructure to facilitate the movement of goods and people particularly between the 'Mid Ulster Urban Cluster' of Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt and the rural hinterland. A key issue identified is the heavy reliance on the private car in Mid Ulster. Key outcomes of the Community Plan are that we are better connected through appropriate infrastructure and we increasingly value our environment and enhance it for our children. This aim shall be met through two main objectives: improving the rural and urban road network and providing facilities that encourage more sustainable modes of transport.

A key objective of improving the roads network will be facilitated by the development of the Strategic Road Network (the A29-A31, A4, A5 and A6) including by-passes for the three main hubs. Within Mid Ulster there is a high proportion of rural dwellers and our Community Plan recognises the need to maintain the local roads network to allow those living in rural communities to access goods and services both in the hubs and local villages.

In terms of sustainable transport, our Community Plan encourages active travel and greater public transport use and this can be achieved by implementing Park & Ride at strategic sites and investigating the feasibility of restoring rail links to and from Mid Ulster. In rural areas the objective is to pilot an 'Integrated Transport Scheme' for rural dwellers and businesses. Also, to develop an Intra-Town Transit System to include

shuttle bus, cycling and walking links.

### **Our Transportation Strategy**

Our approach for transportation is to facilitate a strategy that suits the needs of Mid Ulster as a rural District. The guiding principle is a focus on improving connectivity for both rural and urban dwellers. This will be centred on by-passes around the three main towns, and the villages of Moneymore and Moy, with a focus on improving the A29 spine road. The success of clustering services across our hubs is dependent on improving connectivity and reducing travel time. Critical to this are new by-passes for Cookstown and Dungannon. In turn this will reduce congestion in the town centres making them safer and a better environment for shopping and economic activity. We also wish to see a by-pass for Fivemiletown and the Clogher valley villages to improve travel times along the A5 Ulster Connaught corridor, and delivery of the A4 improvements through Mid Ulster. We will also continue to support tight planning controls along these roads in line with regional protected route policy.

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## 7 Implementation of Action Plans

Table 7.1 – Action Plan Progress

Measure No.	Measure	EU Category	EU Class	Lead Authority	Key Performance Indicator	Target Pollution Reduction in the AQMA	Update
1	Investigate potential for traffic control systems leading to and within AQMA	Traffic Management	UTC, Congestion management , traffic reduction	TransportNI	Reduction in Charlemont AQMA NO <sub>2</sub> levels.	To be determined and dependent on proposed changes	Transport NI contacted re potential improvements
2	Ensure potential air quality issues are assessed with new developments before problems arise through consultation with the Planning Department	Policy Guidance and Development Control	Air Quality Planning and Policy Guidance	MUDC	Air Quality Assessments submitted through planning process for certain developments.	Development of appropriate response for planning consultations in line with up-to-date guidance	Air Quality issues considered in all planning consultation responses. See details in previous Chapters of Progress Report.
3	Investigate the potential of requiring a number of electric charging points to be included in certain developments, through consultation with the Planning Department	Policy Guidance and Development Control	Air Quality Planning and Policy Guidance	MUDC	Increase in number of charging points. Currently 20 charge points Sept. 2022	Development of appropriate response for planning consultations in line with up-to-date guidance	23 Charging locations- February 2024

Measure No.	Measure	EU Category	EU Class	Lead Authority	Key Performance Indicator	Target Pollution Reduction in the AQMA	Update
4	Prepare information leaflets on how to help improve air quality and reduce exposure	Promoting Travel Alternatives Transport and Planning Infrastructure	Promotion of cycling Promotion of walking School Travel & Workplace Travel Planning	MUDC DEARA	To be determined	Investigating the feasibility of restoring rail links to and from Mid Ulster. Pilot an 'Integrated Transport Scheme' for rural dwellers and businesses. To develop an Intra-Town Transit System to include shuttle bus, cycling and walking links.	Mid Ulster District Council Local Development Plan 2030
5	Control of emissions from Part C processes	Environmental Permits	Air Quality Planning and Policy Guidance	MUDC	Meet inspection target in line with DEARA requirements	Compliance with KPI	78 premises (Feb 24) permitted and subject of annual inspection regime.
6	Investigation of air quality nuisance complaints, inclusion appropriate action to resolve the problem	No EU category/ classification	No EU category/ classification	MUDC	85% of complaints to be responded to within 3 days	Compliance with KPI	Ongoing
7	Identify, map, and promote use of electric vehicle recharging points within Council area.	Promoting Low Emission Transport	Other	MUDC Local Business/town Centre forum	Map produced and available on council website	Unable to determine	Data available at <a href="https://data-midulster.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/midulster::mid-ulster-district-council-echarging-points-/explore?location=54.718888%2C-6.689293%2C10.71">https://data-midulster.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/midulster::mid-ulster-district-council-echarging-points-/explore?location=54.718888%2C-6.689293%2C10.71</a>



Measure No.	Measure	EU Category	EU Class	Lead Authority	Key Performance Indicator	Target Pollution Reduction in the AQMA	Update
8	Enforcement of the Clean Air Act with regards to industrial smoke	No EU category/ classification	No EU category/ classification	MUDC	Number of complaints received.	Ongoing	Ongoing
9	Encourage the installation and of new and bicycle stands at large supermarkets located in the District and will promote the use of existing bicycle stands	Promoting Travel Alternatives	Promotion of cycling	MUDC Local Business town Centre forum	Increase in number of bike stands	Unable to determine	Ongoing
10	Ensure that bicycle stands are available at all council buildings	Promoting Travel Alternatives	Promotion of cycling	MUDC	Increase in number of bike stands	Unable to determine	Current Cycle to Work scheme available for staff to access.
11	Investigate fleet improvements of Council owned vehicles	Vehicle Fleet Efficiency	Vehicle Retrofitting Programme	MUDC	Selection of vehicles which meet or exceed EU emission requirements at time of purchase.	Not yet determined	Ongoing. Mid Ulster Corporate Improvement Objective (CIP1) Mid Ulster District Council will seek to reduce the environmental impacts of our own activities and will contribute to the improvement of the wider environment through local action.

Measure No.	Measure	EU Category	EU Class	Lead Authority	Key Performance Indicator	Target Pollution Reduction in the AQMA	Update
12	Annual engagement event to educate and raise awareness regarding air quality. Also, to find joint working opportunities	Public Information	Promotion campaigns and advertisements	MUDC	To be determined	Development of leaflets and information on Council website.	Data available at: <a href="https://www.visitmidulster.com/things-to-do/walking-and-hiking">https://www.visitmidulster.com/things-to-do/walking-and-hiking</a>
13	Investigation potential for marked walking and routes within towns	Promoting Travel Alternatives	Promotion of walking	MUDC	Increase in number of walking routes within towns	Unable to determine	Data available at: <a href="https://www.visitmidulster.com/things-to-do/walking-and-hiking">https://www.visitmidulster.com/things-to-do/walking-and-hiking</a>

## 8 Conclusions and Proposed Actions

### 8.1 Conclusions from New Monitoring Data

This year's new monitoring data indicates compliance with air quality objectives at areas monitored outside of the AQMA's. It also shows compliance with air quality objectives at the Magherafelt AQMA. However, exceedances were still noted at the Dungannon and Moy AQMA's. Based on this year's results there is no need to proceed to a detailed assessment based on this year's new monitoring data.

### 8.2 Conclusions relating to New Local Developments

The report provides a summary of new local developments that will require more detailed consideration in the next update and screening assessment. It is not considered necessary to proceed to a 'Detailed Assessment' based on potential sources at this stage.

### 8.3 Other Conclusions

This monitoring year saw a return to normality following the Covid-19 pandemic. It is anticipated that as more people return to the traditional working environment traffic levels will rise, and levels of NO<sub>2</sub> may increase to pre-pandemic levels again. Mid Ulster Council will continue to monitor trends of NO<sub>2</sub> levels using diffusion tubes across the District.

### 8.4 Proposed Actions

New monitoring data has not identified the need to progress to a detailed assessment for any pollutant. The monitoring data has indicated that there are no changes required to the existing AQMA's within the District at this stage. Air Quality at the Magherafelt AQMA has complied with air quality objectives for the fifth successive year. Mid Ulster District Council

now plan to review the available information for the Magherafelt AQMA and make a determination on revoking the AQMA in accordance with Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs guidance: Local Air Quality Management during the COVID-19 Outbreak: Update, dated August 2021 and Supplementary Guidance for Councils RE: Revocation/Designation of AQMAs (Updated 2023).

This is a welcome step in the improvement of air quality within the District.

Mid Ulster District Council's next course of action is to continue to monitor pollutants at their current locations and submit an Updating and Screening Assessment later in 2024.

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## 9 References

1. Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance (TG22) August 2022-  
Department of the Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs.
2. Mid Ulster District Council Local Development Plan 2030 (Draft Plan Strategy)  
February 2019
3. LAQM Helpdesk – Aug 2023. Summary of Laboratory Performance in AIR NO2  
Proficiency Testing Scheme (July 2021 – August 2023).

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## 10 Appendices

Appendix A: Quality Assurance / Quality Control (QA/QC) Data

Appendix B: Impact of COVID-19 upon LAQM

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## Appendix A: QA/QC Data

### QA/QC Diffusion Tube Monitoring

The supplier used for diffusion tubes within 2022 was Somerset Scientific Services. The method of preparation used was 20% TEA in water. The diffusion tube supplier participates in analysis schemes: AIR-PT. For the Air PT rounds of testing from July/August 2021 to January/ February 2023 (AR045- AR055) Somerset Scientific Services laboratory scored 100% on five out of seven rounds. For the remaining rounds Somerset Scientific Services scored 75% (AR049 and AR052).

### Diffusion Tube Annualisation

All diffusion tube monitoring locations recorded data capture of 75% therefore it was not required to annualise any monitoring data.

### Diffusion Tube Bias Adjustment Factors

Mid Ulster District Council have applied a national bias adjustment factor of 0.85 to the 2022 monitoring data. This bias adjustment factor was based on 14 studies.

