



31 May 2024

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Development Committee to be held in The Chamber, Cookstown at Mid Ulster District Council, Council Offices, Burn Road, COOKSTOWN, BT80 8DT on Thursday, 16 May 2024 at 19:00 to transact the business noted below.

Yours faithfully

Adrian McCreesh
Chief Executive

AGENDA

OPEN BUSINESS

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

Matters for Decision

- | | | |
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| 6. | Mid Ulster Loneliness Network 24/25 | 3 - 4 |
| 7. | Extension of the Service Level Agreement with Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council | 5 - 10 |
| 8. | Development Report | 11 - 34 |
| 9. | Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes Report - OBFD | 35 - 104 |

Matters for Information

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| 10. | Minutes of Development Committee held on 10 April 2024 | 105 - 136 |
| 11. | Environmental Health Service Update | 137 - 140 |

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| 12. | Forest Schools Programme for 2024/25 | 141 - 144 |
| 13. | Open Spaces & Outdoor Recreation Update | 145 - 150 |
| 14. | Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes Report - OBFi | 151 - 180 |
| 15. | Service Improvement Plan for Chief Executive's Directorate 2024-2025 - Economic Development, Tourism & Strategic Programmes Department | 181 - 234 |

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

Matters for Decision

16. Pavement Café Licensing – Proposed Fee Structure
17. Tender for Catering Provision
18. Tender for Fireworks
19. Community Grants 2024/2025
20. Catering Provision Contract for Burnavon Arts Centre Cookstown and Ranfurly House & Hill of O'Neill Dungannon
21. Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes Report – Cbfd

Matters for Information

22. Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 10 April 2024
23. Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership 2024-2025 Interim Funding Position

Report on	Mid Ulster Loneliness Network 24/25
Date of Meeting	16 th May 2024
Reporting Officer	Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing
Contact Officer	Raisa Donnelly, Age Friendly Coordinator

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To update Members of the ongoing work around Age Friendly Communities and associated Networks across the Mid Ulster District Council Area and advise on a request for funding towards Mid Ulster Loneliness Network.
2.0	Background
2.1	The MUDC Age Friendly Coordinator is involved with a number of partners and networks that helps MUDC drive the Age Friendly agenda and progress towards a society for ageing well. There are close linkages with the Loneliness Network helping to deliver on Community Planning targets under the Health and Wellbeing Community Planning thematic group to develop and implement an integrated response to mental health and wellbeing.
2.2	Loneliness and isolation have been major issues in society and can lead to poor mental health. Traditional perceptions view loneliness and isolation affecting those in later life, however loneliness can also affect anyone from teenagers, new parents, carers, recently bereaved, to students and those with disabilities.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The Mid Ulster Loneliness Network (MULN) was formed through collaboration between Northern and Southern Trusts, MUDC, and the Agewell Partnership. The Network works with Statutory, Voluntary, and Community sectors to raise awareness of loneliness, share best practice and learning on ways to address and prevent loneliness and so promote positive mental wellbeing throughout the MUDC area. By working in partnership with local communities, the aim is to reach into communities to identify, support, and help those who may be suffering from isolation and loneliness.
3.2	In September 2021, Members at the Environment Committee approved in principle the potential for recurring funding towards the Loneliness Network to allow for future planning and preparations (minute reference: E196/21) and previously in April 2023, Members at the Development Committee resolved to approve the request for a contribution of £3,000 towards the Loneliness Network for the April 2023 – March 2024 year in order to further promote and develop the network as supported by the other key partners of the Mid Ulster Loneliness Network including NHSCT and SHSCT (minute reference: D066/23). Members are asked to consider the continuation of a recurring contribution for a further 2 year period (April 2024 – March 2026) at a total of £3,000 per annum.

3.3	<p>In the last year the Age Friendly Co-ordinator has worked alongside MULN to deliver the following events/projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small grants - awarded 9 grants to eligible applications in December who delivered projects/activities that aimed to prevent and address loneliness across the generations and reduce barriers to participation and to enable them to become more connected. Some of the projects included: Herbal Walks, History Of Upperlands Linen, Agewell Monday & Tuesday Group Get Active, Grow Together, Candle Making Workshop, Prepare For Spring, Winter Wellbeing Forever Young Project. • The network have worked together and involved members/service users in planning, developing and delivering the 2024 calendars. The calendar was used to promote member organisations/community groups services amongst the community. • An information event was held on 29th September 2023 to celebrate 3 years of MULN to show case the work carried forward by the loneliness network and the need to continue to address this issue. The Age friendly strategy was also launched by the council at this event. • Continued work on and promotion of chatty benches, chatty cafes, chatty libraries and the kindness post-box.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p><u>Financial & Human Resources Implications</u></p> <p>Financial: The request for £3,000 per annum contribution can be derived from existing budgets.</p> <p>Human: Existing staff resources sufficient to coordinate support. No additional staffing resource required.</p> <p>Risk Management: Considered in line with relevant Council policies and procedures.</p>
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	<p>Equality & Good Relations Implications: None anticipated at this juncture.</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications: None anticipated at this juncture.</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	<p>To note the contents of this report and consider giving approval to the request for a contribution of £3,000 per annum for the period April 2024 – March 2026 towards the Loneliness Network in order to further promote and develop the network as supported by the other key partners of the Mid Ulster Loneliness Network including NHSCT and SHSCT.</p>
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	N/A

Report on	Extension of the Service Level Agreement with Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council.
Date of Meeting	16 th April 2024
Reporting Officer	Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing
Contact Officer	Melanie Patterson, Environmental Health Service Manager Monica McDonnell, Principal Environmental Health Officer

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To seek Members continued approval for the renewal of a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council (ABC) for the provision of Tobacco Control work for the period April 2024 – March 2025.
2.0	Background
2.1	Due to the nature of funding for Tobacco Control work, an SLA agreement has been in place with Mid Ulster District Council and ABC since the review of Public Administration. This service is funded through the Public Health Agency (PHA).
2.2	For the Tobacco Control service, ABC are responsible for contract administration, line management of staff and for ensuring services are delivered within the Agreement and in accordance with the PHA contract and funding terms. Previously in July 2023, Members at the Development Committee resolved to approved the Service Level Agreement for the period April 2023 – March 2024 (minute reference: D107/23)
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The detail of the SLA is contained within the appendix. The document refers to objectives, reviews, performance management and reporting. Under the SLA, specific programmes of work are put in place in line with the PHA funding and PHA targets.
3.2	For Tobacco Control, targets include underage sales, test purchasing and regulation of the smoke free legislation. Under the Smoking (Northern Ireland) Order 2006, Tobacco Control Officers and/or Environmental Health Officers can visit premises throughout the District to check that they are complying with the law, offer help and advice and take legal action against offenders (where necessary).
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: Fully funded through Public Health Agency.

	Human: Staff time – staff already in post.
	Risk Management: Considered in line with relevant Council policies and procedures.
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: None anticipated at this juncture.
	Rural Needs Implications: None anticipated at this juncture.
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	To note the contents of this report and give approval for the signing of the renewal Service Level Agreements with Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council for the provision of Tobacco Control work for the period April 2024 – March 2025.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix A: SLA for Tobacco Control work between ABC Council and MUDC

SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT

TOBACCO CONTROL PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY FUNDED SERVICE

1st April 2024 – 31st March 2025

Between

**ARMAGH CITY BANBRIDGE
AND CRAIGAVON BOROUGH COUNCIL**

AND

MID ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL

April 2024

Service Level Agreement

Between

Armagh City Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council (ACBCBC) and Mid Ulster District Council (MUDC).

(Hereafter referred to as the Agreement and the Stakeholders)

1.0 Background

The SLA provides a framework under which Armagh City Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council may provide PHA Commissioned Tobacco Control Enforcement Services in the Mid Ulster area on behalf of Mid Ulster Council.

2.0 Shared Objectives

2.1 The Objectives of the Agreement are:

- To establish provision under which ACBCBC may provide PHA funded Tobacco Control services.
- To define the role, responsibilities and obligations of the stakeholders.

3.0 Review of the Service Level Agreement

3.1 The Stakeholders shall jointly review the Agreement after 12 months

3.2 The Review Process will be facilitated by ACBCBC and MUDC, 3 months prior to the end of the financial year.

3.3 The Stakeholders may propose at any time during the period to revise the Agreement, and agree any reasonable alteration or addition to or omission from the Agreement. In the event of such a revision being proposed, ACBCBC shall assess what resources, if any, will be involved, prior to agreeing to the revision.

4.0 Performance Review and Reporting

4.1 The Stakeholders shall jointly review performance on a quarterly basis.

4.2 Progress reports will be developed and forwarded by ACBCBC to the PHA and MUDC. Where significant variances are highlighted, a rationale will be provided.

4.3 ACBCBC shall ensure that necessary action agreed is taken to maintain a high level of service delivery.

5.0 Level of Service Delivered

5.1 ACBCBC is responsible for ensuring services are delivered within the Agreement and in accordance with the PHA Contract.

5.2 ACBCBC is responsible for ensuring services are delivered within budget.

5.3 The time spend for training delivered by ACBCBC is incorporated within the time spend.

5.4 Line Management for the Tobacco Control Officer will be provided by the Environmental Health Department of ACBCBC.

5.5 The Principal Environmental Health Officer (Food Control & Consumer Safety) will have oversight of the TCO work in Mid Ulster District Council area.

6.0 Health and Safety

6.1 Health and Safety of staff employed by ACBCBC is the responsibility of ACBCBC, however adequate provision must be made for ACBCBC staff based at or working within other Council Offices, to ensure that all legal obligations are met, thereby protecting all employees and Stakeholders.

6.2 ACBCBC employees must adhere to the Health and Safety requirements of MUDC, when working in that jurisdiction. This includes adherence to health and safety requirements specific to Council offices as well as in the delivery of services external to the Council offices such as lone working and site specific requirements.

6.3 The Principal Environmental Health Officer (Food Control & Consumer Safety), MUDC is responsible for informing ACBCBC employees of Health and Safety requirements relevant to their Department.

7.0 Resolution of Disputes

7.1 Any day to day matters which give cause for concern or dispute, which have the potential to impact on the fulfilment of requirements within the Agreement, and which cannot be resolved by the Officers directly involved, will be referred to Line Management.

7.2 If a situation arises which Line Managers are unable to resolve, it will be referred to the relevant Head of Department / Assistant Director.

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF

ARMAGH CITY BANBRIDGE AND CRAIGAVON BOROUGH COUNCIL

Head of Department, Environmental Health

MID ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL

Assistant Director of Health, Leisure and Wellbeing

Report on	Development Report
Date of Meeting	16 May 2024
Reporting Officer	Claire Linney, Assistant Director of Development
Contact Officers	Philip Clarke – Neighbourhood Development Manager, Catherine Fox – Arts Development Manager, Brian McCormick – Seamus Heaney HomePlace Manager, Martina Totten – Social Inclusion Manager, Denise Smith – Diversity & Integration Manager

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

1	Purpose of Report
1.1	<p>The purpose of this report is to update members and seek approval for the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Minority Languages Bursary Funding 2024-2025 • John Hewitt, and Tyrone Guthrie Bursary Support • Railway Park Final Design • PeacePlus Partner Request • EU Linkages with Community Led Partnership Ayuntamiento Rivas Vaciamadrid • DFC Welfare Reform Support Project Funding • Development Department Update
2	Key Issues
2.1	<p>Regional Minority Languages Bursary Funding 2024-2025</p> <p>The RML Bursary scheme 'went live' for applications on Thursday 1st February 2024 with a closing date for submissions of Friday 12th April 2024.</p> <p>Under the Regional Minority Languages Bursary scheme, 125 completed applications were received. This is a considerable increase in demand from 2023 when 105 bursaries were awarded. Checks for duplication of funding from other grants sources such as Tyrone GAA/Tyrone LGFA etc will be carried out in due course. The budget for the Regional Minority Languages is £30,000 and this is then distributed evenly among the recipients. A list of all applicants for recommended approved bursaries can be found at Appendix 1.</p>
2.2	<p>Request for Arts Bursary Support</p> <p>Council has received a request to support a bursary award for a Mid Ulster District Council resident to attend the John Hewitt International Summer School of Literature &</p>

the Arts Festival (JHISS) which will take place this year from Monday 22nd to Saturday 27th July. The theme for The John Hewitt Society summer school 2024 is - To Live Among Strangers: Diversity & A Shared Future.

The cost of a bursary fee this year is £550 (reduced bursary rate - per person (cost to attend is much higher at £713.50). A copy of the request is attached at **Appendix 2**.

Council may also receive a residency request to attend the Tyrone Guthrie Centre in Co. Monaghan which promotes excellence and innovation across all art forms by providing workspaces for writers, musicians, composers, artists, directors, film makers and others in the art sector. Should a request be submitted, it is proposed that this would be supported at a cost of 400 Euro (cost to attend the Tyrone Guthrie Centre for one week is €400.00).

2.3 **Railway Park Regeneration Project**

Members will be aware that the Railway Park Regeneration Project has been in development for some time, and in an effort to move the scheme forward officers have engaged in a follow up process of consultation with Members and local stakeholders.

The consultation has resulted in final concept designs being updated (**Appendix 3**), with a proposal that the scheme be considered over 3 phases. The phased approach will allow progress to be made on those elements agreed and ready to go, while other outstanding matters for the other phases are progressed. The 3 phases proposed are;

- **Phase 1 – Landscape & infrastructure**
- **Phase 2 – Recreation and sports area**
- **Phase 3 – Active Travel bridge linkage (Mark Street)**

The designs included for Phase 1 of the project appear to have consensus, based on the stakeholder engagement, while further consideration, consultation and engagement is required for Phase 2 and detailed studies and statutory application(s) required for Phase 3.

To progress to the next stage in our Capital Planning Process, Members are recommended to give an in principle agreement to the overall concept design for Railway Park and to agree Phase 1 as final designs so that this phase can be implemented (subject to the capital planning process). In parallel to phase 1 work will continue to be progressed around Phases 2 & 3

2.4 **PeacePlus Partner Request**

Ulster University in partnership with Foras Na Gaeilge are submitting a project to Peaceplus funding and have requested that Council would join the project as an Associate Partner. The project consortium includes Ulster University, Foras na Gaeilge, The Ulster Scots Agency, East Belfast Mission, Comhaltas Uladh, University of the Highlands and Islands and Galway University. This will be a four-year project running from January 2025 - December 2028. A copy of the request and further detail on the project is attached at **Appendix 4**.

