

**A**

**Minutes of Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 10 July 2014, in the Council Offices, Burn Road, Cookstown**

**Members Present:** Councillor Burton, Chair  
Councillor McEldowney, Vice Chair

**Councillors:** Dillon, Elattar, McAleer, McNamee, Mallaghan, Molloy, C O'Neill, Reid, J Shiels, G Shiels, T Quinn, Wilson

**Officers In Attendance:** Mr Tohill, Chief Executive  
Mrs Campbell (Magherafelt DC)  
Mr Frazer (Dungannon DC)  
Mr Glavin (Cookstown DC)  
Mr McCreesh, (Cookstown DC)  
Mr McAdoo (Cookstown DC)

The meeting commenced at 8.10 pm

**Business**

The Chair called the meeting to order, welcomed all to the first Development Committee Meeting of Mid Ulster District Council and outlined the Agenda Items for consideration.

**D1/14 Apologies**

Apologies were offered on behalf of Councillors Forde and Monteith.

**D2/14 Declarations of Interests**

There were no declarations of interest.

**D3/14 Development Committee Terms of Reference for the Transitional Period (A)**

The Chief Executive advised Members that the Mid Ulster District Council at its meeting on 26 June 2014 had established four Committees to take forward the work of the Council during the transitional period and that the Terms of Reference for each Committee had been set by Council.

The Chief Executive advised that as per the agreed Terms of Reference the Mid Ulster District Council had not delegated any authority to the Development Committee during the transitional period.

Meetings of the Development Committee would take place on the Thursday following the first Monday in each month at 7 pm.

#### **D4/14      To receive updates from Transition Working Groups (B)**

##### **Development and Regeneration Working Group**

The Acting Chief Executive (Cookstown DC), gave a comprehensive overview on the remit and scope of the Group and on the scoping and baseline activities that have and will be taken forward on a cross-council basis for the shadow period, in respect of Development and Regeneration across the Mid Ulster District Council area.

A DUP Member stated that in regard to Rural Development, the SWARD cluster, consisting of Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt Councils had been one of the most successful and that Members have engaged in discussions with DARD officials, to ensure continued successful roll-out of Development and Regeneration Services across the Mid Ulster District Council area.

##### **Community Planning Group**

Officers provided the Development Committee with a comprehensive overview of the Community Planning Group, indicating that the Development of the Plan is very much a work in progress and will involve continued input from the three cluster Councils, stakeholders and partners. It is critical that the Mid Ulster District Council embarks on this project in an inclusive manner, engaging internally at all levels.

Following a query from a SF Member regarding the recent meeting with the DSD Minister, the Chief Executive advised that the cross party delegation put forward a robust case to the Minister outlining the Mid Ulster concerns on the DSD Budget Allocation Model and the funding of public realm schemes. He advised that a response is awaited.

##### **D4/14/4.3    Sport and Leisure**

The Director of Operations (Magherafelt DC), gave a comprehensive overview on the remit and scope of the Group. He provided a summary of activities taken to date, priorities, tasks, work plans and financial resources required to take the Sport and Leisure Group forward on a cluster basis towards April 2015.

A UUP member stated that in view of privatisation of the Leisure Centre in Magherafelt, he was concerned that Council, could be driven into a way of privatisation across the board.

The Officer outlined the contractual arrangements in place between Greenvale and Pulse Fitness, which has provided to be a more cost effective way of delivering the service. North Down have similar arrangements in place and Belfast City Council are examining their options.

The UUP Member indicated that the issue of contractual arrangements between Magherafelt and Pulse costings do not reflect what happens in Cookstown and Dungannon and that the Committee needs to bear that in mind to ensure we don't disadvantage Cookstown and Dungannon Councils.

A SF Member queried the deficit budget between revenue and what the service costs for each leisure centre.

An SDLP Member asked the Officer to tease out the level and cost of delivery of a comprehensive Sports and Leisure Services across the Mid Ulster District Council area and report back to Committee.

**Resolved** The Director of Operations to prepare a detailed costings paper in respect of Sports and Leisure Services to the Development Committee.

### **Matters for Consideration**

#### **D5/14 Paper on Proposal for Mid Ulster Sport and Leisure Membership Scheme (C)**

The Director of Operational Services (Magherafelt DC), outlined the key issues, timetables and costs of convergence of 'front of house' IT Systems for all three current Councils, while facilitating an element of compatibility with Greenvale.

It was recommended that the Development Committee endorse the recommendation to Council with regard to the introduction of a Mid Ulster Council Sport and leisure Membership Scheme and brings back a detailed report to the September Committee meeting.

The Chair indicated that there is a clear need to engage with the community and re-affirm what their particular needs and aspirations are in respect of this Scheme, with the aim of having all information collated during January / February 2015, with proposed first draft prepared for June 2015.

An SDLP Member mentioned the possibility of combining Community Engagement Events with compilation of the Mid Ulster Business Directory.

A SF Member raised the question that if at the end of the five year period, there would be an option for termination of the contract.

The Officer indicated in September 2017, there would be minimal or no termination costs.

The SF Member indicated he would be very supportive of the scheme, but totally opposed to privatisation.

The Officer agreed to take on board Members' comments.

**Resolved** The Sports and Leisure TWG to bring back a detailed report on the Mid Ulster District Council Sport and Leisure Membership Scheme, to the September Development Committee meeting.

**D6/14 Paper on Response to consultation on new EU Programmes: INTERREG and PEACE (D)**

Officers indicated that it is proposed that the new PEACE Programme, to be known as PEACE IV, will be delivered with a distinct focus on Shared Education; Children and Young People; and Share Spaces and Services; and Civil Society.

Funding streams should be accurately matched and delivered to address local economic, social and environmental needs specific to the area covered by INTERREG Funding, of which Mid Ulster District Council is positioned.

The response highlights that the consultation document and new programme appears to predominately direct funding to resourcing government departments for 'mainstream activity'. It also indicates that community led 'bottom up' approaches to identifying and delivering local activities of benefit is absent from the draft programme.

A UUP Member stated that the draft response needed strengthen to outline the concerns regarding payment in euro, the proposed 15% match funding noting areas of deprivation and that the time period of the scheme was effectively 5 years not 7.

The Acting Chief Executive (Cookstown DC), advised that the consultation period ends on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2014.

A SF Member stated that the last training exercise had proved very effective in bringing people together across the three Councils and it was important to continue in this vein to secure match funding for the programme.

It was recommended that the Committee consider and adopt the draft response for submission.

An SDLP Member stated that in respect of children and young people, the work 'play group' should be replaced with 'pre-school'.

**Proposed by** Councillor J McNamee  
**Seconded by** Councillor T Wilson

The draft response be adopted with the inclusion of Member's comments.

### **Duration of Meeting**

The meeting was called for 8 pm and ended at 9.30 pm.

The Chief Executive thanked everyone for their attendance and advised that the Committee would meet again in September 2014.

CHAIR \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**B**

<b>Subject:</b>	Mid Ulster District Council Sport & Leisure Membership Scheme
<b>Reporting Officers:</b>	Andrew Cassells, Ken Barrett, Liam Glavin

<b>1</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To seek approval to proceed with the further development of a Mid Ulster Council Sport & Leisure Membership Scheme.

<b>2</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	During the term of the Statutory Transition Committee (STC) the Sport & Leisure Transition Working Group have, in conjunction with the Chief Executive and Members, been discussing the proposal to introduce a Membership Scheme for the Mid Ulster Council area.
2.2	The Development Committee at its meeting on 10 <sup>th</sup> July 2104 endorsed the recommendation to Council with regard to the introduction of a Mid Ulster Council Sport & Leisure Membership Scheme, and tasked the Sport & Leisure TWG to bring back a detailed report to the September Committee Meeting.
2.3	<p><b>Greenvale Leisure Centre: Contract with Pulse Fitness</b></p> <p>The operation and management of the Greenvale Leisure Centre in Magherafelt is carried out on behalf of Magherafelt District Council (MDC) by Rock Merchanting Ltd trading as Pulse Fitness Ltd. The services provided and the charges associated with the provision of the Sport and Leisure Services offered at the Greenvale are regulated through a Leisure Services Management Service Agreement which sets out in Contract form the arrangements between MDC and Pulse. This Contract will novate to the Mid Ulster District Council (as the successor in title to MDC) on 1 April 2015. The Agreement commenced in September 2012 and is scheduled to run for an initial period of ten years. The Contract does contain a 'break' or no fault termination clause at the end of year five. There would be a cost in terms of a compensation payment due to Pulse should the Council ever decide to terminate the Contract under that particular clause. The pricing structure in terms of fees and charges at the Greenvale has been set under the terms of the Contract and should these require modification as a result of any decisions made by the Mid Ulster District Council then any changes would require to be negotiated with the Contractor.</p> <p>As a consequence any changes to the current arrangements with Pulse would require variations to be agreed between the Council and Pulse along with the necessary agreed variations to the Contract documents themselves.</p>

<b>3</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
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3.1	<p><b>Options</b></p> <p>In developing a Membership Scheme for Sport &amp; Leisure Services within the Mid Ulster District Council area it has become clear there are a number of Options which have been examined in order to achieve the objectives of increasing participation at Sport and Leisure facilities within the District without increasing the current budgets for Sport and Leisure Services.</p>
3.1.1	<p>These Options can be summarised as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Implementation of a harmonised pricing structure across the Mid Ulster District Council area (with the exception of the Greenvale Leisure Centre).</li> <li>2. A MUDC Sport &amp; Leisure Membership Card to include the Greenvale Leisure Centre</li> <li>3. A MUDC Sport &amp; Leisure Membership Card to exclude the Greenvale Leisure Centre</li> <li>4. A 'Single Site Package' MUDC Sport &amp; Leisure Membership Card based on the Main Leisure Centres of Cookstown and Dungannon with an option to develop this approach further to include more Centres.</li> </ol> <p>A Summary of the Outline Options Appraisal in terms of their relative 'Strengths and Weaknesses' is attached at item 7.1 of this report.</p>
3.1.2	<p>In developing and discussing these Options it has become clear to the Officers on the Sport and Leisure Transition Working Group (TWG) that each option is non-exclusive in terms of its relative impact on Sport and Leisure Services and therefore cannot be taken in isolation.</p> <p>In the opinion of the Officers on the Sport and Leisure TWG Option 2 ultimately represents the most preferred long term Option for Sport and Leisure Services within the Mid Ulster District Council Area and the one which has the greatest potential of increasing both participation and income. However, given the range of constraints which the Council is currently working under, not least of which is the existence of the Contract with Pulse Fitness, as mentioned above, it is difficult to see how this Option could realistically be implemented by 1 April 2015.</p> <p>As a consequence it is suggested that a phased approach is adopted, not only to spread the workload associated with Option 2 but also to allow the Council time to monitor and properly evaluate the outputs from the introduction of a Membership Scheme across all of its Centres.</p> <p>This Phased approach is now proposed as a route map or journey in order to achieve the over-arching objective of increasing equitable and affordable participation in Sport and Leisure without increasing the burden on the Ratepayer by increased budgets within Sport and Leisure Services.</p>
3.1.3	<p>Option 1 represents the 'de minimis' approach and requires to be implemented by 1 April 2015 in order to ensure that there is equality in terms of fees and charges across the Mid Ulster District Council area for comparable services. As such Option 1 represents Phase 1 in achieving the objective of Option 2. Unfortunately this Option may by necessity need to exclude the Greenvale Leisure Centre as by including it could incur additional costs to the Council given that the Contractor would expect not to be detrimentally impacted upon as a result. If the Greenvale Leisure Centre could be included it would represent a</p>

<p>3.1.4</p> <p>3.1.5</p>	<p>major step towards the achievement of Option 2. As set out in the progress report presented to the Development Committee on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2014 proposals for harmonised fees and charges are planned to be brought to the November meeting of the Committee.</p> <p>Option 3 is essentially Option 2 without the inclusion of the Greenvale Leisure Centre. This would mean that there would be two Membership Schemes running in parallel with each other and potentially offering different levels of perceived value for the citizens of the District. Implementation of this Option would create a dichotomy between the residents within the Magherafelt area and the rest of the Mid Ulster District Council area. In this respect it should be considered as a ‘poor relation’ to Option 2 and fails to provide equity in terms of value; i.e.; a single membership scheme on a single set of fees and charges.</p> <p>Option 4 is in some ways an extension to current operational practice in that whilst Cookstown and Greenvale (which currently includes Maghera Leisure Centre) Leisure Centres operate Membership Schemes; Dungannon Leisure Centre offers membership of the Fitness Suite only. The adoption of Option 4 as a medium term interim measure towards achieving Option 2 is attractive as it would allow implementation of a Membership Scheme for each of the Main Leisure Centres and enable a proper evaluation to be carried out before reaching any final decision regarding the implementation of Option 2.</p>
<p>3.2</p>	<p>Scope and extent of Membership Scheme arrangement: It is proposed initially that under Option 4 Membership would include the use of the Fitness Suite, Swimming Pool, Health Suite and Fitness Classes at the Leisure Centres. This approach does not preclude additional services and/or additional facilities being added to the Membership Package once an initial evaluation on its performance has been completed.</p>
<p>3.3</p>	<p>Implications for existing contractual arrangements e.g. there may be amendments required to be made to the contract with Pulse re Greenvale Leisure Centre. However if Option 4 is pursued the existing arrangement where for the payment of a consideration by Pulse Greenvale Members are able to use the facilities at Maghera Leisure Centre could be continued.</p> <p>Members should be aware that initial discussions have been held with Pulse in relation to the concept of Option 2: the implementation of a Mid Ulster District wide Sport and Leisure Membership Scheme. In principle Pulse Fitness have no insurmountable issues that would preclude them being party to such a Membership Scheme.</p>
<p>3.4</p>	<p><b>Convergence of “front of house” IT Systems</b></p> <p>Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt Council’s all currently use XN Leisure management information systems which collate information on throughput, usage, income and Membership. These systems are all at different stages of development and are not yet “web-based”. Pulse uses a different system (Clublead). Systems will need to have a degree of compatibility to ensure they are customer friendly for Members and in order to provide Management Information (MI) in a consistent format. It is envisaged that all of the Council’s direct controlled Sport and Leisure facilities will need to migrate to the same version of XN Leisure by 1 April 2015 albeit that complete migration onto a single platform may not be achievable and isn’t totally necessary for a seamless</p>

	<p>transition on 1 April 2015 or for the implementation of Options 1 and 4.</p> <p>The ability to facilitate online bookings is seen as a more important transition at this stage than having all of Sport and Leisure Services on a single platform rather than the same three versions of the same IT/MI system.</p>
3.5	<p><b>Affordable Access</b></p> <p>Delivering “fair and affordable access” to sport &amp; leisure facilities across the Mid Ulster District Council area. The Department of Health, UK Physical Activity Guidelines (July 2011) states: “to stay healthy, adults aged between 19-64 should try to be active daily and should do at least 300 minutes of moderate intensity activity and muscle strengthening activities each week.” The only affordable way (without a significant decrease in prices) to promote regular use of our facilities is by providing “Household” Membership”.</p>
3.6	<p><b>Timetable and Implementation</b></p> <p>There is a considerable volume of work required to design an arrangement that would be acceptable to all parties involved and install a system to ensure smooth operation and transition.</p> <p>Timescales:  Implementation of Option 1; By 1 April 2015 (Paper to Committee in November)  Implementation of Option 4; By 1 April (2015)  Implementation of Option 2: Dependent on a Review and Evaluation of Options 1 and 4 above but is achievable within the first term of the Mid Ulster District Council.</p>
3.7	<p><b>Access Control</b></p> <p>With the introduction of a Sport &amp; Leisure Membership Scheme access control becomes more critical as Membership should facilitate access without the need to visit the Reception Desk at the Centre. If more than one format of access control was in use (e.g.; say between Cookstown leisure centre and Greenvale leisure centre) then the issues of systems duplication, increased pressure on Reception staff, and ensuring only Members receive authorised access arise. With Option 4 each of the main Centres are able to operate independently whilst at the same time the development of a unique mechanism of access control can take place without the need to ensure that this is applied across all of the Centres ahead of 1 April (2015). It also allows each Centre time to ‘bed in’ appropriate access control prior to having the added complication of trying to facilitate access to Members from other Centres.</p>

<b>4</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
4.1	<b>Financial</b>
4.1.1	Cost of converging “front of house” IT systems for all 3 current Councils; this is estimated to be in the region of £12,000 by XN Leisure.
4.1.2	Increased throughput and its impact on income and expenditure. It is anticipated

	that the introduction of membership will increase income and assist in off-setting any increased expenditure that “transition” may incur. However it should also be noted that increased use of our facilities may also have some increased expenditure implications e.g. staff, utilities, chemicals etc.
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Human Resources</b>
4.2.1	Formation of Mid Ulster Membership Sales Team. A sales team will be required to take the lead with regard to membership sales.
4.2.2	Potential increased staff requirement as a result of increased throughput.
<b>4.3</b>	<b>Assets and Other Implications</b>
4.3.1	Potential increased wear and tear on building fabric, equipment and plant due to increased throughput of our facilities.
4.3.2	Potential increased requirement for utilities.

<b>5</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
5.1	Positive impact on Health and Wellbeing. A Household Membership Scheme would appear to be congruent with current “Health Guidelines” by facilitating affordable regular use of the facilities in our Mid Ulster District Council area; and would ensure that this was offered in a fair manner to our ratepayers.
5.2	Direct debit collection. To make membership more affordable a direct debit facility would be offered. This service may require additional resources and could be either offered in-house or contracted-out.

<b>6</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
6.1	That the Development Committee endorses the recommendation to Council with regard to the introduction of a Mid Ulster Council Sport & Leisure Membership Scheme based on the implementation of Options 1 and 4 as detailed in the Report.

<b>7</b>	<b>List of Documents Attached</b>
7.1	Appendix 1 - Outline Options Appraisal: Strengths and Weaknesses

## MID ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL SPORT &amp; LEISURE CARD

## Outline Options Appraisal: Strengths and Weaknesses

## Option 1: Implementation of a harmonised pricing structure across the Mid Ulster District Council area (with the exception of the Greenvale Leisure Centre)

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<p><b>1. Harmonised Prices</b> – this is a key “Shadow Period Priority”, identified as being integral to ensuring seamless transition.</p>	<p><b>1. Possible reduction of income at some sites</b> – as prices will be gravitating both up and down, there is no guarantee or expectation that harmonisation of prices will produce an increase in income.</p>
<p><b>2. Low risk/smooth transition</b> - this option would be considered “low risk” in ensuring smoother transition as there would be no changes being made – “nothing ventured, nothing gained!”</p>	<p><b>2. Fails to keep abreast of sector developments</b> – by ignoring membership we would be handicapping our service by ignoring what is considered “tried and tested good practice” in the leisure industry, particularly by the larger and more competitive organisations.</p>
	<p><b>3. Opportunity for change missed</b> – the 3 Councils coming together would be the ideal time to implement changes and launch the Mid Ulster District Council Sport &amp; Leisure Service.</p>
	<p><b>4. Negative impact on integration of the 3 Councils</b> – doing nothing would just reinforce and perpetuate each of our centres working on their own rather than as part of a new Mid Ulster Leisure Service Team.</p>
	<p><b>5. Opportunity missed to increase income and usage</b> –Failing to implement a membership scheme would be an enormous one-off opportunity missed to generate increased income and usage. Other public, private and “trust” based service providers focus their business on membership (and swimming lessons).</p>
	<p><b>6. Opportunity missed to increase Health &amp; Well-being</b> - the Department of Health, UK Physical Activity Guidelines (July 2011) states: “to stay healthy, adults aged between 19-64 should try to be active daily and should do at least 300 minutes of moderate intensity activity and muscle strengthening activities each week.” The only affordable way (without a significant decrease in prices) to promote regular use of our facilities is by providing “Household” Membership”.</p>
	<p><b>7. Prolongs “3 culture thinking”</b> - doing</p>

	nothing would just reinforce and perpetuate the traditional 3 Council thinking, rather than developing a new unified Mid Ulster District Council “mind-set”/culture.
	<b>8. Cost</b> – there will be a cost for transition (e.g. for converging IT/Front of house systems, signage/branding etc.; harmonising staff terms and conditions etc.) with no significant likelihood of generating additional income.