National Diffusion Tube Bias Adjustment Factor Spreadsheet						Spreadsheet Version Number: 09/23				
Follow the steps below <b>in the correct order</b> to show the results of <b>relevant</b> co-location studies Data only apply to tubes exposed monthly and are not suitable for correcting individual short-term monitoring periods. Whenever presenting adjusted data, you should state the adjustment factor used and the version of the spreadsheet. This spreadsheet will be updated every few months; the factors may therefore be subject to change. This should not discourage their immediate use.						This spreadsheet will be updated at the end of March 2024 <a href="#">LAQM Helpdesk Website</a>				
The LAQM Helpdesk is operated on behalf of Defra and the Devolved Administrations by Bureau Veritas, in conjunction with contract partners AECOM and the National Physical Laboratory.				Spreadsheet maintained by the National Physical Laboratory. Original compiled by Air Quality Consultants Ltd.						
<b>Step 1:</b>		<b>Step 2:</b>		<b>Step 3:</b>		<b>Step 4:</b>				
Select the Laboratory that Analyses Your Tubes from the Drop-Down List		Select a Preparation Method from the Drop-Down List		Select a Year from the Drop-Down List		Where there is only one study for a chosen combination, you should use the adjustment factor shown with caution. Where there is more than one study, use the overall factor shown in blue at the foot of the final column.				
If a laboratory is not shown, we have no data for this laboratory.		If a preparation method is not shown, we have no data for this method at this laboratory.		If a year is not shown, we have no data.		If you have your own co-location study then see footnote 1. If uncertain what to do then contact the Local Air Quality Management Helpdesk at LAQMHelpdesk@bureauveritas.com or 0800 0327953.				
Analysed By	Method	Year	Site Type	Local Authority	Length of Study (months)	Diffusion Tube Mean Conc. (Dm) (µg/m <sup>3</sup> )	Automatic Monitor Mean Conc. (Cm) (µg/m <sup>3</sup> )	Bias (B)	Tube Precision <sup>1</sup>	Bias Adjustment Factor (A) (Cm/Dm)
Somerset County Council	20% TEA in water	2022						Use	0.85	
					Overall Factor <sup>1</sup> (14 studies)					

A summary of bias adjustment factors used over the past five years is presented in Table A. 1.

**Table A.1 - Bias Adjustment Factor**

Year	Local or National	If National, Version of National Spreadsheet	Adjustment Factor
2022	National	09/23	0.85
2021	National	06/22	0.78 & 0.86
2020	National	09/20	0.77
2019	National	06/19	0.77
2018	National	09/18	0.76

### NO<sub>2</sub> Fall-off with Distance from the Road

No diffusion tube NO<sub>2</sub> monitoring locations required distance correction during 2022.

## Appendix B:

### DAERA guidance: Local Air Quality Management during the COVID-19 Outbreak: Update, dated August 2021 and Supplementary Guidance for Councils RE: Revocation/Designation of AQMAs (Updated 2023).

#### FAQ 142 – Three or more years of compliance with air quality objectives

##### Which years count towards the full compliance needed for revocation?

1. The revocation of an AQMA should be considered following three consecutive years of compliance, 10% below the relevant objective at the point of exposure (i.e., following [fall off with distance adjustment](#)). Where there have been no exceedances for the past five years, local authorities must proceed with plans to revoke the AQMA. The LAQM Technical Guidance 2022 is clear in this respect:
2. “There should not be any declared AQMAs for which compliance with the relevant objective has been achieved for a consecutive five-year period.” (Point 3.57, page 50).



3. Unless a likely exceedance has been identified in the area, Defra does not appraise AQAPs for AQMAs that have been in compliance for five years. Local Authorities are instead advised to revoke the AQMA and develop a local Air Quality Strategy.
4. To avoid cycling between declaring, revoking and declaring again, local authorities should be confident that the years counted towards full compliance are representative of typical conditions and therefore, are in a position to assure local communities that achievement with objectives will be maintained after revocation as required through Environment Act 1995, as amended by Environment Act 2021.
5. It is not advisable to base compliance on a year that is not representative of long-term trends. Air quality monitoring data should be considered as part of the wider context and not in isolation.
6. For example, compliance that is first achieved in 2020 unlikely to be representative of long-term trends in pollutant concentrations due to the impact of COVID-19 and associated lock down measures. Similarly in 2021, pollutant concentrations continued to be impacted by the change in typical activity that resulted from COVID-19 restrictions.
7. Substantive evidence would therefore need to be provided to show that these consecutive years are representative of long-term trends.
8. Where 2020 and 2021 are a continuation of a downward trend and part of many consecutive years of compliance (e.g., where compliance has also been achieved in 2019, prior to COVID-19) the AQMA may be appropriate for revocation.
9. If you are unsure how to approach these years of data in plans for revocation, please contact [LAQM Helpdesk](#) who will liaise with Defra for specific advice as needed.



# Air Quality In the Mid Ulster District



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District Council



# Local Air Quality Management (LAQM)



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**Mid Ulster**  
District Council

## Legal Framework

- Under The Environment Order (NI) 2002, all Councils must monitor air quality in their area against national objectives and report the results to the Government.
- Council must declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) where air quality is likely to fail to meet the objectives set out in the National Air Quality Strategy
- Council must also prepare an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) identifying measures it believes may result in these objectives being met.

## Council's Corporate and Community Plan commitments



Our Community plan:  
We will protect our environment through the improvement of our air and water quality

# Air Quality Objectives



Pollutant	Air Quality Objective		Date to be achieved by
	Concentration	Measured as	
Benzene	16.25 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	Running annual mean	31.12.2003
	3.25 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	Running annual mean	31.12.2010
1,3-butadiene	2.25 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	Running annual mean	31.12.2003
Carbon monoxide	10 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	Running 8-hour mean	31.12.2003
Lead	0.50 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	Annual mean	31.12.2004
	0.25 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	Annual mean	31.12.2008
Nitrogen dioxide	200 µg/m <sup>3</sup> not to be exceeded more than 18 times a year	1-hour mean	31.12.2005
	40 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	Annual mean	31.12.2005
Particulate matter (PM <sub>10</sub> ) (gravimetric)	50 µg/m <sup>3</sup> , not to be exceeded more than 35 times a year	24-hour mean	31.12.2004
	40 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	Annual mean	31.12.2004
Sulphur dioxide	350 µg/m <sup>3</sup> , not to be exceeded more than 24 times a year	1-hour mean	31.12.2004

# Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>)



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Nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), is emitted from combustion processes.

Main sources include power generation, industrial combustion and road transport.

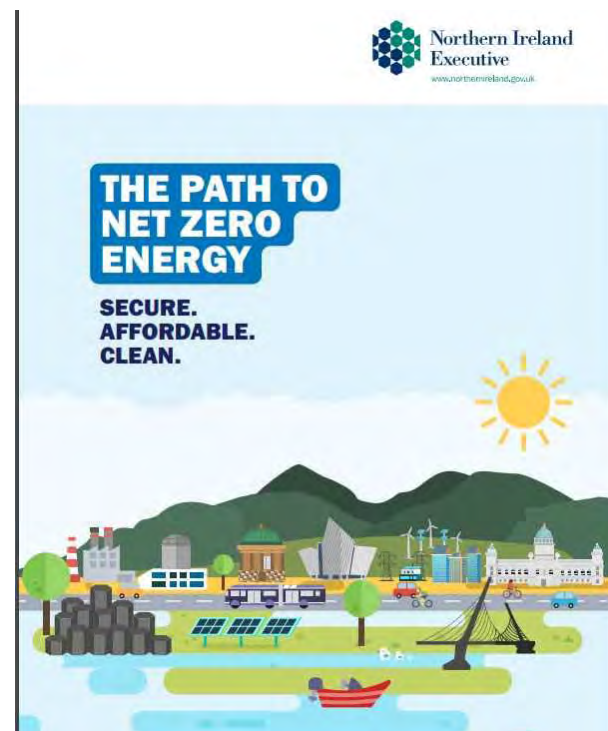
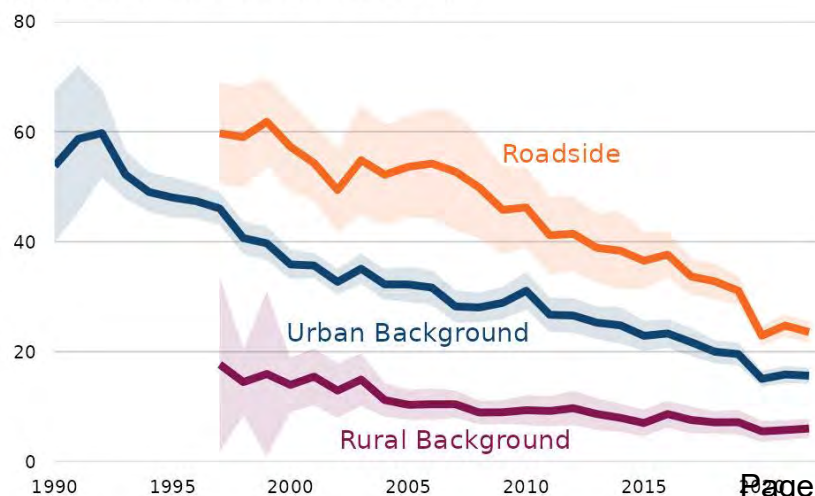
Road transport is now the largest single UK source of NO<sub>x</sub>, accounting for almost one third of UK emissions.

# NO2 changes over time



In 2022, roadside concentrations in UK are 24% lower than concentrations in 2019.

Annual mean concentration of NO<sub>2</sub> (µg/m<sup>3</sup>)



# Air Quality Monitoring In Mid Ulster

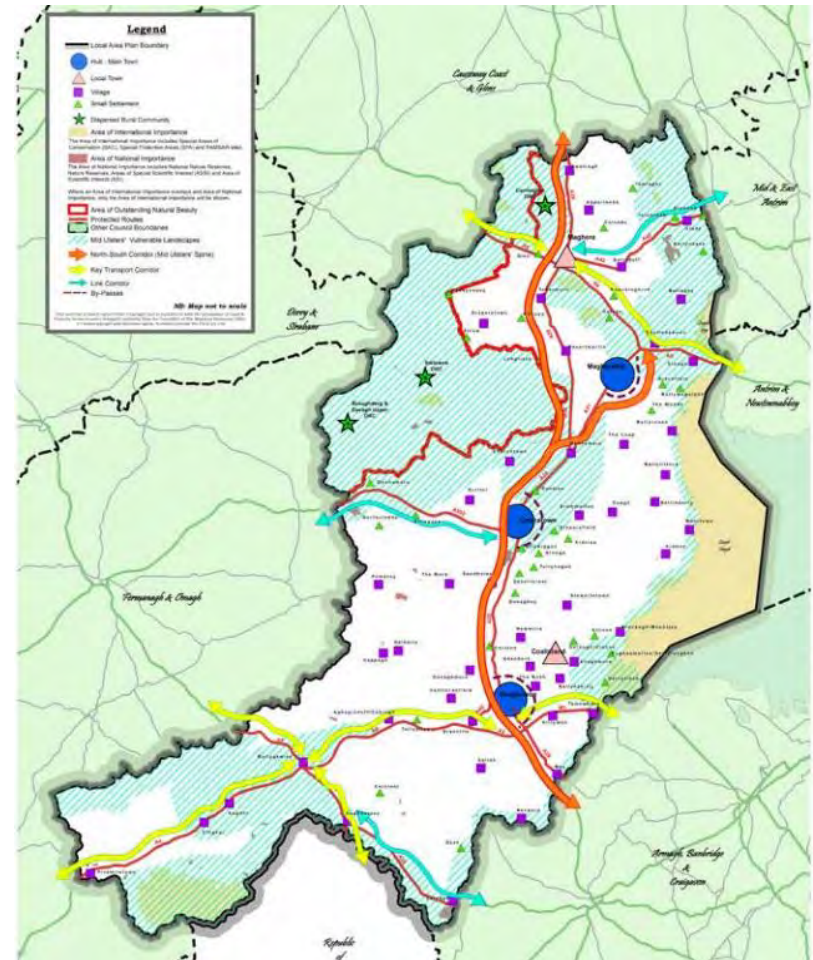


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Air Quality monitoring has been carried out for Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) in Magherafelt, Cookstown and Dungannon. Monitoring is also undertaken in the villages of Moneymore and the Moy.