2.5	<p>It is proposed that Council would agree to be an Associate partner in the above project.</p> <p>EU Linkages with Community Led Partnership with Ayuntamiento Rivas Vaciamadrid</p> <p>Engagement between the two regions; Ayuntamiento Rivas Vaciamadrid (town outside Madrid) and Mid Ulster has taken place over the last 20 years. The relationship was first established with Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council in 2005 as part of cultural development and engagement with the Charlie Donnelly winter school.</p> <p>As part of this engagement reciprocal visits took place between Ayuntamiento Rivas Vaciamadrid and Dungannon; focusing on the connection of the poet Charlie Donnelly to both regions with civic linkages. The annual Charlie Donnelly Winter School, led by the community, is held in March in Dungannon each year, and representatives from Ayuntamiento Rivas Vaciamadrid attend along with Council.</p> <p>A request for Council to support the strengthening of linkages between Mid Ulster and Ayuntamiento Rivas Vaciamadrid building on the engagement to date of the Dungannon-born poet Charlie Donnelly, and expanding these further to the Arts, Heritage, Culture and Tourism, focusing on youth international engagement/leadership/empowerment. This will be led by the community through SEACHT; support is being sought from Council sought for civic recognition and representation as required during visits. Please refer to Appendix 5</p>
2.6	<p>DFC Welfare Reform Support Project Funding</p> <p>Council receives annual funding from DFC to do a direct award to the Mid Ulster Advice Service for provision of Welfare Reform Mitigations, Appeals and Advice. Permission is sought to transfer the funding of £23,167.60 for Welfare Reform Mitigations, £5,859.24 for Welfare Reform Tribunal Representations and £35,776.65 for Advice. Monitoring of this funding support is directly via DFC.</p>
2.7	<p>Development Update</p> <p><u>Neighbourhood/Community Development</u></p> <p>The grants have been agreed for progressing, with the exception of the small development grant and pitches feasibility grant, letters of offer are being prepared to go out to allow groups to commence activity. The two grants for final approval are presented for consideration later in the meeting.</p> <p>Covid Small Settlement projects – Coaliland Canal – engagement is continuing to progress final design options following community consultation. . Moy – the outcome of the PAN public consultation is complete and this is being progressed to the next stage of planning.</p> <p>Connecting Pomeroy – The Forest building is due for handover at the beginning of May. The celebration event for Connecting Pomeroy and the launch of the Forest Building and Magical trails is scheduled for 30th May at 2.00 – 4.00pm. A pre visit for members to the Pomeroy Forest Building and Forest Trails is scheduled for 21st May.</p>

Social Inclusion

The delivery of the test and learn model for Community Wealth Building is continuing. The most recent meeting of the CWB Working Group took place on Wednesday 24th April. A final report on the test and learn projects will be brought to the next Working Group meeting in June. This report will be used to inform the development of a Community Wealth Building Framework and Action Plan for the district.

The delivery of the Anti-Poverty Plan is continuing. A Pre-Loved Market and Family Fun will take place on Saturday 15th June in Meadowbank Sports Area, in partnership with the Waste and Sustainability team, to sell pre-loved baby and children's items such as prams, car seats, clothes, toys etc, as well as information stands and demos, focused on families. This event will be a pilot and if successful will be delivered in our other main towns.

Good Relations & Peace

The new plan for 2024 – 25 has been submitted to TEO for funding, no further update at this time.

The approval for the Peace Plus local action plan is pending decision by SEUPB. An update has been provided that this is anticipated in June 2024.

Burnavon Arts Centre

The Spring/Summer programme is selling well with a new programme being developed for the Autumn/Winter period. A cultural celebration showcase, and the July Summer scheme are just some of the highlights of the current season with a number of sell out shows across the programme. The new initiative "Give it a go" arts taster sessions, in support of mental health awareness week in May, are fully booked.

Seamus Heaney Homeplace

The Arts Programme at SHHP continues to draw significant numbers to the events with Irvine Walsh and Briana Corrigan reading and performing to sell-out audiences in the period. In addition, the education programme while continuing to attract schools through the formal offerings has also welcomed L'Arche Village who brought 8 adults with learning disabilities to enjoy two days of poetry and activities in the sensory garden. Also welcomed was P1/2 pupils for Bellaghy PS for a milk and cookies morning. Pagina Dos, a Spanish National TV programme, filmed a piece in SHHP for broadcast and room bookings remain significant with companies such Bloc Blinds and National Lottery Community Fund hosting conferences.

Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House

The Easter Family Fun Day was very well attended at Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House and officers are rolling out the new plan for 2024-2025. The new Spring/Summer programme of workshops has just been released. Part 2 of the credit bearing QUB Open Learning course on the heritage of Hill of The O'Neill and South Tyrone has commenced and will run for 5 weeks.

Officers have been engaging with neighbours living in close proximity to the access path at Circular Road, who are now in agreement to the gate being opened, following the

	<p>completion of all associated works. Capital works will be completed over the next few months.</p> <p>A paper is being prepared on the issue of the Mast to support Council in its meetings with the Minister for the Department for Infrastructure, and Northern Ireland Water. A meeting has been arranged for DEA members on 13th May at 1pm.</p> <p><u>Regional and Minority Language</u> Officers are currently rolling out the Irish Language Plan 2024-2025 and are working with partners and groups throughout the District to further the development of the language. Applications to the Irish Language Activity funding and the bursary grants increased this year.</p> <p><u>PCSP</u> No minutes.</p>
<p>4.1</p>	<p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <p>Financial:</p> <p>Regional Minority Language Bursaries – awards £30,000, as per Plan budget John Hewitt Bursary Fee - £550 within Arts Budget Tyrone Guthrie Residential Bursary - €400 within Arts Budget</p> <p>Human: NA</p> <p>Risk Management: NA</p>
<p>4.2</p>	<p>Screening & Impact Assessments</p> <p>Equality & Good Relations Implications: NA</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications: NA</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Recommendations</p>
<p>5.1</p>	<p>Members are recommended to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (ii) Approve the Regional Minority Language Bursary Awards (iii) Approve the allocation of funding to support an Arts Bursary Award through the John Hewitt Summer School and Tyrone Guthrie Centre (iv) Approve 'in principle' the overall concept design and phased approach for Railway Park Regeneration and agree Phase 1 as final designs for implementation (subject to the capital planning process). (v) Approve Council participation in the Peace Plus project led by Ulster University in partnership with Foras Na Gaeilge

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (vi) Approve Council participation in EU Linkages Community led Partnership with Rivas (vii) Approve the transfer of DFC Welfare Reform Support Project Funding to Mid Ulster Advice Service (STEP) (viii) Note the Development update.
6	List of Documents Attached
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appendix 1 - List of Regional Minority Language Bursary Awards Appendix 2 – Letter from the John Hewitt Society Appendix 3 – Railway Park Final Concept Designs Appendix 4 – Peace Partner Request Appendix 5 - EU Linkages Proposal via Community Led Partnership with Rivas

Appendix 1

Liosta dóibh siúd a d'iarr Sparánacht do Theanga Réigiúnda nó Mionlaigh ó CCLU***List of RML Bursary applicants to MUDC***

<i>Ainm/Name</i>	<i>Ainm/Name</i>	<i>Ainm/Name</i>	<i>Ainm/Name</i>
Anne McGoldrick	Julie Graham	Maria Martin	Rob Deane
Brenda McCann	Sarah Maginness	Aimee Quinn	Sabrina Hamill
Martina Loughran	Tracey O'Donnell	Daniel McKenna	Michelle O'Kane
Martina Loughran	Colleen Daly	Marion Cullen	Anne Fox
Paul Quinn	Mairéad Conlon	Linda Nugent	Lesley Connery
Rionach Martin	Sarah Fee	Ava McVeigh	Celena Gallagher
Eunan Murray	Michelle Kerr	Connor Stringer	Celena Gallagher
Maureen Su	Ruairi Mulgrew	Kay McPeake	Maria Killen
Annabel McAteer	Síofradh Cahalane	Ann Salmon	Sinead Taggart
Aisling Convery	Mark Mullan	Ann Salmon	Sinead Taggart
Michelle O'Sullivan	Niamh Mullan	Claire Wylie	Jacqueline Fee
Janette Cullen	Roisin McGeary	Gemma Hutton	Éirinn McGlone
Lillian McCann	Aoife Quinn	Kristine Mckenna	Lorraine O'Neill
Claire Corrigan	Siobhán Clarke	Joanne Doran	Aisling Kelly
Sinead McKenna	Eimear O'Kane	Christine McVeigh	Lorraine O'Neill
Ciaran Farrell	Helene O'Neill	Julie Devlin	Orla Hughes
Lucia Kelly	Alicia Jordan	Julie Devlin	Colette Coney
Neil Spence	Joanne Scullion	Orlagh Campbell	Dearbhail Quinn
Emma Quinn	Joanne Scullion	Janette Cullen	Sharon McGahan
Karl Jordan	Angelina Beattie	Emma Monteith	Kathleen Anderson
Rosemary Anderson	Colm McCluskey	Tracey Doran	Kathleen Anderson
Jayne O'Neill	Grainne Beattie	Tracey Doran	Sinéad Jordan
Jayne O'Neill	Niall Devlin	Christina McErlan	Oonagh O'Hagan
Ciara Cathcart	Paula Hughes	Shauna O'Kane	Aoife Brennan
Gerard Gildernew	Kathy Donnelly	Cait Finnegan	Aoife Brennan
Narita Woods	Deirdre Grimes	Eimhear McWilliams	Lyndsey Donnelly

Eugene Murphy	Roisin Keenan	Mark Ryan	Conchúr Ó Muirí (Gaeilge)
Myra McKeever	Elaine Coyle	Josephine Harte	Mona Uí Dhochartaigh (Gaeilge)
Nuala Murray	Claire Ní Chnámhsí	Orlagh Nugent	Mona Uí Dhochartaigh (Gaeilge)
Naiomi Doyle	Katie-Rose Jomar	Carryl Morgan	Geraldine Higgins
Karen McCann	Frances Gribbon	Áine Regan	Pauline McMullan
Julie Graham	Elizabeth O'Hanlon	Rob Deane	

*N.B. double entries under the same name are parents applying for more than one child.

Total grant aid: £30,000

Applicants will be disqualified if in receipt of full Líofa Gaeltacht Bursary Grant or if their address is not within Mid Ulster District.

Duplicity checks will be carried out in due course to check for receipt of other Gaeltacht Grants from organisations such as Tyrone GAA, Tyrone LGFA, GAA clubs and political parties.

Christine Mc Gowan
Development Officer
Mid Ulster District Council
Burnavon Arts & Cultural Centre
Burn Road
Cookstown
BT80 8DN

18 April 2024

Dear Christine

The John Hewitt Society is pleased to inform you that the **John Hewitt International Summer School of Literature & the Arts Festival (JHISS)** will take place this year from Monday 22nd to Saturday 27th July at our festival base in The Market Place Theatre and Arts Centre, Armagh. In 2023 we were delighted to receive support for a bursary award for a Mid Ulster Borough Council resident and invite the Council to participate in the JHISS 2024 Community bursary scheme again.

Unfortunately, we also have not been immune from the cost of living crisis with bursary student project costs having increased significantly over the past two years, especially accommodation. This means that a residential bursary fee at the current rate of £500 per person is no longer viable or sustainable. After carefully review, the Board have made the tough decision to increase the fee by 10% to help cover these costs. We understand this comes at a time when we're all feeling the pinch and making tough financial decisions, but we have tried to keep this increase as fair, equitable and low as possible.

A Full Sponsored Residential bursary award per person provides the following;

- B&B for five nights in a single ensuite room, within walking distance of the venue.
- Free tickets to all programmed events, unless specified.
- Creative writing workshop course of choice, with 6 hours free tuition over 3 days.
- Invitation to all receptions.
- Morning break refreshments.

While the cost of a bursary fee this year is **£550 per person**, the actual value is much higher at **£713.50** as outlined below:

- Accommodation - **£350**
- Tickets - **£268.50**
- Creative writing workshop course of choice, with 6 hours free tuition over 3 days - **£70**
- Morning break refreshments - **£25**

I hope that the Council will recognise the massive benefit of supporting a residential bursary place at the JHISS in Armagh, 22 – 27 July 2024, during these challenging times and the unique opportunity to encourage local writers whose personal circumstances put them at a disadvantage.

The JHISS 2024 theme (attached) is,

To Live Among Strangers: Diversity & a Shared Future

It is a hard responsibility to be a stranger...

"The Search": John Hewitt, 1966.

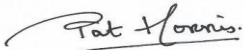
This year our opening address will be delivered by Audrey Osler, Professor Emerita of Citizenship and Human Rights Education at the University of Leeds, entitled, '*Where Are You From? No, Where are You Really From?*' and the title of her recent book of the same name. A story of migration, identity and belonging, drawing on the stories of people from Audrey Osler's mixed-heritage family, over three centuries.

Online applications for the JHISS 2024 **Community Bursary Award Schem open Thursday 18th April** and **close on Thursday 9th May 2024**. It will be marketed on our socials until the closing date. Attached is a word doc of the 2024 flyer which you can copy and paste from as required for advertising.