## Option 2: MUDC Sport & Leisure Card including Greenvale Leisure Centre

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<b>1. Total inclusivity in new MUDC area</b> – this would give everyone living within the Mid Ulster District Council area (and perhaps even attract customers from outside the area, further boosting income!) exactly the same opportunity to use whatever sport & leisure facility they choose; whether provided by the MUDC or Pulse.	<b>1. 2 different front desk &amp; MIS's</b> – Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt Council's presently all use XN Leisure systems, while Greenvale LC use a different system (Exerp). This may make attaining a degree of integration/compatibility more challenging.
<b>2. Perceived Value For Money</b> – the perceived value for money of a Sport & Leisure Card which offers membership of all the MUC area's centres is enormous and would be considered highly marketable.	<b>2. Variation to current contract with Pulse</b> – having a fully integrated Leisure Card that can be used at Greenvale LC may require a variation to the current contract with Pulse.
<b>3. Customer friendly</b> – membership has been tried and tested at Greenvale LC and has proven to be very customer friendly. Customers spend much less time at reception, which benefits both the customer and reception staff – there is less (unwelcome) queuing and staff have more time to deal with queries and provide information. Having membership also gives customers a greater feeling of “ownership” of the facility.	<b>3. Timescale – tight!</b> – to have a fully inclusive Sport & Leisure Card scheme agreed and ready to be used by customers on 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2015, with pre-sell from 1 <sup>st</sup> January, would be challenging, but not impossible.
<b>4. Increased co-operation with Private Sector</b> – there are a wide range of models of service provision currently being used in the leisure industry. Demonstrating that the	<b>4. Increased exposure to Private Sector</b> – there is a certain amount of anxiety about the future provision of public leisure services and this has developed into a fear of working with

<p>MUDC Sport &amp; Leisure Services can work in tandem with other service providers will help protect the current service status quo. It will also provide MUDC S&amp;LS with the opportunity to choose the “best practices” from each individual council and Pulse, in its effort to optimise throughput and income, and reduce expenditure.</p>	<p>the private sector.</p>
<p><b>5. Significant flag ship event</b> – the launch of a fully inclusive Sport &amp; Leisure Card would provide the MUDC with a tremendous opportunity to demonstrate that Local Government Reform was clearly a tangible benefit to ratepayers. It would undoubtedly be the envy of the ten other new council areas and would set the standard to be aspired to. The launch of the scheme would be a very positive way to launch, promote and market the new MUDC.</p>	<p><b>5. Cost</b> – this would be the same as in Option 1. With a possible potential additional cost for some degree of integration with Greenvale LC.</p>
<p><b>6. Affordability</b> – the only affordable way to promote regular use of the council’s facilities is through the availability of a Leisure Card Scheme and particularly the “Household” model, which has been tried and tested so successfully at Greenvale LC.</p>	
<p><b>7. Promotes integration of the 3 Councils</b> – a fully integrated Leisure Card will help promote a new integrated culture and greater teamwork within the new MUDC Leisure Services department.</p>	

### Option 3: MUDC Sport & Leisure Card excluding Greenvale LC

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<p><b>1. No contract negotiation required with Pulse</b> – there is certainly no requirement to consider contract variations with Pulse as this option excludes Greenvale LC.</p>	<p><b>1. Not as strong a flag ship event</b> – as noted in the “Strengths”, this option would be not nearly as “news-worthy” as a Leisure Card scheme as one which included the GLC.</p>
<p><b>2. Perceived VFM</b> – there is still good perceived value for money; however not nearly as much as there would be in a scheme that includes the GLC, particularly for Magherafelt residents.</p>	<p><b>2. Magherafelt residents disadvantaged</b> – a Leisure Card scheme which did not include the GLC would mean that Magherafelt residents would have to pick between the MUDC</p>

	scheme and the GLC Household scheme; unless they could afford both!
<b>3. Customer friendly</b> – this option would also produce the benefits already detailed in Option 2.	<b>3. Creates a 2 tier Leisure Service</b> – there is no guarantee that a MUDC Leisure Card and the Pulse GLC scheme will offer the same facilities, or will even be priced the same. Thus a 2 tier system could develop. This could be further emphasised by Magherafelt residents who cannot afford 2 memberships and have to resort to “pay as you play” (ending up using the facilities less).
<b>4. Affordability</b> – again this option would also produce the benefits with regard to affordability as detailed in Option 2.; however Magherafelt residents would be disadvantaged as they would have to purchase 2 different memberships to be able to avail of all the facilities in the MUDC area.	<b>4. Equality Impact Assessment may be required</b> – if any of the 9 defined Section 75 groups were deemed to be disadvantaged by a non-inclusive scheme an Equality Impact Assessment may be required.
<b>5. Flag ship event</b> – again this would provide a good flag ship event; however it would be not nearly as “news-worthy” as a Leisure Card scheme which included the GLC.	<b>5. Timescale still tight</b> – even without the inclusion of the GLC, to have a Sport & Leisure Card scheme agreed and ready to be used by customers on 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2015, with pre-sell from 1 <sup>st</sup> January, would be challenging.
<b>6. Council retain control of full remit of Sport &amp; Leisure Services ensuring “no cherry picking”</b> – there is fear that the less attractive activities (economically) may be vulnerable to sacrifice as budgets are constrained.	<b>6. Opportunity missed to develop partnership with Private Sector</b> – by not developing an all-inclusive Leisure Card an opportunity of developing an operational understanding with Pulse, which could certainly be of benefit to both organisations, will be missed.
<b>7. Promotes integration of the 3 Councils</b> - again an integrated Leisure Card (even without the GLC) will help promote a new integrated culture and greater teamwork within the new MUDC Leisure Services department.	<b>7. Cost</b> – again this would particularly affect Magherafelt District residents. The cost of regular usage without a membership scheme (“pay as you play”) is expensive. Therefore Magherafelt and Maghera residents would be required to take out 2 memberships to make regular use affordable. However the catch here is that 2 separate memberships is not affordable.
	<b>8. Package excludes significant leisure site (GLC)</b> – the GLC will be the most significant leisure site in the new MUDC area. For it not to be not included in a MUDC Leisure Card



	<p>scheme must be considered a weakness. Again this would greatly reduce the perceived value of a Leisure Card, especially for residents of the Magherafelt District area.</p>
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#### Option 4: Single Site Package

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<p><b>1. Household Membership</b> – each centre could develop its own specific package.</p>	<p><b>1. Limited range of site memberships available</b> – the single site package would not be able to offer the same range of facilities that an all-inclusive package could do.</p>
<p><b>2. Localised flexibility re prices (Membership)</b> – each site could show much greater flexibility with regard to tailoring its prices to the local market. All packages would not necessarily be priced the same.</p>	<p><b>2. Potentially divisive</b> – creating internal competition between sites and private service provider – with each site trying to optimise its usage and income this could easily lead to damaging competition between MUDC sites; and potentially even more divisive significant competition between MUDC sites and the GLC (Pulse site. In particular the relationship between GLC and Maghera LC could be very challenging.</p>
<p><b>3. Simpler to deliver</b> – single site packages would be simpler to deliver as there would not be the same need to work with partners, either MUC partners or private partners.</p>	<p><b>3. Opportunity for wider change missed</b> – again the 3 Councils coming together would be the ideal time to implement significant changes. Failure to launch the new Mid Ulster Sport &amp; Leisure Service with an all-inclusive scheme would be an opportunity missed.</p>
<p><b>4. Smoother transition</b> – transition for users would appear more seamless, as very little would have changed (with no new promises to customers!).</p>	<p><b>4. Opportunity missed to maximise perceived value of package</b> – obviously a single site package would not have the same perceived value as an all-inclusive package.</p>
	<p><b>5. Prolongs and enhances 3 culture thinking</b> – again doing nothing would just reinforce and perpetuate the traditional 3 Council thinking, rather than developing a new unified Mid Ulster Council “mind-set”/culture.</p>
	<p><b>6. Negative impact on 3 Councils’ integration</b> – as mentioned earlier, rather than motivating our sites to work together, single site packages could in fact be indeed be divisive.</p>

**C**

<b>Subject</b>	Transfer of Water Recreational Facilities to Mid Ulster DC
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Nigel Hill, Andrew Cassells, Liam Glavin

<b>1</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	Fit for purpose review of existing public amenities identified for transfer from DCAL to Mid-Ulster with consideration for necessary/desired works prior to transfer and options for sustainable operational management and maintenance.

<b>2</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	<p>As part of the Reform of Local Government the Minister for the Environment announced the suite of functions identified for transfer to Local Government with an effective date of 1 April 2015. Included within the suite of functions to transfer from central to local government are Local Water Recreational Facilities. DCAL currently have management responsibility for four water recreational facilities identified for transfer to the Mid Ulster Council.</p> <p>These sites are listed as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ardtrea Bridge (Cookstown District Council)</li> <li>• Ballysaggart Lough (Dungannon &amp; South Tyrone Borough Council)</li> <li>• Glenmore (Dungannon &amp; South Tyrone Borough Council)</li> <li>• Coalisland Canal &amp; Towpath (Dungannon &amp; South Tyrone Borough Council)</li> </ul>

<b>3</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
3.1	Agreement with DCAL on extent of required/desired capital improvement works in advance of transfer based on site specific surveys conducted by Council's and Outdoor Recreation (NI) who were commissioned by DCAL.
3.2	DCAL to complete renewal of Lease Agreement for Ardtrea Bridge prior to transfer (expiry date 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2014).
3.3	DCAL to resolve lessor's outstanding issue in relation to Ballysaggart Lough landowner prior to transfer.
3.4	<p>Management and maintenance options for transferred sites.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Negotiate an amended Service Level Agreement with Rivers Agency for continuation of routine maintenance and capital/civil engineering project works at all transferred sites.</li> <li>2. Negotiate new Service Level Agreement with Rivers Agency for capital/civil engineering project works only with all routine maintenance works carried out</li> </ol>

	<p>by Mid-Ulster Council operational service resource.</p> <p>3. Do not pursue Service Licence Agreement with Rivers Agency. Routine maintenance and capital/civil engineering carried out by Mid-Ulster Council operational services resource.</p> <p>4. Routine maintenance works tendered for private sector contract.</p>
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<b>4</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
4.1	<b><u>Financial</u></b>
4.1.1	Annual routine maintenance costs will depend on the transfer budget from DCAL estimated income £23,000 p.a. (factored into block grant).
4.1.2	Transferring annual lease payments = £1,335.00 (subject to periodic review) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Negotiations with Rivers Agency to establish scope of revised Service Level Agreement need to be conducted to establish annual cost.</li> </ul>
4.1.3	Figures provided by DCAL indicate expenditure of £28,400 for the period of 2006-13. This equates to an average cost of £4057 p.a.
4.2	<b><u>Human resources</u></b>
4.2.1	No additional staff resource would be anticipated under an amended Service Level Agreement with Rivers Agency or private sector contract option.
4.2.2	In the case of a partial or total termination of Service Level Agreement with Rivers Agency, Mid-Ulster Council would undertake all routine maintenance with a projected requirement for increased temporary resources necessary to counteract the seasonal workload. Total estimated annual labour cost £28,845, based on a four man squad/fifteen week per annum maintenance programme.
4.3	<b><u>Assets and other implications</u></b>
4.3.1	No additional equipment resource required under a Service Level Agreement with Rivers Agency or private sector contract option.
4.3.2	In the case of partial or total termination of Service Level Agreement with Rivers Agency, Mid-Ulster Council may require to procure additional/specific grounds maintenance/grass cutting equipment to facilitate increased number of sites and frequency of maintenance visits.

<b>5</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
5.1	A full or partial Service Level Agreement with Rivers Agency with the capacity to include capital works would possess the potential to save council resources associated to public tendering cost as Rivers Agency would be the council's in-house contractor for this nature of works.

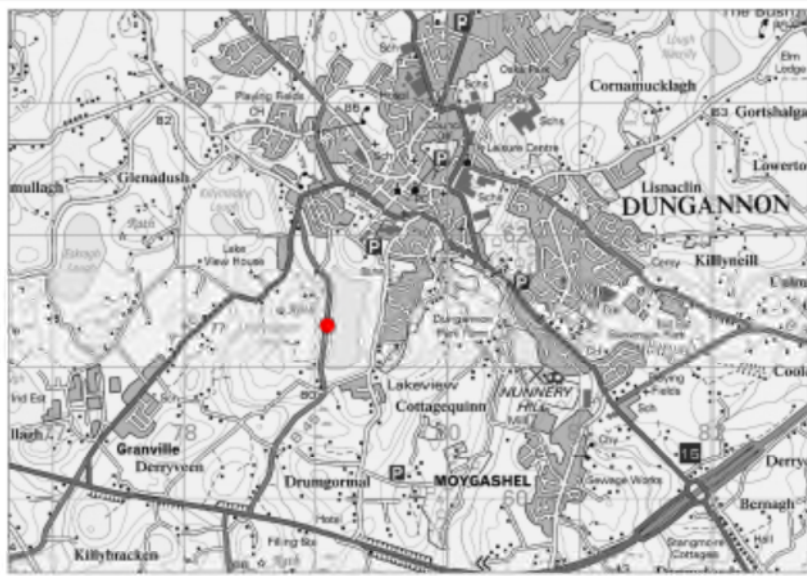
<b>6</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
6.1	That the Development Committee endorses the recommendation to Council with regard to initial proceedings to establish a new Service Level Agreement with Rivers Agency for the maintenance of the four transferred sites.

<b>7</b>	<b>List of Documents Attached</b>
7.1	Appendix A - Relevant sections of DCAL Water Recreation Site Report 2014 conducted by Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland (ORNI)
7.2	Appendix B - Water Recreation Site Assessment surveys conducted by Dungannon and Cookstown Councils.
7.3	Appendix C - Current Service Level Agreement between DCAL and Rivers Agency.

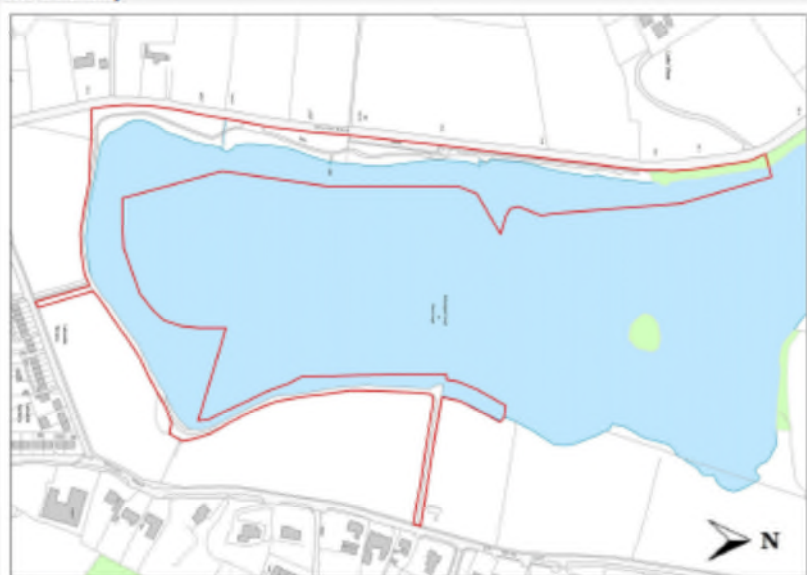
3.2 Ballysaggart Lough

Site ID	<input type="text" value="21"/>	Water Recreation Site	<input type="text" value="Ballysaggart Lough"/>
Grid Reference	<input type="text" value="H790613"/>	Nearest Town	<input type="text" value="Dungannon"/>
Region	<input type="text" value="Eastern Region, Armagh"/>		
Contact	<input type="text" value="Jim Martin Tel: 02838300111 Ext: 33148"/>		
Status	<input type="text" value="Leased+Owned Section"/>		

1:15 000 Map



Site Boundary



### Type of Access

- Fishing stand
- Fixed Jetty
- Slipway
- Canoe Steps
- Informal River Bank Access

### Facilities

- Car Park  Bin
- Toilets  Fully Fenced
- Cafe  BBQ Facility
- Picnic Tables

### Signage

- Interpretation Panel
- Information Panel
- Deep Water Warning
- Road Signs to Site
- Signage on Path
- Site Name

### Type of recreation

- Fishing
- Canoeing
- Walking

Comments

### Site Accessibility

Site Accessibility

### Life Ring

Life Ring:

Condition of Life Ring:

Comments:

### Comments

Signage is required at this site in the form of site name, road signage, information and interpretation panels. The jetty is in poor condition - it is constructed of concrete and the end is broken off, requiring attention (Facilities Photo 3).

Photo of Site 1



Photo of Site 2



Photo of Facilities 1



Photo of Facilities 2



Photo of Facilities 3



Photo of Facilities 4



## Overview

A well maintained site with a walking path, picnic facilities and benches around the Lough. Some metal benches and picnic tables require maintenance (Site Photos 1 & 2 and Facilities Photo 2).

The site is accessible from the lay by at B45 or from the other side of the Lough from the residential area. The site is currently known as a wildlife refuge, with a keen interest in the form of Ballysaggart Environmental Group. There is some scope for water based recreation development in the form of canoeing and angling facilities, this would need to be given careful consideration given the Lough's value for wildlife and within the wider community. Opportunities to link the Lough with other key recreation sites close by such as Windmill Wood and Dunganon Park to develop a community path network, should be investigated.



### 3.7 Coalisland Canal

Site ID	<input type="text" value="7"/>	Water Recreation Site	<input type="text" value="Coalisland Canal"/>
Grid Reference	<input type="text" value="J842665"/>	Nearest Town	<input type="text" value="Coalisland"/>
Region	<input type="text" value="Eastern Region, Armagh"/>		
Contact	<input type="text" value="Jim Martin Tel: 02838300111 Ext: 33148"/>		
Status	<input type="text" value="Owned"/>		

1:15 000 Map



Site Boundary



### Type of Access

- Fishing stand
- Fixed Jetty
- Slipway
- Canoe Steps
- Informal River Bank Access

### Facilities

- Car Park
- Toilets
- Cafe
- Picnic Tables
- Bin
- Fully Fenced
- BBQ Facility

### Signage

- Interpretation Panel
- Information Panel
- Deep Water Warning
- Road Signs to Site
- Signage on Path
- Site Name

### Type of recreation

- Fishing
- Canoeing
- Walking

Comments

### Site Accessibility

Site Accessibility

### Life Ring

Life Ring:

Condition of Life Ring:

Comments:

### Comments

Benches and bins are provided along the length of the route (Facilities Photo 4). Signage and interpretation are needed for this route. The current interpretation panel in Coalisland, has been vandalised and is at an inaccessible height for all users (Facilities Photo 1).