Monitoring has taken place on congested traffic routes in the District.

Mid Ulster District Council currently has three AQMA's within the District.

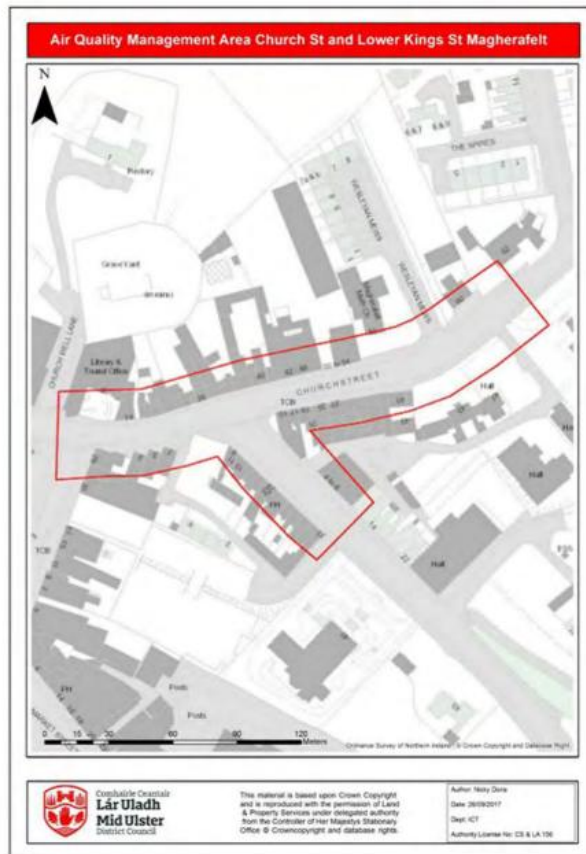


# Air Quality Management Areas In Mid Ulster

## 1. Church Street, Magherafelt



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# Air Quality Management Areas In Mid Ulster

## 2. Newell Road, Dungannon



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District Council

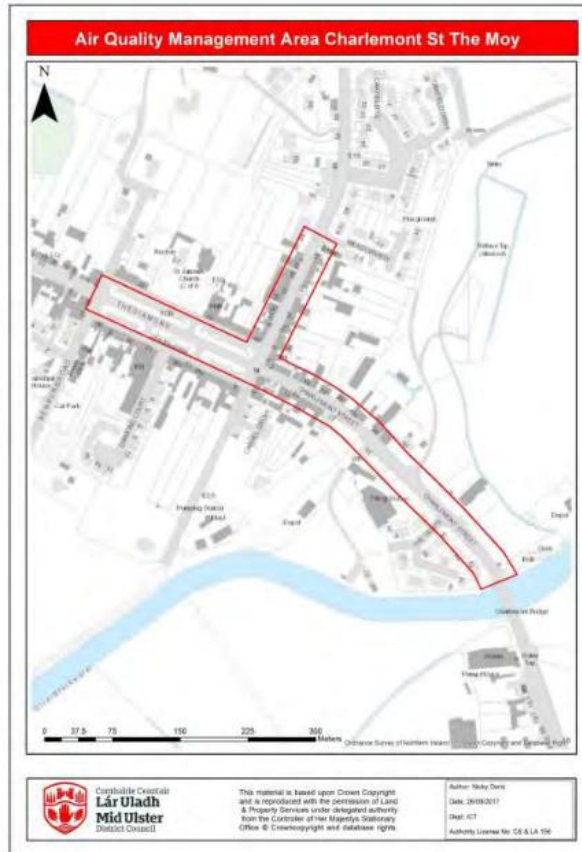


# Air Quality Management Areas In Mid Ulster

## 3. Charlemont Street, Moy



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District Council



# Results of NO2 Monitoring In Mid Ulster 2022

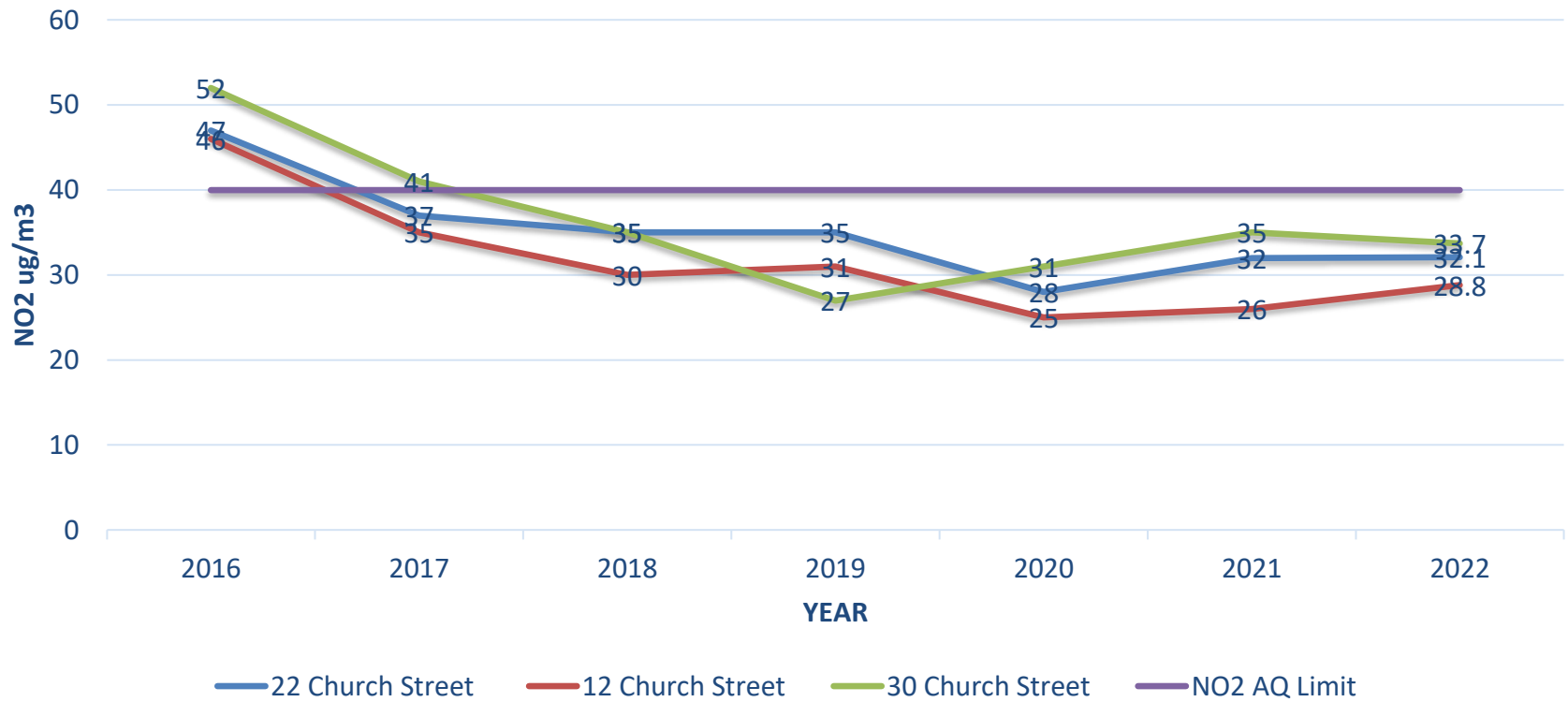


Site ID	Location	Site Type	Within AQMA?	Triplicate or Co-located Tube	2022 Annual Mean Concentration ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) - Bias Adjustment factor =
M2	22 Church Street	Roadside	Y	Triplicate	32.1
M9	12 Church Street	Roadside	Y	Triplicate	28.8
M10	30 Church Street	Roadside	Y	Triplicate	33.7
M11	11 King Street	Roadside	Y	Triplicate	19.9
M13	60 Church Street	Roadside	Y	Triplicate	22.3
M23	35 Church Street	Roadside	Y	Triplicate	28.4
D1	Ardgannon	Urban Background	N	N	10.1
D2	Newell Rd	Roadside	Y	Triplicate	<b>42.7</b>
D3	Charlemont St	Roadside	Y	Triplicate	<b>46.9</b>
D4	Killyman St	Roadside	N	Triplicate	20.7
D5	The Quays	Urban Background	N	Triplicate	5.9
D6	Dunclose Way	Urban Background	N	N	6.6
C1	Lawford St	Kerbside	N	N	31.4
C2	William St	Roadside	N	N	24.4
C3	James St	Kerbside	N	N	27.4
C4	Church St	Roadside	N	N	22.9
C5	Killymoon St	Kerbside	N	N	20.7
C8	Smith St	Kerbside	N	N	23.4
C10	Stonard St	Kerbside	N	N	12.1
C11	Conyngam St	Kerbside	N	N	29.5