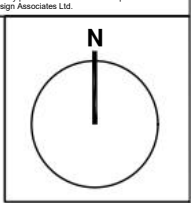
Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

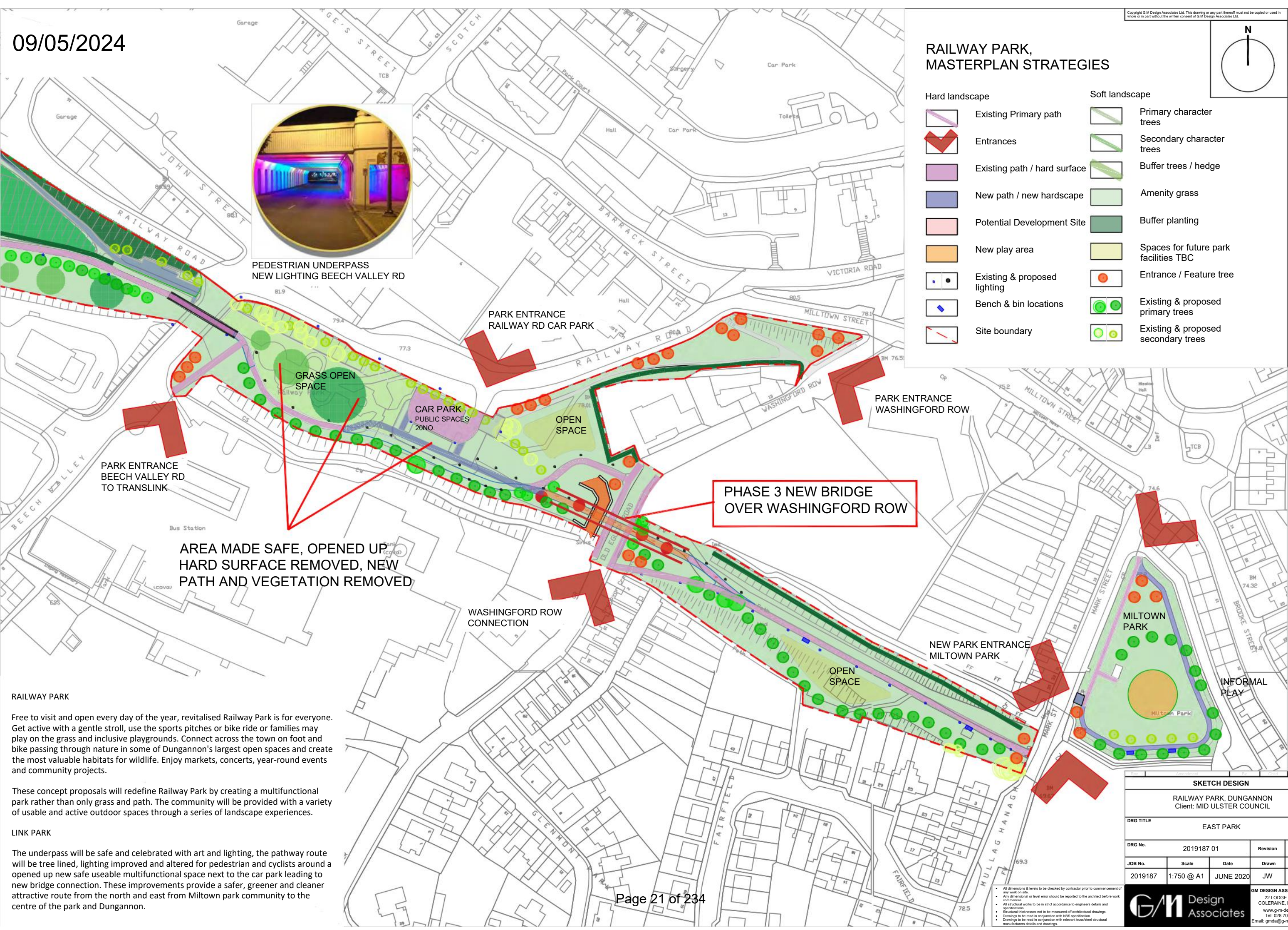


Ms Patricia Morris
Director
The John Hewitt Society



RAILWAY PARK, MASTERPLAN STRATEGIES

- | Hard landscape | | Soft landscape | |
|----------------|------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| | Existing Primary path | | Primary character trees |
| | Entrances | | Secondary character trees |
| | Existing path / hard surface | | Buffer trees / hedge |
| | New path / new hardscape | | Amenity grass |
| | Potential Development Site | | Buffer planting |
| | New play area | | Spaces for future park facilities TBC |
| | Existing & proposed lighting | | Entrance / Feature tree |
| | Bench & bin locations | | Existing & proposed primary trees |
| | Site boundary | | Existing & proposed secondary trees |



PEDESTRIAN UNDERPASS
NEW LIGHTING BEECH VALLEY RD

AREA MADE SAFE, OPENED UP
HARD SURFACE REMOVED, NEW
PATH AND VEGETATION REMOVED

PHASE 3 NEW BRIDGE
OVER WASHINGTON ROW

RAILWAY PARK
Free to visit and open every day of the year, revitalised Railway Park is for everyone. Get active with a gentle stroll, use the sports pitches or bike ride or families may play on the grass and inclusive playgrounds. Connect across the town on foot and bike passing through nature in some of Dungannon's largest open spaces and create the most valuable habitats for wildlife. Enjoy markets, concerts, year-round events and community projects.

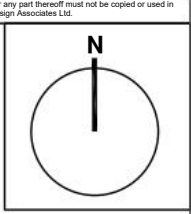
These concept proposals will redefine Railway Park by creating a multifunctional park rather than only grass and path. The community will be provided with a variety of usable and active outdoor spaces through a series of landscape experiences.

LINK PARK
The underpass will be safe and celebrated with art and lighting, the pathway route will be tree lined, lighting improved and altered for pedestrian and cyclists around a opened up new safe useable multifunctional space next to the car park leading to new bridge connection. These improvements provide a safer, greener and cleaner attractive route from the north and east from Miltown park community to the centre of the park and Dungannon.

SKETCH DESIGN				
RAILWAY PARK, DUNGANNON Client: MID ULSTER COUNCIL				
DRG TITLE EAST PARK				
DRG No.	2019187 01	Revision		
JOB No.	Scale	Date	Drawn	Checked
2019187	1:750 @ A1	JUNE 2020	JW	JW

- All dimensions & levels to be checked by contractor prior to commencement of any work on site.
- Any dimensional or level error should be reported to the architect before work commences.
- All structural works to be in strict accordance to engineers details and specifications.
- Structural thicknesses not to be measured off architectural drawings.
- Drawings to be read in conjunction with NBS specification.
- Drawings to be read in conjunction with relevant associated structural manufacturers details and drawings.

G.M Design Associates
22 LODGE ROAD, COLERAINE, BT52 1NB
www.g-m-design.com
Tel: 028 703 56138
Email: gmda@g-m-design.co.uk



RAILWAY PARK, MASTERPLAN STRATEGIES

- | Hard landscape | | Soft landscape | |
|----------------|------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| | Existing Primary path | | Primary character trees |
| | Entrances | | Secondary character trees |
| | Existing path / hard surface | | Buffer trees / hedge |
| | New path / new hardscape | | Amenity grass |
| | Potential Development Site | | Buffer planting |
| | New play area | | Spaces for future park facilities TBC |
| | Existing & proposed lighting | | Entrance / Feature tree |
| | Bench & bin locations | | Existing & proposed primary trees |
| | Site boundary | | Existing & proposed secondary trees |



PHASE 1 CREATE CHARACTER PARKLAND
 PHASE 2 SPORTS AREA
 PHASE 3 BRIDGE

RAILWAY PARK
 Free to visit and open every day of the year, revitalised Railway Park is for everyone. Get active with a gentle stroll, use the sports pitches or bike ride or families may play on the grass and inclusive playgrounds. Connect across the town on foot and bike passing through nature in some of Dungannon's largest open spaces and create the most valuable habitats for wildlife. Enjoy markets, concerts, year-round events and community projects.

These concept proposals will redefine Railway Park by creating a multifunctional park rather than only grass and path. The community will be provided with a variety of usable and active outdoor spaces through a series of landscape experiences.

CENTRAL PARK
 Central Park embraces The Junction into the wider physical community. The focus for this Centre, and for the multifunctional local community is Health and Well-Being, Events and Business. The Event Square will be used for markets and with the old platform form a stage for performances. When not in event mode the outdoor open spaces encourage people into the Landscape for a series of peaceful activities surrounded by trees that will engage their Physical and Mental Health.



EVENT



MARKET

SKETCH DESIGN					
RAILWAY PARK, DUNGANNON Client: MID ULSTER COUNCIL					
DRG TITLE MID PARK					
DRG No.	2019187 01	Revision			
JOB No.	Scale	Date	Drawn	Checked	
2019187	1:750 @ A1	JUNE 2020	JW	JW	

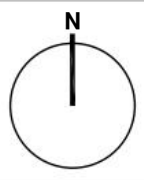
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 22 LODGE ROAD, COLERAINE, BT52 1NB
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 Tel: 028 703 56138
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ECO ACTIVE PARK WEST - RAILWAY PARK, DUNGANNON



RAILWAY PARK, MASTERPLAN STRATEGIES

- | Hard landscape | | Soft landscape | |
|----------------|------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| | Existing Primary path | | Primary character trees |
| | Entrances | | Secondary character trees |
| | Existing path / hard surface | | Buffer trees / hedge |
| | New path / new hardscape | | Amenity grass |
| | Potential Development Site | | Buffer planting |
| | New play area | | Spaces for future park facilities TBC |
| | Existing & proposed lighting | | Entrance / Feature tree |
| | Bench & bin locations | | Existing & proposed primary trees |
| | Site boundary | | Existing & proposed secondary trees |

PHASE 1 CREATE CHARACTER PARKLAND
 PHASE 2 SPORTS AREA
 PHASE 3 BRIDGE



INFORMAL SQUARE



EXISTING PRIMARY PATH RETAINED



INCLUSIVE SPACE

RAILWAY PARK

Free to visit and open every day of the year, revitalised Railway Park is for everyone. Get active with a gentle stroll, use the sports pitches or bike ride or families may play on the grass and inclusive playgrounds. Connect across the town on foot and bike passing through nature in some of Dungannon's largest open spaces and create the most valuable habitats for wildlife. Enjoy markets, concerts, year-round events and community projects.

These concept proposals will redefine Railway Park by creating a multifunctional park rather than only grass and path. The community will be provided with a variety of usable and active outdoor spaces through a series of landscape experiences.

ECO ACTIVE PARK

Sport and the character of the ecological habitats encourage the community to be active, to use the park and treat it as an outdoor facility. A Recreation Sports Area of informal recreation and a range of sporting events surrounded by naturalistic ecologically rich park areas, with organic meandering pathways, wetlands and natural play areas. The proposals will retain areas of ecologically rich vegetation and will create new areas to stimulate flora and fauna habitat creation and diversity.

NEW PRIVATE CAR PARK 40NO SPACES
 ALL EXISTING TREES AND SHRUBS RETAINED

NEWELL RD CONNECTION

NEW NEWELL RD ACCESS PATH

PLATFORM CLEANED
 RETAINED AS HERITAGE

AIR QUALITY AREA
 POTENTIAL GREEN WALL

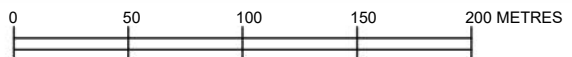
RED POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT
 INTO PARK

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- Drawings to be read in conjunction with relevant stainless steel structural manufacturers details and drawings.

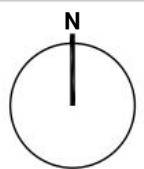
SKETCH DESIGN				
RAILWAY PARK, DUNGANNON Client: MID ULSTER COUNCIL				
DRG TITLE NORTH SPORTS PARK				
DRG No.	2019187 01	Revision		
JOB No.	Scale	Date	Drawn	Checked
2019187	1:750 @ A1	JUNE 2020	JW	LM

G.M Design Associates
 22 LODGE ROAD,
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 www.g-m-design.com
 Tel: 028 703 56138
 Email: gmda@g-m-design.co.uk

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RAILWAY PARK, MASTERPLAN STRATEGIES

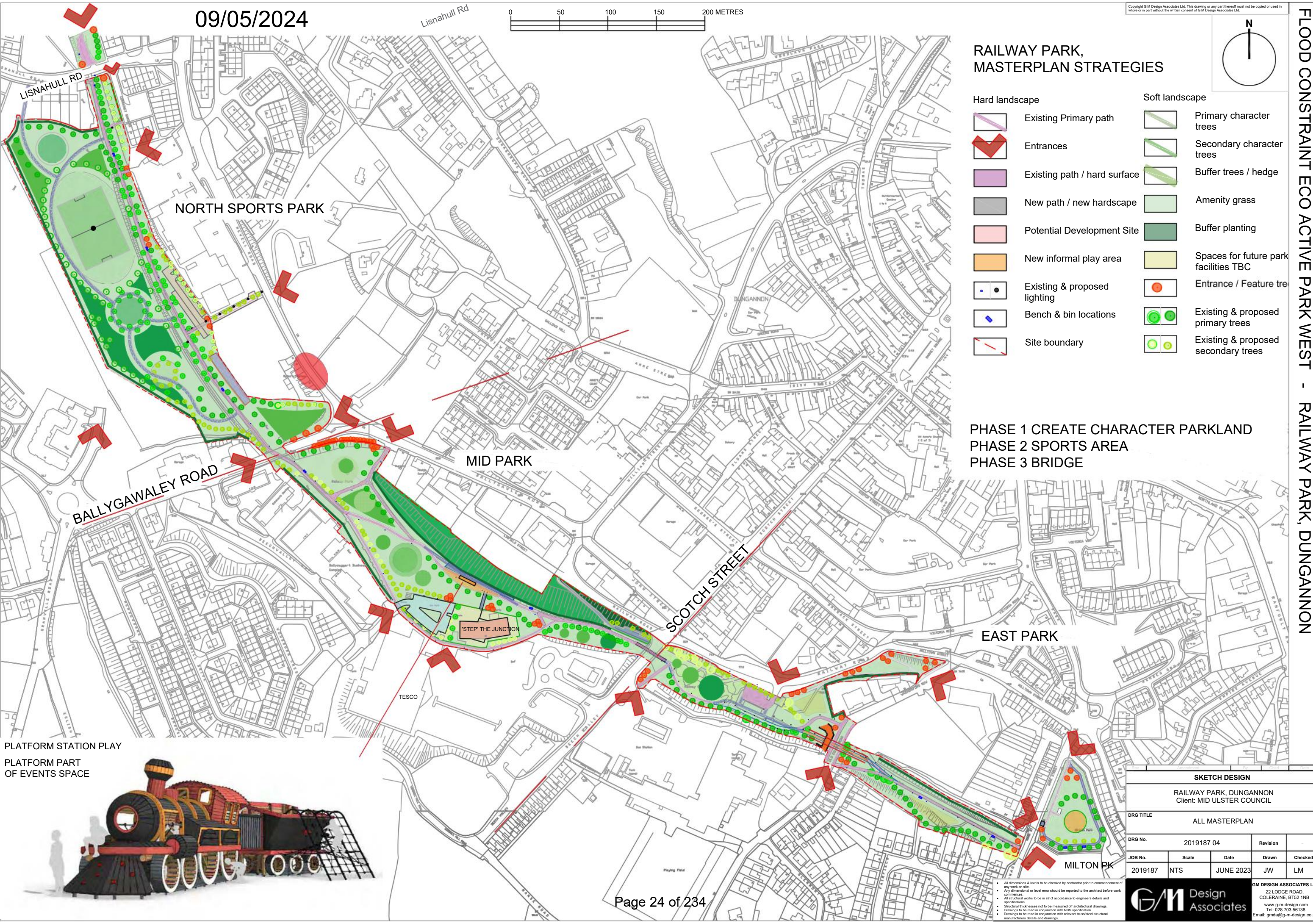
Hard landscape

- Existing Primary path
- Entrances
- Existing path / hard surface
- New path / new hardscape
- Potential Development Site
- New informal play area
- Existing & proposed lighting
- Bench & bin locations
- Site boundary

Soft landscape

- Primary character trees
- Secondary character trees
- Buffer trees / hedge
- Amenity grass
- Buffer planting
- Spaces for future park facilities TBC
- Entrance / Feature tree
- Existing & proposed primary trees
- Existing & proposed secondary trees

PHASE 1 CREATE CHARACTER PARKLAND
 PHASE 2 SPORTS AREA
 PHASE 3 BRIDGE



PLATFORM STATION PLAY
 PLATFORM PART OF EVENTS SPACE



SKETCH DESIGN				
RAILWAY PARK, DUNGANNON Client: MID ULSTER COUNCIL				
DRG TITLE ALL MASTERPLAN				
DRG No.	2019187 04	Revision		
JOB No.	Scale	Date	Drawn	Checked
2019187	NTS	JUNE 2023	JW	LM

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FLOOD CONSTRAINT ECO ACTIVE PARK WEST - RAILWAY PARK, DUNGANNON

A chara,
(*English below)

MAIDIR LE: Tionscadal PeacePlus - Téama 1.3 Caidreamh Dearfach a Thógáil

Táimid ag scríobh chugat mar chuibhreannas tionscadail (sonraí thíos) atá ag obair ar iarratas ar mhaoiniú chuig an chlár PeacePlus. Tá d'aidhm ag ár dtionscadal caidreamh pobail a fheabhsú i dTuaisceart Éireann agus i gcontaetha na teorann in Éirinn trí chóimheas a chur chun cinn ar theanga agus oidhreacht na Gaeilge agus na hUltaise. Tionscadal ceithre bliana a bheidh ann ar siúl ó Eanáir 2025 go Nollaig 2028.