Photo of Site 1



Photo of Site 2



Photo of Facilities 1



Photo of Facilities 2



Photo of Facilities 3



Photo of Facilities 4



## Overview

This route has excellent potential, and with some development work, it is recommended that the route become a Quality Walk on WalkNI (Site Photos 1 & 2). This would include waymarking the route at junctions, providing information panels at several key points along the route, having site names placed at each car parking opportunity. The section past the Reenaderry Road requires attention (path surface and access gate), otherwise the route could finish at Reenaderry Road. There are car parking opportunities in Coalisland town, adjacent to Moor Road (Facilities Photo 2) and also adjacent to Reenaderry Road. There is adequate seating provided along the route, life preserving equipment should be installed at key points.

3.13 Glenmore

Site ID	13	Water Recreation Site	Glenmore
Grid Reference	H649610	Nearest Town	Ballygawley
Region	Eastern Region, Armagh		
Contact	Jim Marín Tel: 02838300111 Ext: 33148		
Status	Leased		
1:15 000			



Site Boundary



### Type of Access

- Fishing stand
- Fixed Jetty
- Slipway
- Canoe Steps
- Informal River Bank Access

### Facilities

- Car Park  Bin
- Toilets  Fully Fenced
- Cafe  BBQ Facility
- Picnic Tables

### Signage

- Interpretation Panel
- Information Panel
- Deep Water Warning
- Road Signs to Site
- Signage on Path
- Site Name

### Type of recreation

- Fishing
- Canoeing
- Walking

Comments: Low water level at time of visit (summer), no direct access to water.

### Site Accessibility

Site Accessibility: Grade 5 - steep inclines, narrow paths and unstable surfaces.

### Life Ring

Life Ring: Present  
Condition of Life Ring: Good  
Comments: Two life rings present (Facilities Photo 2)

### Comments

'Swimming prohibited' sign present (Facilities Photo 1), along with 'children should be supervised at all times' sign in lower car park. Wooden bridge and view point shelter present in upper glen. Signs from road to both upper and lower car parks present (Facilities Photo 4). Empty information panels at both car parks.

Photo of Site 1



Photo of Site 2



Photo of Facilities 1



Photo of Facilities 2



Photo of Facilities 3



Photo of Facilities 4



### Overview

Picturesque site with approximately 1.5 mile walk with view point and shelter. It has two entrances, both with car parking facilities. Picnic and bin facilities present in both car parks (Site Photo 1 and Facilities Photo 3). Good road signage present. Information regarding walking routes on site should be present in both car parks, plus route waymarking. An empty information board is present in both car parks, not very welcoming or helpful for visitors.

### 3 Audit Reports

#### 3.1 Ardrea Bridge

## DCAL WATER RECREATION SITE REPORT 2014

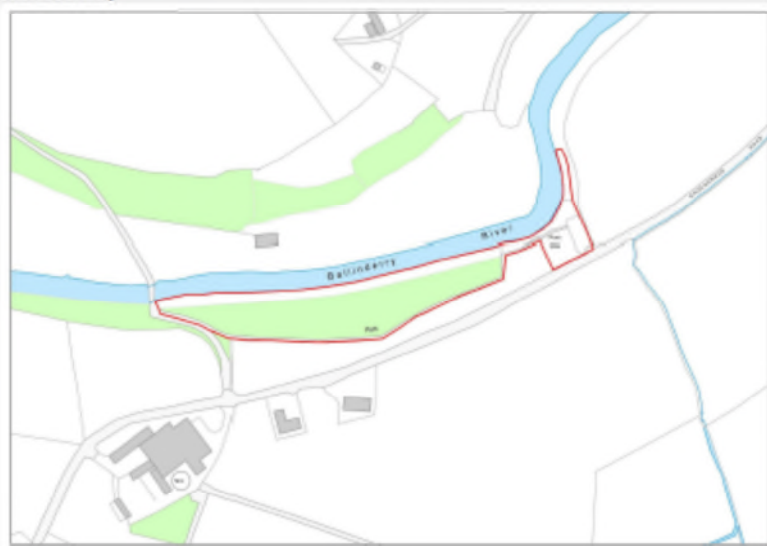


Site ID	<input type="text" value="1"/>	Water Recreation Site	<input type="text" value="Ardrea Bridge"/>
Grid Reference	<input type="text" value="H861768"/>	Nearest Town	<input type="text" value="Cookstown"/>
Region	<input type="text" value="Eastern Region, Armagh"/>		
Contact	<input type="text" value="Jim Martin Tel: 02838300111 Ext: 33148"/>		
Status	<input type="text" value="Leased"/>		

#### 1:15 000 Map



#### Site Boundary



### Type of Access

- Fishing stand   
Fixed Jetty   
Slipway   
Canoe Steps   
Informal River Bank Access

### Facilities

- Car Park  Bin   
Toilets  Fully Fenced   
Cafe  BBQ Facility   
Picnic Tables

### Signage

- Interpretation Panel   
Information Panel   
Deep Water Warning   
Road Signs to Site   
Signage on Path   
Site Name

### Type of recreation

- Fishing   
Canoeing   
Walking

#### Comments

Step over stile present at north of site encouraging access to river bank. Short, looped walk present to the west of the site. Pleasant and in good condition.

### Site Accessibility

#### Site Accessibility

Overall walking loop is Grade 4 - due to entranceway from car park to path being less than 1m in width due to boulders being present. The path itself is Grade 3, due to loose gravel and with gradients of more than 6 degrees.

### Life Ring

Life Ring:

Present

Condition of Life Ring:

Good

Comments:

Present and in good condition. It is not recommended that additional life saving equipment is necessary.

### Comments

Angling related information panels present. Road sign to site is missing since previous report. Site Photo 2 shows the path leading from the car park to the walking route, with boulders restricting the width of the path.

Photo of Site 1



Photo of Site 2





Photo of Facilities 1



Photo of Facilities 3



Photo of Facilities 2



Photo of Facilities 4



## Overview

A well maintained facility with car parking (Site Photo 1), steps leading to canoe launch facility (Facility Photo 2), picnic (Facility Photo 3) and bin facilities and a short, pleasant walk. It would be worth investigating if permission for the public to access the river bank north of the site for walking would be allowed. Facility Photo 4 shows the access currently provided for anglers at the north of the site. This access could be formalised along the riverbank of the Ballinderry River to the east, past Ardrea Bridge and linking on to the village of Coagh.

**Department of Culture, Arts & Leisure***Water Recreation Site Assessment: Identified for Transfer to Mid Ulster DC*

**Name & Location**      Ardrea Bridge, Ardrea, Cookstown District Council

**Map Reference**        See attached map from Rivers Agency

**Council Contact(s)**    Liam Glavin, Head of Leisure Services

**Date**                    23<sup>rd</sup> June 2014

**1) Site Description**

This site consists of a Riverside Path, Car park and Canoe Steps. The walk is approximately 600m long on the same side of the river on a loop. There are stiles on either side of the loop which have been apparently installed by the local Fishing Club.

**2) Site Facilities & Offering**

There is no road signage to the site or signage at the car park indicating that there is a public walk. There is also no interpretative signage on the car park or along the walk. There are three lifebuoys along the walk but with no instructions on how to use or what to do in the event of an emergency. There are also no Warning signs re Deep Water etc.

There is a small (ten space) car park (unmarked) and five picnic tables along the site along with two bins.

CDC carry out a weekly litter pick of the car park only (not the walkway). CDC don't cut the grass or carry out maintenance repairs. The lifebuoys are inspected on an ad hoc basis throughout the year and Rivers Agency informed of any repairs/replacements required.

Part of the river bank along the walk has been fenced off. Rivers Agency were not aware of why this was the case but will come back to CDC on the matter.

**3) Evidence or Understanding of Existing Use**

Following several visits and a meeting with Rivers Agency there is no evidence of major use of the site by walkers apart from very local people. There does not appear to have been any promotion of the site at all as a local scenic riverside walk.

#### **4) Health & Safety Considerations**

The walk is in good state of maintenance however there is the possibility of Hog Weed on the site and a full Invasive Species Audit should be carried out to identify the extent of the problem.

As previously mentioned there are two stiles which allow access further along the river bank off the official walk these will need to be investigated as to who is responsible for maintaining them and allowing the public to walk along the river bank off an identified maintained path.

#### **5) Potential Use for Mid Ulster DC**

This site could be used by MUDC as short, pleasant walk along the banks of the Ballinderry River if suitably promoted to maximise walker numbers. There would not appear to be any serious maintenance issues apart from some grass strimming (monthly in season) and control of invasive species to add to existing weekly litter pick and inspection of Life Saving Equipment.

There would of course be initial signage, car park marking and promotion costs.

#### **6) Additional Commentary**

As indicated above a part of the river bank is cordoned off with no satisfactory explanation at the moment.

The Lease on the site is up in December 2014. CDC to negotiate with DCAL on receipt of contact details from Rivers Agency re Lease, SLA, and

Ballinderry River Enhancement Association also have some involvement with the site. Full details will be determined when information forwarded from Rivers Agency re SLA etc. Ballinderry River Enhancement Association have also been contacted re the site. CDC are currently awaiting a response from both organisations.

## Department of Culture, Arts & Leisure

### Water Recreation Site Assessment: Identified for Transfer to Mid Ulster DC

Name & Location      Ballysaggart Lough, Dungannon

Map Reference

Council Contacts(s)    Nigel Hill

Date                      16 June 2014

#### 1) Site Description

Provide an overview of the site and current condition

Ballysaggart Lough known locally as the Black Lough is a man-made lough covering approximately 42.5 acres with a cranogue. The natural environment at the Lough allows it to sustain a range of wildfowl, wetland plants and fish. The Lough has four access points to a Lough side walk which encompasses over half the circumference.

#### 2) Site Facilities & Offering

Refer to current provision, signage, facilities and access

5 Gated entrances  
Car parking facilities on the Eglish Road  
Wide gravel pathways  
6 litter bins located within the car park  
5 metal picnic benches some in need of repainting  
2 wooden benches  
6 metal sun seats  
7 Lifebuoys in boxes  
1 sign name sign

#### 3) Evidence or Understanding of Existing Use

The existing use of the Lough is for walking, viewing of wildlife, feeding wildlife, picnicking and there was evidence of people wading in the Loughs waters.

#### 4) Health & Safety Considerations

Detail existing and potential health and safety issues

Lack of signs for the following:

Stating the dangers of water depth

No Swimming

Children must be supervised at the water's edge

No dog fouling and dogs on leads etc

No drinking

The path in some areas is at the side of the lake and large stones are a barrier. Two of the stones are missing and offer direct access to the water. The large stones are flat topped and could be a danger to young children if they tried to walk on them and fell into the Lough. The fencing at some parts of the lough require some routine repair.

There is a short pier with no railings currently in place.

Several broken bollards on water's edge near the car park.

A need for more bins around the pathways especially picnic areas.

There is a small open drain into the Lough.

#### 5) Potential Use for Mid Ulster DC

Commentary on how this site could be utilised by Mid Ulster DC

The Lough has the potential of having the Pathways extended around the circumference of the lough in order facilitate walkers.

The site could be developed with reference to the natural environment eg pond dipping, mini beast hunts, animal viewing and feeding stations could be developed. Information boards providing information of the wildfowl and plant life could be put in place (educational).

#### 6) Additional Commentary

Refer to any evidence of disrepair

The two wooden benches are in a poor state of repair and would require some new boards and painting.

Some of the metal picnic benches require repainting.

## Department of Culture, Arts & Leisure

### Water Recreation Site Assessment: Identified for Transfer to Mid Ulster DC

Name & Location      Glenmore, Ballygawley  
Map Reference         H656605  
Council Contacts(s)   Nigel Hill  
Date                     16<sup>th</sup> June 2014

#### 1)      Site Description

Provide an overview of the site and current condition

Glenmore is a 1.2 mile circular walk with a viewing point showing the view of the surrounding countryside. The walk follows the flow of a section of a local river up and down the steep gradient of the glen.

#### 2)      Site Facilities & Offering

Refer to current provision, signage, facilities and access

Large upper car park

Small lower car park

2 bins

2 notice boards and one empty pole

Lower gated entrance

2 Caution signs (steep gradient children must be supervised)

1 deep water sign

2 life buoys and boxes

1 swimming prohibited sign

At view point a shelter with benches enclosed

5 picnic benches

Gravel pathways

Several bridges

### 3) Evidence or Understanding of Existing Use

The current use is a circular walk, viewing point and picnic area.

### 4) Health & Safety Considerations

Detail existing and potential health and safety issues

Fence surrounding upper pooling wetland area very low.

Open sides whilst on the bridges.

Half the paths are narrow with areas falling away on the side of a steep drop.

Barbed wire on some fences.

Wood edging to parts of the paths missing or damaged.

Bridges require the outer sides blocked off and painting.

Caution sign needs replacing.

Open access at one point to the river and to a field used by animals.

Open drain at the side of the pathway.

The paths are steep and the gravel has been washed away by rain flow. This has left indents in the pathways.

Lock required for bottom gateway.

Handrails required for steps and narrow parts of the paths.

Viewing area small and there is a fall away which would require a better fence to be put in place.

### 5) Potential Use for Mid Ulster DC

Commentary on how this site could be utilised by Mid Ulster DC

To utilise this site the car parks would require signs to see them from the road.

Some of the foliage could be cleared so that the water flow could be viewed and the small waterfalls made a focal point.

Areas to view the river put in place.

A new path nearer the flow of the river put in place.

6) Additional Commentary

Refer to any evidence of disrepair

Fencing leaning in and wire needs replacing.

Wooden fence has some broken sections.

The caution signs for supervising children needs replacing.

Maps of the trails required for the notice boards.

A sign to show where the viewpoint is and viewpoint re-fenced.

Steps and narrow path should have handrails fitted.



## Department of Culture, Arts & Leisure

### Water Recreation Site Assessment: Identified for Transfer to Mid Ulster DC

Name & Location      Coalisland Canal

Map Reference         Start J844663 End J887626

Council Contacts(s)   Nigel Hill

Date                     16<sup>th</sup> June 2014

#### 1) Site Description

Provide an overview of the site and current condition

The Coalisland Canal starts at the Cornmill and the towpath follows the course of the canal taking in locks and a bridges. The towpath is approximately 4.5 miles long and runs on one side of the canal.

#### 2) Site Facilities & Offering

Refer to current provision, signage, facilities and access

Car parking facilities at the Cornmill (The start of the Canal)

Toilet facilities at the Cornmill

Tarmac pathways

Notice board with map of towpath.

Unfinished light poles from start of towpath until Gortgonis.

6 empty notice poles along the route

5 bins

2 bin sites but no bins in place

3 wooden benches

3 bench sites but no benches in place

Concrete circle for display (no display at present)

3 access points over the canal via bridges

Wooden and metal fencing within Coalisland boundary along the Canal

Two gated access from housing estates directly onto the towpath (one gate missing)

3 gateways across the towpath allowing access for homes and land on the canal

A 10MPH speed limit sign where homes are on the towpath

1 gatehouse (derelict)

### 3) Evidence or Understanding of Existing Use

The towpath is currently used for the following purposes:

Access to homes and land on the Canal

A walk/ cycle path

An area where young people hang out and consume alcohol

### 4) Health & Safety Considerations

Detail existing and potential health and safety issues

There is a ditch opposite the canal on the other side of the towpath which is a dumping ground for empty bottles etc.

There is no notices to inform patrons of the path that the fencing is discontinued.

No drinking signs are required and police patrols especially at weekends a must.

A part of the towpath is subsiding and will require repairs.

Bins and seating need replaced and those in place require upkeep.

The tarmac path within the Coalisland boundary is in a poor state of repair.

Swimming prohibited signs required.

Deep water signs required.

Life buoys possibly required.

### 5) Potential Use for Mid Ulster DC

Commentary on how this site could be utilised by Mid Ulster DC

The start of the Canal area would require redevelopment and it gives a poor impression to the start of the Canal and towpath.

The overgrown sides of the Canal could be cut down as the canal is not in sight until well down the towpath.

The canal could be utilised for sports such as canoeing.

The canal could also be developed for barges to run subject to locks being put back into use.

The lock house could be restored and made into a museum or tea house.

A water tap could be installed for patrons to refresh

6) Additional Commentary

Refer to any evidence of disrepair

All bins and benches would require replacing or repair.

The drain running along the side of the towpath would require cleaning.

A gate is missing from the entrance to a housing estate (Gortgonis).

The flower display is missing from concrete circle.

The tarmac at the start of the path is in poor condition.

There is an area of subsidence in the path which would require repair.

SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT

between

DCAL

and

Rivers Agency

2011/15

# **SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, ARTS AND LEISURE (DCAL) AND THE RIVERS AGENCY, AN EXECUTIVE AGENCY WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DARD)**

## **1. Introduction**

This Agreement provides the basis for works to be carried out by Rivers Agency (the Service Provider) on behalf of DCAL (the Client). This Agreement specifies the functions to be carried out by Rivers Agency and the method of costing these works that will form the basis of charging by Rivers Agency together with obligations on both parties to ensure the Agreement works.

## **2. Status of the Agreement**

This Agreement is not legally binding but the Client and the Service Provider will make every effort to act in accordance with the Agreement.

## **3. Period of the Agreement**

- 3.1 The term of this Agreement shall be from 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012 with the option to extend for further periods of one year, to a maximum of three years, (2012/13, 2013/14, and 2014/15) by agreement between the parties involved with this Service Level Agreement. Operation of the Agreement will be subject to annual review.
- 3.2 In the event of either party wishing to withdraw from this Agreement, six months notice of such intention shall be given.

#### **4. Services to be provided by Rivers Agency on behalf of DCAL**

The services to be provided by Rivers Agency are as follows:-

- Execution of a programme of new water recreation projects relating to the Water Recreation Capital Grant and an annual programme which will be discussed with Rivers Agency and updated on an ongoing basis.
- Routine inspection and maintenance of all DCAL owned/leased water recreation sites detailed at Annex A.
- Conduct and report on a programme of Health and Safety visits to DCAL owned/leased sites including risk assessments.
- Maintenance of existing navigation marking system on Lough Neagh and dredging of the entrances of the Sixmilewater River and the Lower Bann.
- Lagan Navigation – maintenance of the Lagan Towpath, access facilities and any other works associated with DCAL's ownership of, and custodial responsibility for the remaining sections of the Lagan Canal that are in Government ownership.
- Maintenance of facilities associated with the Coalisland Canal towpath (while it remains in DCAL ownership).
- No works should be undertaken on the Upper Bann navigation without prior approval from DCAL.
- Attendance as necessary of relevant Professional and Technical staff at meetings of the Lagan Valley Regional Park Committee and Lagan Canal Restoration trust to provide advice in relation to the above functions.
- Execution of any other works as requested by DCAL and as agreed by Rivers Agency.

#### **5. Roles and Responsibilities**

Guiding principals are attached at Annex B.