# NO<sub>2</sub> Results since 2016 (Magherafelt Town)



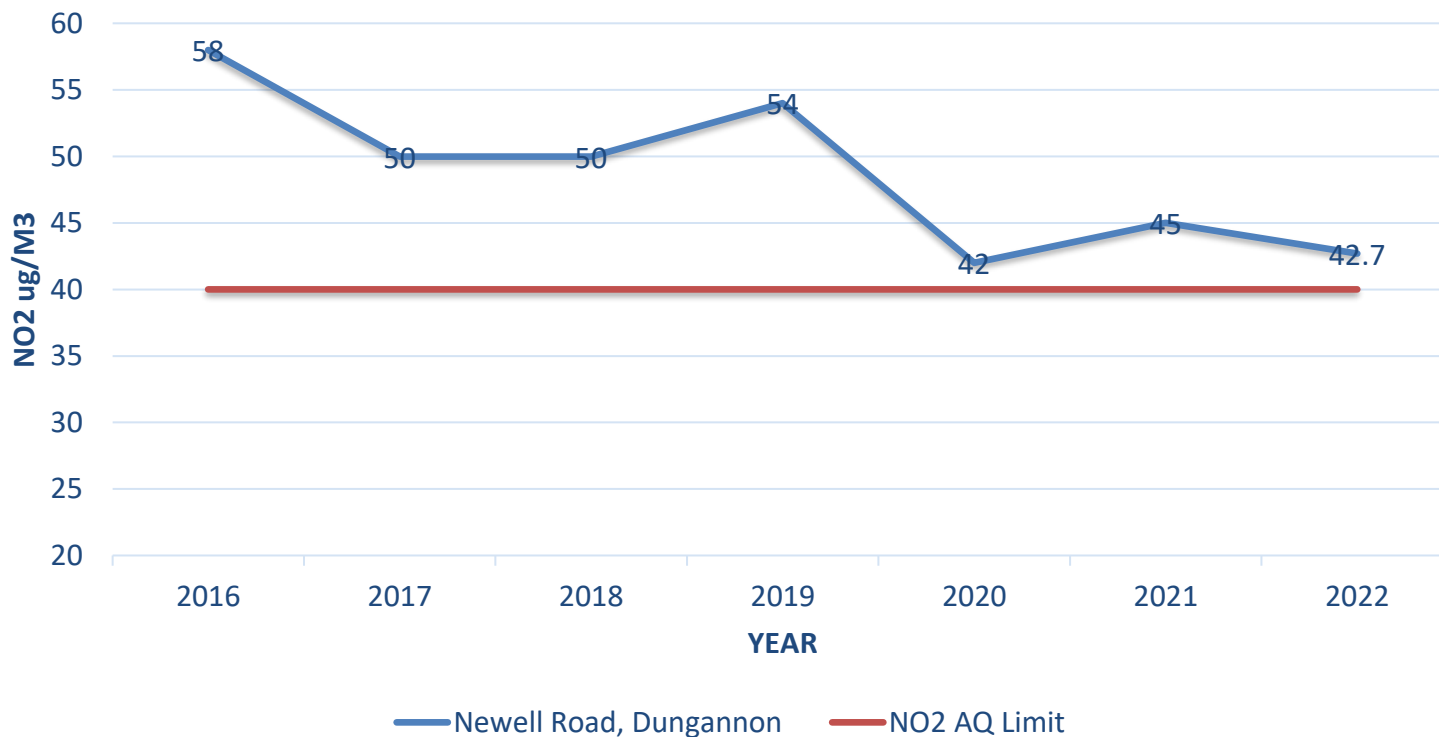
## AQMA Church Street, Magherafelt NO<sub>2</sub> Air Quality Results 2016-2022



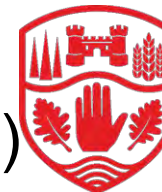
# NO<sub>2</sub> Results since 2016 (Newell Road)



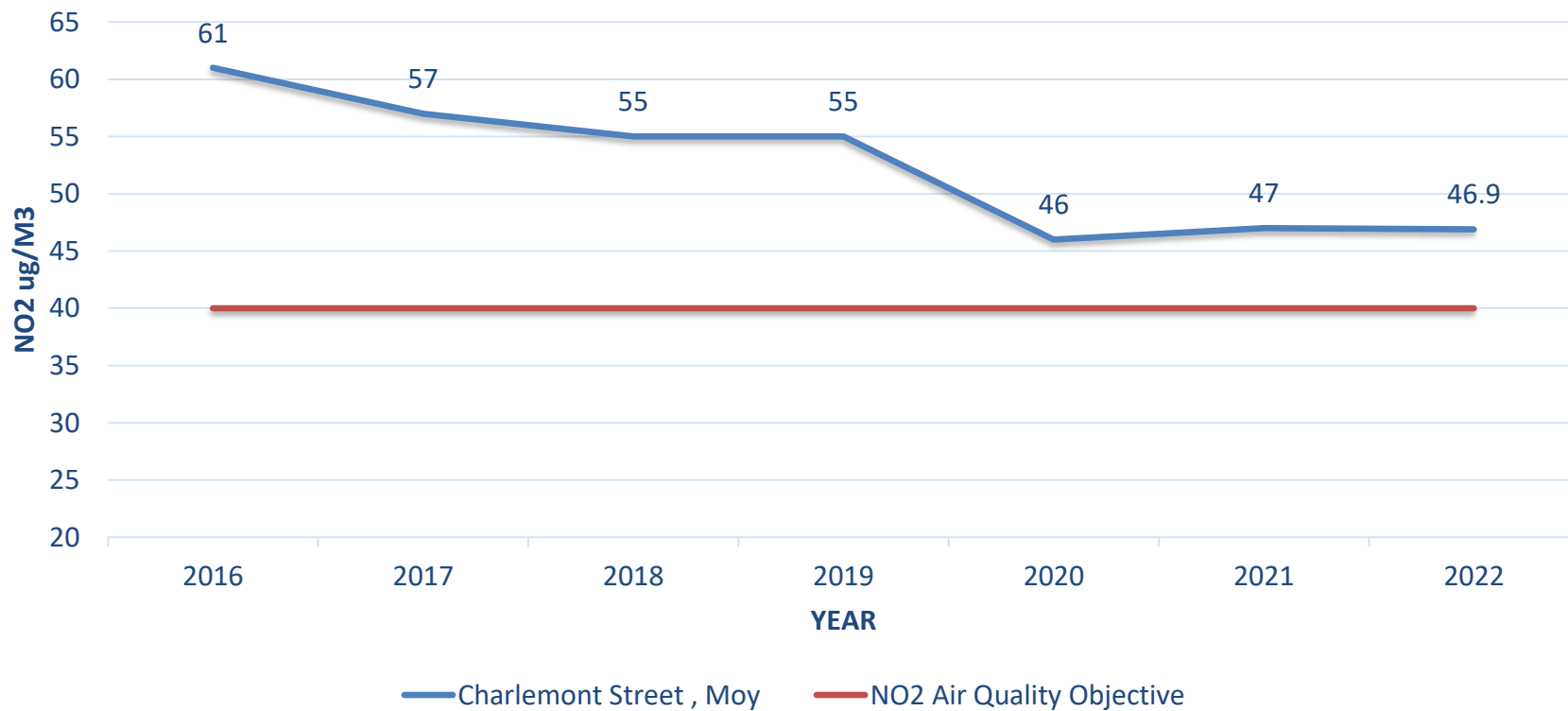
## AQMA Newell Road, Dungannon NO<sub>2</sub> Air Quality Results 2016-2022



# NO<sub>2</sub> Results since 2016 (Charlemont St. Moy)



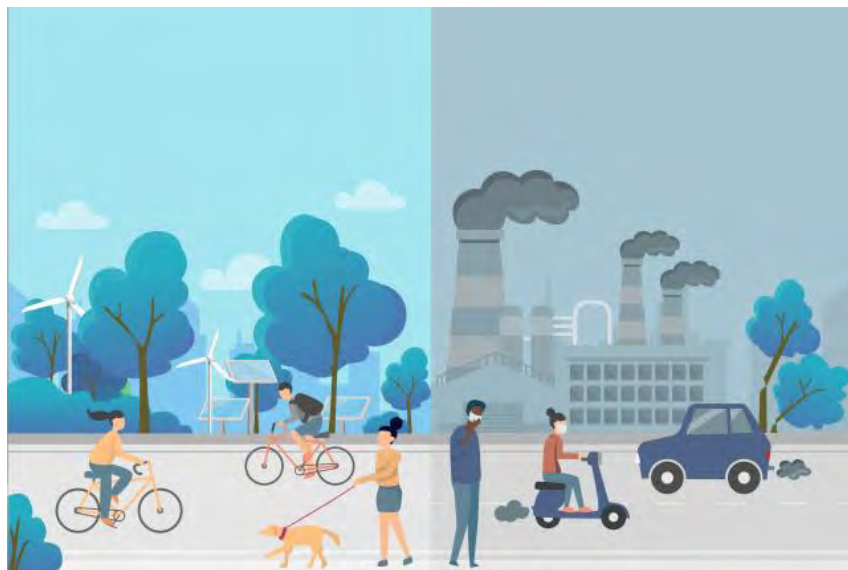
## AQMA Charlemont Street, Moy NO<sub>2</sub> Air Quality Results 2016-2022



# Mid Ulster Action Plan



Comhairle Ceantair  
**Lár Uladh**  
**Mid Ulster**  
District Council



- An Action Plan has been produced by Mid Ulster District Council
- Plan includes actions focused on reducing concentrations of air pollutants and exposure to air pollution
- Better local air quality = positive impact on the health and quality of life of residents and visitors to the Mid Ulster District Council area

# Air Quality Action Plan Update



	Measure	Lead	Update
1	Investigate potential for traffic control systems at AQMA	DFI Roads	Traffic surveys carried out in Moy and Newell Road 2023
2	Ensure potential air quality issues are assessed within all new developments before problems arise, through consultation with the Planning Department	MUDC	Ongoing -EH consider in all Planning consultation responses
3	Investigate requiring additional charging points in new developments	MUDC	Local development plan 2030- Draft Plan Strategy- Feb 2019: “more sustainable modes of transport”



# Air quality action plan update



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**Mid Ulster**  
District Council

	Measure	Lead	Update
4	Prepare information leaflets on how to help improve air quality and reduce exposure.	MUDC	FAQ developed. NI Air aware app
5	Control of emissions from Part C processes	MUDC	Ongoing Inspections by EH-reported via MUDC Corporate Improvement plan
6	Investigation of air quality nuisance complaints, appropriate action to resolve the problem	MUDC	Ongoing as part of routine EH work
7	Identify, map and promote use of electric vehicle recharging points within Council area.	MUDC	Mapped on GIS-20 sites in Mid Ulster Electric powered vehicles in Council fleet

# Air Quality Actions plan Update



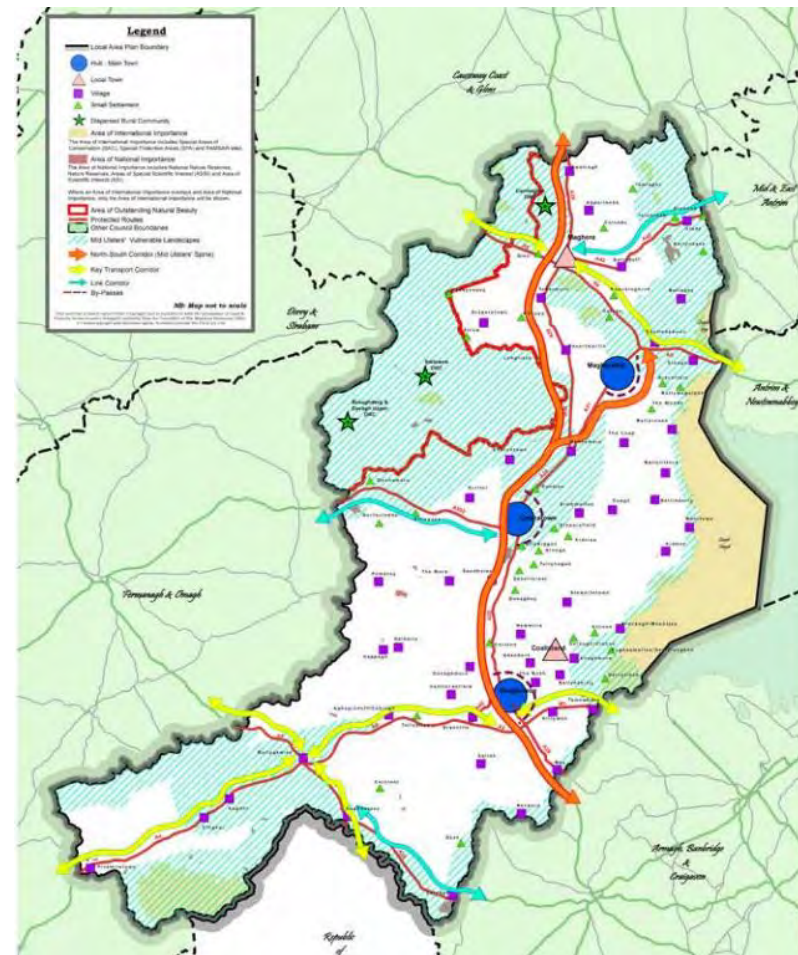
Comhairle Ceantair  
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District Council