Díreoidh an tionscadal ar thrí phríomhghníomhaíocht ar son caidreamh dearfach a thógáil:

- (1) Ceardlanna plé ag leibhéal an phobail a eagrú le rannpháirtithe ó gach cuid den phobal.
- (2) Acmhainn údarás áitiúil déileáil go tuisceanach le saincheistanna teanga agus cultúir a fheabhsú.
- (3) Daoine óga a mhealladh go gníomhach le hoidhreacht chomhroinnte dhúchasach Thuaisceart Éireann agus réigiún na teorann a phlé.

Ba mhaith linn cuireadh a thabhairt do do chomhairle a bheith inár dtionscadal mar Chomhpháirtí Comhlach agus ligean dúinn a bheith ag obair libh i nGníomhaíocht 2. Is é ár smaoineamh chun an obair seo a thabhairt chun cinn ná cúrsa saincheaptha san Fhorbairt Ghairmiúil Leanúnach a fhorbairt d'fhostaithe comhairle. Díreoidh an cúrsa FGL seo ar fheasacht a ardú ar bhunfhíricí a bhaineann leis an Ghaeilge agus leis an Ultais agus ar an tsaineolas a thabhairt do bhaill foirne comhairlí le plé go tuisceanach le saincheistanna teanga agus cultúir. Cuirfidh sé in iúl áit na Gaeilge agus na hUltaise i dTuaisceart Éireann i gcoinne mhórchúlra cultúrtha Phoblacht na hÉireann agus na hAlban. I gcomhar leis an chúrsa FGL, ba mhaith linn a bheith ag obair le hoifigigh dhea-chaidrimh do chomhairle chun prótacail a fhorbairt le tacú le saoránaigh ar mian leo cumarsáid a dhéanamh le foireann na comhairle trí mheán na Gaeilge nó na hUltaise. Bheadh na prótacail seo ina gcosaint d'fhoireann na comhairle ó mhasla a thabhairt i ngan fhios do bhaill den phobal, agus dá réir chosnódh siad baill den phobal óna mhothú go bhfuil siad scoite amach agus iad ag plé lena gcomhairle.

Cuirfidh an tionscadal chun cinn aidhmeanna na Straitéise T:BUC, agus shocrú an Ré Nua, Cur Chuige Nua ar bhealach fiúntach. Tá an tionscadal tráthúil chomh maith nó tá sé ag teacht le haidhmeanna reachtúla an Achta um Fhéiniúlacht agus Teanga (Tuaisceart Éireann) 2022 (*Identity and Language (Northern Ireland) Act*).

Bheimis buíoch dá gcuirfeá in iúl i bprionsabal más mian le do chomhairle páirt a ghlacadh sa tionscadal mholta seo. Ba bhreá linn an deis an tionscadal a phlé ar bhealach níos mionsonraithe ag am a d'fhóirfeadh duit.

Is muidne le meas,

Caoimhín Ó Dónaill
Ollscoil Uladh
c.odonail@ulster.ac.uk

Pól Deeds
Foras na Gaeilge
pdeeds@forasnagaeilge.ie

N.B. I gcuibhreannas an tionscadail tá: Ollscoil Uladh, Foras na Gaeilge, Gníomhaireacht na hUltaise, Misean Bhéal Feirste Thoir, Comhaltas Uladh, Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd agus nan Eilean agus Ollscoil na Gaillimhe.

A chara,

RE: PeacePlus Project - Theme 1.3 Building Positive Relations

We are writing to you as a project consortium (details below) working on a funding application to the PeacePlus programme. Our project aims to improve community relations in Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland by promoting mutual respect for Irish and Ulster Scots language and heritage. This will be a four year project running from January 2025 - December 2028.

The project will focus on three main activities for building positive relations:

- (1) Organising community level discussion workshops with participants from all sections of society.
- (2) Improving the capacity of local authorities to deal sensitively with language and culture issues.
- (3) Actively engaging young people in discussing the shared, indigenous heritage of Northern Ireland and the border region.

We would like to invite your council to join our project as an Associate Partner and to allow us to work with you on Activity 2. Our idea for progressing this work is to develop a bespoke Continuous Professional Development course for council employees. This CPD course will focus on raising awareness of basic facts relating to Irish and Ulster Scots and on providing council staff with the know-how to deal sensitively with language and culture issues. It will articulate the place of Irish and Ulster Scots in Northern Ireland against the wider cultural backdrop of ROI and Scotland. In conjunction with the CPD course, we would like to work with your council's good relations officers to develop protocols for supporting citizens who wish to communicate with council staff through the medium of Irish or Ulster Scots. These protocols would serve to protect council staff from unwittingly causing offence to members of the public, and in turn protect members of the public from feeling alienated when dealing with their council.

The project will advance the aims of the T:BUC Strategy, and the New Decade New Approach deal in a meaningful way. The project is also timely as it accords with the legislative aims of the 2022 Identity and Language (Northern Ireland) Act.



We would be grateful if you could indicate in principle if your council would like to participate in this proposed project. We would relish the opportunity to discuss the project in more detail at a time convenient to you.

Yours sincerely,

Caoimhín Ó Dónaill
Ulster University
c.odonail@ulster.ac.uk

Pól Deeds
Foras na Gaeilge
pdeeds@forasnagaeilge.ie

N.B. The project consortium includes: Ulster University, Foras na Gaeilge, The Ulster Scots Agency, East Belfast Mission, Comhaltas Uladh, University of the Highlands and Islands and Galway University.

Mid Ulster and Ayuntamiento Rivas Vaciamadrid

Engaging linkages on arts, heritage, culture and tourism

Themes: Arts, Heritage, Culture and Tourism, focusing on youth international engagement/ leadership/ empowerment.

Partners: Ayuntamiento Rivas Vaciamadrid, and SEACHT' [Social Enterprise for Arts, Culture, Heritage & Tourism] – a social enterprise located in Benburb, delivering on the Charlie Donnelly Winter School, with civic support by Mid Ulster District Council.

Background

Engagement between the two regions; Ayuntamiento Rivas Vaciamadrid (town outside Madrid) and Mid Ulster has taken place over the last 20 years. The relationship was first established under Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council in 2005 as part of cultural development and engagement with the Charlie Donnelly winter school.

As part of this engagement reciprocal visits took place between Ayuntamiento Rivas Vaciamadrid and Dungannon; focusing on the connection of the poet Charlie Donnelly to both regions with civic linkages. The annual Charlie Donnelly Winter School is held in March in Dungannon each year, and representatives from Ayuntamiento Rivas Vaciamadrid attend.

Proposal:

To strengthen the exchange between Mid Ulster and Ayuntamiento Rivas Vaciamadrid building on the linkages of Dungannon-born poet Charlie Donnelly, and expanding these further to the Arts, Heritage, Culture and Tourism, focusing on youth international engagement/leadership/empowerment. This will be led by the community through SEACHT; support is being sought from Council sought for civic recognition and representation as required during visits.

Benefits

European – linkages to share good practice, learning, exchange, particularly with young people with other regions of Europe – (Ayuntamiento Rivas Vaciamadrid is a forward-looking town with major regeneration, arts and tourist projects). The outcomes listed are not exhaustive and will develop over time.

Economic – opportunities to showcase Mid Ulster to greater EU markets & regions for tourism potential.

Youth Empowerment – development of youth opportunities.

Peace – engagement in the Peace programme and further opportunities through outward looking engagement.

To hold exchanges between Mid Ulster and the region of Ayuntamiento Rivas Vaciamadrid in a series of planning and discussion meetings that will explore the best means to strengthen the existing links based on the above-mentioned themes, led by the community (SEACHT), with civic representation from Mid Ulster Council, via the Chair, as required. The main partnership is via the community.

To plan and initiate exchange visits, 2025 and 2026, that will see Rivas Vaciamadrid host a visiting youth delegation of people from Mid-Ulster in 2025 and Mid Ulster hosting a youth delegation from Rivas in 2026.

The exchange will allow young people from Mid Ulster and Ayuntamiento Rivas Vaciamadrid regions to share and learn about each other's areas, to establish EU links and friendships, to empower and build leadership skills. Exchange visits will combine arts, cultural and heritage, leisure, tourism.

Civic official presence will be invited to participate in the visit via the Chair/Mayor or Deputy Chair.

Timetable:

2024 – Planning meetings between Mid-Ulster & Rivas Vaciamadrid - June, September

Autumn 2024 – Agreement of Linkages – annual - 3 year programme of activities

Spring 25 - Youth delegation from Mid-Ulster region visit Rivas Vaciamadrid

March 2025 – Madrid delegates visit Dungannon - Charlie Donnelly Winter School.

Spring 2026 – Youth delegation from Rivas Vaciamadrid to Mid-Ulster.

Funding

SEACHT as the lead in this project and engagement is seeking funding through Peace Plus Theme 1 – small grants programme to support wide range of community led Peace initiatives – up to 100,000 Euro. The funding proposal will be led by SEACHT.

Information: Who was Charlie Donnelly?

Charles Donnelly was born in Killybrackey, near Dungannon, County Tyrone on July 10, 1914. Charlie enrolled in UCD in 1931, where he studied Logic, English, History and the Irish language. In university he began writing poetry and prose for student publications.

In 1936, with the outbreak of the fascist coup in Spain, and the start of 'right' activity across Europe that was to lead to World War II; he joined the International Brigades. The cause was to inspire many writers who, like English poet WH Auden, felt that "poetry makes nothing happen" and signed up to the International Brigade against Franco.

Charlie reached Spain on January 7th 1937, and fought on the side of the democratically-elected government to seek to stop fascism that was rising across Spain, and also other parts of Europe. Charlie Donnelly was attached to the American Abraham Lincoln Battalion.

On February 15, after receiving only rudimentary military training, the Abraham Lincoln Battalion was thrown into the battle of Jarama, near Madrid. Donnelly reached the front on February 1937, where he was promoted to the rank of field commander. His unit was sent on a frontal assault on a hill named Pingarron. Donnelly and his unit were pinned down by machine gun fire all day, where he died and is buried nearby in an unmarked grave on the Jarama Battlefield.

The Spanish Civil War was to last for another 2 years, with growing influence of Hitler and Mussolini. The war finally ended in 1939 with the fascist regime that remained in control of Spain until the death of the dictator Generalissimo Franco in 1975. This was alongside WW2 where many countries came together to seek to stop fascism taking control in other parts of Europe,.

Due to his bravery and great poetry documenting the activity taking place of 'the time', There are memorials to Donnelly in Dungannon (Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House Wall of significant people of the Dungannon District) Dundalk, Jarama, Omeath, Rivas Vaciamadrid and in his alma mater UCD Dublin.

Information – Ayuntamiento Rivas Vaciamadrid

Rivas has a population of almost 92,000 inhabitants. This is the largest demographic increase in a European city in recent decades. It has a large youth and working age population due to its recent growth and proximity to the larger city of Madrid.

The city is located less than 15 kilometres from Madrid and that allows it to have close commuter access.

Rivas is an open city, with surrounding green spaces, and numerous parks. The municipality is surrounded by a natural park, the Southeast Regional Park: it is a protected area of 31,552 hectares located along the middle-low course of the Jarama and Manzanares rivers, in the southeast of the Community of Madrid. There are also archaeological and paleontological sites in the area.

Rivas has a strong sporting, cultural and community sectors. It has a range of sporting facilities in the City that can provide for up to 40 different sports. There is a large number of clubs in the area that support sports development both professional and at a community level.

Rivas has a strong cultural agenda, with numerous quality facilities for the performing arts, including the Pilar Bardem Auditorium (with more than 1000 seats) and its high level programming of activity, and the Miguel Rios Auditorium (40,000 seats outdoors) which hosts national and international groups and events each year.

Rivas has a very strong community led approach to delivery and development across the City. It has a strong community sector and is a strong advocate of participatory budgeting. There are many projects in the area where investments are made and chosen directly by its citizens.

Information – SEACHT

Formed in 2015, the role of SEACHT in the local community is– Social Enterprise for Arts, Culture, Heritage and Tourism. All profits generated from SEACHT’s business activities are locally reinvested in community projects. Since its establishment, the community-facing business has been supporting event and conference coordination, consultancy/advisory, training and mentoring.

SEACHT has engaged with council officials of Rivas Vaciamadrid and Mid-Ulster due to their longstanding involvement in the Charlie Donnelly Winter School and the annual Jarama events in Madrid.