## **6. Maintenance of water recreation facilities**

In relation to maintenance of Water Recreation Facilities, Rivers Agency will be responsible for:

- 6.1 Providing DCAL with an annual maintenance plan for maintenance works estimated at £1,000 upwards. To be reviewed with DCAL on a quarterly basis (end of June, September, December and March).
- 6.2 Carrying out regular inspections of the site, retaining a written record of such inspections and providing maintenance costs for each site (specifying type of maintenance works involved) for inclusion in the Quarterly Statement issuing to DCAL for payment.
- 6.3 Carry out health and safety visits to a prescribed programme; assess the level of risk and produce reports. Provide DCAL with a record of inspections, any health and safety defects and the date on which remedial works were carried out.
- 6.4 Carrying out a detailed structural inspection at least annually. If these inspections identify any urgent work which is required from a health and safety aspect, Rivers Agency will proceed with the necessary remedial works within a reasonable timescale as agreed between Rivers Agency and DCAL.

## **7. Costing of Services and Reimbursement Arrangements**

- 7.1 Expenditure on the functions carried out by Rivers Agency on DCAL's behalf will be identified through the Rivers Agency's Management Information System. Under this system Rivers Agency staff involved in the in the activities carried out for DCAL will record the time spent under the relevant code allocated in the Time and Task Recording System.

- 7.2 Rivers Agency will obtain all materials as and when required directly through the Procurement process on the Account NI system. All expenditure is also recorded against the appropriate project code.
- 7.3 DCAL will reimburse Rivers Agency on the basis of quarterly statements of expenditure produced by Rivers Agency. These statements are to be provided within one month of the end of each quarter. If it appears that the costs of the agreed programme of works is likely to exceed DCAL's resources for these functions, the signatories to this agreement will decide whether the programme will have to be scaled down or additional resources can be made available. Similarly if the resource allocated to DCAL exceeds the cost of the functions carried out on its behalf by Rivers Agency, the signatories will decide on the best action to take which will need to take account of Rivers Agency's obligation to pay its workforce. Both parties agree that it is best to operate a flexible arrangement in the short term.

## **8. Litigation Proceedings**

If Rivers Agency is involved in any litigation proceedings in relation to either assets or functions which transferred to DCAL, responsibility for progressing these through the courts will become a matter for DCAL. Rivers Agency will provide expert witnesses as appropriate and prepare any necessary witness statements and other documentation to facilitate the case.

## **9. Write-off of Assets/Materials**

Where assets/materials are stolen, damaged or vandalised by a third party. Rivers Agency will deal with the requirements of "write-off" action if these assets/materials belong to or are used by Rivers Agency (the Service Provider) as well as DCAL (the Client). In instances where assets/materials are stolen, damaged or vandalised and are entirely



the responsibility of DCAL (the client), the Department will arrange to carry out “write-off” procedures.

## **10. Correspondence**

Replies to correspondence relating to the functions of DCAL will be issued by DCAL. Where the issues raised specifically relate to operational functions carried out by Rivers Agency on behalf of DCAL, Rivers Agency will provide a draft reply (or part reply) to DCAL within 10 working days of the issue being raised either with DCAL or the Rivers Agency.

## **11. Contacts**

All communication between the Client (DCAL) and the Service Provider (Rivers Agency) in respect of this agreement must be made through agreed representatives and deputies who shall be:-

### **RIVERS AGENCY**

Jonathan McKee  
Western Regional Engineer  
Omagh  
Tel No. 02882254900

### **DCAL**

Michelle Estler  
Head of Inland Waterways  
Causeway Exchange  
Tel 90515115

### **Deputies**

Conor Mallon  
Operations Directorate  
Eastern Region  
Tel: 02892606100

Pat Wilson  
Deputy Principal  
Causeway Exchange  
Tel: 90515014

William Milligan  
Operations Directorate  
Western Region  
Tel: 02882254900

**12. Joint Agreement**

Client and Service Provider agree to the terms and conditions set out in this Agreement.

<b>Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure</b>	<b>Rivers Agency</b>
Signed	Signed
Date	Date

**DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, ARTS AND LEISURE WATER  
RECREATION SITES: EASTERN REGION**

1. Lower Lagan Towpath and facilities between Stranmillis, Belfast and Horse Bridge, Sprucefield including:
  - Lockview and Drumbridge car parks
  - Shaw's Bridge canoe slalom and lagan canoe steps
  - Gilchrist and Red Bridges
  - Lock and weir structures
2. Upper Lagan Towpath and facilities between Moira and Aghalee including Soldierstown car park.
3. Crumlin Glen Riverside park and car park\*.
4. Whitecoat Point, Portadown, Riverside Path and Bridge (i.e. Bann Boulevard).\*
5. Knocknacarry, Glendun, Riverside Path.\*
6. Blackwatertown Quay, River Blackwater, slipway only.\*
7. Maydown, River Blackwater, car park and Riverside walk.\*
8. Verner's Bridge, River Blackwater, car park, slipway and walk.\*
9. Ballysaggart Lough, Dungannon, car park and walk.\*
10. Coalisland Canal towpath, riverside walk.\*
11. Glenmore, Ballygawley, car park, toilet and path.\*

12. Keady Glen, car park and walk.\*
13. Cashel Lough, car park, slipway, fishing stands and walk.\*

**DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, ARTS AND LEISURE, WATER  
RECREATION SITES: WESTERN REGION**

1. Ardrea Bridge, Coagh, riverside path, car park and canoe steps.\*
2. Bloody Bridge, Omagh car park and canoe steps.\*
3. Cranny canoe steps, Camowen River.\*
4. Drumnaspar, Plumbridge, riverside walk, car park and picnic site.\*
5. Drumquin riverside path.\*
6. Oaklough, Gortin, paths and canoe steps\*
7. Omagh Town Centre, canoe steps and path.\*
8. Sloughan Glen, Drumquin, riverside paths, car park and picnic tables.\*
9. Drumgahey picnic site, Ederney.\*
10. Knockarevan, Garrison, riverside path.\*

All properties marked \* will be transferred to local councils under RPA in 2015.

## ANNEX B

### GUIDING PRINCIPALS

In relation to the programme of maintenance and projects, the responsibilities of the parties to this agreement are as follows:

1. Works shall be identified by DCAL, who shall be responsible for all correspondence with third parties.
2. DCAL will be responsible for the identification, prioritisation and planning of works and projects.
3. Rivers Agency may decide to undertake the management and delivery of a particular project provided that it can accommodate the project in its current or subsequent Business Plan and within its available resources.
4. If the Rivers Agency decides to undertake the project, the Director of Operations of the Rivers Agency shall, appoint a designer and a planning supervisor in accordance with the Construction Design and Management Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995. [DN: RA to advise whether this is still applicable]
5. DCAL shall be responsible for obtaining permanent wayleaves, leases, planning permission and any other necessary consent.
6. If applicable, the Director of Operations of the Rivers Agency may appoint its Direct Labour Organisation as the Principal Contractor.
7. If applicable, the Planning Supervisor shall ensure that the Health and Safety file is handed over to DCAL.
8. The Rivers Agency shall appoint a competent person to liaise with DCAL when appropriate.

9. The Rivers Agency shall exercise all reasonable skill, care and diligence in the discharge of the services agreed with DCAL. In addition, Rivers Agency shall undertake to indemnify DCAL against any negligence on its part arising out of the works, and which can be attributed to it.
  
10. Execution of works will be carried out to the standards adopted by Rivers Agency.
  
11. In matters of civil engineering the re-measurement of contracts caters for variation and contingency. Client –inspired changes shall be authorised by DCAL.

**D**

<b>Subject</b>	Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2014-2020
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Adrian McCreesh, Anne-Marie Campbell, Iain Frazier

<b>1</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To provide background and briefing on a proposed delivery structure for the 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme for Mid Ulster.
1.2	To consider the transfer of the current RDP 2007-13 contract from SWARD JCC to Mid Ulster Council.

<b>2</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	<p>DARD has announced £80m within the 2014-20 Rural Development Programme to support a range of measures aimed at encouraging the economic development of rural areas.</p> <p>The Schemes announced by the Minister include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Rural Business Investment (£27m);</li> <li>– Rural Basic Services (£15m);</li> <li>– Rural Tourism (£10m);</li> <li>– Village Renewal (£8m)</li> <li>– Rural Broadband (£2m) and</li> <li>– All Island Cooperation Scheme (£4m).</li> </ul> <p>Up to £14m has been set aside for LAG running costs – administration/animation.</p> <p>Up to £70m may be delivered through Local Action Groups (LAGs) following the LEADER methodology. LAG membership must be comprised of 49% elected representatives and 51% social partners as stipulated in EU legislation.</p>
2.2	<p>SWARD JCC has a current contract with DARD for delivery of the SWARD Local Action Strategy worth £20.5m. This includes projects funded across Cookstown District Council, Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council, Magherafelt District Council and Fermanagh District Council. On 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 the SWARD JCC will no longer exist. As closure of the current programme will extend beyond March 2015 a new contractual arrangement will be needed between Mid Ulster Council and DARD to cover programme closure activities and administration activities extending beyond March 2015 and into 2016.</p> <p>The implications of Fermanagh District Council, who are one of the partners within the SWARD JCC, transferring to a new Omagh /Fermanagh local authority area also needs to be resolved, particularly in relation to any potential clawback instigated by DARD for which Mid Ulster Council may be liable for.</p>



<b>3</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
3.1	<p>A delivery structure for the roll out of rural development funding in the Mid Ulster Council area for the period 2014-20 has to be developed and agreed. DARD officials have indicated that while the timetable for selecting LAG's has not yet been finalised it is anticipated LAGs can be established by Spring 2015.</p> <p>A proposed delivery structure is outlined within the paper attached to this report at Appendix 1.</p> <p>The key aspects of the delivery mechanism are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formation of a new Local Action Group (LAG) for Mid Ulster. To comply with EU legislation, the composition of the new LAG must reflect a makeup of 49% elected representatives and 51% social partners.</li> <li>• The LAG, once established will form a Limited Company holding appropriate professional indemnity cover for members and other insurance as necessary which indemnifies the LAG from any potential clawback resulting from misuse of RDP funding.</li> <li>• The LAG would enter into a Contract with DARD for the delivery of Rural Development funding in Mid Ulster, following the development of a Local Rural Action Strategy for Mid Ulster and a bid for funding to DARD. The Local Rural Action Strategy must align itself to and complement the Mid Ulster Council Community Plan.</li> <li>• Administration support would be provided to the LAG by Mid Ulster Council via a robust service level agreement (SLA). Through this arrangement Mid Ulster Council will provide staff to fulfil the requirement of the SLA. This would include a Senior Council Officer with line management responsibility over Council staff working on the SLA.</li> <li>• Council will be reimbursed for all administrative expenditure incurred in the delivery of the SLA from the LAG's administration budget through the submission of administration claims to DARD.</li> </ul> <p><i>This is a similar arrangement for administration support used in the delivery of the current Rural Development Programme where Cookstown District Council, as lead Council, has entered into a SLA with the SWARD Joint Council Committee. Currently any clawback for which the JCC would be liable for is spread across the four partner Councils.</i></p> <p>Within the new arrangement the Council would not face clawback for projects because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– the LAG will hold professional indemnity insurance cover;</li> <li>– the LAG issues Letters of Offer rather than a JCC as per the current arrangement;</li> <li>– a robust SLA will be in place between the LAG and Council ; and</li> <li>– Council will handle administration claims only.</li> </ul>

	<p>Note:</p> <p>Under this arrangement Council would not be responsible for making payment directly to project promoters. Letters of offer to project promoters would be issued from the LAG and payment of grant to promoters made direct from DARD as the paying authority following project completion. Council will not therefore be responsible for claw-back of grant aid by DARD.</p>
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<b>4</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
4.1	<p><b><u>Financial</u></b>  Through the SLA, all administration costs incurred will be recovered in full through the LAG's administration budget. The administration budget will be determined by the total allocation for Mid Ulster but is expected to be in the region of 22% (inc animation expenditure) of the total allocation to the LAG.</p> <p>Administration support within the current SWARD programme is being delivered within 20% of the total allocation.</p>
4.2	<p><b><u>Human resources</u></b>  12 Council staff work on the current RDP with SWARD JCC and LAG – 7 are permanent staff and 5 are contract staff. It is anticipated that from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2015, a core of 6 permanent staff will be retained as a unit to close the current programme and move into the new programme to fulfil the requirements of the Service Level Agreement between Council and the new LAG. This retains valuable knowledge and experience of RDP administration processes within the LAG/Council partnership.</p> <p>A core staff complement of 6 reflects what is likely to be a smaller funding allocation for the 2014-20 programme compared to the current programme of £20.5m for SWARD, however final staffing structures should only be determined when the RDP funding allocation for Mid Ulster is finalised.</p>
4.3	<p><b><u>Assets and other implications</u></b>  Provision of IT and office equipment will fall under the SLA.</p>

<b>5</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
5.1	N/A

<b>6</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
6.1	<p>Mid Ulster Council agree to take responsibility for current SWARD JCC contract with DARD for programme closure and administrative expenditure incurred post 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015, following agreement on a suitable arrangement with Omagh/Fermanagh Council and DARD in relation to any potential clawback within the current programme.</p>

6.2	Council is asked to adopt the delivery proposal outlined in Appendix 1 as the mechanism for the roll out of rural development funding within the Mid Ulster Council area for the period 2014-2020.
6.3	MU Council use this proposed model as a basis for on-going discussions with DARD with a view to having the new programme in place and across Mid Ulster as soon as possible.

<b>7</b>	<b>List of Documents Attached</b>
7.1	Appendix 1 – RDP 2104-2020: Proposal for Delivery Mechanism Mid Ulster Council area

## Appendix 1



### **Rural Development Programme 2014-2020**

### **Proposal for Delivery Mechanism – Mid Ulster Council Area**

#### **Section**

- 1 Synopsis of proposed Programme content 2014-2020**
- 2 Options for operational management and delivery**
- 3 Service Level Agreement – LAG and Council**
- 4 Indicative timescales to LAG formation**
- 5 Transition to 2014-2020 Programme – staffing**

## 1. Synopsis of proposed Programme content

6 Priorities are proposed within the 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme (as detailed in DARD Consultation document)

Priorities 1-5 are Agri-Food related.

**Priority 6 – Promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas is most closely linked to current “LEADER” type projects.**

Within Priority 6 the following Schemes are now proposed:

Scheme and budget allocation ( )	Aim
1.Rural Business Investment Scheme (£27m)	Capital or resource support for investment in business growth i.e. machinery, infrastructure, marketing. This would encompass all eligible business sectors, farming diversification, tourism, manufacturing etc
2. Rural Tourism Scheme (£10m)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– improvements to tourism facilities</li><li>– developing small scale infrastructure</li><li>– promotion and marketing</li><li>– strategic tourism products – food, outdoor activity, natural heritage etc</li></ul>
3.Rural Basic Services Scheme (15m)	Improving access to services, community development and community capacity building activities
4.Village Renewal Scheme (£8m)	Renewal of rural villages through priority actions identified within Village Plans and wider areas plans
5.All Island Cooperation Scheme (£4m)	To provide opportunities for co-operation between Government/Councils and other public funded bodies to tackle poverty and isolation on a North/South basis
6. Rural Broadband (£2m)	Improving accessibility to broadband in rural areas

The budget within the NI RPD allocated to developing rural economies is £80m as indicated above, with up to £70m to be delivered through new Local Action Groups. The Rural Tourism Scheme may be administered through DARD. £14m has been set aside for Local Action Group running costs .

Some elements of Priority 6 could be delivered by Council, such as for example village renewal or tourism however it would be for Council to demonstrate why this should be the case.

## **2. Options for operational management and delivery**

A minimum of 5% of the budget allocated to the 2014-2020 NI Rural Development Programme must be delivered through a LEADER methodology.

**Option 1.** Delivery by a Local Action Group (LAG) appointed from an open public call with members selected by Council Committee. Representation is comprised of social partners (51%) and elected Council members (49%) in keeping with EU Legislation. The LAG is assisted in operational delivery by Council through Service Level Agreement.

**Option 2.** Delivery by a Local Action Group recruited as above – not assisted by Council in operational delivery but acting as a standalone body employing its own staff.

**Option 3.** Delivery by a Local Action Group recruited as above – assisted by a single outside agency in operational delivery.

**Option 4.** Direct delivery of LEADER by Council.

### **Options review**

**Option 1** – this option is in keeping with the LEADER delivery methodology. The partnership approach to operational delivery with Council reflects the current arrangement under the 2007-2013 Programme which has demonstrated an effective working arrangement. Importantly this option allows for the retention of a considerable knowledge and skills base developed by Council staff working on the current SLA which can be transferred to the new Programme

**Option 2** – This option assumes the LAG acting as an employer, paying wages and all other administrative expenditure. This would place an added layer of responsibility on LAG members and detract from their role as animators of the Programme throughout the LAG catchment. In addition retrospective reimbursement for administration expenditure would create difficulties as this LAG would have no available finance. A significant financial float would be necessary.

**Option 3.** This option would assume the “outside” agency would have financial resources to cover administrative expenditure which would in turn be reimbursed through the LAG’s administration budget. No agencies outside Council have experience of operational delivery under the current Programme operating rules which would be a disadvantage. There would also be potential for conflicts of interest between the LAG and outside agency.

**Option 4.** – Councils could not deliver under a LEADER methodology due to the 100% elected representative make up of its members.

## **Shortlisting**

We believe Option 1 to be the preferred option based on the following:

- Track record – in the current programme spend against measure allocation of £17.1m is on track. East Tyrone Rural before that also worked successfully to a similar arrangement.
- Accountability – DARD, EU and NIAO audit of administrative and financial control systems uncovered no significant findings.
- Relationship with Managing Authority – good working relationships have been established between the LAG, Council staff and DARD officials which has contributed significantly to the successful delivery of the Programme to date within the SWARD catchment.
- Knowledge and skills base:
  - Council staff have accumulated significant working knowledge of the operating rules governing the current Programme. As Programme operating rules for the 2014-20 Programme are likely to remain broadly similar, this knowledge will be essential in assisting a new LAG to hit the ground running.
  - Systems and procedures for day to day operational management are already established and transferable to a new Programme period i.e. projects assessment processes, MIS systems, monitoring and evaluation.

### **3. Service Level Agreement**

The preferred option for effective operational management and delivery involves agreement between the new LAG and Council on a robust Service Level Agreement predicated on the LAG holding appropriate professional indemnity cover for members and other insurance as necessary which indemnifies Council from any potential clawback resulting from misappropriation of RDP funding.

Council would be reimbursed from the LAG's administration budget for all administrative expenditure incurred in fulfilling the functions of the SLA. The cost to Council to deliver these services would be stated in the agreed SLA. This would include an annual management fee covering the input of a Senior Council Officer to oversee all Council staff working on the Programme.

***Council is not currently responsible for paying project promoters directly - this is and will remain the remit of DARD as the managing and paying authority. All claims from project promoters are signed off by the SWARD manager following vouching and verification by finance officers before being submitted to DARD for payment to the promoters.***

A draft SLA is attached at Annex 1.

#### **4. Indicative timescale to LAG formation and potential opening for application**

DARD officials have indicated that while the timetable for selecting LAG's has not yet been finalised it is anticipated LAGs can be established by Spring 2015. An indicative timescale is shown below:



KEY TASKS	2014							2015								
	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept
1. Shadow Council approval of governance arrangements - SLA																
2. Appointment of LAG members																
3. Establishment of LAG legal entity and governance arrangements																
4. Insurance arrangements finalised and in place for LAG																
5. Service Level Agreement - signed by LAG and Council																
6. LAG completes Local Rural Development Strategy for Mid Ulster																
7. Agreement of Contract for funding LAG/DARD																
8. Development of LAG Implementation Plan																
9. Open Call (s)																
Animation activities (for LAG formation and then projects)																

Timescales are dependent on DARD/EU agreement on the NI Rural Development 2014-2020.