	Measure	Lead	Update
8	Enforcement of the Clean Air Act with regards to industrial smoke	MUDC	Ongoing as part of routine EH work
9	Encourage the installation of new bicycle stands at large supermarkets located in the District and promote the use of existing bicycle stands	MUDC	Local development plan 2030-Draft Plan Strategy
10	Ensure that bicycle stand are available at all Council buildings	MUDC	MUDC corporate improvement plan aims to Reduce carbon emissions related to staff commutes  Cycle to Work Scheme in place

# 2023: New NO2 monitoring sites



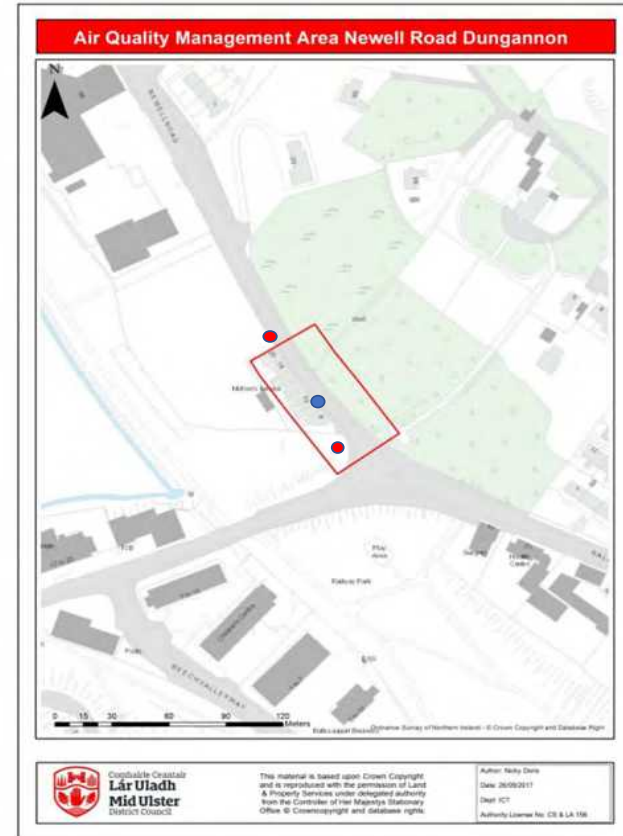
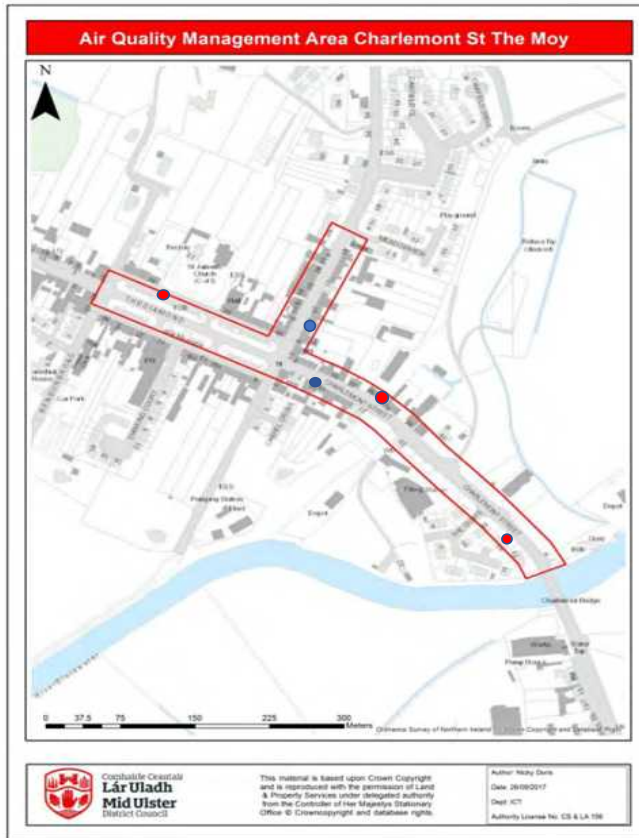
- In April 2023, 8 Additional NO2 monitoring sites added at
- Charlemont Street and the Square, Moy;
- Newell Road, Dungannon;
- King's Row and Mamie's Corner, Coalisland;
- Circular Road, Dungannon



# Current and Proposed New Monitoring Locations



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# Preliminary Data for new sites



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**Mid Ulster**  
District Council

New Monitoring Location	Preliminary raw data monthly average to date (NO2 ug/m3)
Newell Road (D8)	24
Newell Road (D9)	22
Charlemont Street	14
Charlemont Street	14
The Square Moy	18
Kings Row, Coalisland	31
Mammy's Corner, Coalisland	19
Circular Road, Dungannon	32

# DFI Roads-Action update- MOY



- A previous attempt to introduce double yellows was not able to proceed due to objections.
- Traffic Monitoring survey completed 24th April to 28th April 2023
- The merit in introducing a part time ban on right turning vehicles was considered as it was thought this might be the cause of congestion and hence a reduction in air quality.
- The survey did not show this to be a persistent congestion area
- DfI Roads are planning to consider if less contentious restrictions can be introduced.
- Traffic Monitoring Recommendations
  - (1) Introduce additional parking restrictions between Killyman Junction and the Texaco filling station.
  - (2) Remark the yellow box marking at Killyman Junction.

# DFI Roads Action Update- Newell Road.



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**Mid Ulster**  
District Council

- Traffic survey completed May 2023
- The introduction of traffic signals at this junction could make air quality worse as vehicles would have their engines running while waiting at the lights.
- Yellow box markings are used at junctions and would not be appropriate markings outside the terrace of houses.
- DfI roads installing cameras to better understand traffic flows. Also to install count in Newell Road.
- Consideration of air flow issues

# MUDC Action update



- MUDC have cut back some of the vegetation at Newell Road area with further works scheduled.
- The removal or relocation of the advertising hoarding may have knock on effects in terms of contracts etc for these hoardings.
- A number of landlords and landowners have now been identified via LandWeb system.
- Privately owned vegetation is not currently in an overgrown state, as was the case previously. Environmental Health will maintain a watching brief and will contact landowners if and when vegetation becomes overgrown
- Redevelopment of Railway Park being explored. How will this impact air quality?
- Air quality leaflet for residents drafted.



# Action update- Translink



- Translink operate a number of different services via the Newell Road and Moy Square including school services.
- Newell Road:-25 services operate via Newell Road daily Monday to Friday.
- Moy Square:- 35 services operate via Moy Square daily Monday to Friday.

# Summary of Progress to date



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District Council

- Completion of Air quality reports and submission to DAERA
- Air Quality Objectives consistently met for several years at Magherafelt AQMA
- Downward trend of NO<sub>2</sub> levels at Newell Rd/ Charlemont street towards air quality objective
- Increased monitoring of NO<sub>2</sub> in Mid Ulster at new monitoring sites indicate NO<sub>2</sub> levels less than Air quality objective
- MUDC Draft Development strategy & current MUDC Corporate Improvement objectives incorporate actions likely to positively impact on air quality
- Recent Traffic survey available for Newell Road, Dungannon and Moy
- Bus services information available
- Increased stakeholder awareness of air quality issues through meetings
- Regional Climate change strategies may have positive impact on air quality

# Work in progress/ Points for further discussion



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**Mid Ulster**  
District Council



- Traffic management recommendations at AQMAs/ Air flow considerations
- Communications with residents regarding Air quality in vicinity of AQMAs
- Housing options- Newell Road
- Explore links to Climate Change action group
- Member/Stakeholder questions
- Any other updates

# How do we improve air quality?



- 1. What further actions can we explore to improve air quality in the Mid Ulster District as a whole?
- 2. Specifically, within the AQMA's?

<b>Report on</b>	2023/2024 Tobacco Control Test Purchasing Activity
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure and Wellbeing
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Melanie Patterson, Environmental Health Service Manager Monica McDonnell, Principal Environmental Health Officer

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To update Members on the Tobacco Control Officer's test purchase activity during 2023/2024
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	Mid Ulster District Council operate a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Armagh City Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council in relation to tobacco control. The SLA provides a framework under which Armagh City Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council provides Public Health Agency (PHA) Commissioned Tobacco Control Enforcement Services within the Mid Ulster area on behalf of Mid Ulster District Council. This service is delivered by the Tobacco Control Officer (TCO).
2.2	The duties undertaken by the TCO include carrying out test purchase exercises across the Mid Ulster District Council area at tobacco retailers. The aim of the exercise is to check that all retailers of age restricted products are endeavouring to prevent young people under 18 years old from purchasing any tobacco, tobacco products, nicotine inhaling products (including e-cigarettes/vapes) and butane gas.
2.3	Each year, the PHA agree a workplan for the TCOs across the 11 District Councils. A target of 50 test purchase visits was set for Mid Ulster District Council for the year 2023/2024.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	The Environmental Health Service issued pre-test purchasing letters to 198 retailers in April 2023, advising them of Council's plan to undertake test purchasing exercises within the Mid Ulster District Council area in the coming 12 months. The letter reminded owners and management at the retail premises of their responsibilities to ensure all aspects of legislation relating to the sale and display of tobacco products, the sale of nicotine inhaling products and the sale of butane gas were adhered to; and that staff were fully trained.
3.2	In addition, prior to commencement of the test purchasing activity the TCO completed visits to 116 tobacco, butane gas and e-cigarette/vape retailers throughout the district. During these visits, compliance monitoring was carried out, information packs on legislation were issued, and advice on staff training and how to comply was provided.