Information - Charlie Donnelly Winter School

The Charlie Donnelly Winter school was initially established by the legacy Dungannon District Council in the early 2000s. The School attracted many high-profile speakers during its early days, including David Ervine and Martin McGuinness. The School traditionally attracts speakers from both main community traditions as it honours International Brigade volunteers who came from both unionist and republican backgrounds. This year was no exception as the School gave prominence to both Ben Murray (Aughnacloy) and Charlie Donnelly (Dungannon).

The Charlie Donnelly Winter School ceased for a few years and reestablished in 2017. Representation at annual events can include people from across Ireland, UK, and New York, Madrid, Edinburgh, London. The Chair of Louth County Council joined elected representatives and officials from Ayuntamiento Rivas Vaciamadrid (Spain), Mid-Ulster Council, Dublin City Council, Sligo County Council, Donegal County Council, Derry & Strabane Council at a two-day event to celebrate the life of the former International Brigader in the Co Tyrone town of his birth.

The President of Ireland, Michael D Higgins, who is a huge fan of the poet, sent a formal message of support to the winter school along with an apology describing how, despite wishing to be there, other commitments would regrettably not allow him to attend on the day. The President’s address was read to a packed audience in The Square Box Theatre, Dungannon, by Harry Owens, founding member of the Friends of Charlie Donnelly and co-author of the book ‘Brigadista’ with legendary anti-fascist and International Brigader Bob Doyle.

Report on	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hidden Heritage Tours 2024 2. Digital Signage Service Level Agreement (2024-2025) 3. Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2024 4. A29 Cookstown Bypass – DfI Consultation 5. Mid Ulster Gift Card Scheme – Renewal 6. Town Business Spruce Up Scheme 7. Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Projects Action Plan 2024/25
Date of Meeting	Thursday 16 May 2024
Reporting Officers	Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism & Strategic Programmes

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To provide Members with an update on key activities as detailed below.
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>Hidden Heritage Tours 2024</p> <p>Hidden Heritage Tours are organised annually across the Mid Ulster District to encourage locals and visitors to explore heritage sites and discover the hidden gems of Mid Ulster.</p>
2.2	<p>Digital Signage Service Level Agreement (2024-2025)</p> <p>In 2020, Etolan Ltd, trading as Legato Solutions were appointed to install three digital outdoor screens in Magherafelt, Cookstown and Dungannon town centres with a fourth added in Coalisland in 2023. As part of the original tender a Service Level Agreement was created where Legato Solutions would be responsible for</p>

the service support and maintenance of Insight digital signage platform from April 2020 to March 2024.

2.3 Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2024

Mid Ulster's fifth Enterprise Week will take place in November 2024. It is anticipated that it will run from Monday 11 November to Friday 15 November 2024. The format in 2023, incorporated a mix of online and in-person events, which proved a great success, and a similar format will be used this year. It is proposed to procure the services of a Management Partner to coordinate and deliver the extensive range of events as in previous years. A budget circ. of £28,000 has been set aside to implement this programme of events.

2.4 A29 Cookstown Bypass – DfI Consultation

The Department for Infrastructure (DfI) has published for consultation the draft Statutory Orders for the proposed A29 Cookstown Bypass scheme.

Council agreed at its meeting in April 2024 to submit a consultation response to DfI and to delegate authority to the Development Committee, if required.

The closing date for responses is Friday 29th May 2024 at 5.00pm.

2.5 Mid Ulster Gift Card Scheme – Renewal

The Mid Ulster Gift Card Initiative has been in place for three years, with over 200 businesses across the district accepting this card. From inception, this service has been provided by Miconex. Council is now at a stage, where this contract requires renewal.

2.6 Town Business Spruce Up Scheme

Council approval was granted in November 2023, to deliver a Town Business Spruce Up Scheme. Capital funding of £200,000 was secured from Department for Communities, to offer businesses/commercial properties located within the Town Centre boundaries (as per Area Plans), for Coalisland, Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt grant aid of up to 80% per property for eligible works. The grant aid is capped at £4,000 per property, as per scheme guidance.

2.7 Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Projects Action Plan 2024/2025

A fresh Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Projects Action Plan has been prepared for 2024/2025 which highlights a variety of key activities to support our businesses, towns, and rural areas. It also includes reference to ongoing work in relation to Mid Ulster's Mid South West Growth Deal projects.

3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p data-bbox="228 264 655 300">Hidden Heritage Tours 2024</p> <p data-bbox="228 344 1394 456">At the Development Committee on 10 April 2024 Members approved the following three Hidden Heritage tours, but requested adding some additional tours across the district.</p> <ul data-bbox="277 506 1394 763" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="277 506 1394 577">• Saturday 8 June 2024, Who lives in a house like this – Ballyscullion Park, Bellaghy, Magherafelt <li data-bbox="277 602 1394 674">• Friday 21 June 2024, The Three Sisters Tour, Springhill, Lissan House and Killymoon Castle, Cookstown <li data-bbox="277 698 1394 770">• Saturday 21 September, Who lives in a house like this – Blessingbourne Estate, Fivemiletown <p data-bbox="228 824 1378 898">It is proposed that the following heritage experiences are also included as part of the Hidden Heritage Tour series.</p> <ul data-bbox="277 947 1385 1565" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="277 947 1385 1256">• The first new tour will focus on Famine and Folklore which is proposed to take place on 2 October 2024 at Friel’s Bar and Restaurant, Swatragh. With the opening of their brand-new Visitor Centre, Friel’s will tell the story of Dr Mooney who set up a soup kitchen during the Great Famine in the 1840’s with the original famine pot still on display. The visitor can immerse themselves in the history and atmosphere of Friel’s, a fifth-generation pub and listen to local folklore about the poet, traveller and adventurer Mick McAtamney and see his 100-year-old hand carved walking stick. <li data-bbox="277 1305 1385 1565">• During the European Heritage Open Days on 15 and 16 September 2024, it is proposed this year to enhance the visitor experience by providing living history and storytelling at the following venues: <ul data-bbox="325 1453 1086 1565" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="325 1453 796 1489">• The Bridewell (Magherafelt) <li data-bbox="325 1491 1086 1527">• US Grants Ancestral Homestead (Ballygawley) <li data-bbox="325 1529 796 1565">• Emigrants Walk (Swatragh) <p data-bbox="228 1603 1394 1715">Over seventeen Heritage properties across Mid Ulster will open their doors free of charge to promote public interest in heritage and raise awareness of its cultural significance and benefit to the community.</p> <p data-bbox="228 1753 1353 1827">Council will promote these events closer to the time under this year’s theme of; <i>“Routes, Connections and Networks – Links in our Heritage”</i>.</p>
3.2	<p data-bbox="228 1906 1038 1942">Digital Signage Service Level Agreement (2024-2025)</p> <p data-bbox="228 1980 1273 2047">The current Digital Signage Agreement with Etolan Ltd, trading as Legato Solutions ended on 31 March 2024.</p>

Approval is sought from Members for Council to enter into a further Service Level Agreement with Etolan Ltd, trading as Legato Solutions, for one financial year for the period, 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 to provide delivery of ongoing support for the digital signage sited in Dungannon, Cookstown, Magherafelt and Coalisland.

The scope of service covers support and maintenance of the Legato Insight digital signage platform installed in Dungannon, Cookstown and Magherafelt in April 2020 and Coalisland in 2023. Cover includes;

- Equipment at four sites
- Media Player hardware support and maintenance
- Media player software updates including Bug Fixes and Minor Amends
- Client updates including Bug Fixes and Minor Amends
- Remote Technical Support
- Three on-site visits per annum
- A yearly training session for new staff (helpful for organisations with high turnover)
- Technical Advice
- Removal and replacement of faulty hardware/parts under warranty

The Service Level Agreement on **Appendix 1** has been reviewed by ICT and found to be satisfactory and in accordance with Council's procurement policy.

Total costs for the annual Service Level Agreement renewal for digital screens at all four sites and Media Player hosting is £2,200+Vat.

3.3 Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2024

It is proposed to deliver a comprehensive mix of online and in-person events during Mid Ulster Enterprise Week. Council is keen to build on the success of the previous four Enterprise Week's held in Mid Ulster and deliver an equally impactful high-quality programme suited to the needs of local businesses.

An extensive range of business topics will be offered to ensure all sectors of industry are catered for. To build upon the success of previous years' events, it is proposed to procure the services of a Management Partner who will report to Council throughout the organisation, co-ordination, and delivery of a comprehensive range of actions to support the smooth delivery of a wide and varied week-long programme of events to celebrate Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2024.

3.4 A29 Cookstown Bypass – DfI Consultation

Members will be aware that the A29 Cookstown Bypass is one of the key strategic infrastructure projects being delivered under the Mid South West (MSW) Growth Deal.

DfI Roads Western Division are progressing the design and development of the A29 Cookstown Bypass, which is a key strategic project under the Mid South West (MSW) Growth Deal project. The aim of the project is to provide a new transport link improving the connections between A29 Moneymore Road and the A29 Dungannon Road and also upgrade the link between A29 Dungannon Road and the A505 Drum Road, reducing traffic congestion in Cookstown and improving the reliability of journey times for vehicular travellers.

The A29 Cookstown Bypass scheme reached a key milestone in April 2024 with the publication of Draft Statutory Orders and Environmental Impact Assessment Report. A Public Information Event was held on Tuesday 16th April 2024 in the Burnavon. The closing date for responses is Friday 29th May 2024 at 5.00pm.

DfI has written to Council in relation to the scheme and offering the Council an opportunity to comment on the Vesting Order and associated reports on **Appendix 2**.

A summary of the planning considerations was discussed and agreed by Council's Planning Committee on 7th May 2024 and included in the Council's consultation response in **Appendix 3**.

Documentation related to the scheme is accessible via the following links;

- Consultation documents: [A29 Cookstown Bypass - Consultation | Department for Infrastructure \(infrastructure-ni.gov.uk\)](#)
- 360 virtual consultation room is also available on DfI's website at <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/articles/a29-cookstown-bypass-overview> until the consultation closes on Friday 29th May 2024 at 5pm.

3.5 Mid Ulster Gift Card Scheme – Renewal

In September 2021, Members agreed for Council to enter into a three-year contract on the delivery of a gift card bespoke for the Mid Ulster District. This initiative has been well received by businesses across the district, with further opportunities to build on this programme and support spend locally. Currently 226 businesses have registered /pending across the district with over £75,000 uploaded on to gift cards to spend in participating businesses within Mid Ulster. As the contract with the existing contractor Miconex comes to its renewal stage, in line with Council's procurement policy, Council has the opportunity to extend the delivery of the scheme for a further two years or withdraw from the contract. The projected cost of extension will be £14,000 excluding VAT per year.

3.6 Town Business Spruce Up Scheme

The Town Business Spruce Up Scheme offers discretionary grants of up to 80% eligible costs, capped at £4,000 per property for external and/or internal improvements.

The Scheme was available to both occupied commercial premises and vacant/derelict units within the town centre boundaries of Coalisland, Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt as defined within the existing Area Plans and which the funder, Department for Communities (DFC), insisted Council must abide by.

The scheme opened for applications on Monday 19 February 2024 and closed again on Friday 8 March 2024 at 4pm.

Four drop-in business clinics were delivered, one in each of the four towns. Knox & Clayton Chartered Architects who were appointed to assist with the delivery of the scheme, attended the drop-in business clinics to provide advice and guidance to potential applicants.

Knox & Clayton Chartered Architects appointment also included the independent assessment of applications, management, and monitoring of successful projects up to the value £200,000.

Stage one of the independent assessment required the Chartered Architects to conduct eligibility checks on all applications. For all applications that met the requirements of the eligibility check they proceeded to stage 2 which involved a scored assessment process.

All applications that achieved a minimum threshold score of 40% or above are eligible for grant aid, subject to available budgets.

229 Applications were received by the closing date/time of Friday 8 March 2024 at 4pm. The 229 applications were independently assessed by Knox & Clayton Chartered Architects.

Following eligibility checks: -

- 41 applications were deemed invalid at the initial Eligibility Check
- 185 applications progressed to scored assessment stage.
- 3 applications withdrawn by applicants.

From the **185 applications** that progressed to scored assessment stage;

- **117** applications achieved 40% or above (meeting the pre-established minimum score threshold). The overall value of all schemes totalled £373,722.45, which exceeded the total budget available from DFC of £200,000.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The scores awarded to each application, determined their funding rank. Applicants with the highest scores were recommended for funding until the full amount of available DFC monies was expended ie, £200,000. As a result, projects ranked Nos. 1 to 67, were classified as Phase 1 Schemes and these 67 successful applicants were issued with letters of offer by 31 March 2024 (see Appendix 4). • A further 50 applications, ranked Nos. 68 – 117 (inclusive), also met the funding threshold and were deemed eligible to receive funding, however, as all the remaining DFC funds were allocated, these applicants were classified as Phase 2 schemes and notified accordingly, that they were placed on a Reserve List, until such times as Council may be able to attain further funding from DFC (see Appendix 5). • 68 applications failed to achieve the 40% threshold score. <p>At this juncture, all applicants have been formally notified by letter regarding the outcome of their Town Spruce Up Scheme application.</p> <p>Officers have been in liaison with DFC and are currently preparing a further funding bid to seek an additional £200,000 to finance the remaining 50 schemes currently held on a Reserve List. The funding bid will also request that any residual funding from DFC be directed towards offsetting the Independent Chartered Architect's costs..</p> <p>If Council is awarded the additional funding from DFC, and is provided with a letter of offer to finance the gap funding (ie, Phase 2 Reserve List), then it is likely Council will be required to undertake a new procurement process to appoint an Independent Chartered Architect to undertake site visits, verify spend in line with the DFC terms and conditions etc..</p> <p>3.7 Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Projects Action Plan 2024/2025</p> <p>The Economic Development, Tourism & Strategic Programmes Action Plan on Appendix 6 aims to prioritise the development of a comprehensive range of activities, projects, programmes, and support across Mid Ulster during the 2024/2025 financial year.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <p>Financial:</p> <p>4.1.1 Hidden Heritage Tours 2024 Provision of £4,000 has been made in the 2024/25 tourism budget.</p>