DARD Rural Development Director Pauline Keegan is to meet with new Council Chief Executives for discussion on delivery arrangements and involvement of Councils in the 2014-2020 RDP.

## 5. Transition to 2014-2020 Programme – staffing

12 Council staff work on the current RDP with SWARD JCC and LAG – 7 are permanent staff and 5 are contract staff. It is anticipated that from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2015, a core of 6 permanent staff will be retained as a unit to close the current programme and move into the new programme to fulfil the requirements of the Service Level Agreement between Council and the new LAG. This includes:

- Manager
- Office administrator
- x2 project and monitoring officer
- x2 finance officer

This retains valuable knowledge and experience of RDP administration processes within the LAG/Council partnership.

The staff complement of 6 reflects what is likely to be a smaller funding allocation per LAG for the 2014-20 programme compared to the current programme of £20m allocated to SWARD, however final staffing allocation can only be determined when the RDP funding allocation for Mid Ulster is finalised.

There is a strong rationale for retaining and transferring the current RDP Unit intact for the following reasons:

**Knowledge of the Programme Operating Rules :** there is an in-depth knowledge of the current Operating Rules which is essential for maintaining good audit compliance and importantly for guiding LAG members in the delivery of the Programme. As the Operating Rules are unlikely to change significantly, current knowledge is directly transferable and invaluable for fulfilling the requirement of a service level agreement to the LAG in the next Programme.

**Knowledge of the EU Database:** all staff are familiar with the complexities of the current EU database which is the central database for recording all project related information including letters of offer, claims and monitoring. Carrying forward the experience gained in the operation of the EU database will be a considerable advantage.

**Project assessment:** the processing of applications in preparation for assessment by the LAG requires specific skills including the preparation of economic appraisal to DFP requirements, analysis of financial projections and critique of statements of need. These skills are available within the current RDP unit.

**Operational effectiveness:** control processes and operational systems have been established and honed for all functions required through the current service level agreement ranging from opening calls for applications, preparing for assessment and scoring panels, monitoring the progress of projects and maintaining financial performance records. Each of these areas is governed by the requirements stipulated

within the Programme Operating Rules which again demonstrates the advantage of knowledge in this area.

**Customer centred approach:** all staff are acutely aware of their obligation as Council employees to provide a quality service to project promoters. The aim for achieving quality of service is to guide project promoters as smoothly as possible through what is a complex and bureaucratic process in the drawdown of funding. This approach and ethos will be carried forward to the next Programme.

**Servicing a LAG:** the current administration unit provides a comprehensive service to the LAG through the facilitation of LAG meetings, processing of applications prior to assessment, preparation of assessment reports and presentation of projects to LAG scoring panels. Current staff have a full appreciation of the role and function of the LAG and possess the skills to present accurate and factual reports to the LAG allowing for informed decisions to be taken.

## ANNEX 1

### **SERVICE LEVEL LEGAL AGREEMENT – Between Mid Ulster Council and the Mid Ulster Local Action Group.**

This agreement is made the [date] between Mid Ulster Council [ address] (“the Council”) and Mid Ulster Local Action Group (“the LAG”)

Whereas:

- (1) The LAG has been formed for the purpose of delivery of funding and other services in respect of the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2014-2020
- (2) The LAG has agreed that administrative and support services to the LAG should be supplied by an individual Council.
- (3) The LAG has agreed to appoint **the Council** as the service provider to deliver support services in respect of the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 to the LAG.

The Council and the LAG have agreed as follows:

(1) The Service Level Legal Agreement will commence on [date] and cease on [date] (the contract period). The Service Level Legal Agreement will be reviewed at the end of the first year and annually thereafter. Any variations in respect of the services provided and the costs incurred shall be reflected in a memorandum agreed between the parties. The parties may vary this agreement to take account of any mutually agreed changes to the scope.

#### **(2) Insurance**

The Council shall arrange insurance cover for any assets acquired by the LAG and professional indemnity cover for LAG members and Council staff servicing the LAG through this agreement. Insurance costs will be met through the LAG’s administration budget from the 2014-2020 RDP.

#### **(3) Scope of services to be provided**

The remainder of the services to be provided are described in detail in Schedule A. All services provided by the Council shall be in strict accordance with policies and procedures laid down and approved by the LAG and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (“DARD”), the Northern Ireland Audit Office and the Operating Rules of the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 (“the Operating Rules”). Council staff will not make not any recommendations to the LAG which are outside the remit of the Programme Operating Rules.

**(4) Costs**

The cost to deliver the services identified for the contract period is £ [???]. This will include but not be exclusively limited to, wages, travel (members and staff), legal fees, professional fees, networking activities, training courses, office rent and rates, recruitment costs, publicity and marketing and stationery. An annual management fee will be charged to the LAG for Senior Council officer input in the supervision and oversight of Council staff involved in the delivery of this Agreement.

Council will reclaim administration expenditure incurred from the administration budget allocated to the LAG by submission of claims to DARD.

Through this Agreement Council will assume no responsibility for direct payment of claims to approved project promoters. Payment of grant aid to project promoters will remain the responsibility of DARD.

**(5) Specialist Advice**

Where circumstances arise that a Specialist Consultant is required in relation to any matter the Council reserves the right to call upon such services subject to prior discussion with the LAG.

**(6) Employment**

Nothing in this Agreement shall constitute a contract of employment between the parties and the Council will be responsible for all discipline, employment and insurance requirements arising from the provisions of this Agreement.

**(7) Arbitration**

Should a dispute or disagreement arise between the Council and the LAG the parties shall first attempt to resolve any dispute or disagreement between themselves. In the event that settlement of the dispute cannot be achieved, the matter will be referred to an independent third party to be agreed between the parties whose decision shall be final and shall be acted upon by the parties to this Agreement.

**Method of Payment**

Payment of the relevant charges shall be effected by means of an invoice issued to the LAG monthly.

Signed.....

Signed.....

Clerk and Chief Executive

Chairman, LAG

*On behalf of the Council*

*On behalf of the Local Action Group*

Date:.....

Date:.....

## **SCHEDULE A**

The following services shall be included within the terms of the Service Level Agreement.

### **Provision of staff**

The Council will provide suitably skilled and experienced staff resources to service the LAG in fulfilling the requirements set out in this Agreement. Council will be responsible for all staff discipline and ensuring that adequate employment and insurance requirements arising from the provisions of this Agreement are in place. Staff and insurance costs will be met through the LAG's administration budget from the 2014-2020 RDP.

Council will assign a Senior Council officer to oversee the delivery of this Agreement to the LAG and all staff working on the 2014-2020 RDP.

### **Compliance and risk management**

- Advise and guide LAG members on the Operating Rules for Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 including any revisions to programme operating rules which DARD may make over the duration of the Contract
- Prepare and annually review a risk management register in agreement with the LAG for its functions in the delivery of the RDP 2014-2020.
- Provide appropriate training to members on their roles and responsibilities as a member of the Local Action Group. Training costs will be met through the LAG's administration budget.

### **Financial Services**

- Assist the LAG in the preparation of an annual Implementation Plan detailing draft project and administration expenditure
- Establish an effective financial management system which supports the delivery of the Local Action Strategy funded under the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2014-2020.
- Assist the LAG in the collation of financial expenditure records for the purpose of preparing its annual accounts and any other Audit required through its involvement in the delivery of the 2014-2020 RDP. Audited accounts are to be prepared by the LAG through its appointed Auditors.
- Verification and processing of applicant claims for submission to DARD for payment and the preparation and submission of administration claims to DARD in compliance with 2014-20 Operating Rules.

- Financial records shall be kept for a period of 7 years after the date of final payment for inspection purpose. Council will provide secure storage for this purpose with the cost of storage facilities to be met through the LAG administration budget if required.
- Maintain a payment management information system to record payment of grant aid by DARD to project promoters.
- Hold monthly spend review meeting with DARD staff.

**Administration of strategy implementation including:**

- Assist the LAG in the preparation of a Local Action Strategy and the submission of funding bids for EU funding
- Assist the LAG in programme animation activities including marketing and promotion of funding calls
- Assist the LAG with the preparation of annual implementation plans for the duration of the Contract detailing non-financial targets and indicators.
- Opening funding calls on behalf of the LAG
- Process applications including site visit to applicants and preparation of an economic appraisal
- Prepare project assessment information for LAG assessment panels
- Draft and issue of Letters of Offer on behalf of the LAG
- Maintain project files in compliance with audit and programme operating rules
- Monitor the achievement of project targets and objectives and update monitoring information to the EU database
- Provide secretariat support to the LAG including the facilitation of meetings as required by the LAG
- Liaison with DARD and as necessary other Government Departments and Statutory Agencies
- Contributing to the annual and interim (6 monthly) implementations made by DARD to the Programme Monitoring Committee.
- Regular reporting on strategy progress and achievements in the local press
- Carrying out Post Project Evaluations on all complete projects
- Complete file closure checks on completed projects
- Maintenance of Local Action Group website Website

**General Administration Services**

- Maintain and regularly review as required by DARD a record of all declarations of interest.

- Comply with the Principles of Good Administration laid down by the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman and corporate governance and programme compliance assurance.
- Ensure compliance with EC Information and publicity rules as required.
- Advise on Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and any other statutory requirements relevant to the LAG
- Assist the LAG in the preparation of draft Annual Reports and arrange publication of an Annual Report when approved by the Service User.
- Procure as necessary equipment, stationery and services for the LAG in the implementation of their Local Rural Development Strategy.

#### **Facilities to be provided**

- To facilitate meetings of Local Action Group including inter alia to provision of minutes, preparation of Agenda and Reports.
- Provide suitable office accommodation and IT support for Council staff servicing the LAG through this Agreement



**E**

**Subject:** Community Planning Progress Plan

**Reporting Officer:** Adrian McCreesh

<b>1</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To propose a programme of engagement on Community Planning for members, statutory agencies and staff, reflecting members' comments in July.
1.2	To propose a community consultation and engagement process reflecting members requirements for additional consultation sessions
1.3	To consider Council response to the Departments approach to and rational for identifying an initial list of statutory partners for community planning

<b>2</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	Community Planning challenges traditional ways of working and how we deliver our services. Successful implementation elsewhere required the development of new attitudes, behaviours, skills and competencies. It also requires the formation of real, honest partnership working supported through meaningful and effective engagement. Thus as a follow up to our successful event in June, a structured capacity building programme has been developed for members, staff and statutory partners.
2.2	A critical element of the preparation process is the undertaking of meaningful and focussed consultation with our community across Mid Ulster. Such engagement will be part of an ongoing process and will be focussed upon the previously adopted economic and social pillars. Accordingly, an initial engagement process is being planned for Mid-Ulster with implementation commencing in November 2014.
2.3	Over recent months, DOE has been engaging with Government Departments re the implications of Local Government Act 2014 and, in particular, the forthcoming duty of community planning. Informative discussions have occurred regarding the likely impact community planning will have upon Departments and key arm's length bodies. The Department is now giving consideration to an initial list of statutory partners to be named in the subordinate legislation. They intend to commission consultants to formally consult with Local Government and others regarding the list of proposed statutory partners in the Autumn before progressing legislation in the Assembly. I have consulted directly with NILGA who intend to provide a coordinated Local Government response to this in initial paper. Its CEO will discuss the matter further with the new Shadow Council CEOs in the immediate future.

	<b>Key Issues</b>
3.1	Building a shared understanding of the opportunities and challenges that the Community Planning process offers to Mid Ulster is an essential component towards its successful formulation and implementation. Members are asked to consider the enclosed Capacity Building Programme designed to meet the needs of members, staff and partner organisations (Appendix1).
3.2	At our recent Development Committee meeting in July, members discussed the need to ensure that any Community Plan developed for Mid Ulster is built upon a firm citizen based foundation, hence the requirement for a comprehensive public engagement process across Mid Ulster. Accordingly members are asked to consider the enclosed initial Community Engagement Plan designed to reflect previous discussions. (Appendix 2).
3.3	Members are asked to consider enclosed RTOB Community Planning-Statutory Partners discussion paper (Appendix 3). A formal Mid Ulster Shadow Council response will be prepared in due course; currently discussions are on-going with colleagues in other Council clusters, NILGA and Departmental officials.

<b>4</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
4.1	<p><b><u>Financial</u></b></p> <p>Mid Ulster STC and subsequently Mid Ulster Shadow Council has made budgetary provision for capacity building requirements as we move towards 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015. Such activity, as outlined within Appendix 1, is critical towards equipping all stakeholders to make the maximum contribution towards achieving the best possible Community Plan for Mid Ulster.</p> <p>Public consultation and engagement is fundamental and pivotal towards a successful Community Planning process. Expenditure is necessary to ensure extensive on-going engagement across Mid Ulster over the next nine months.</p> <p>Expenditure for this stage of the Community Planning process is expected to be in the region of £10000.</p>
4.2	<p><b><u>Human resources</u></b></p> <p>Existing Council officers supporting with Community Planning.</p>
4.3	<p><b><u>Assets and other implications</u></b></p> <p>None.</p>

<b>5</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
5.1	N/A

<b>6</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
6.1	To approve the attached plans and associated development costs outlined within Appendices 1 and 2.

<b>7</b>	<b>List of Documents Attached</b>
7.1	Appendix 1 – Capacity Building programme Appendix 2 – Community Engagement Process Appendix 3 – Community Planning - RTOB Paper

**Appendix 1**

**MID ULSTER COMMUNITY PLANNING  
STAKEHOLDER CAPACITY SUPPORT  
2014-2015**

<p align="center"><b>Engagement Exercise</b> <b>Statutory Agencies</b> <b>Session 1 – October 2014</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Engagement Exercise</b> <b>Staff</b> <b>Session 1 – October 2014</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Engagement Exercise</b> <b>Members</b> <b>Session 1 – October 2014</b></p>
<p>Follow up from initial engagement event, consider audit development process, building strong partnerships and aligning strategies</p> <p align="center">Cookstown Council</p>	<p>Follow up from initial engagement event, input into audit analysis, linking plans/strategies, working with statutory agencies and the public.</p> <p align="center">Cookstown Council</p>	<p>Follow up from initial engagement event, consider early data evidence and priorities, community engagement process and building effective partnerships</p> <p align="center">Cookstown Council</p>
<p align="center"><b>Session 2 February 15 -</b></p> <p>Community Plan formulation and structure, agree priorities and processes for further engagement.</p> <p align="center">Magherafelt Council</p>	<p align="center"><b>Session 2 – February 15</b></p> <p>Community Planning formulation and structure, aligning with Corporate Planning processes, service design and development.</p> <p align="center">Magherafelt Council</p>	<p align="center"><b>Session 2 February 15 -</b></p> <p>Community Plan formulation and structures, inform and align with Mid Ulster Corporate Plan, consider governance arrangements, agree targets and outcomes.</p> <p align="center">Magherafelt Council</p>
<p align="center"><b>Session 3 May 15 -</b></p> <p>Agree Corporate Plan completion, governance partnerships, agree targets, responsibilities and monitoring</p> <p align="center">Dungannon Council</p> <p>3 days professional support</p>	<p align="center"><b>Staff Sessions Learning &amp; Development</b></p> <p>3 induction sessions in each area for overall staff</p> <p align="center">Cookstown, Dungannon, Magherafelt – 250 people</p> <p>4 days professional support</p>	<p align="center"><b>Session 3 May 15 -</b></p> <p>Finalisation of plan, determining monitoring and review process, consider launch process.</p> <p align="center">Dungannon Council</p> <p>3 days professional support</p>

## **Appendix 2**

### **COMMUNITY PLANNING ENGAGEMENT EVENTS -**

#### **Aim:**

To engage with the community in the new Mid Ulster Council area and enable initial input into the development of the community plan.

#### **Areas:**

<b>Towns and DEA Events:</b>	Ballygawley	Ballyronan
	Broughderg	Castledawson
	Coalisland	Cookstown
	Dungannon	Fivemiletown
	Maghera	Magherafelt
	Pomeroy	Tobermore

#### **Method:**

Hold engagement events in November/December 2014.

#### **Community Plan Public Engagement Format**

6.30pm	Tea/Coffee
6.45pm	Introduction by Chair/CEO
6.50pm	Outline of Community Planning Development process and presentation of data
7.20pm	Facilitated Engagement and Table discussions
	Discussion at tables on key areas of:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rural Development</li><li>• Town Centre Regeneration</li><li>• Local Economic Development</li><li>• Arts/Culture/Tourism/Leisure</li><li>• Education</li><li>• Health</li><li>• Good Relations/Peace/Safety</li><li>• Planning/Built Environment</li></ul>
8.30pm	Feedback Summary/ Next Steps

Questionnaire Survey completed individually by attendees

**REGIONAL TRANSITION OPERATIONAL BOARD  
COMMUNITY PLANNING – STATUTORY PARTNERS**

**Agenda Item: 7**

**Summary:** This paper sets out the Department's approach to and rationale for identifying an initial list of statutory partners for community planning and the proposed timeframe for completing the policy and legislation procedures.

**Action:** That the Board considers the rationale for identifying community planning partners, and provides their views on the preliminary list of organisations.

**Background**

1. From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015, the Local Government Act 2014 will place a duty on councils to make arrangements for community planning in their areas. The process will be led by councils who will work in partnership with their community planning partners to develop and implement a community plan which will set a shared vision for promoting the well-being of an area and improving the quality of life of its citizens. Departments will also have a duty to promote and encourage community planning and have regard to community plans. Sub-ordinate legislation will name the organisations that will be community planning partners.

2. Over the past number of months DOE has been engaging with Departments on the implications of the Local Government Act 2014 and, in particular, the forthcoming duty of community planning. These have been informative discussions around the changes taking place, both as part of local government reform generally and the likely impact of community planning on Departments and key arms length bodies in particular. DOE also held a recent conference on 19<sup>th</sup> June with an invited audience of senior representatives from Departments, key agencies and local government to discuss the changing central-local relationship.

**Current Position**

3. The Department is now giving consideration to an initial list of statutory partners to be named in subordinate legislation. Preliminary discussions will be taken forward with identified organisations over the next number of months, with a view to formally

consult on a list of proposed statutory partners in the Autumn. After consultation the draft legislation will be progressed through Assembly procedures and affirmed by the Assembly by 1st April 2015.

4. The rationale for naming statutory partners will be those organisations:

- that **deliver** significant services that promote the well-being of a district; and
- which are likely to be of equal importance across all 11 new councils - similar to other UK jurisdictions, the Department intends to identify a small number of statutory partners that provide services across the whole region.

5. In addition to statutory partners individual councils can invite other support partners to join their community planning process according to the priorities and needs of their particular area.

6. The Department will shortly begin engaging in preliminary discussions with key agencies to discuss their potential inclusion as statutory partners. **Organisations being considered by the Department are: the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, Education and Library Boards, Health and Social Care Trusts, the Public Health Agency, Invest NI, Northern Ireland Tourist Board, and the PSNI.**

7. This is very much an initial list as the Department is very aware that the development of a community plan is a council responsibility, and is committed to working closely with councils to identify appropriate statutory partners. This paper is intended to initiate ongoing discussion.