3.3	Between April 2023 – March 2024, a total 75 test purchases of cigarettes, tobacco products, disposable vapes, and butane gas products were carried out within the Mid Ulster District Council area.
3.4	<p>Six retailers sold age restricted products to a volunteer aged 14 years old. After a full investigation of each sale was conducted on an individual basis, the most appropriate course of action was determined, with a graduated approach being taken in line with the Council’s General Regulatory and Enforcement Policy.</p> <p>(i) Two of the six retailers breached the <i>Children and Young Person (Sale of Tobacco etc) Regulations (NI) 2008</i>.</p> <p>In each case, written warnings were issued for both sales.</p> <p>(ii) Four of the six retailers breached the <i>Nicotine Inhaling Products Regulations (NI) 2021</i>.</p> <p>One sale resulted in a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) being issued as a number of complaints had been received prior to test purchase exercises. The three other sales were dealt with via written warnings.</p> <p>(iii) Additionally, one retailer breached the <i>Tobacco Advertising and Promotions (Display) Regulations (NI) 2012</i></p> <p>A written warning was issued for this breach.</p>
3.5	All retailers will receive another pre-test purchase letter prior to test purchase activity in the new 2024/2025 reporting year.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	Financial: Expenditure associated with the purchase of the age restricted products being tested and for any associated costs for the volunteers during the exercises (e.g. food/drinks) are derived via existing annual revenue budgets.
	Human: Officer time to prepare and undertake the Test Purchase Exercises.
	Risk Management: Considered in line with relevant Council policies and procedures.
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications:
	Rural Needs Implications:
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
5.1	To note the contents of this report.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
	N/A

<b>Report on</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. ICBAN – Peace Plus - DS3 Smart Towns and Villages Area 2.4</li> <li>2. Cookstown Town Centre Forum – AGM Minutes 15.09.21 &amp; Meeting Minutes 18.5.22</li> <li>3. Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes - 09.10.2023</li> <li>4. Digital Transformation Flexible Fund (DTFF): Mid Ulster Successful Businesses Letters of Offer</li> </ol>
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	14 March 2024
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes

<b>Is this report restricted for confidential business?</b>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	X

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
<b>1.1</b>	To provide Members with an update on key activities as detailed below.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
<b>2.1</b>	<p><b>ICBAN – Peace Plus - DS3 Smart Towns and Villages (Investment Area 2.4)</b></p> <p>Under the Peace Plus Programme, SEUPB have opened a call under measure 2.4 Smart Towns and Villages. As a member of ICBAN (Irish Central Border Area Network), MUDC are developing a funding applicant with the other partner Councils that will be submitted under this investment call. The closing date for applicants under this call is 5pm on the 14th March 2024.</p>
<b>2.2</b>	<p><b>Cookstown Town Centre Forum Minutes – AGM Minutes 15.09.21 &amp; Meeting Minutes 18.5.22</b></p> <p>Cookstown Town Centre Forum was established in 2002 to develop a partnership approach for the development and delivery of key town centre initiatives. The Forum meets at regular intervals throughout the year.</p>

<p><b>2.3</b></p> <p><b>2.4</b></p>	<p><b>Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes - 09.10.23</b></p> <p>Coalisland Town Centre Forum was established in March 2019. It is a partnership of public, private, community and voluntary sector organisations working together to deliver a range of strategic economic actions to develop Coalisland town.</p> <p><b>Digital Transformation Flexible Fund (DTFF)</b></p> <p>In September 2022, Mid Ulster District Council approved Council’s participation in the DTFF. To date, this has been the only cross-deal bid to be awarded funding (£6 million) under the first tranche. The Fund is managed on a cross council basis utilising governance structures created through the existing Full Fibre NI Consortium, led by Newry, Mourne &amp; Down District Council, and its operation will be managed through cross council governance structures. Local Council Economic Development Teams have a key supporting role to animate and promote the DTFF, assess funding applications etc. The DTFF aims to address the financial barrier that micro and small businesses face when seeking to digitally transform by providing a capital grant to support investment in the types of capital equipment considered critical to their strategic digital transformation ambitions (e.g. hardware, software, bespoke system development).</p> <p>The value of the fund is £7.5m (£6m from the Complementary Fund; £1.1m DAERA and £450,000 from Derry City and Strabane District Council (they had secured funding from NI Executive for an Inclusive Futures Fund, so were excluded from applying to the Complementary Fund. Given their interest in participating, the Council secured an additional £450,000 to contribute to DTFF.</p> <p>It offers a unique intervention rate of 70% (or up to £20,000) of total eligible project costs towards the purchase of capital equipment aligned to advanced digital technologies (to include: smart technologies (Internet of Things), process automation, big data and analytics, immersive technologies, artificial intelligence and blockchain technologies).</p> <p>There will be up to 7 funding calls across the 2-year delivery period. Pre-Application workshops are held in each council area to help stimulate demand. There are places for 600 businesses to be funded (depending on level of demand available) with 60 of these allocated to Mid Ulster.</p>
<p><b>3.0</b></p>	<p><b>Main Report</b></p>
<p><b>3.1</b></p>	<p><b>ICBAN – Peace Plus - DS3 Smart Towns and Villages Investment Area 2.4</b></p> <p>ICBAN officers are currently preparing a funding bid in association with partner Councils, Southern Regional College, Western Development Commission, University of Ulster and International Centre for Local &amp; Regional Development, under Investment Area 2.4: Smart Towns and Villages. Lorraine McCourt has been appointed by ICBAN to assist with the development and submission of the application.</p>



The three work packages which are currently being worked up for inclusion in the application are:-

- WP1 – Learning Skills & Mentoring Programme for SMEs and community/voluntary sector.
- WP2 – Interventions Two Mobile Digital Hubs.
- WP3 – Smart Strategies

Workshops and regular meetings are taking place between all partners to finalise the application before submission by the closing date of Thursday 14 March 2024.

Following a meeting held between ICBAN and council members represented on the ICBAN board, MUDC Council Officers have requested that consideration is given for the inclusion to conduct a feasibility study on community banking as part of the application being submitted.

In addition, a consultation response on behalf of Council was submitted to the Financial Conduct Authority in relation to their *Access to Cash* consultation. Councils' consultation response was contained within the Council papers for February 2024.

### **3.2 Cookstown Town Centre Forum - AGM Minutes 15.09.21 & Meeting Minutes 18.05.22**

To note minutes of Cookstown Town Centre Forum AGM held on 15 September 2021 (**Appendix 1**).

To note the minutes of Cookstown Town Centre Forum meeting held on 18 May 2022 (**Appendix 2**).

### **3.3 Coalisland Town Centre Forum – Meeting Minutes 09.10.23**

To present the minutes of Coalisland Town Centre Forum meeting held on 9 October 2023 (**Appendix 3**).

### **3.4 Digital Transformation Flexible Fund (DTFF)**

The DTFF was formally launched with Call 1 opening in November 2023, with a Business Workshop being held in the Burnavon Theatre on 29 November 2023.

- 135 Expressions of Interest were received from the 11 Council areas.
- 108 applicants were deemed eligible to submit a full application.
- 63 applications were submitted along with relevant supporting documentation and a fully completed application form by 12 Jan 2024.
- Assessment of the 63 applications took place 22-31 January with all Councils and Queen's University through individual scoring, a consensus panel and overview review by DTFF/Invest NI.

**Call 1 - Applications Outcome: -**

<b>Council area</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Fail</b>	<b>Pass</b>
Ards & North Down	5	2	3
Antrim and N'abbey	5	2	3
Armagh, B'bridge, C'avon	2	0	2
Belfast	14	2	12
Causeway Coast & Glens	3	1	2
Derry City and Strabane	3	3	0
Fermanagh and Omagh	5	1	4
Lisburn and Castlereagh	3	1	1
Mid and East Antrim	1	0	1
<b>Mid Ulster</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12</b>
Newry Mourne and Down	8	3	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>45</b>

The next call for Applications is anticipated to open in April 2024. Council officers are continuing to promote DTFF and engage with interested local businesses to progress applications to maximise uptake from the region.

**4.0 Other Considerations**

**4.1 Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications**

Financial:

**ICBAN – Peace Plus - DS3 Smart Towns and Villages** - Funding contribution of up to £1,500 (sterling) towards costs associated with employment of a consultant to coordinate a major funding bid (circ. €3.3 million) on behalf of the ICBAN region.

Each Council will be requested by NM&D Council to release payments to each of the businesses following which they will then be reimbursed by NM&D.

Human:

Officer time in checking grant documentation and managing payments.

Risk Management:

NM&D are responsible for claims monitoring and verification. Once they have confirmed payment approval, they advise each Council to release the relevant amount.

**4.2 Screening & Impact Assessments**

Equality & Good Relations Implications:

	<p>An EQIA was undertaken by NMDDC and Invest NI. The DTFF is a competitive process whereby eligible businesses are invited to apply through open calls.</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications: A Rural Needs Impact Assessment was undertaken by NMDDC and Invest NI. The nature of the proposed fund is that it will attract all eligible businesses from across NI on a competitive basis. There is no adverse impact anticipated on any community/urban or rural section of the community.</p>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
	<p>It is recommended that Members;</p>
<b>5.1</b>	<p><b>ICBAN – Peace Plus - DS3 Smart Towns and Villages</b></p> <p><b>Note</b> update.</p>
<b>5.2</b>	<p><b>Cookstown Town Centre Forum Minutes – AGM Minutes 15.09.21 &amp; Meeting Minutes 18.05.22</b></p> <p><b>Note</b> minutes of Cookstown Town Centre Forum AGM held 15.09.21 and meeting 18.05.22.</p>
<b>5.3</b>	<p><b>Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes – 09.10.23</b></p> <p><b>Note</b> Minutes of Coalisland Town Centre Forum meeting held 09.10.23.</p>
<b>5.4</b>	<p><b>Digital Transformation Flexible Fund (DTFF)</b></p> <p><b>Note</b> the outcome of the Digital Transformation Flexible Fund Call 1.</p>
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
	<p><b>Appendix 1</b> - Minutes of Cookstown Town Centre Forum AGM – 15.09.21</p> <p><b>Appendix 2</b> - Minutes of Cookstown Town Centre Forum Meeting – 18.05.22</p> <p><b>Appendix 3</b> - Minutes of Coalisland Town Centre Forum Meeting – 09.10.23</p> <p><b>Appendix 4</b> - Digital Transformation Flexible Fund (DTFF): Letters of Offer issued to Successful Businesses in Mid Ulster</p>



**MINUTES OF COOKSTOWN TOWN CENTRE FORUM ANNUAL  
GENERAL MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER  
2021 AT 12.30PM VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

**Present:**

Councillor Wilson	Mid Ulster District Council
Councillor McNamee	Mid Ulster District Council
Councillor Mallaghan	Mid Ulster District Council
Sharon McGowan	Department for Communities
Conall McKee	DFI Roads NI
Ursula Marshall	Cookstown Disability Forum
Annette McGahan	Mid Ulster PCSP
Andrew McConnell	Large Retailer
Paul Wilson	Large Independent Retailer
Mary McCullagh	) Mid Ulster District Council
Colin McKenna	

**In attendance:** Deborah Ewing ) Mid Ulster District Council

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillor Mark Glasgow and Councillor Wilbert Buchanan, Mid Ulster District Council; TP Sheehy, Small Independent Retailer; Bernie Sonner, Tenants Association; Sean MacMahon, Property Developer; John Downey, PSNI; Peter Beckett, Large Retailer; Fiona McKeown, Mid Ulster District Council.