	<p>4.1.2 Digital Signage Service Level Agreement (2024-2025) Provision of £2,200+Vat has been made in the 2024/25 Tourism budget.</p> <p>4.1.3 Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2024 A budget circ. £28,000 has been set aside for Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2024 in the 2024/25 Economic Development budget. A proportion of these costs will be used to procure the services of a Management Partner to co-ordinate, manage and organise all events and promotion during Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2024.</p> <p>4.1.4 Mid Ulster Gift Card Scheme Renewal If Council wish to renew the contact with current gift card provider, £14,000 per year will be earmarked from the existing Economic Development budget in 2024/2025, along with marketing and promotion activities for the year again.</p> <p>4.1.5 Town Business Spruce Up Scheme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase 1: Applicants Ranked No's 1 – 67 – issued with Letters of Offer. Value of funding committed £200,000 (funding secured from Department for Communities 2023/2024) • Phase 2: Applicants Ranked No's 68-117, value of funding recommended totals £173,722.45. These schemes are held on a Reserve List (and are subject to Council receiving additional funding from DFC). <p>4.1.6 Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Projects Action Plan 2024/2025 Funding provision has been made for projects within the 2024/2025 Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programme Budget. Some projects, however, are dependent on securing external funding.</p> <p>Human: Officer time</p>
4.2	<p>Equality and Good Relations Implications</p> <p>A29 Cookstown Bypass – DFI Consultation Dfl completed Equality Screening in January 2024.</p> <p>Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Projects Action Plan 2024/25 Council policies and procedures will be adhered to in the roll out of this plan.</p> <p><i>Mid Ulster Council is committed to the promotion of equality of opportunity in all its activities with a focus on all citizens living within the Mid Ulster.</i></p>
4.3	<p>Screening & Impact Assessments</p>
	<p>Rural Needs Implications:</p> <p>A29 Cookstown Bypass – DFI Consultation Dfl completed Rural Screening in January 2024.</p>

5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	<p>It is recommended that Members;</p> <p>5.1 Hidden Heritage Tours 2024</p> <p>In addition to the three Hidden Heritage Tours previously agreed in April 2024, approval is sought to;</p> <p>5.1.1 Provide an additional Hidden Heritage Tour on 2 October 2024, entitled ‘<i>Famine and Folklore</i>’ at Friel’s Bar and Restaurant, Swatragh and;</p> <p>5.1.2 Enhance the visitor experience by providing living history and storytelling at The Bridewell (Magherafelt), US Grants Ancestral Homestead (Ballygawley) and the Emigrants Walk (Swatragh) during European Heritage Open Days on 15 & 16 September 2024.</p> <p>5.2 Digital Signage Service Level Agreement (2024-2025)</p> <p>Approve Digital Signage Service Level Agreement between Council and Etolan Ltd, trading as Legato Solutions, for financial year commencing 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025, at a cost of £2,200+Vat for provision of ongoing digital signage support at four sites across Mid Ulster, located in Dungannon, Cookstown, Magherafelt and Coalisland.</p> <p>5.3 Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2024</p> <p>5.3.1 Approve a budget of circ. £28,000 for the delivery of Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2024 from Council’s Economic Development budget 2024/2025.</p> <p>5.3.2 Approve Officers proceed to seek competitive quotes to appoint a professional Management Partner to co-ordinate, manage, deliver and promote Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2024 from Monday 11th to Friday 15th November 2024. The costs of a Management Partner will be subsumed within the budget detailed at 5.3.1.</p> <p>5.3.3 Approve Council’s Chief Executive be granted authority to appoint the successful Management Partner, following the procurement exercise to allow work to progress over the summer months.</p> <p>5.4 A29 Cookstown Bypass – DFI Consultation</p> <p>Approve Council’s draft Consultation Response to the A29 Cookstown Bypass Scheme and by the powers granted by Full Council to the Development Committee, submit response to Department for Infrastructure (Dfi), prior to the closing date of Friday 29th May 2024 at 5pm.</p>

5.5	<p>Mid Ulster Gift Card Scheme – Renewal</p> <p>Approval to enter negotiations with Miconex to extend the Mid Ulster Gift Card Scheme for a further 2 years commencing in September 2024.</p> <p>Approval of projected budget of £14,000 per year (for 2 years) from Council’s Economic Development Budget, as part of the original contract. A management fee will be implemented, if Council decides to terminate the contract as previously agreed under the original contract to honour gift cards purchased up to September 2024.</p>
5.6	<p>Town Business Spruce Up Scheme</p> <p>5.6.1 Phase 1 – Current Letter of Offer from DFC (March 2024)</p> <p>Note that following assessment of applications by the Independent Chartered Architect, applicants ranked Nos. 1 – 67 were issued with Letters of Offer (by 31 March 2024), as previously agreed, up to the value of funding received from Department of Communities (DFC), totalling £200,000.</p> <p>5.6.2 Phase 2 – Subject to Additional funding being secured from DFC</p> <p>Note the number of scheme applicants exceeded the funding available from DFC. Therefore, whilst applicants ranked Nos. 68 – 117 were successful, scoring 40 or above, with combined funding sought totalling £173,722.45, these applicants were informed in writing they had been placed on a Reserve List until such times as Council may be able to attain additional funding from DFC and therefore, in the interim period, they must not commence any works.</p> <p>5.6.3 Approve that Council make a further funding bid to DFC to seek financial assistance of up to £200,000 to fund the successful applicants ranked Nos. 68 – 117, which are currently held on a Reserve List. The application would also request that any residual funding from DFC be directed towards offsetting the Independent Chartered Architect’s costs.</p> <p>5.6.4 In the event Council’s funding bid to DFC is successful and the additional funding is provided to Council to deliver Phase 2 schemes, then approval is requested for Council’s Chief Executive to be granted authority to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Sign and return the Letter of Offer to DFC; (b) Issue Letters of Offer to applicants ranked Nos. 68 – 117, on the Reserve List. (c) Procure the services of an Independent Chartered Architect to undertake site visits, verify works, etc, for Phase 2 (Reserve List) Schemes.
5.7	

	<p>Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Projects Action Plan 2024/2025</p> <p>Approve the projects and associated budgets as detailed in the Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Projects Action Plan 2024/2025.</p>
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	<p>Appendix 1 - Digital Signage Service Level Agreement between MUDC & Etolan Ltd, trading as Legato Solutions - April 2024 – March 2025</p> <p>Appendix 2 - DFI Correspondence re A29 Cookstown Bypass Consultation</p> <p>Appendix 3 - MUDC response to DFI re A29 Cookstown Bypass Consultation</p> <p>Appendix 4 – Town Business Spruce Up Scheme - Phase 1 Letters of Offer issued to Successful Applicants (March 2024)</p> <p>Appendix 5 – Town Business Spruce Up Scheme - Phase 2 Applications held on Reserve List (Subject to Additional Funding from DFC)</p> <p>Appendix 6 - Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes Action Plan (2024/2025)</p>

Mid Ulster District Council

Legato Digital Signage

Service Level Agreement

1st April 2024 – 31st March 2025

Etolan Ltd t/a Legato Solutions

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Introduction

This Service Level Agreement (SLA) has been drawn up to provide ongoing operational service standards between Mid Ulster District Council 'the Client' and Etolan Ltd t/a Legato solutions 'LEGATO' for delivery of ongoing support for the Digital Signage Contract.

History

The original SLA was created as part of the tender for the initial three outdoor screens. A fourth outdoor screen was added this year.

The SLA

- details the scope of services to be delivered by outlines the fee structure to cover the stated scope.
- is intended to be used as a working document setting out the responsibilities of each party and should not be considered a legally binding document.
- Defines the working relationships and expectations for all parties.

Contract Aims

The Client has appointed LEGATO to deliver services as set out below. LEGATO will take on overall responsible for delivering all aspects of the work in connection with these projects:

Scope of Service

The scope of the service covers support and maintenance of the Legato insight digital signage platform as initially installed in April 2020. The period of cover will be for one year commencing 1st of April 2024 – 31st March 2025.

Includes

- See "Covered Equipment" section.
- Media Player hardware support and maintenance
- Media player software updates including Bug Fixes and Minor Amends
- Client updates including Bug Fixes and Minor Amends
- Remote Technical Support
- Three on-site visits
- A yearly training session for new staff (helpful for organisations with high turnover)
- Technical Advice
- Removal and replacement of faulty hardware/parts under warranty

Exclusions

- New content (By separate arrangements)
- Issues relating to equipment provided by third party suppliers.
- Wear and tear
- Vandalism
- Accidental damage
- Consumables

The Client Responsibilities

The Client will be responsible for the following:

- Making timely support requests via Legato's support desk or a mutually agreed process
- Setting the purpose and objectives of the work conducted.
- Developing project briefs for all aspects of work required.
- Providing any technical specifications as requested by LEGATO.
- Providing properly authorised Purchase Orders in advance of any chargeable work commencing
- Monitoring and evaluating processes for the duration of the contract.
- Verifying invoices received from LEGATO for the duration of the contract.
- Making payments to LEGATO and nominated third party contractors, as appropriate, within the terms agreed for the duration of the contract.
- Managing third party IT suppliers

LEGATO Responsibilities

LEGATO will bring experience and expertise to the maintenance project. LEGATO will use all reasonable endeavours to meet the requirements of this SLA by:

- Responding to and managing maintenance requests in a timely and professional manner.
- Supporting requests made by the Client and offering creative and technical solutions.

Providing estimates of additional cost before commencement of any work outside the scope of the SLA

General Communications

The operation of an open and honest communications strategy where all parties can confront issues as they arise and deal with them quickly and efficiently will ensure an effective relationship is maintained. It is essential that all parties commit to always communicate in the most effective manner.

Authorised Representatives

For the purposes of this SLA the representatives for each party who are authorised to place and accept orders and authorise work are:

For the Client: Mid Ulster District Council

For LEGATO: Gareth McClean or John Mclvor

In the event of either of the Operational Control people being on holiday, ill or unavailable for any reason they may designate such other member of their organisation to fulfil their role provide this is notified to the other party in advance.

Reporting of Issues

To allow for tracking and a prompt response all issues should be raised in the first instance by emailing support@legato-solutions.com or visiting support.legato-solutions.com and raising a ticket with the Legato Support system.

Covered Equipment

<i>Equipment Name</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Priority</i>	<i>Notes</i>
55" Outdoor Kiosk	Cookstown	Medium	The Wi-Fi antenna has been subject to repeated vandalism causing network issues
55" Outdoor Kiosk	Dungannon	Medium	The Wi-Fi antenna has been subject to repeated vandalism causing network issues
55" Outdoor Kiosk	Magherafelt	Medium	The Wi-Fi antenna has been subject to repeated vandalism causing network issues
55" Outdoor Kiosk	Coalisland	Medium	This system has a poor WiFi signal that potentially causes issues.

Response Timelines

<i>Priority</i>	<i>Response Time</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>
<p><i>High Priority:</i></p> <p>A critical issue which prevents a user from using a screen.</p> <p>This could be a server error, a software issue or a hardware issue in the equipment provided by LEGATO. In the event of an issue with the screens the matter will be raised with Legato and fix time will depend on whether new equipment must be ordered. Legato will provide a suitable replacement temporary screen subject to stock availability.</p>	<p>3 Hour Response</p> <p>8 Hour Fix</p>	<p>LEGATO</p>
<p><i>Medium Priority:</i></p> <p>A critical issue which prevents a user from using part of a screen. This could be a server error, a software issue or a hardware issue in the equipment provided by LEGATO. In the event of an issue with the screens the matter will be raised with Legato and fix time will depend on whether new equipment must be ordered. Legato will provide a suitable replacement temporary screen subject to stock availability.</p>	<p>4 Hour Response</p> <p>48 Hour Fix</p>	<p>LEGATO</p>
<p><i>Low Priority:</i></p> <p>Content amends, including editing/uploading new imagery or video content. Text tweaks and minor bug fixes.)</p>	<p>6 Hour Response</p> <p>72 Hour Fix (Subject to 3rd Parties)</p>	<p>LEGATO</p>
<p><i>Ad Hoc Requests:</i></p> <p>Such as ‘upgrades: or ‘updates’ because of user experience and requests for new features.</p> <p>New content – changes to content</p>	<p>LEGATO will produce a timeline and costing for Client Approval prior to commencing work if required.</p>	<p>LEGATO</p>
<p><i>Work outside Scope as defined:</i></p>	<p>This will be briefed in and priced as separate individual costs.</p>	<p>LEGATO</p>

Response timelines are based on a standard Monday to Friday working week and a 7.5-hour day. Please note however in the case of an eight-hour fix this means one working day, 48-hour fix means 2 working days etc.

Conduct of Meetings

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>
<i>Significant/Material Meetings</i>	Agreement on location, date and time.	Client and LEGATO
<i>Records</i>	All meetings will be recorded by LEGATO with a report an action points where appropriate returned to the Client (by email) within 2 working days of the meeting.	LEGATO
<i>Meeting with Subcontractors and 3rd Party Suppliers</i>	Where necessary activity will be co-ordinated between the Agency and other nominated Sub-contractors and Suppliers to the Client and will be subject to conditions as set out in Appendix 2.	LEGATO

Amendments and Escalation Process

Amendments

Amendments to this SLA may be proposed at any time by either party. All proposed amendments must be communicated by both parties in writing and can be done by email.

Proposed amendments to this SLA should be agreed by the Client and LEGATO within 14 days of the relevant proposal. If not agreed, the escalation process may be invoked.

Escalation Process

In the event of failure to meet any agreed timescale, or for any issue, or interpretation of any issue, covered by this SLA the following process will apply:

1. The nominated Client contact will discuss any issues with Gareth Mc Lean and use their best endeavours to reach resolution.
2. If this fails; the matter shall be referred for final resolution in writing, and termination clauses may come into play on either side.

Signatures

Signed on behalf of Legato:

Print Name: **Gareth McClean**

Position: **Director**

Date:

Signed on behalf of Mid Ulster District Council

Print Name:

Position:

Date:



Department for

Infrastructure

An Roinn

Bonneagair

Department fur

Infrastructure

Mid Ulster District Council
Burn Road
Cookstown
County Tyrone
BT80 8DT

Western Division
County Hall
Drumragh Avenue
Omagh
County Tyrone
BT79 7AF

Telephone: 028 9595 3065
Email: A29Consultation@wsp.com

Date: 2nd April 2024

Our reference:
A29_NIMVO_2024_2753232

2753232



RECORDED DELIVERY

Dear Sir/Madam,

A29 Cookstown Bypass Scheme – Notice of Intention to Make a Vesting Order

As you may already be aware, the Department proposes to carry out the above scheme which necessitates the acquisition of some land in which you have an interest.

In pursuance of the provisions of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972, and the Roads (Northern Ireland) Order 1993, I enclose a formal Notice of the Department's Intention to make a Vesting Order, together with schedule and map extracts specifying the land which the Department proposes to acquire.

A similar Notice will be published for 2 consecutive weeks in Irish News, Belfast Newsletter, Belfast Telegraph, Mid Ulster Mail, Tyrone Courier and Belfast Gazette during the weeks ending 5th April 2024 and 12th April 2024.