### **Recommendation**

**8. That the Board considers the rationale for identifying community planning partners, and provides their initial views on the preliminary list of organisations.**

**Regional Transition Operational Board Secretariat  
Department of the Environment  
July 2014**



**F**

<b>Subject</b>	Response to the Consultation to the Review of the Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB) and wider Tourism Structures
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Anne-Marie Campbell, Adrian McCreesh, Iain Frazer

<b>1</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To consider response to the Consultation to the Review of the Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB) and wider Tourism Structures.
1.2	To inform committee members of the NILGA Council Engagement Event scheduled to take place on Tuesday 16 September on the Review of the NITB and Wider Tourism Structures and approve member attendance

<b>2</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	The Department of Trade and Investment (DETI) commissioned an independent review of the Northern Ireland Tourist Board and wider tourism structures. DETI has sought views on the recommendations proposed by the independent reviewer.

<b>3</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
3.1	Tourism is a key sector of Mid Ulster's local economy and is becoming increasingly important as the existing Councils continue to invest in developing and supporting the local tourism product. Whilst tourism numbers continue to rise at a Northern Ireland level and significant investment has been made by NITB and Executive in key signature projects and events, the benefit of these has had limited impact on the Mid Ulster tourism sector.
3.2	The response highlights the need for a strategic tourism plan that fully reflects the role of Local Government in the sector. It also highlights the need for investment in the tourism infrastructure in Mid Ulster as well as in the road infrastructure and public transport. It supports the co-location of NITB destination managers in Council premises and encourages the development of strong partnerships between NITB and the Mid Ulster Council through the Community Planning processes to develop support mechanisms for the sector.
3.3	NILGA will host a Council engagement event to discuss the review

3.4	<p>findings and an invitation has been extended to all Elected Members and Officers. The event will take place on Tuesday 16 September (10am - 12.30pm) in Andrews Gallery, Titanic Belfast.</p> <p>The event is intended to increase awareness of the issues with the backdrop of local government reform and provide and provide an opportunity to form a regional response</p>
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<b>4</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
4.1	<b><u>Financial</u></b>
4.1.1	Whilst no direct cost will be incurred for attendance at the engagement event they will be confined to travel costs.
4.2	<b><u>Human resources</u> - None</b>
4.3	<b><u>Assets and other implications</u> - None</b>

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

<b>6</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
6.1	<p>Members are asked:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To consider and approve the attached response for submission to DETI.</li> <li>• That approval be provided for member attendance at the above noted council engagement event and that representation be agreed.</li> </ul>

<b>7</b>	<b>List of Documents Attached</b>
7.1	<p>Appendix 1 Response to the Consultation to the Review of the N Ireland Tourist Board (NITB) and wider Tourism Structures</p> <p>Appendix 2 Tourism Consultation: Key Council Engagement Event</p>

## MID-ULSTER COUNCIL

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# Response to the Consultation to the Review of the Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB) and wider Tourism Structures

August 2014

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This response is submitted on behalf of the Mid-Ulster Council (comprising Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council and Cookstown and Magherafelt District Councils), to the Tourism Policy Branch, DETI on the Review of the Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB) and wider Tourism Structures

### Introduction

The Mid-Ulster Council welcomes this opportunity to respond to DETI's consultation exercise on the Review of the Northern Ireland Tourist Board and wider Tourism Structures. The Mid Ulster Council recognises that tourism is one of the key sectors within the local Mid Ulster economy and fully supports the growth of this sector. A review of how tourism is supported and the structures around this is essential to ensure that the growth and momentum generated over recent years is maintained. Community Planning presents a unique opportunity to decentralise tourism development. The Mid Ulster Council will lead the Community Planning process within our Council area. This creates an ideal situation whereupon the tourism structures and relationships can be re-examined to maximise the power of the Council and its partners to support and grow local tourism through a decentralised approach.

As a tourism destination, Mid Ulster has much to offer namely:

- It is an area that is recognised for its outstanding natural beauty. It is located within two of the nine destination areas identified by the NITB for the development and promotion of tourism in Northern Ireland – namely The Sperrins and Tyrone and Lough Neagh and its Waterways.
- The area has a thriving heritage, culture and arts sector that is firmly embedded within local communities. The communities in the area are steeped in history and heritage which is manifested through the many arts groups, festivals, events and cultural activities that occur frequently within the area. Each of the three legacy Councils are strongly committed to the promotion and development of heritage,

culture and arts within the area. This clearly aligns to the concept of experiential tourism that is a priority with the NITB.

- The Councils continue to invest heavily in the local tourism product with recent projects including the development of the Hill of the O'Neill and Ranfurley House Arts and Visitor Centre, Davagh Forest Trails, Tullaghoge Fort and the Seamus Heaney Centre.

The significance of the sector is reflected in the number of visitors to the area and the number of people employed:

<b>Per Council Area</b>	<b>Magherafelt</b>	<b>Cookstown</b>	<b>Dungannon</b>
Visitor Nos	28,000	36,000	73,000
Bednights – All visitors	118,000	126,000	446,000
Expenditure – All visitors	£4m	£4m	£24m
Jobs in Tourism	885 (6.6%)	1000 (8.7%)	990 (4.7%)

*Figures taken from NISRA Local Government District Tourism Statistics in Northern Ireland 2011 – 2012*

It should be noted, however, that of all visitors to Northern Ireland, the Council areas that make up Mid Ulster, only had 1-2% of overall visitors to the Province. The accommodation stock in the area in terms of the number of bed spaces is low. Despite the potential of the Mid Ulster Area, to date there has been limited investment in the region by NITB from a tourism perspective. The NI 2012 campaign, 'Our Time, Our Place, Our Story' had an overall expenditure of £11,170,709 (including events, expenditure, dressing and NITB and TIL specific marketing expenditure). This campaign had limited investment in and benefit to the tourism sector in Mid Ulster.

The Mid Ulster Council strongly supports the review of the NITB and wider tourism structures. It considers that further focus must be given to regions such as Mid Ulster so that investment is targeted here to maximise the potential of the assets that exist in the region.

### **Council's Comments on the Review of the Northern Ireland Tourist Board and wider Tourism Structures**

The introduction above creates the context within which Mid Ulster Council makes the following comments:

## Updated strategy for Tourism

- **Development** - DETI undertook extensive consultation in 2010 in order to develop a new Strategic Plan for Tourism. This plan has yet to be agreed. Mid Ulster Council consider that there is a need for an overarching plan that clearly defines the roles of Council, NITB, other Government departments and private operators. Confusion currently exists within the industry over the respective roles of the various players.

Also as a result of Local Government reform, the Mid Ulster Council will be gaining additional powers in the development and support of local tourism accommodation, businesses and assisting developers on tourism related issues. Therefore any new overarching strategy for Tourism must reflect the important and growing roll of the Mid Ulster Council in supporting the sector to build the visitor experience and also as a developer of tourism product and places themselves. The Council will also have an essential role in promoting the Mid Ulster region so that visitors will continue to come to it on an on-going basis. The overarching strategy must therefore prioritise investment in areas and projects so that visitors are encouraged and attracted outside of Belfast and the main tourism signature projects. This will allow the benefit of tourism to be experienced throughout Mid Ulster and other areas.

- **Implementation** – The Mid Ulster Council would agree that there is a need to have a coordinated approach to the implementation of a strategy given the number of departments and organisations who have role in tourism development. However the Mid Ulster Council would consider it essential that Local Government has more than an occasional role in any implementation Inter Departmental Group. Local Government should be a core partner in any oversight group given the significance of the role that the sector will play in developing local tourism in the future.
- **Accountability framework** – The strategy must include tourism objectives that are relevant, easily measured and which can hold the NITB and Tourism Ireland accountable. The framework must also include analysis of performance at a sub-regional level so that the Mid Ulster Council can monitor development of the tourism sector in its Council area. The Mid Ulster Council considers that this will improve accountability at a NI and also local level.

## Access

The Mid Ulster Council supports that efforts should be made to secure improved air connectivity and visa arrangements into N Ireland. However, the Council would also highlight the importance of DETI officials engaging with Departments such as the DRD and DOE to ensure that access via road and sea are also improved. For a rural area like Mid Ulster, it is essential that investment is made in road infrastructure and public transport within the area and also to Mid Ulster. This is necessary to encourage visitors to the area.

## Relationship with Local Government

- **Partnership Arrangements** - The Reform of Local Government will give the Mid Ulster Council an increased role in stimulating local economic development and we will have responsibility for leading local tourism development. This will be done in the context of the Community Plan which will include integrated plans as to how the Mid Ulster Area will develop its tourism sector. The Community Plan will identify the roles and responsibilities of the Mid Ulster Council and its partners in this area and should be the means by which roles and responsibilities are clarified for the various partner bodies. The Mid Ulster Council consider that a Memorandum of Understanding is unnecessary as a basis for future partnerships with them as the Community Plan should be the overarching document and process that supports the work of the various agencies and bodies working together. The Mid Ulster Council would welcome the NITB working with NILGA to provide suitable learning opportunities for Councillors and their staff in the exercise of their new powers and responsibilities in regard to local tourism development.
- **Co-Location of Destination Managers** - The Mid Ulster Council would support the location of destination managers at a local level. However the Mid Ulster Council would strongly feel that these NITB staff should be co-located on Council premises alongside the Council tourism teams. This would allow them to work closely with Council, as part of an integrated team that would effectively develop and implement the tourism element of the Community Plan. It would also allow the NITB staff to develop strong relationships and knowledge of local tourism partners.
- **Tourism Growth Fund** - The Mid Ulster Council would welcome any resources that the NITB can make available to invest in the development of tourism amenities. However the proposal of having a reconstituted Tourism Growth Fund requires further clarification as to the required contribution that would be expected from The Mid Ulster Council and the private sector. The Mid Ulster area is largely rural with pockets of deprivation scattered throughout the district. 8% of residents live in the most deprived Super Output Areas in Northern Ireland. 32,900 residents are income deprived which is 24% of the resident population. 13% of the population (10,100) are employment deprived. The Mid Ulster area has also suffered from the difficult economic conditions due to the areas reliance on the construction sector.

The Mid Ulster Council has yet to establish its budgets and would not be in a position to commit the provision of funding for a reconstituted Tourism Growth fund at this time. The requirement for the private sector to provide match funding themselves, could act as a significant deterrent in encouraging them to avail of the fund. This will ultimately adversely affect the benefits that could be realised and the impact of the fund overall.

## **Partnership Working**

The Mid Ulster Council would welcome a mechanism whereby partnerships could be improved across the industry as a whole. Community Planning provides an opportunity to develop these partnerships at a localised level. The Mid Ulster Council would query the role of an Advisory body and how it would link to the Community Planning process in Mid Ulster. Further clarification would be required as to the relationship between the various partnerships and the scope of work of each. The Mid Ulster Council would be concerned that structures could be established which duplicate those created through community planning and with limited feedback mechanisms into the new Council.

## **Marketing and standards**

The Mid Ulster Council supports that marketing techniques need further development to reflect the changing use of technology. Council would request that development of the brand and use of technology is done in partnership with the Council. The Mid Ulster Council will be developing marketing strategies for its area and will consider how these can best be integrated into the NI brand moving forward. This can however only be done through a partnership approach.

Coupled to the use of new technology is how the web is used by potential tourists to make decisions. Council would support that further research is required to determine the usefulness and appropriateness of the current grading system given the changing behaviour of how decisions are made by visitors.

## **Business support**

The Mid Ulster Council would be concerned that the role of Local Government in providing business support and supporting the indigenous tourism industry is not adequately reflected or referred to. The Reform of Local Government will see this role increasing with additional powers being adopted by Council. The Council would strongly consider that signposting by the NITB staff for business support services should be to Council in addition to Invest NI when required.

## **Tourism Sector Skills Needs**

The Mid Ulster Council supports the need to have a review of the tourism sector needs. However it would consider that Local Government should be a key partner in the development of a sector strategy. The Mid Ulster Council has initiated a process of community planning and is currently consulting with its business sector to identify their needs moving forward. The Council has developed strong relationships with the tourism sector and has an important role in identifying the local sector skills needs. These will be reflected in the Community Plan being developed for Mid Ulster which must link into any overall skills strategy for the tourism sector. The Mid Ulster Council will also have



an important role to play in monitoring the needs of the local tourism industry moving forward.

### **Response summary**

The Mid Ulster Council considers tourism to be one of the key sectors within its area that has the potential to grow. The Council is of the opinion that the current structures and organisations have failed to fully develop or support key tourism projects within the Mid Ulster area. In relation to this consultation, the Mid Ulster Council considers that the following should be prioritised:

- A strategic plan for tourism that fully reflects the role of Local Government and which is strongly linked to the community planning process;
- Investment in the tourism infrastructure in Mid Ulster as well as in the road infrastructure and public transport;
- Co-location of NITB destination managers in Council premises; and
- Development of strong partnerships between NITB and the Mid Ulster Council through the Community Planning processes to develop support mechanisms for the sector which reflects local need.

## **TOURISM CONSULTATION KEY COUNCIL ENGAGEMENT EVENT**

### **Review of the Northern Ireland Tourist Board and Wider Tourism Structures**

Titanic Belfast, Andrews Gallery - 16th September 2014, 10.00am–  
12.30pm

(Registration and refreshments from 9:30am, light lunch provided)

This event will increase awareness and understanding of the issues within the context of local government reform. It will also provide a valuable opportunity to regionally consider and comment on the Review Report's recommendations.

The *Review of the Northern Ireland Tourist Board and Wider Tourism Structures* is important for incoming councils because from April 2015, the 11 new councils will have a clear a statutory responsibility for Community Planning and Economic Development, of which tourism will be a key component.

The Department for Enterprise Trade and Investment commissioned an independent review to inform how the Department ensures that the current tourism organisational structures are the optimum necessary to deliver targets and actions set out in the Programme for Government and Economic Strategy.

The Review sets the scene for consideration of those organisational structures best capable of delivering the Department's tourism objectives and targets in the context of the rapidly changing and dynamic environment. The Review examines the strategic, operational and organisational issues and challenges facing the tourism industry in Northern Ireland and its leading players, particularly DETI, NITB, Invest NI and Tourism Ireland (TIL) at a regional level, together with District Councils and associated tourist organisations at a local level.

This **FREE** event is open to all Elected Members and Officers, but numbers are limited so we would ask each Shadow Council to nominate up to eight representatives to attend the event. NILGA will try to accommodate all enquiries, including from Members of the existing 26 Councils. Councils should complete the booking form on the reverse and return it to NILGA by emailing [s.little@nilga.org](mailto:s.little@nilga.org), before 12.00pm on 12th September 2014.

**G**

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

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

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

<b>3</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
3.1	<p>A number of key activities have been progressed as detailed in Appendix 1. In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Local Economic Development Plan (2014-2016)</b></li> </ul> <p>A meeting of the MUDC Local Economic Development Plan Working Group was held on Thursday 14 August 2014 (copy of minutes attached on Appendix 2). Significant progress has been made to date regarding the Development of the Plan with completed activities summarised below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A strategic review of policies and strategies at local, regional, national, European and cross-border levels.</li> <li>○ A review of existing and future funding sources.</li> <li>○ Consultations with key stakeholder organisations (DETI, DARD, DSD, DEL, Invest NI, ICBAN, NI Regional Forum, NILGA, SEUPB, Strategic Investment Board, Lough Neagh Partnership, University of Ulster, Queens University, South West College, Northern Regional College and CAFRE).</li> <li>○ A Business Survey has been issued, to approx. 3,000 businesses across Mid Ulster, seeking views on their future business needs and requirements. The survey will be completed by 12 September 2014. A press release has been issued to local newspapers on 15 August 2014, to mark the beginning of the consultation process.</li> </ul> <p>Business Sectoral Workshops have been organised as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Monday 29 September 2014, 7pm-9pm, Magherafelt District Council Offices</li> <li>- Wednesday 1 October 2014, 7pm-9pm, The Burnavon Theatre, Cookstown</li> </ul>

	<p>- Thursday 2 October 2014, 7pm-9pm, Dungannon (venue to be confirmed)</p> <p>These events will be promoted in the local press and to local businesses. Further consultations are to be organised with Social Economy Businesses, Sectoral Business Organisations, members and Council officers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Foreign Direct Investment App</b></li> </ul> <p>Officers have been working with Waveteq and a first draft of content has been completed. The developers are currently working on the App design concepts. Once the proposed content and design is completed, this will be presented to Members for comment/review.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mid Ulster Business Directory</b></li> </ul> <p>A graduate placement student (funded by the Department for Employment and Learning) commenced work on 19 August 2014 to assist the Mid Ulster District Council to update and verify details of businesses in the Mid Ulster area. It is planned to create a new on-line interactive Business Directory for Mid Ulster. This has been built into the tender for the Mid Ulster Council's website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Review of Financial Assistance Policy and Process for the Community and Voluntary Sector</b></li> </ul> <p>Terms of Reference have been issued to appoint consultants to undertake a consultation process which will lead to a review of the existing Financial Assistance policies and processes (including Advice provision) for the Community and Voluntary Sector across the three existing Council areas of Cookstown, Dungannon and South Tyrone and Magherafelt. It is expected that consultants will be appointed in September 2014. The aim is to have a revised and agreed Financial Assistance Policy and Process for the Community and Voluntary Sector operational from the commencement of the new Mid Ulster District Council on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015.</p>
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<b>4</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
4.1	<b><u>Financial</u> - None</b>
4.2	<b><u>Human resources</u> - None</b>
4.3	<b><u>Assets and other implications</u> - None</b>

<b>5</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
5.1	The issuing of the Terms of Reference to develop a tourism plan for Mid Ulster has been postponed to coincide with the Community Planning consultation process planned for autumn 2014.

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

<b>7</b>	<b>List of Documents Attached</b>
7.1	Appendix 1 – Development and Regeneration Progress Report for August. Appendix 2 – Minutes of the meeting of the MUDC Local Economic Development Plan Working Group held on Thursday 14 August 2014.

## Development and Regeneration Working Group

## Progress Report for August 2014

Activity	Target Completion Date	Status
Pursue and secure match funding for production of new Baseline Study for Cookstown, Dungannon, Magherafelt, Coalisand and Maghera)	31/3/15	Terms of Reference prepared. Awaiting decision from DSD on availability of funding.
Complete Mid Ulster Tourism Plan	31/3/15	TOR prepared. Issue postponed until autumn to coincide with the Community Planning consultation process.
Provide necessary input data and evidence towards ongoing preparation of Mid Ulster Community Plan	31/3/15	Information has been collated and provided.
Produce a new Foreign Direct Investment App for Mid Ulster	31/3/15	First draft of the content for App has been sent to designers.
Mid Ulster Advice Service – review of current provision and recommendations for future delivery	31/3/15	Audits have been completed on advice provision in the three existing Council areas. High level review of current provision and recommendations for future delivery to be undertaken as part of the tender to develop a policy and processes for the Mid Ulster District Council in terms of how it supports the Community and Voluntary Sector financially. TOR for this has been issued.
Produce a Mid Ulster Business Directory	31/3/15	Student employed to update & verify business information. On-line business directory being procured as part of MUDC website development.
To develop and agree an approach towards Grant – Aid consideration and allocation across Mid Ulster, commencing 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2015	31/3/15	Audit complete. TOR have been issued to develop a policy and processes for the Mid Ulster District Council in terms of how it supports the Community and Voluntary Sector financially, commencing 1st April 2015.
Complete an interim Mid Ulster Economic Development Action for 2014-2016	31/12/14	Consultants are currently consulting with a wide range of key stakeholders across Mid Ulster. A business questionnaire has been issued to approx. 3000 businesses across Mid Ulster seeking views on their business needs.