Councillor Wilson thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He expressed his gratitude to M McCullagh and Council staff for their service and promoting the town as best as was possible over what has been a strange and difficult year. He also thanked P Wilson for his service as Vice Chair.

**2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

It was proposed by U Marshall and seconded by Councillor McNamee to ADOPT the minutes of the Town Centre Forum AGM held on 7 July 2020.

**3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

C McKenna advised that the Chair is selected based on Mid Ulster District Council's d'hont system. This term the party selected to Chair the Forum is Sinn Fein.

**a. Chair**

Based on the d’hont system the new Chairman will be Sinn Fein representative Councillor McNamee.

**b. Vice Chair**

The Chairman Councillor McNamee declared that nominations were requested for the position of Vice-Chair of Cookstown Town Centre Forum.

On the proposal of U Marshall and seconded by Councillor Wilson it was RECOMMENDED that Paul Wilson be elected as Vice Chair.

Being no further nominations it was UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDED that P Wilson be elected as Vice Chair.

**4. TOWN CENTRE FORUM MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

M McCullagh advised that at present there is a vacancy for the professional sector at present due to the resignation of Jim Eastwood, Cookstown Enterprise Centre. The rest of the Forum Membership remains the same and is broken down as follows:-

**Statutory (14 Members)**

7	Councillors	(Councillors Bell, Buchanan, Glasgow, McNamee, Mallaghan, Hughes & Wilson)
1	Community Development	(Annette McGahan)
1	Department for Infrastructure	(Conall McKee)
1	MUDC Planning Service	(Roisin McAllister)
1	Department for Communities	(Patrick Anderson)
1	Translink	(Sean Falls)
1	PSNI	(John Downey)
1	Disability Forum	(Ursula Marshall)

### **Private/Community Voluntary (9 Members)**

1	Chamber of Commerce	(Raymond McGarvey)
1	Vintners Association	(Tom Jebb)
1	Tenants Association	(Bernie Sonners & Hazel McKenzie)
1	Large Supermarket	(Peter Beckett, ASDA)
1	Broadfields Retail Park	(Manager, Tesco)
1	Small Independent Retailer	(TP Sheehy, Sheehy's)
2	Large Independent Retailer	(Andrew McConnell, McConnell Shoes; Paul Wilson, CFC Interiors)
1	Professional Sector	(Vacant)
1	Property Developer	(Sean McMahon, MACM Construction)

Councillor McNamee requested that members who have not been in attendance at the last 2 meetings should be contacted to confirm if they wish to remain a member of the Town Centre Forum. M McCullagh will issue written correspondence and follow up with a telephone call to members. Contact will be made with Tesco to ascertain the representative for the Forum.

It was agreed that M McCullagh will issue an email to all members requesting any nominations for the position of professional sector. It was agreed that the representative closest to the town centre would be the first preferred nomination.

### **5. TOWN CENTRE FORUM BANK ACCOUNT SIGNATORIES**

It was proposed by Councillor Wilson and seconded by Councillor Mallaghan

That the Forum re-appoint JJ Tohill, Director of Finance, as Bank Account Signatory.

### **6. APPOINTMENT OF SOLICITORS AND INSURANCE BROKERS**

It was proposed by Councillor Wilson and seconded by Councillor Mallaghan and agreed

To re-appoint Claire McNally, Solicitor, Mid Ulster District Council as their Solicitor and Willis Towers Watson as their Insurance Brokers.

The meeting ended at 12.40pm.



**MINUTES OF COOKSTOWN TOWN CENTRE FORUM MEETING HELD  
WEDNESDAY 18 MAY 2022 AT 12.30PM VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

**Present:**

Councillor McNamee	Mid Ulster District Council
Councillor Wilson	Mid Ulster District Council
Avril Sharkey	Department for Communities
Ursula Marshall	Disability Forum
Paul Wilson	Large Independent Retailer
Neill Bratton	DRD Roads Service
Julie Black	Small Independent Retailer
Mary McCullagh	Mid Ulster District Council

**In attendance:** Deborah Ewing ) Mid Ulster District Council

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received on behalf of Joe Connaghan, PSNI, Gary Breen Tesco, TP Sheehy Small Independent Retailer, Cllr Hughes and Andrew McConnell Large Independent Retailer.

Cllr McNamee welcomed everyone to the meeting. He welcomed J Black to the Town Centre Forum and advised that the Forum looked forward to working with her.

**2. MINUTES OF TOWN CENTRE FORUM MEETING 23 MARCH 2022**

It was proposed by U Marshall and seconded by Cllr Wilson to ADOPT the minutes of the Town Centre Forum Meeting held on 23 March 2022.

**3. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

Cllr McNamee advised that at present the facilities at the Council building based in Cookstown are unable to accommodate a mixed Town Centre Forum meeting of both virtual and in person.



#### **4. UPDATE ON MID ULSTER TOWN CENTRE PROJECTS**

The Town Centre Managers Progress Report had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. M McCullagh provided an update on Mid Ulster Town Centre Projects as follows:

##### **a) Marketing & Promotion**

The marketing and promotion planned for the next couple of months includes:

- Promotion of Mid Ulster Gift Card through social media and a leaflet drop to local businesses. Members were advised that officers are now concentrating on the towns and plan to conduct a further walkabout after the continental market has taken place. There will also be a 3-4 month radio campaign on Q Radio.
- Cookstown Continental Market – promotion has been taking place via billboards, radio, local press and social media.

##### **b) Business Support**

###### **(i) Mid Ulster Gift Card Scheme**

The Mid Ulster Gift Card has now been operating for 6 months. As previously advised Miconex were employed to develop and deliver the Mid Ulster District Council's Gift Card Scheme for a minimum term contract of 3 years with break clauses annually.

To date 191 businesses/venues have signed up to the Scheme and Council continue to liaise with local businesses encouraging them to sign up and advising on the free participation whilst locking in spend to the local economy.

To date there has been just under £25,000 purchased on Mid Ulster Gift Cards. Schools have been purchasing the gift card to give out as pupil rewards as well as corporate businesses.

##### **c) Town Centre Events**

###### **(i) Cookstown Continental Market**

Cookstown Continental Market returns on Saturday 28 (10am – 8pm) to Sunday 29 (11am – 5pm) May 2022. The location will be William Street, Cookstown and the road closure will take place from 6.30pm on Friday 27 May 2022 and re-open by 10pm on Sunday 29 May 2022.

Specifications were issued for various elements of the market and regular meetings are being held with Marketplace Europe and MUDC Events Team. Correspondence has been issued to the Town Centre retailers via letter drop.

It is anticipated that there will be 45 traders in attendance. M McCullagh advised that there are several new traders as some of the regular traders have not returned since

Covid. The bar has received the relevant trading license and there will also be a children's area for under 18's.

As per previous years, Council will be providing entertainment alongside the market with the focus on Sunday being from local acts. Additional entertainment will be provided on Saturday along James Street, including buskers and walkabouts, to entice footfall. Regular Saturday market traders will be located to James Street where the fee for the day will be waived – they were advised of this via letter.

As an incentive for people to shop local over Cookstown Continental Market weekend Council are running a Shoppers Draw whereby each shopper who spends over £10 in participating town centre businesses is entered into a draw to win a prize (Apple Ipad, Fitbit and 5 × £50 Mid Ulster Gift Card). Letters were distributed to businesses and those wishing to participate will be issued with posters and tickets.

Cllr McNamee queried which traders would not be in attendance. M McCullagh advised that the bread stand will not be returning but that they anticipate this space being used by 2 separate traders. The Dutch flower stall will be in attendance, as there were concerns initially that they would not be in attendance this year.

M McCullagh advised members that she would be available on the Sunday and Lynn Shiels, Project Officer would be available on the Saturday of the Continental Market.

#### **d) Physical Regeneration/Improving Infrastructure**

##### **(i) Rural Regeneration Projects**

Under the Rural Development Programme a total of 37 villages accessed funding to develop and deliver projects identified through their respective village plans. To date projects have been identified through the village planning process and consultation with the local community groups to determine projects that can access grant aid through the Programme.

A professional led design consultancy team was appointed to commence design schemes for the various projects identified in the villages. A cross council working group has been established for the lifetime of the project. Economic Development Officers are working alongside Technical Services to deliver the schemes.

36 villages works have been completed. Assistance has been provided to 10 of the 11 villages in the former Cookstown District Council area. Projects have been completed in Ardboe, Ballyronan, Orritor, Lissan, Drumullan, Coagh, Rock, Sandholes, Moortown and Pomeroy. Broughderg is the only outstanding village at present and works will be completed by end of June 2022.

##### **(ii) Mid Ulster Town and Village Spruce Up Scheme**

Mid Ulster Town and Village Spruce Up Scheme offers 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 and development limits of the eligible villages as per the proposed Mid Ulster Settlement Report and the draft Local Development Plan (2030), published in February 2019, under the Mid Ulster Settlement Hierarchy, with the additional village of Moygashel.

Knox & Clayton Architects were appointed to assist in the delivery of the Scheme which is now in year 3, Phase 3. Phase 1 and Phase 2 projects are now complete. There are 62 schemes completed in Phase 3 with only 11 outstanding. The remaining schemes should be complete by end of June 2022.

The 62 schemes under Phase 3 have been completed to a total value of £279,480.76 (Council Grant Aid £209,610.57; Private Sector Leverage £69,870.19).

40 Letters of Offer for Phase 4, which is the remaining projects on the ranked reserve list, were issued with Letters of Offer in April 2022. Hamill Architects, Dungannon has been appointed to deliver Phase 4 as the previous contract period had come to an end.

## **5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **(i) Cookstown Town Centre Membership**

M McCullagh advised members that the AGM is due in June. She had previously contacted members to confirm their commitment to the Forum and noted that some members are unable to attend virtually but will participate in a face to face meeting. It was recommended that the AGM be held at a local venue large enough to accommodate the members. Cllr McNamee proposed the Burnavon and M McCullagh agreed to confirm a suitable date for June 2022. He also recommended that any member who does not attend is followed up on their commitment to the Forum.

### **(ii) Litter Wardens**

U Marshall raised concerns about the remit and boundary of the litter wardens in Mid Ulster. She stated that they are approaching people and being overzealous. She requested that people are given an opportunity to rectify their mistake. She also stated that there are areas in the town where there is not enough bins located for example Lidl car park where only 1 bin is located.

Cllr McNamee advised that it is a 12 month pilot and a 6 month review is due to take place where they will raise any concerns. U Marshall stated that as Council gets 10% of fines – with £100 as the standard cost – are they prepared to lose this income.