Documents relating to the scheme, including the Vesting Order, Direction Order, Stopping-Up of Private Accesses, and Environmental Impact Assessment Report, may be inspected by any person, free of charge, at all reasonable hours between 3rd April 2024 and 29th May 2024, at the following locations:

- DfI Roads Headquarters, Clarence Court, 10-18 Adelaide Street, Belfast BT2 8GB
- DfI Roads Western Division, County Hall, Drumragh Avenue, Omagh BT79 7AF
- Mid Ulster Section Office, Loughrey, 49 Tullywiggan Road, Cookstown BT80 8SG
- The Burnavon, Burn Road, Cookstown BT80 8DN

Electronic copies of these documents are available to view or download on the Department's website: <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/articles/a29-cookstown-bypass-overview>

If you wish to object to the proposed vesting order being made or express an opinion on any of the reports, you must write to the Divisional Roads Manager, DfI, Roads - Western, County Hall, Drumragh Avenue, Omagh, BT79 7AF, or email dfiroads.western@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk before the 29th May, giving your reasons.

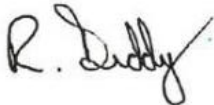
Information you provide in your response, including personal information, could be published or disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) or the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR).

For information regarding the Departmental Privacy Notice following the introduction of GDPR please go to the following link <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/publications/gdpr-privacy-notice-dfi-business-areas> or phone the Data Protection Office on 028 9054 0540.

For further details on confidentiality and FOIA/EIR please refer to www.ico.org.uk

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact the team on 028 9595 3065 or A29Consultation@wsp.com.

Yours faithfully,



Rory Duddy
Divisional Lands Officer

Enc.

A29 CIS Statutory Notice – NIMVO Apr 2024

A29 CIS NIMVO Individual Vesting Schedule Extract

A29 CIS NIMVO Individual Vesting Drawing(s) – 718314-WSP-C-D-2800-0277

DEPARTMENT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE

**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO MAKE A VESTING ORDER
A29 COOKSTOWN BYPASS SCHEME**

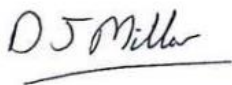
The Department for Infrastructure (“the Department”) gives you notice that it proposes to make an order vesting certain lands in the Department under the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972 and The Roads (Northern Ireland) Order 1993. The lands are described in the schedule to this notice and marked on the accompanying map.

The Department proposes to acquire the lands for the construction of the A29 Cookstown Bypass Scheme at Cookstown, County Tyrone and County Londonderry.

If you wish to object to the proposed vesting order being made, you must write to the Divisional Roads Manager, Department for Infrastructure, Roads - Western, County Hall, Drumragh Avenue, Omagh BT79 7AF or e-mail dfiroads.western@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk before the 29 May 2024, giving your reasons.

Information you provide in your response, including **personal information**, could be published or disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) or the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR).

For information regarding the Departmental Privacy Notice following the introduction of GDPR please go to the following link <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/publications/gdpr-privacy-notices-dfi-business-areas> or phone the Data Protection Office on 028 90540540. For further details on confidentiality and FOIA/EIR please refer to www.ico.org.uk



Signed:
Authorised Officer

Date: 13-3-24

A29 Cookstown Bypass NIMVO Schedule

DESCRIPTION OF LAND

COUNTY OF TYRONE

DISTRICT OF MID ULSTER

BARONY OF DUNGANNON UPPER

Townland or Street	Area 2			Names and Addresses of persons appearing to have an estate	Nature of estate of persons in Col3	Reference to lands on attached map and Folio Number (if any) 5	Nature of estate to be acquired
	Land Hectares	Roadbed Hectares	Total Hectares				
1				3	4	5	6
Derryloran Alias Kirktown		0.0212	0.0212	Mid Ulster District Council Burn Road Cookstown County Tyrone BT80 8DT	Unregistered Possessory	Plot 748 Red Map(s) 7 Unregistered	Fee Simple



Chris Boomer
Mid Ulster District Council
Service Director of Planning: Planning Officer
Cookstown Office
Burn Road
Cookstown
Co. Tyrone
BT80 8DT



Western Division
County Hall
Drumragh Avenue
Omagh
County Tyrone
BT79 7AF

Telephone: 028 9595 3065
Email: A29Consultation@wsp.com

Date: 2nd April 2024

Our reference:
A29_NIMVO_2024_3043541

RECORDED DELIVERY

Dear Chris Boomer,

A29 Cookstown Bypass Scheme – Notice of Intention to Make a Vesting Order

As you may already be aware, the Department proposes to carry out the above scheme which necessitates the acquisition of some land in which you may have an interest.

In pursuance of the provisions of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972, and the Roads (Northern Ireland) Order 1993, I enclose a formal Notice of the Department's Intention to make a Vesting Order, together with schedule and map extracts specifying the land which the Department proposes to acquire.

A similar Notice will be published for 2 consecutive weeks in Irish News, Belfast Newsletter, Belfast Telegraph, Mid Ulster Mail, Tyrone Courier and Belfast Gazette during the weeks ending 5th April 2024 and 12th April 2024.

Documents relating to the scheme, including the Vesting Order, Direction Order, Stopping-Up of Private Accesses, and Environmental Impact Assessment Report, may be inspected by any person, free of charge, at all reasonable hours between 3rd April 2024 and 29th May 2024, at the following locations:

- DfI Roads Headquarters, Clarence Court, 10-18 Adelaide Street, Belfast BT2 8GB
- DfI Roads Western Division, County Hall, Drumragh Avenue, Omagh BT79 7AF
- Mid Ulster Section Office, Loughrey, 49 Tullywiggan Road, Cookstown BT80 8SG
- The Burnavon, Burn Road, Cookstown BT80 8DN

Electronic copies of these documents are available to view or download on the Department's website: <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/articles/a29-cookstown-bypass-overview>

If you wish to object to the proposed vesting order being made or express an opinion on any of the reports, you must write to the Divisional Roads Manager, DfI, Roads - Western, County Hall, Drumragh Avenue, Omagh, BT79 7AF, or email dfiroads.western@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk before 29th May 2024, giving your reasons.

If we do not hear from you by 29th May 2024, it will be assumed that (INSERT STAT CON NAME) has no comment to make on the Scheme.


Information you provide in your response, including personal information, could be published or disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) or the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR).

For information regarding the Departmental Privacy Notice following the introduction of GDPR please go to the following link <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/publications/gdpr-privacy-notice-dfi-business-areas> or phone the Data Protection Office on 028 9054 0540.

For further details on confidentiality and FOIA/EIR please refer to www.ico.org.uk

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact the team on 028 9595 3065 or A29Consultation@wsp.com.

Yours sincerely,



Rory Duddy
Divisional Lands Officer

Enc.
A29 CIS Statutory Notice – NIMVO Apr 2024

The Department proposes to acquire the lands in order to construct the A29 Cookstown Bypass Scheme in Cookstown, County Tyrone and County Londonderry.

All documents and maps relating to the scheme may be inspected, by appointment, during office opening hours at the following locations: Department for Infrastructure, Clarence Court, 10-18 Adelaide Street, Belfast BT2 8GB; Western Division, County Hall, Drumragh Avenue, Omagh BT79 7AF; Mid Ulster Section Office, Loughrey, 49 Tullywiggan Road, Cookstown BT80 8SG; and at The Burnavon, Burn Road, Cookstown, BT80 8DT.


or at:- <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/articles/a29-cookstown-bypass-overview>

Any person who wishes to express an opinion on the Environmental Impact Assessment Report or to object to the making of The Trunk Roads T15 & T10 (Cookstown Bypass) Order (Northern Ireland) 2024, The Private Accesses (Stopping-Up) Order (Northern Ireland) 2024 or the proposed Vesting Order must, on or before 29 May 2024, write to the Divisional Roads Manager, Department for Infrastructure – Western Division, County Hall, Drumragh Avenue, Omagh BT79 7AF or e-mail dfiroads.western@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk stating their opinion on the Environmental Impact Assessment Report and/or the grounds of their objection to the proposed Orders. The Department will take into consideration any representations made, in support of or against the project, before deciding whether or not to proceed with or without modifications.

Information you provide in your response, including **personal information**, could be published or disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) or the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR).

For information regarding the Departmental Privacy Notice following the introduction of GDPR please go to the following link <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/publications/gdpr-privacy-notices-dfi-business-areas> or phone the Data Protection Office on 028 90540540.

For further details on confidentiality, the FOIA and the EIR please refer to www.ico.org.uk.

Signed: 
Authorised Officer

Date: 13th March 2024

DEPARTMENT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE
A29 COOKSTOWN BYPASS

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT: NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

The Department for Infrastructure hereby gives notice in accordance with Article 67A(3) and (9) of the 1993 Order that it has prepared an Environmental Impact Assessment Report on the effects of the proposed construction of the A29 Cookstown Bypass Scheme.

The general effect of the project will be to construct 3930 metres of new trunk road including four new roundabouts to form part of the Warrenpoint – Newry – Dungannon – Coleraine Trunk Road T15. It also includes the upgrading of 1635 metres of the Sandholes Link Road to form part of the Cookstown – Omagh – Enniskillen – Aghalane (land frontier) Trunk Road T10.

The aim of the project is to provide a new transport link improving the connections between A29 Moneymore Road and the A29 Dungannon Road and also upgrade the link between A29 Dungannon Road and the A505 Drum Road, reducing traffic congestion in Cookstown and improving the reliability of journey times for vehicular travellers.

In addition to earthworks and drainage, landscaping will be carried out to improve the appearance of the road and lessen the visual impact of the proposed project.

TRUNK ROAD ORDER
THE TRUNK ROAD T10 & T15 (COOKSTOWN BYPASS SCHEME) ORDER
(NORTHERN IRELAND) 2024

The Department for Infrastructure hereby gives notice in accordance with the provisions of Schedule 8 to the Roads (Northern Ireland) Order 1993 that it proposes to make an Order under Articles 14(1) and 68(1), (3) and (5) of that Order.

The proposed Order will provide that 3930 metres of new road described in Part 1 of the Schedule, shall become trunk road and be part of the Warrenpoint – Newry – Dungannon – Coleraine Land Frontier T15 and 1635 metres of upgraded road described in Part 2 of the schedule shall become trunk road and be part of the Cookstown – Omagh – Aghlane (Land Frontier) T10.

The Order also provides for the stopping-up of certain junctions, the stopping-up of certain roads to road traffic and the stopping-up of certain roads to motor vehicles as set out in parts 3 to 6 of the schedule and to the abandonment of roads as per part 7 of the Schedule.

STOPPING-UP ORDER
THE PRIVATE ACCESSES ON THE A29 COOKSTOWN BYPASS
(STOPPING UP) ORDER (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2024

The Department for Infrastructure (DfI) gives notice of its intention to make an Order under Article 69 of the Roads (Northern Ireland) Order 1993 ("the 1993 Order") the effect of which would be to:

stop-up to motor traffic the following private accesses for which alternative access will be provided:-

- The unadopted Castle Road, Killymoon Demesne Townland (access to Nos. 39, 41, 41(a), 47, 49, 51 and 51(a) Castle Road); and
- The unadopted Killymoon Road, Killymoon Demesne Townland (access to Killymoon Golf Club, 280, 300 and 302 Killymoon Road).

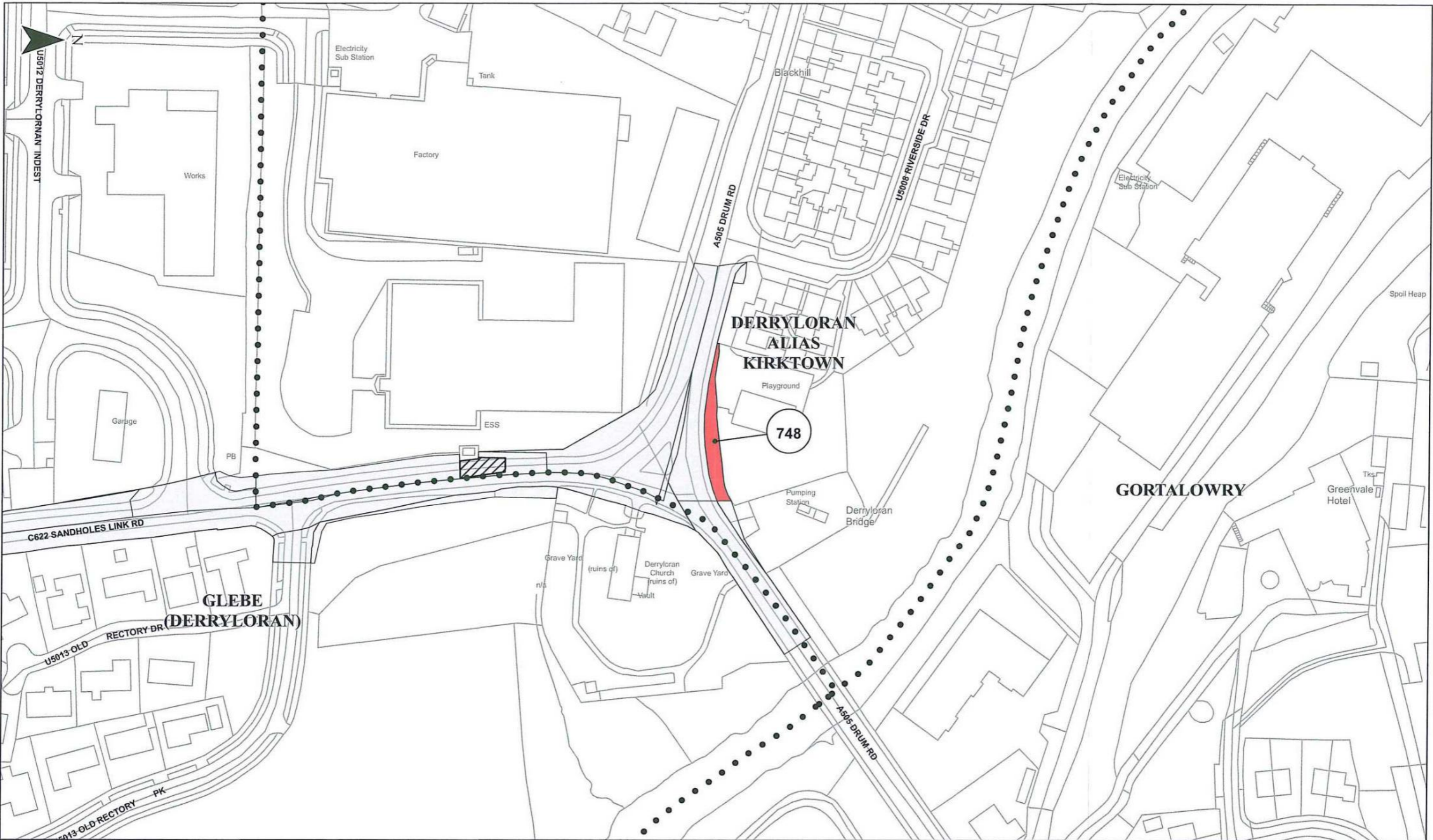
stop-up to road traffic the following private accesses for which alternative access will be provided:-

- The unadopted Castle Road, Killymoon Demesne Townland (access to Nos. 39, 41, 41(a), 47, 49, 51 and 51(a) Castle Road);
- The unadopted Castle Road, Killymoon Demesne Townland (field access);
- The unadopted Killymoon Road, Killymoon Demesne Townland (access to Killymoon Golf Club, 280, 300 and 302 Killymoon Road);
- Clare Lane, Unclassified No. 728, Clare Townland (field access);
- Coagh Road, Route B73, Tullygare Townland (field access);
- (T15) A29 Moneymore Road (Southbound Carriageway), Ballymenagh Townland (access to No. 101 Moneymore Road);
- (T15) A29 Moneymore Road (Southbound Carriageway), Ballymenagh Townland (field access);
- (T15) A29 Moneymore Road (Southbound Carriageway), Ballymenagh Townland (access to No. 103 Moneymore Road);
- Old Moneymore Road, Unclassified No. 2208, Monrush Townland (field access);
- Old Moneymore Road, Unclassified No. 2208, Tamlaghtmore Townland (field access); and
- Strifehill Road, Unclassified No. 831, Coolkeeghan Townland (field access).