Activity	Target Completion Date	Status
To have an agreed approach for Arts, Culture and Heritage offering	31/3/15	Undertaking a review of current approaches
Prepare a Good Relations Strategy for Mid Ulster	31/3/15	Currently being prepared.
Finalise discussions with DSD on Urban Regeneration, Community Development and Neighbourhood Renewal. Determine viability of four Environmental Improvement Schemes	31/3/15	Discussions ongoing.
Shape the structure and approach for the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mid Ulster Rural Development Programme (2014-2020); and</li> <li>• PEACE IV Plan (2014-2020)</li> </ul>	31/3/15	Report prepared for September committee meeting on the background and proposed delivery structure for the 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme for Mid Ulster.  Consultation response for PEACE III submitted from the MUDC.
Shape the content of future European Programmes, including Interreg V, ERDF, ESF etc	31/3/15	Project proposals being prepared for MUDC consideration as to how Council could avail of ESF funding. Lobbying and responses being provided as required.  Consultation response for Interreg submitted from the MUDC.
Discuss and agree Town Centre Action Plans and associated funding for 2015/2016	31/3/15	Discussions being initiated.
Review existing programmes to determine if any 'gaps in provision' will occur before future funding becomes available	31/3/15	Ongoing



# Mid Ulster

## DISTRICT COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF MID ULSTER LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN  
WORKING GROUP MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY 14 AUGUST 2014 AT 6.00PM IN THE CHAMBER,  
COOKSTOWN COUNCIL OFFICES**

<b>Attendance:</b>	Councillor Kim Ashton	Mid Ulster District Council
	Councillor Tony Quinn	Mid Ulster District Council
	Councillor Trevor Wilson	Mid Ulster District Council
	Fiona McKeown (Chair)	Cookstown District Council
	Davina McCartney	Magherafelt District Council
	Vinny Beggs	Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council
<b>In-attendance:</b>	Keith Wilson	RSM McClure Watters
	Emma Bell-O'Brien (Minutes)	Cookstown District Council

### 1. Welcome & Introductions

F McKeown welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions followed.

### 2. Apologies

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillor Linda Dillon, Councillor Brian McGuigan, Adrian McCreesh, Anne-Marie Campbell, Pauline Gallagher, Shirley McIntyre, Declan Mackin (RSM McClure Watters) and Neil McCullagh (Oxford Economics).

### 3. Project Overview

F McKeown highlighted that in May 2014, the Mid Ulster District Council commissioned RSM McClure Watters (in association with Oxford Economics) to prepare an interim Local Economic Development Report & Action Plan 2014-2016 for Mid Ulster.

F McKeown advised that to date the consultants have undertaken an analysis of local, regional, national, European and cross border strategies and plans. A consultation plan has been developed identifying a wide range of key economic stakeholders to be consulted with and work is progressing according to plan. Members were also advised that it is the intention to invite Invest NI to attend the Mid Ulster Local Economic Development Plan Working Group Meetings. A UUP Member requested that when writing to Invest NI that clarity is sought upon whether they would deem any 'conflict of interest' in attending these meetings, as this would result in them undertaking a dual role in discussing potential economic development projects and then subsequently assessing the same projects when a funding application is submitted.

It was AGREED that a letter be sent to Invest NI to invite them to attend future Mid Ulster Local Economic Development Plan Working Group Meetings, provided they can first clarify in writing that doing so, does not create any 'conflict of interest' for either Council or Invest NI.

F McKeown highlighted that the Local Economic Development Plan timescales have been slowed slightly to ensure better integration with the Community Planning engagement process. It is anticipated the early LED consultation findings, can be discussed further at the Community Planning consultation events expected to be held in November/December 2014. A UUP Member highlighted the need for the LED Plan to remain in draft format until the Community Planning engagement process is complete and further recommended the LED Plan consultations are presented to the Community Planning events as '**Initial Findings.**' F McKeown advised that the 'LED Consultation Initial Findings' would be presented and reviewed by this Working Group, prior to wider release.

#### **4. Consultation Process**

##### **a. Businesses**

##### **i. Business Needs Survey**

F McKeown advised that a Business Needs Survey had been prepared and copied to Members (ref Appendix 1). This survey will be issued to approximately 3,000 businesses representing a mix of sectors, sizes and geographic locations across Mid Ulster. The Consultants will issue an online version of the survey to businesses where Councils' can provide email addresses and the remaining businesses on Councils' database will be issued with a hard copy of the survey together with a stamped addressed return envelope. The survey will be issued on Monday 18 August 2014, with a return date of Friday 12 September 2014.

A UUP Member requested the following amendments to the Business Needs Survey.

- Survey Question 4 – Include an explanation on the criteria which constitutes an Invest NI account managed company.
- Survey Final Page – Duplicate one of the paragraph's from the cover letter accompanying the survey on to the final page of the survey to read "Towards the end of September 2014 a number of business workshops will be held and the findings from the business surveys will be used to inform these discussions. Details of the workshops will be published in the local press closer to the time".

It was AGREED to accept the above amendments after which the survey and cover letter be issued to businesses on Monday 18 August 2014.

K Wilson advised that RSM McClure Watters will follow up the distribution of surveys with a number of telephone calls to ensure an equal response is secured from the Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt Council areas.

##### **i. 24 In-depth Business Interviews (8 businesses per area)**

F McKeown advised that 24 In-Depth Business Interviews (8 per business area) will be carried out using the questionnaire discussion guide enclosed in Appendix 2. A broad spectrum of businesses will be selected for this exercise, especially those who have not previously engaged with Council. K Wilson advised, if needed, RSM McClure Watters could assist in identifying businesses for in-depth interviews using a 'sampling technique'.

## **ii. 10 Sectoral Business Workshops**

F McKeown advised that the Business Needs Survey results will be analysed by the Consultants and the findings will be used to aid discussions at the ten sectoral Business Workshops. It was proposed the Business Workshops be held across Mid Ulster on the following dates/times.

- Monday 29 September 2014 from 7pm-9pm - Magherafelt District Council Offices
- Wednesday 1 October 2014 from 7pm-9pm - The Burnavon Theatre, Cookstown
- Thursday 2 October 2014 from 7pm-9pm - Dungannon - venue to be confirmed.

Members AGREED the above dates and times, and were informed that there will be either 3 or 4 workshops held each night, representing key business sectors.

The draft format of the Business Workshops is as follows;

- Welcome/introduction from the Presiding Councillor (Chair) of Mid Ulster District Council
- Introduction to the Mid Ulster District Council Community Planning Process and fit with the new Local Economic Development Plan.
- Overview of Local Economic Development Plan for Mid Ulster / key findings to date (RSM McClure Watters)
- Break into Work Groups for discussion
- Brief feedback session at the end
- Conclusion / Next Steps

F McKeown advised that advertisements will be placed in the local press to promote the workshop events.

A UUP Member highlighted that the sectoral nature of the workshops may mean that businesses may have to travel significant distances to attend workshops across the Mid Ulster area. F McKeown advised that this was previously discussed at length and it was decided that focused sectoral business workshops are likely to add 'greater value' to the consultation process, than holding generic workshops. F McKeown added that if there was a dominant sector(s), then there may be an opportunity to replicate that workshop in more than one area. A DUP Member enquired if RSM McClure Watters could identify through the surveys returned from businesses, which sectors are dominantly responding in each area and use that as a means to identifying which sectoral workshop to hold in each area. K Wilson confirmed that RSM McClure Watters could keep this under review as surveys are returned.

### **b. Key Stakeholder/Government Bodies Interviews**

F McKeown advised that interviews have commenced with Key Stakeholders/Government Bodies using the questionnaire discussion guide supplied on Appendix 3. Interviews in this section relate to organisations such as DETI, Invest NI, DSD, DOE, DFP, SEUPB, training providers, third level education providers such as South West College Northern Regional College, Loughry, Queens University, University of Ulster, etc.

### **c. Social Economy Businesses / Sectoral Business Organisations Interviews**

F McKeown advised that interviews will be undertaken with Social Economy Businesses and Sectoral Bodies using the questionnaire discussion guide supplied on Appendix 4. Interviews in this section relate to organisations such as the Federation of Small Businesses, Manufacturing NI, Construction Employers Federation, Quarry Products Association, ICBAN, NW Cross Border Group, NILGA, Flavour of Tyrone,

Tyrone & Sperrins Group, etc.. In addition to this, up to 10 social economy businesses will also be interviewed.

#### **d. 5 Group Facilitation Sessions**

F McKeown advised that 5 Group Facilitation Sessions will be held for Council Members, Chief Executive/Council Officers, Local Enterprise Agencies, Town Centre Forum/Regeneration Partnerships and Chambers of Commerce/Traders Associations etc. It is recommended that these sessions are held after the Business Survey and Workshops are completed, so that more information will be available for discussion.

#### **e. Publicity for Launch of Business Consultation Process**

F McKeown advised that a press release will be issued on 15 August 2014 to local newspapers across Mid Ulster to mark the launch of the business consultation process. The press release will be accompanied by a photograph of the Presiding Councillor (Chair) of the Mid Ulster District Council, and Chair and Vice Chair of the Development Committee.

### **5. Progress Update Presentation**

K Wilson provided Members with an update on the Mid Ulster Local Economic Development Report and Action Plan for 2014-2016. This included progress to date on the consultations with Statutory Bodies, Sectoral Bodies, Businesses and Group Facilitation sessions. He outlined the key findings on the area to date, sectoral composition, previous economic engagement and emerging policy agenda.

It was AGREED that RSM McClure Watters would amend the Presentation slide entitled : Key Findings: Sectoral Composition for Construction (slide 12) to read 'Need for continued integrated approach to promotion (M25 market).' K Wilson confirmed that he will make this change in respect of the overview of sectors.

A Member of SDLP left the meeting at 7.18pm.

### **6. Discussion/Feedback Session**

It was AGREED that K Wilson will review Invest NI's land bank in Mid Ulster and advise the Working Group accordingly.

A UUP Member left the meeting at 7.34pm

### **7. Any Other Business**

None.

### **8. Date/Time of Next Meeting**

It was AGREED that the next meeting will be held in advance of the ten Mid Ulster Sectoral Business Workshops. Meeting date to be circulated.

**Meeting ended at 7.36pm.**

**H**

<b>Subject</b>	Active Communities Programme
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Oliver McShane, Ken Barrett, Andrew Cassells

<b>1</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To update the Mid Ulster Council on the future of the Active Communities Programme

<b>2</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	Active Communities is a Community Sport programme that aims to increase participation in sport and physical recreation, especially amongst under-represented groups including women and girls, people with a disability and older people.
2.1.1	<p>Launched in 2010 it is delivered on a consortia basis (Cookstown District Council/Dungannon &amp; South Tyrone Borough Council/Magherafelt District Council) and as a result of an extensive consultation exercise the following posts were recruited;</p> <p>Active Communities Coach for Older People – Steven McElhatton  Active Communities Coach for People with a Disability – Kathleen Brogan  Active Communities Coach for Women &amp; Girls – Ian Hughes  Active Communities Part-time Swimming Coach – Karen Bains  Active Communities Part-time Multi Sports Coach – Graeme Eastwood  Active Communities Fulltime Soccer Coach – Ruth Bell  Active Communities Fulltime Rugby Coach – Fintan Colgan  Active Communities Fulltime Gaelic Games Coach for Cookstown &amp; Dungannon &amp; South Tyrone - Geraldine Christie*</p> <p>*All posts are 100% funded by Sport NI apart from the Gaelic Games Coach, 50% of the salary costs for this post are made up through contributions from the Ulster Council GAA (£6,000) and Tyrone GAA (£4,700). Note that Derry GAA was offered an opportunity to be involved however they declined.</p>
2.2	<b>Budget</b>
	The overall budget for the programme is in £924,518 with the current in year budget as below;

	<table border="1"> <tr> <th><b>Cookstown</b></th> <th><b>Year 5</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <th><b>2014-15</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><b>SNI</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Salary</td> <td>£160,675</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CPD</td> <td>£3,332</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Equipment</td> <td>£8,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Travel</td> <td>£17,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>£210,065</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Management</td> <td>£20,558</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>TOTAL</b></td> <td><b>£210,065</b></td> </tr> </table>	<b>Cookstown</b>	<b>Year 5</b>		<b>2014-15</b>		<b>SNI</b>	Salary	£160,675	CPD	£3,332	Equipment	£8,000	Travel	£17,500	Total	£210,065	Management	£20,558			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£210,065</b>
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<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£210,065</b>																						
2.3	<p><b>Employment</b></p> <p>Cookstown District Council act as lead partner and are responsible for the employment and management of all the Active Communities staff.</p>																						
2.4	<p><b>Management &amp; Partners</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2"><b>Delivery Partners</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Age Concern</td> <td>Ulster Hockey</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Swim Ulster</td> <td>Netball NI</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tyrone GAA</td> <td>Ulster Badminton</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The Programme has a two tier structure;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Management Group is made up of the three councils and Disability Sport NI, who meet on a regular basis to oversee and co-ordinate the development of a strategic approach across the consortia area.</li> <li>• The Working Group meets regularly to oversee programme development and delivery. Their role includes liaison with Governing Bodies and Active Communities coaches on the ground to ensure that the programme remains on target. The working group also meet with the delivery partners as overleaf in order to foster a two way information and communication flow, and facilitate the process of partnership building between key stakeholders.</li> </ul>	<b>Delivery Partners</b>		Age Concern	Ulster Hockey	Swim Ulster	Netball NI	Tyrone GAA	Ulster Badminton														
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	Ulster GAA	Ulster Tennis
	Irish FA	Table Tennis Ulster
	Ulster Squash	Ulster Rugby
	Local Sports Clubs & Groups	

2.5

### Success

The Active Communities Programme across NI and in Mid Ulster has been hugely successful, it has exceeded all Key Performance Indicators and was voted the UK Coaching Intervention of the Year at the 2012 UK Coaching Awards. Indeed additional funding was secured by Sport NI to extend the life of the programme from its original deadline of September 2014 until March 2015.

The Mid Ulster consortia is one of the highest performing consortia's and have delivered 18,396.32 hours of Physical Activity to more than 23,690 people, the table below gives a complete breakdown of the figures from the start of the programme in 2010.

Indicator	ALL
1. Total number of coaches/leaders employed	8
2. Total number of participants	23690
3. Number of participants that are female	13174
3a. % of participants that are female	55.61
4. Number of participants that have a disability	2821
4a. % of participants that have a disability	11.91
5. Number of participants that are older people	2414
5a. % of participants that are older people	10.19
6. Total No. of coaching hours	18396.32



3	Key Issues
3.1	Discussions have been ongoing since early in 2013/14 about an extension of the current programme and all indications from Sport NI were that the programme would continue in a similar format until March 2019.
3.2	The most recent correspondence from Sport NI has placed the whole programme in jeopardy. In effect they are requesting a financial contribution of £50,000 (30% of salary costs) from the new Mid Ulster Council to continue with a 'refreshed' Active Communities Programme for an additional 12 months or more radically a termination of existing programme in March 2015.
3.3	<p>This announcement has universally been met with dismay and disappointment. Below are the initial comments from Jim Rose Chairman of Chief Leisure Officers Association (CLOA);</p> <p><i>"It is also disappointing that in regard to Active Communities, Sport NI is proposing a fundamental change to the funding mechanism, when at the CLOA Executive's last meeting with Sport NI staff we made it clear that this would be extremely difficult for the new Councils to accommodate in their first year of operation when their financial position was unclear. The CLOA Executive's advice to Sport NI was to maintain the 100% funding position for a further 1 - 2 years before asking local authorities to take on a possible increased share of the cost."</i></p>
3.4	<p>Following a series of meetings with Sport NI and CLOA, a number of options appear to be available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Extension for one year funded 100% by Sport NI</li> <li>- Extension for one year part funded by the new Mid Ulster Council</li> </ul>
3.5	Both these options would allow for a detailed evaluation of the programme and an opportunity and to explore possibilities for beyond 2016. The possibility of termination of the programme in March 2015 remains an option.
3.6	In addition it was proposed that further discussions should take place with SOLACE (Society of Local Authority Chief Executives) and Sport NI
3.7	At this stage we are awaiting further correspondence from Sport NI on the future of the programme.

<b>4</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
4.1	<b><u>Financial</u></b> - awaiting detail from Sport NI
4.2	<b><u>Human resources</u></b> – awaiting detail from Sport NI
4.3	<b><u>Assets and other implications</u></b>

<b>5</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
5.1	None at this stage.

<b>6</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
6.1	To await correspondence and clarification on the future of the programme from Sport NI.

<b>7</b>	<b>List of Documents Attached</b>
7.1	Appendix 1 - Letter to Councils from Nick Harkness, Director of Participation and Facilities, Sport NI
7.2	Appendix 2 - Letter from Antoinette McKeown, Chief Executive, Sport NI

10 July 2014

Dear

**Re: Active Communities and Facilities Strategies**

Antoinette McKeown, Sport Northern Ireland Chief Executive, recently wrote (copy attached) to the Chief Executives of the 11 new councils copied to the existing 26 Chief Executives in relation to the future options for the Active Communities programme and the potential for the District Councils to make a financial contribution to the costs of the coaches' salaries. In an effort to move this forward in time for a decision to be implemented on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015, I would be keen to meet with the Chief Leisure Officers on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> August at 10am at the House Of Sport. At this meeting we would have the opportunity to discuss the options relating to the programme over the 12 months from April 2015 and the potential for District Councils to make a further contribution to coaching costs.

You will also be aware that Sport Northern Ireland has been working with CLOA, NILGA and SOLACE on the Terms of Reference for a Sports Facilities Strategy and 11 District Council Reports. This piece of work is now at procurement stage with the potential to appoint a successful contractor around the end of July 2014. More recently however, public sector budget pressures have required the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure to approach Sport Northern Ireland to make in-year budget savings. Sport Northern Ireland had originally set aside a budget of £120K for this piece of work in 2014/15 but the fact that this contract is not yet set means that Sport Northern Ireland have to consider de-committing this money in order to contribute to the required savings.

Whilst Sport Northern Ireland have sought to procure this piece of work for full delivery in 2014/15 there is the potential that it could be slightly delayed to span both financial years, however Sport Northern Ireland anticipates similar budget pressures in 2015/16. There are of course a number of options in relation to the delivery of the Sports Facilities Strategy and, based on the potential cost of around £120K, one of these options is for Sport Northern Ireland to fund 50% of the cost of the strategy (£60K) and seek each of the new 11 District Councils to make an equal contribution of around £5.5K. This option would be one way of ensuring the completion of this important piece of strategic work which will provide a sound evidence base to strengthen your new community planning process.

It would seem sensible to also consider this issue at our proposed meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> August.

I hope you can make the proposed meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> August at House of Sport at 10.00am and please confirm your availability or otherwise with Clare McGinley on 02890383872 or [claremcginley@sportni.net](mailto:claremcginley@sportni.net). If you are unable to attend, or

nominate an appropriate deputy, I would welcome your written comments on or before 1<sup>st</sup> August.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'N. Harkness', written in a cursive style.