Cllr Wilson stated that litter is still litter and continued that if Council had to employ people to look after this issue as well as to clean up the costs would balance out. He also stated that the bins located outside McDonalds are continually overflowing which

is causing birds to remove rubbish. He requested M McCullagh contact a representative within McDonalds to try and resolve this issue.

(iii) Other Business

Cllr Wilson advised that the week following the Continental Market is the Mid Ulster Pipe Band Competition with Cookstown location having the highest number of band entries. He requested that it is promoted where possible. M McCullagh requested that he forward the information and she will send to the Communications Team and to the town centre database.

J Black commented that the cleaning of the town in advance of St Patricks Day and the Royal visit was excellent and requested that this is maintained. Cllr McNamee agreed and commended the Council for this – he also stated that it made a significant impact on the side streets of the town centre. He recommended that it is undertaken annually or as required. M McCullagh agreed that it does bring the streets up well but advised that the continuance of this would depend on budgets as agreed by Senior Management Team.

N Bratton stated that DRD Roads Service would not stand in the way of any power washing being conducted in the town. He did however request that any grout that is removed due to the cleaning is replaced.

## **6. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Cllr McNamee thanked members for attending.

The next meeting date will be either 15<sup>th</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup> June at 12.30pm. M McCullagh will advise members when date has been finalised with Burnavon. As agreed this meeting will take place in person.

The meeting ended at 12.57pm



Comhairle Ceantair  
**Lár Uladh**  
**Mid Ulster**  
District Council



## Minutes of Coaliland Town Centre Forum Meeting

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 5:30pm

### Microsoft Teams

#### **Present**

- |                        |                                       |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Cllr Nuala McLernon | Mid Ulster District Council (Chair)   |
| 2. Brian O'Neill       | Coaliland Credit Union (Vice Chair)   |
| 3. Cllr Niall McAleer  | Mid Ulster District Council           |
| 4. Cllr Eimear Carney  | Mid Ulster District Council           |
| 5. Cllr Malachy Quinn  | Mid Ulster District Council           |
| 6. Francie Molloy MP   | Coaliland Residents & Community Forum |
| 7. Ursula Marshall     | Mid Ulster Disability Forum           |
| 8. Avril Sharkey       | Department for Communities            |
| 9. Raymond O'Neill     | Eden Bloom                            |
| 10. Patricia Toner     | Sole Sister                           |

#### **In Attendance**

- |                     |                             |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| 11. Oliver Donnelly | Mid Ulster District Council |
| 12. Colin McKenna   | Mid Ulster District Council |
| 13. Emma Hughes     | Mid Ulster District Council |
| 14. Johnny McNeill  | Mid Ulster District Council |
| 15. Annette McGahan | Mid Ulster District Council |

	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	
<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome &amp; Apologies</b>	
	Dermot McGirr	Translink
	Cllr Dan Kerr	Mid Ulster District Council
	Cllr Jonathan Buchanan	Mid Ulster District Council
	Adrian McCreesh	Mid Ulster District Council
	Fiona McKeown	Mid Ulster District Council
	Raymond Lowry	Mid Ulster District Council

	<p>Melanie Campbell Coalisland Community and Voluntary Representative</p> <p>Connor Lowe Frank McGirr's</p> <p>Sharon McGowan Department for Communities</p> <p>Lesley Maxwell Department for Infrastructure</p> <p>Kevin Smyth PSNI</p> <p>Peter Waugh PSNI</p>
	<p>Cllr N McLernon, the Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>
2.	<p><b>Minutes of Previous Meeting – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023</b></p> <p>Proposed by F Molloy</p> <p>Seconded by A Sharkey and agreed:</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023 were a true and accurate record of proceedings.</p>
3.	<p><b>Matters Arising from Previous Meeting – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023</b></p> <p>Cllr N McLernon asked Council Officers for updates on the following matters arising:</p> <p><i>3.1 Land Issues DfC / Mid Ulster District Council</i></p> <p>C McKenna confirmed that he had forwarded the relevant contact information to A Sharkey.</p> <p><i>3.2 Fly posting</i></p> <p>E Hughes updated members that she had spoken to Officers in the Planning Enforcement Team. She was advised that investigations are underway but that the process will be lengthy as there are over 30 businesses involved and each instance of fly posting must be investigated individually.</p> <p><i>3.3 Air Quality update - retain on agenda</i></p> <p>O Donnelly informed Members that MUDC Environmental Health have monitors in place. He advised that the monitors will be up for a minimum of 12 months to allow for sufficient data collection. R O'Neill asked what type of monitors had been installed. O Donnelly explained that the monitors will collect nitrogen dioxide measurements as this is the main gas in exhaust fumes.</p>

4.

#### **Town Centre Updates**

*Coalisland Revitalisation* – O Donnelly advised that a final walkover to be held with the Contractor by the end of October. There are no issues to report.

*Coalisland Public Realm* – J McNeill informed Members that the snag list is being completed. There is a walkabout planned for this week with the view to getting it adopted.

F Molloy raised an issue about loose tar/stones around the Cornmill Building/Donnelly McAleer's Chemist.

R O'Neill explained that he feels that there are numerous snags with the project including:

- Nitrogen dioxide/one way system in Main Street
- Entry/exit between The Venue and Donnelly McAleer's Chemist
- 45° parking on Main Street
- Roundabout at the bottom of Plater's Hill
- No layby for buses on Lineside

J McNeill advised that he would report issues to Contractor.

**Action: J McNeill to update Contractor re issues raised and report at next meeting**

Cllr M Quinn asked if it would be possible to get a gritting schedule put into place as the new footpaths can be very slippery in icy weather.

O Donnelly updated Members on the upcoming events in Coalisland:

**Halloween** – An alternative site is being used this year due to upcoming work planned at the Gortgonis site. MUDC Officers are continuing to engage with stakeholders and the working group in preparation for the event. Event will take place on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023 with a funfair taking place in the Parochial Centre Car Park from 6:00pm – 8:30pm and a fireworks display at 8:45pm at Na Fianna Grounds.

	<p><b>Christmas</b> – Event is on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023 with Craic Theatre engaged to deliver event. An alternative location is being investigated for Santa’s Grotto due to the structural issue with the Cornmill Building.</p> <p>There are two smaller events planned for Christmas on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2023 and Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2023 which will include walkabout characters, live on street entertainment and music.</p> <p><b>Mid Ulster Gift Card</b></p> <p>O Donnelly updated Members with the Programme Summary Report from 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022 until 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Total No. of businesses registered to date – 220 linked and live</li> <li>- Value of Gift Cards funded to date - £33,465</li> <li>- Cards activated – 876</li> </ul> <p>He advised that there is an upcoming webinar on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023 to promote the gift card as a corporate gift and asked Members if they would help to promote it.</p> <p>B O’Neill asked if there was an opportunity to use the gift card in collaboration with the Credit Union. O Donnelly to investigate.</p> <p><b>Action: O Donnelly to investigate and report at next meeting</b></p> <p><b>Mid Ulster Enterprise Week</b></p> <p>O Donnelly updated Members on the dates for this year’s Enterprise Week which is from 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023 - 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023 and will comprise of webinars and in-person events. Topics such as The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Business, Self-Leadership and Business Resilience and Sustainable Tourism, and Influencer Marketing will be discussed. Further details will follow.</p>
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>Cllr N McLernon asked if any Members had anything which they would like to raise.</p> <p>C McKenna informed Members of an upcoming Apprenticeship Programme for all ages. He will send out details via MUDC databases.</p> <p>A Sharkey asked for assistance from MUDC in relation to the Brackaville/Derry Road lands. She informed Members that LPS will advise of options to dispose of the land</p>



and asked if the community would have any use for the land e.g. allotments / play park. She happy to discuss ideas.

F Molloy added that he feels something needs to be done with the land otherwise it will remain derelict. He advised that Lilac and the National Autistic Society showed an interest in the land previously.

C McKenna explained that this issue was not for this forum but that he would be happy to facilitate a meeting with relevant stakeholders.

Cllr M Quinn said that he supports something being done on this land.

**Action: C McKenna to arrange a meeting between DfC and Mid Ulster District Council to discuss land issue at Brackville/Derry Road**

Cllr M Quinn raised a query about the town centre boundaries and that Springisland falls outside the boundary. C McKenna explained that the town centre boundaries are determined by the Dungannon and South Tyrone Area Plan and that businesses within the town centre boundary fall within different planning legislation i.e. have higher rates.

F Molloy raised a query about Sandy Row and the need for the road to be tarmacked. J McNeill agreed this should be addressed.

R O'Neill raised the issue about an incident that took place on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at the Cornmill. He said that there could be an issue with retaliation in the town and that the PSNI need to nip it in the bud now. Members agreed that the behaviour was unacceptable. As there was no representation from PSNI at the meeting, A McGahan agreed to update PSNI on behalf of the town centre forum.

**Action: A McGahan to update PSNI**

F Molloy asked if there were any updates on a start date for the work at Gortgonis. O Donnelly explained that the site is now vacated to allow for transfer but that there is no definite start date.

F Molloy explained that Neighbourhood Renewal monies need to be spent. O Donnelly advised that F Molloy should speak to a member of the Community Development Department such as Philip Clarke or Annie Barrett.

	Meeting ended at 18:17pm
<b>7.</b>	<b>Date of Next Meeting</b> Quarterly meeting to be held in January 2024. Date tbc

## APPENDIX 4

### Digital Transformation Flexible Fund (2024-26)

(Led by Newry Mourne and Down District Council)

Call 1: Letters of Offer Awards in Mid Ulster

<b>Business</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Total Eligible Project Cost</b>	<b>Approved DTFP Funding</b>	<b>Business Match Funding</b>
Aecentus	Ballygawley	£26,472.32	£18,530.62	£7,941.70
Betty's Ice Cream	Pomeroy	£27,950	£19,565.00	£8,385
BBold (EU) Limited	Draperstown	£8,450	£5,915.00	£2,535
Countryside Services Ltd	Dungannon	£30,000	£20,000	£10,000
Harkin's Pharmacy	Maghera	£32,750	£20,000	£12,750
HBK Architects	Aughnacloy	£7,208.97	£5,046.28	£2,162.69
Origin 7 Ltd	Cookstown	£23,061.65	£16,143.16	£6,918.50
OHM Engineering Limited	Clogher	£33,500	£20,000.00	£13,500
Magherafelt Business Park	Magherafelt	£27,974	£19,581.80	£8,392.20
REP Technology Ltd t/a REP TEC	Dungannon	£30,000	£20,000.00	£10,000
SmartWorkPlus	Magherafelt	£28,506.00	£19,954.20	£8,551.80
Ulster Engineering t/a Ulster Shredders	Magherafelt	£29,750	£20,000.00	£9,750
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£305,622.94</b>	<b>£204,736</b>	<b>£100,886.88</b>