Nick Harkness  
Director of Participation and Facilities

Enc: Letter from Sport NI CEO to CEO's of 11 Councils

27 June 2014

AMcK/LB



Dear CEO

## SPORT NI INVESTMENT IN SPORTS PARTICIPATION AT A COMMUNITY LEVEL

You may be aware that Sport NI has committed around £12.5m to the Active Communities programme since its launch in 2008 with 116 coaches now active in communities across the 11 district council consortia, enabling over 3 million participant sporting opportunities. Among its many achievements the Active Communities programme has been publicly recognised (SportscoachUK 'Coaching Intervention of the Year' 2012) for its twin impacts on strengthening coaching provision in NI and increasing participation in sport, especially among its prioritised target groups (women/girls, people with a disability and older people).

As the programme approaches the midpoint of its final year investment cycle (September 2014), Sport NI is considering options for future investment in community sport to build on the progress achieved over the last five years and to ensure our Active Communities brand continues to bring fresh innovation, energy and relevance to community sport here.

SNI has consulted extensively with stakeholders in relation to what next for keeping NI communities active. Going forward, the strategic environment is subject to considerable change; RPA will bring new opportunities for sport, in particular in how we plan for sport and deliver it, however the process of restructuring local councils and transferring additional duties will undoubtedly require a focus which risks sport becoming a distraction from core change priorities. Sport NI needs to take account of this in our planning for Lottery investment in sport at a time when we are also bringing forward our new Corporate plan (2015-19). The development of our new plan also creates opportunities for new synergies between new local councils and Sport NI for the future.

Cont....

Over the term of our Active Communities investment, SNI has invested up to 100% **eligible** costs associated with the programme. Sport NI recognises that the District Councils and some governing bodies, as delivery partners for the programme, have made a significant contribution to programme delivery costs and we are grateful for the added value that has brought.

Sport NI is currently considering a range of options in terms of investing in increasing sports participation at community level (especially among target groups). That includes an extension for a short period to a refreshed Active Communities programme, termination of the programme to allow for a new investment aligned to corporate plan priorities and other options in between.

In considering these options, the relative benefits and the likely affordability issues, Sport NI is advising that any extension to Active Communities will require additional investment from our partners as Sport NI cannot commit to 100% coaching costs. We have a clear responsibility to ensure Lottery Funding is truly additional and continuing to fund the now established Active Communities coaches at 100% is contrary to the principles of additionality and sustainability.

Sport NI is committed at a fundamental level to securing strong partnership with new local councils and we would like your commitment to sport and working with Sport NI to be reflected in the contribution which we make together to the programmes which benefit both organisations and local communities here. Sport NI has a range of targets, partners and aspirations for the development of sport in NI. It will never be possible to commit resources of this scale on an ongoing basis.

To assist us with our consideration of the options available for the next 18 months and beyond Sport NI is keen to secure your commitment to exploring a 30% contribution from your local council to Active Communities Coach costs. This is an approximate cost of £10k per coach if the programme was to be extended for 12 months beyond the current March 15 date. This will enable Sport NI to make an assessment on whether or not we can extend the current programme in a refreshed format and to take account of your needs for this programme during a period of change. Sport NI fully recognizes that some decisions on the future of our investment programme need to be made in the shorter rather than the longer term especially in light of the employer responsibilities of the district councils in relation to the 116 coaches.

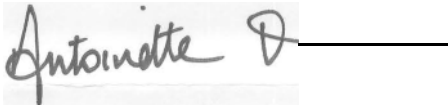
Cont....

In light of this I would appreciate the opportunity for Sport NI officers to engage with you over the summer months with a view to a formal response before the end of August 2014.

As you may also be aware, Sport NI has begun a process of procuring consultants to undertake a review of sporting facility needs regionally and at local council level. This is a fully funded significant resource being offered to local councils to support you at a time of considerable change to reach consensus on a facilities strategy for your area, aligned to a regional sports facilities strategy. The work may also inform the second tranche of our new capital facilities programme which we aim to open later this year. We ask that you commit some officer time to work with our consultants so that the facilities strategy for your council area meets your sporting needs and builds political consensus (from a strong evidence base) on your priority needs. On behalf of Sport NI I want to thank your senior staff who have engaged with shaping this work to date and we look forward to working with you on this in the coming months ahead.

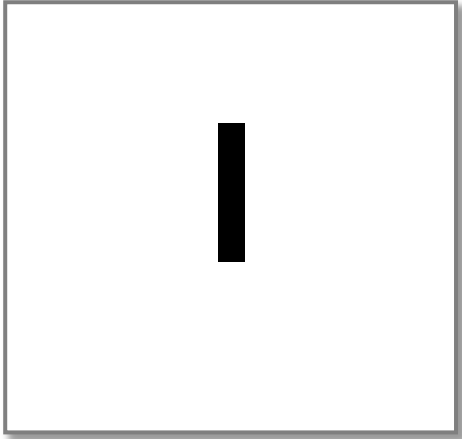
Many thanks for giving these matters your consideration and I look forward to hearing from you over the coming weeks. Nick Harkness, Director of Participation and Facilities with Sport NI is leading on this work and will be in touch soon to discuss further with you and colleagues. If you require any clarification in the interim, please do not hesitate to contact Nick on 028 90 383862 or at [nickharkness@sportni.net](mailto:nickharkness@sportni.net).

Yours sincerely



Antoinette McKeown  
Chief Executive

Copy. Chief Executive, Armagh City & District Council  
Chief Executive, Banbridge District Council  
Chief Executive, Craigavon District Council





<b>Subject:</b>	Transferring Urban Regeneration and Community Development Functions
<b>Reporting Officers:</b>	Adrian McCreesh, AM Campbell, I Frazier

<b>1</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To provide members with latest information regarding ongoing challenges resulting from the Department of Social Developments budget allocation model for the Transfer of Urban Regeneration and Community Development to Mid Ulster Council.</li> <li>• More particularly, to focus Members attention towards considering Mid Ulster Councils approach towards addressing the existing Neighbourhood Renewal Scheme in Dungannon and Coalisland beyond 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 as well as addressing the four Public Realm Schemes currently being developed for Cookstown, Dungannon (Phase 2),Magherafelt and Coalisland.</li> </ul>

<b>2</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	<p>Mid Ulster Council has already made clear to the Minister for Social Development its complete dissatisfaction with the Department for Social Developments proposed allocation of £2.99m per annum to Mid Ulster towards its Physical Regeneration, Tackling Disadvantage and Community Development activity.</p> <p>A delegation from Mid Ulster Council met with the Minister in June to relay Councils concerns about its ability to adequately address these transferring responsibilities with such a limited financial allocation. Members requested that the Minister revisit the funding formula and establish a "Transition Fund", through his Department or bring this request to the NI Executive for collective consideration as his earliest convenience (appendix 1 Ministers response).</p> <p>No discernible change has been made to the DSD formula and the subsequent allocation for Mid Ulster. Accordingly, Mid Ulster Council has to define and agree its approach towards managing the transition of the existing Tackling Disadvantage, Community Development and Public Realm schemes beyond 1 April 2015.</p>

<b>3</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
3.1	<p><b>Current Activity Across Mid Ulster</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tackling Disadvantage</b> is being addressed through Neighbourhood Renewal activity in Dungannon (Ballysaggart) and Coalisland(North and South).Members are reminded that these locations were identified by DSD which concentrates such activity on the top 10% most deprived urban areas across Mid Ulster, validated by NISRA. Actual delivery of specific programmes is undertaken by</li> </ul>

Community and Statutory Agencies.

- **Community Development**, relevant to this DSD budget context currently entails programmes supporting Magherafelt Women's Group, Dungannon Women's Group and STEP, as well as funding the provision of Council supported Advice Services other relevant community development assistance across Mid Ulster.
- **Physical Regeneration** component across the three Council areas currently comprises the Public Realm Schemes for Cookstown, Dungannon (phase2),Magherafelt and Coalisland
- Appendix 2 provides a brief Departmental update on current and projected expenditure across each of these thematic areas

### **Budget Considerations**

3.2

- DSDs Budget Allocation Model, re-issued 16/6/14, provides a sum of £2.99m per annum to Mid Ulster Council towards efforts in addressing Tackling Disadvantage, Community Development and Public Realm Schemes. Although challenged and disputed, this amount remains in place and is likely to be the basis upon which we have to decide our approach ie the delivery of these programmes as they are currently constituted or designing alternative/modified programmes/services ready to commence 1st April 2015.
- DSD is undertaking an evaluation of the Neighbourhood Renewal component for 2014/15 and expects to complete this exercise by October 2014. Early indications from the Department would indicate their general satisfaction with most/all of the existing revenue programme. Some capital programmes remain outstanding due to Department budget restraints.
- Public Realm schemes are at an advanced design stage for Cookstown, Magherafelt and Dungannon (phase2). Coalisland is in the pipeline but approximately one year behind. Projected capital expenditure for each is as follows: Cookstown £3.2m, Dungannon £2.2m, Magherafelt £2.6m, Coalisland £2.3m approximately. This combined expenditure exceeds £10m excluding the investment already incurred by the three existing Councils.
- Members should be aware that as/if Council diverts all available funding for Physical Regeneration towards Public Realm, then this will be to the detriment of existing revitalisation initiatives such as shop front schemes, town centre events etc. Such projects have been previously funded from DSD Physical Regeneration resources.
- The financial challenge faced by Mid Ulster Council is obvious. If, as requested, a Transition Fund is not established by DSD/NI Executive to assist new Councils to cover the capital costs of their Public Realm Schemes, then Council will clearly have significant decisions to make.

**A Way Forward-** Potential Options for Members Consideration include:

### **Tackling Disadvantage/Neighbourhood Renewal**

3.3

- Commit to rolling over this element of the existing NR programme in its current

form for 2015/16.

- Reduce this element of the existing programme to reflect the fact that the overall budget transferring to MU Council is wholly inadequate to meet the requirements of this specific element as well as all of the other transferring responsibilities (Community Development /Physical Regeneration). Communicate openly and honestly to all existing stakeholders this is an interim position for 2015/16 only, by which time the Tackling Disadvantage programme for Mid Ulster can be comprehensively analysed, revised as necessary and ready to commence in a new format from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016/17.
- Alter the deprivation criteria of the existing NR programme in an attempt to absorb other geographical locations across Mid Ulster into the programme. Doing so however is fraught with difficulty including; how to determine which deprivation measures to use to include whilst retaining a focus upon urban activity, the implication of spreading a limited budget even further, the likely impact of removing funding from existing projects in our most deprived urban areas across Mid Ulster etc .
- Design a new bespoke, tackling disadvantage programme for Mid Ulster commencing 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015. Practically however this is deemed not feasible.
- Reduce significantly/remove funding from this activity entirely and divert towards existing Public Realm schemes across Mid Ulster.

#### **Community Development**

- Commit to existing levels of financial support to First Steps Women Group Dungannon, Magherafelt Women Group and STEP for 2015/16 only.
- Reduce support to each of these groups to reflect current budget difficulties.
- Consider the need for support towards such activity across Mid Ulster and the potential requirement to openly procure such services.
- Tender and commit to the delivery of Council supported Advice Service/Grant Aid delivery across Mid Ulster.

#### **Physical Regeneration**

- Commit to the immediate implementation of all schemes over the first term of the Mid Ulster Council. Funding for this approach will have to be sourced through the reallocation of resources from other Council activities or utilising Loans available to the Mid Ulster Council
- Devise a mechanism to prioritise the Public Realm Schemes and implement in a phased approach over 3-6 years.
- Reduce the scale and cost of each scheme to make them financially feasible and deliverable within an acceptable timescale.
- Divert the focus of physical regeneration activity away from Public Realm investment towards Town Centre revitalisation activity or towards Tackling Disadvantage/Community Development activity.

<b>4</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
4.1	<p><b><u>Financial</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The budget for the transferring regeneration and community development activities from DSD to Mid Ulster Council is clearly insufficient to progress existing programmes and project in the medium to long term. If the Minister and/or the NI Executive are not minded to establish a “Transition Fund” to absorb the significant Public Realm expenditure planned across Mid Ulster towns, the financial burden will be significant.</li> </ul>
4.2	<p><b><u>Human resources</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is anticipated that such programmes will be managed by Mid Ulster Council staff in accordance with agreed future Organisational Design structures for Mid Ulster Council.</li> </ul>

<b>5</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
5.1	<p><b>Governance Structures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mid Ulster Council must consider appropriate governance arrangements for future programmes and projects, ensuring appropriate accountability and strategic coordination with corporate priorities.</li> </ul>
5.2	<p><b>Timing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members must be cognisant of the limited timescales involved in terms of deciding and agreeing the way forwards for the programmes as outlined above.</li> </ul>
5.3	<p><b>Managing Expectations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Whatever decisions are made must be effectively communicated to all existing stakeholders. Even if Council progress with existing programmes as an interim measure, current budget pressures should be reflected. All activity must reflect the needs of Mid Ulster and be evidentially supported through the Community Planning process.</li> </ul>
5.4	<p><b>Future Bespoke Approach</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any future Bespoke programmes will require a professionally supported approach designed to meet the social and environmental needs of Mid Ulster,</li> <li>Any future programme must address deprivation where it exists across Mid Ulster .The identification and use of suitable deprivation measures will be challenging but must be established and agreed upon. They must also be evidenced and supported through our on-going Community Planning process.</li> <li>Mid Ulster Council must be decisive and indeed brave in determining the parameters of any future programme ie will it continue to focus upon urban activity, address poverty and deprivation within the current top 10% of multiple deprivation areas or be more geographically dispersed, thematically focussed, address both physical and social activity, provide both capital and revenue support etc.</li> </ul>

<b>6</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
6.1	It is recommended that Members note the enclosed information as a basis for focused and ongoing discussion.

<b>7</b>	<b>List of Documents Attached</b>
7.1	Appendix 1 Letter from Minister McCausland Appendix 2 DSD Programme Update



Department for  
**Social  
Development**

RECEIVED  
15 AUG 2014  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

From: The Minister

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Cathal Mallaghan  
Presiding Councillor  
Mid Ulster Shadow  
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Our ref: COR/427/2014

13 August 2014

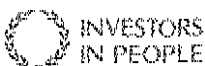
Dear Cathal,

Thank you for your letter dated 3 July 2014 regarding the financial allocation for the new Mid Ulster Council.

Under the Executive's plans for the Reform of Local Government, responsibility for the operational delivery of local urban regeneration and community development will transfer to the new Councils in April 2015. As the Department is transferring its entire budget for regeneration and community development to local government in 2015, there will be no regeneration budget remaining to be allocated as a transition fund.

I can confirm that I have written to the First Minister and deputy First Minister highlighting that concerns have been raised by Council around the need for transition funding and sought a meeting to discuss the issue further. There is nothing further needed from Mid Ulster Council members in this regard.

You also asked me to direct officials to commence discussions on redirecting funding from proposed Public Realm Schemes towards revitalisations projects that are pending. Over the coming weeks my officials will work with the new Council to draw up revitalisation programmes. You will appreciate that approval is of course subject to a positive economic appraisal and funding being available.



Finally you asked me to review the formula used in the Allocation Model to reflect the entire population across Mid Ulster. Having taken into consideration your comments and concerns, and those of all the new councils regarding the proposed budget allocation and formula used, in my view the proposed methodology with some small modifications provides the most objective basis for the distribution of my Department's Urban Regeneration and Community Development Funds going forward.

Yours sincerely

Nelson McCausland

**NELSON McCAUSLAND MLA**  
**Minister for Social Development**

## DSD Programme Update

### Current Neighbourhood Renewal Revenue Projects

<b>COMMUNITY</b>			
<i>Projector Promoter</i>	<i>Project Name</i>	<i>Funding Amount 2014-2015</i>	<i>Funding Amount 2011-2015</i>
OGRAS Youth Club	Disengaged Youth Programme Coalisland	£49,003.17	£106,010.07
Milltown Super Adults	Gardeners Hall Programme of Activities ("Super Adults")	£5,375.57	£14,279.96
Coalisland Training Services	Community Education Programme	£29,506.45	£118,025.74
Coalisland Community Education Programme & Coalisland Training Services	Coalisland Community Education Programme (CEP) & Care Upskilling Training into Employment (CUTIE)	**** Additional funding is being sought	£80,000.00
	<i>Total</i>	£83,885.19	£318,315.77
<b>STATUTORY</b>			
<i>Projector Promoter</i>	<i>Project Name</i>	<i>Funding Amount 2014-2015</i>	<i>Funding Amount 2011-2015</i>
Southern Health & Social Care Trust	Coalisland & Dungannon Health & Well Being Co-ordinator	£25,459.53	£83,140.22
Southern Health & Social Care Trust	Coalisland/Dungannon Health Project – Programme of Interventions	£108,461.01	£296,889.05
Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council	Dungannon & Coalisland Technical Assistance & Co-ordinator	£58,137.76	£224,707.57
Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council	Halloween Diversionary Event	£1,823.09	£11,646.18
Southern Education & Library Board	Coalisland/Dungannon Learning Mentor	£82,568.50	£120,891.20
Southern Education & Library Board	Dungannon Education Programme	£62,175.52	£241,751.36
Southern Education & Library Board	Coalisland Education & Library Board	£64,662.90	£239,464.95
Southern Education & Library Board	St Joseph's Vocational Project	£28,560	£96,480.00
	<i>Total</i>	£431,848.31	£1,314,970.53
<b>THIRD PARTY</b>			
<i>Projector Promoter</i>	<i>Project Name</i>	<i>Funding Amount 2014-2015</i>	<i>Funding Amount 2014-2015</i>
South West College	Coalisland & Dungannon Going Places with South West College	£137,780.67	£266,550.00
	<i>Sub-total</i>	£137,780.67	£266,550.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£653,514.17</b>	<b>£1,899,836.30</b>



## Additional Neighbourhood Renewal Revenue Projects Proposed for 2015-2016

<i>Projector Promoter</i>	<i>Funding Amount</i>
Coalisland Training Services Ltd	£178,157.94
Loughview Partnership Association	£20,000
Supporting Communities NI	£20,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£218,157.94</b>

## Capital Neighbourhood Renewal Projects (Requested)

<i>Project Name</i>	<i>Anticipated Cost</i>
Refurbishment of Ogras Youth Centre, Coalisland	£180,219
Construction of Fianna Sports Facility, Coalisland	£262,937
Annagshee Playpark, Dungannon	£79,250
Repair work to the Cornmill, Coalisland	£31,650
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£554,056</b>

## Current Community Development 2014-2015

<i>Programme</i>	<i>Recipient</i>	<i>Funding Amount 2014-2015</i>
Community Investment Fund	First Steps Women's Group (3FT Posts)	£62,899.00
	South Tyrone Empowerment Programme (3FT Posts)	£66,538.89
	Magherafelt Women's Group (2 FT Posts)	£66,519
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£195,956.89</b>
Community Support Programme	Cookstown District Council	£76,245.84
	Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council	£85,755.78
	Magherafelt District Council	£55,509.30
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£217,510.92</b>

## Physical Regeneration Public Realm Schemes

<i>Programme</i>	<i>Recipient</i>	<i>Project Cost</i>
Dungannon Phase 2	Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council	£2.2million
Cookstown EI Scheme	Cookstown District Council	£3.2million
Magherafelt EI Scheme	Magherafelt District Council	£2.6million
Coalisland EI Scheme	Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council	£2.3million approximately
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£10.3million</b>