Articles 19 and 69(7) of the 1993 Order provide that where access to any land has been stopped-up in pursuance of an order made under Article 69 and any person has suffered damage in consequence thereof by the depreciation of any estate in the land to which they are entitled or by being distributed in their enjoyment of the land, they shall be entitled to recover from the Department compensation in respect of that damage.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO MAKE A VESTING ORDER

The Department for Infrastructure ("the Department") proposes to make an order vesting certain lands in the townlands of Coolkeeghan, Killymoon Demesne, Gortallowry, Coolnahavil, Scotchtown, Coolnafranky, Clare, New Buildings, Tullygare, Ballymenagh, Cranfield, Monrush, Glebe (Derryloran), Ballyreagh, Derryloran Alias Kirktown, all of County Tyrone and Tamlaghtmore, County Londonderry in the Department under the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972 and The Roads (Northern Ireland) Order 1993.



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Contract ID	2753232	Project		
Name	Mid Ulster District Council	A29 COOKSTOWN BYPASS		
Address	Burn Road Cookstown County Tyrone BT80 8DT	Title		
		LAND PLANS		
		Scale	DWG No	Sheet No
		1:1250 (at A3)	716314-WSP-C-D-2800-0277	Sheet 1 of 1
		Revision		
		CONFIDENTIAL		
		WESTERN DIVISION County Hall Drumagh Avenue Omagh BT79 7AF Telephone: 0300 200 7699 Email: infrastructure@infrastructure.gov.uk © Crown Copyright Reserved		



17 May 2024

Your Ref: A29-NIMVO-2024-2753232
A29-NIMVO-2024-3043541

Divisional Roads Manager
DFI Roads – Western Division
County Hall
Drumragh Avenue
Omagh
BT79 7AF

Email: dfiroads.western@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Dear Sir

DFI Consultation on A29 Cookstown Bypass Scheme – Notice of Intention to make a Vesting Order

Thank you for your letters dated 2 April 2024 relating to the above scheme and offering Mid Ulster District Council an opportunity to comment on the Vesting Order and associated reports.

Having considered these, Council welcomes the planned delivery of this key strategic infrastructure project in Cookstown which is being delivered as part of the Mid South West Growth Deal. The scheme will help to relieve traffic congestion within Cookstown town centre, reduce journey travel times along the A29 link corridor, improve road safety and enhance the town centre environment. The decongestion benefits of the scheme will also provide significant opportunities for the enhancement and reshaping of Cookstown town centre to promote sustainable travel choices.

No specific issues are identified in relation to Local Planning and it is assumed that the Department will have consulted with all other relevant bodies in relation to any other habitat, heritage, flood risk matters and other potential environmental impacts. Planting and landscaping proposals to assist visual integration are also welcomed.

Mid Ulster District Council's Environmental Health Department note and welcome that the following issues have been considered in the Environmental Statement, Noise from road traffic, Construction Noise, Contaminated Land, Air Quality, and would trust that lighting associated with the proposal avoids the potential to have a negative impact on the use and enjoyment of nearby residential properties.

The Cookstown Bypass scheme is pivotal to the region's economic growth and will have significant benefits for our local residents and businesses, who live, work and shop in Cookstown town centre.

As a Council we believe that investment in the A29 should be prioritised given that it is a crucial North – South corridor and is vitally important to the local and regional economy.

Thus, whilst it is pleasing to see progress being made on this much needed infrastructure project, which Mid Ulster District Council and formally Cookstown District Council, has advocated for, for over 30 years, Council wish to also emphasize the importance of further much needed investment on the A29 route both at Moneymore and Dungannon, to help alleviate the chronic traffic congestion in these locations too, situated on either side of Cookstown.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Dominic Molloy
Chairman

APPENDIX 4 - TOWN BUSINESS SPRUCE UP SCHEME

PHASE ONE – LETTERS OF OFFER ISSUED TO SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS (March 2024)

Business Trading Name	Property Address	Value of LoO (75% Project Value)
Diamond Cosmetic	7b Burn Road, Cookstown, Co. Tyrone	£4,000.00
Vacant Property	47 Scotch Street, Dungannon, BT70 1BD	£4,000.00
SA Trotter Ltd	66 Scotch Street, Dungannon, BT70 1BJ	£2,940.00
The Island Turkish Barbers	9 Lineside, Coalisland, BT71 4LP	£1,713.60
Phillip White Tyres Ltd	6 Ballygawley Road, Dungannon, BT70 1EL	£1,458.29
James Cullen Cullen & Sons	12 Scotch Street, Dungannon, BT70 1AR	£560.00
Corr Propertys	65-67 Scotch Street, Dungannon, BT70 1BD	£1,920.00
NSL Car Parks & Acheson Hair	5 Union Arcade, Magherafelt, BT45 5DF	£508.00
The Wine Sellers	22 Broad Street, Magherafelt, BT45 6EA	£640.00
McCusker Bros Funeral Directors	65 Rainey Street, Magherafelt, BT45 5AF	£2,688.00
L's Boutique	12 Rainey Street, Magherafelt	£680.00
40 Thieves Public House	27 William Street, Cookstown, BT80 8AX	£4,000.00
The Miners Inn	48-50 Main Street, Coalisland, BT71 4NB	£3,000.00
Uncle Sams	41 Main Street, Coalisland, BT71 4NB	£4,000.00
House of Beaute	23a Thomas Street, Dungannon BT70 1HN	£2,570.88
Maura's Beauty	16 Irish Street, Dungannon, BT70 1DB	£1,560.00
Ellie's Kitchen	Unit 2, 28 Thomas Street	£4,000.00
Bella Bleu Boutique	53 Scotch Street, Dungannon BT70 1BD	£2,640.00
Boutique, Gift Shop, Beauty, Hairdressers	35, 35a, 35b, 35c, Queen Street, Magherafelt, BT45 6AA	£4,000.00
Pavilion Real Estate & Urban Hair	16 & 16b Oldtown Street, Cookstown, BT80 8EF	£1,120.00
Coalisland Credit Union	7 Dungannon Road, Coalisland, BT71 4HP	£4,000.00
Kudos Design	5 Scotch Street Centre, Dungannon, BT70 1AR	£1,810.40
Ruddell & Company	16 Church Street, Dungannon, BT71 6AB	£4,000.00

Select Kidz / Alternative Angels	12 & 12a Rainey Street Park, Magherafelt, BT45 5AN	£280.00
Vacant	61 Scotch Street, Drumcoo, Dungannon, BT70 1BD	£4,000.00
Vacant	61a Scotch Street, Drumcoo, Dungannon, BT70 1BD	£4,000.00
Carmel's	1 Ann Street, Dungannon, BT70 1ET	£4,000.00
Brewhew Ltd	28b Dungannon Road, Coalisland, BT71 4HP	£3,880.00
Unhitched	13 William Street, Dungannon, BT70 1DX	£3,980.00
Shooters	Fenny Lane, Dungannon, BT70 1TX	£3,160.00
Mortgage Adviser	First Floor, 4 Market Street, Magherafelt, BT45 6ED	£4,000.00
Mid Ulster Laser Clinic Ltd	8 Fairhill Road, Cookstown, BT80 8AG	£2,796.10
Vacant	6 The Square, Coalisland	£3,960.00
CK Interiors Coalisland	Unit 3, 33 Dungannon Road, Coalisland, BT71 4HP	£4,000.00
Carmel O'Meara & Co	32 Irish Street, Dungannon	£320.00
1 Oak Leisure Offices	29 William Street, Cookstown, BT80 8AX	£4,000.00
Vacant	47 Molesworth Street, Cookstown, BT80 8NX	£3,040.00
RUSU	2 Fairhill Road, Cookstown, BT80 8AG	£3,072.00
Cookstown Enterprise Centre	7-9 William Street, Cookstown, BT80 8AX	£3,936.00
JD Dance and Fitness	52-54 Main Street, Coalisland, BT71 4NR	£2,308.00
Vacant	40B Main Street, Coalisland BT71 4NB	£2,365.44
Bengal Spice	4d Thomas Street, Dungannon, BT70 1HN	£3,160.00
The Fashion House	1/3 Market Street, Magherafelt, BT45 6EE	£4,000.00
Corr DU Ltd t/a Railway Business Park	31a Dungannon Road, Coalisland, BT71 4HP	£4,000.00
Gildernew & Co Ltd	6 & 8 Northland Row, Dungannon, BT71 6AW	£3,920.00
Cottage Kids	55 James Street, Cookstown, BT80 8AE	£1,893.00
Print Xpress	6 Fairhill Road, Cookstown, BT80 8AG	£4,000.00
Railway Bar	63-67 Union Street, Cookstown, BT80 8NN	£4,000.00
Mobile Planet	25 Irish Street, Dungannon, BT70 1DB	£3,968.00
Changes Hair Salon	67 Irish Street, Dungannon, BT70 1DQ	£1,824.00
Sloan's Newsagents	11 Market Square, Dungannon, BT70 1AB	£2,064.00
Gordons Chemist	14 Scotch Street, Dungannon, BT70 1AR	£1,312.00
MYM Recruitment	80-82 Rainey Street, Magherafelt, BT45 5AJ	£3,684.00
Canos	Fenny Lane, Dungannon, BT70 1TX	£3,120.00

The Toolshed Ltd	31 Dungannon Road, Coalisland, BT71 4HR	£3,820.00
Frank McGirr	27a The Square, Coalisland, Dungannon, BT71 4LN	£4,000.00
Mortgage Advice Centre (NI)	6 Scotch Street, Dungannon, Co. Tyrone	£2,732.00
No.5	5 Lineside, Coalisland, BT71 4LP	£1,776.00
Askra Ltd	31 William Street, Cookstown	£4,000.00
The Step Inn	24 Rainey Street, Magherafelt	£272.00
McVey Bros	51 Molesworth Street, Cookstown, BT80 8NX	£4,000.00
Thompson Footwear	1-3 James Street, Cookstown, BT80 8AA	£3,982.40
Helen Flowers	5 William Street, Cookstown, BT80 8AX	£3,920.00
Immensity Barbers	3 William Street, Cookstown, BT80 8AX	£3,920.00
Subway	1 William Street, Cookstown, BT80 8AX	£3,920.00
PFP Clinic and Gym	Unit 1, Union place, Cookstown, BT80 8NP	£4,000.00
D'Lux Salon	63 Scotch Street, Dungannon, BT70 1BD	£4,000.00

APPENDIX 5 - TOWN BUSINESS SPRUCE UP SCHEME

PHASE TWO – LIST OF VALID APPLICATIONS HELD ON RESERVE LIST (THESE SCHEMES ARE SUBJECT TO DFC AWARDING ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO COUNCIL)

Business Trading Name	Property Address	Recommended Grant Aid (75% Project Value)
The Gasworks	11-13 Perry Street, Dungannon, BT71 6AT	£3,300.00
TT Comms	16 Irish Street, Dungannon, BT70 1DB	£3,352.00
The Millwheel	3 Thomas Street, Dungannon	£672.80
Su's Welcome Limited	30 Church Street, Dungannon, BT71 6AB	£1,720.00
Vacant	A3 80-82 Rainey Street, Magherafelt BT45 5AH	£4,000.00
Farrell Products Ltd	80-82 Rainey Street, Magherafelt, BT45 5AJ	£3,996.00
Vacant	7 Queen Street, Magherafelt, BT45 6BF	£4,000.00
Vacant	7A Queen Street, Magherafelt, BT45 6BF	£4,000.00
The Way Photographic	6 Irish Street, Dungannon, BT70 1DB	£2,976.00
The Pool Room	8 Thomas Street, Dungannon, BT70 1HS	£4,000.00
McCall Jewellers Ltd	46 Irish Street, Dungannon	£1,544.00
Phillip Rogers Design	30 Northland Row, Dungannon,	£4,000.00
SCC Chartered Accountants	Second Floor, 9a Burn Road, Cookstown	£4,000.00
Slevin Dental	12 Loy Street, Cookstown	£3,320.00
P J Kilpatrick Ltd	1-3 Molesworth Street, Cookstown, BT80 8NX	£4,000.00
Conway TV	3 Park Avenue, Cookstown, BT80 8AH	£1,513.60
Oasis Bingo	55 Union Street, Cookstown	£4,000.00
The Drycleaning Co.	78 Rainey Street, Magherafelt	£4,000.00
RJ Ross & Co.	44 Molesworth Street, Cookstown	£4,000.00

JK Turkish Barber Shop	23 Oldtown Street, Cookstown, BT80 8EE	£4,000.00
Ma Quinns Bar	65 James Street, Cookstown, BT80 8QS	£3,040.00
Atchinson Hair	4a Union Arcade, Magherafelt, BT45 5AD	£4,000.00
ELQD Ecigs Ltd	49 Irish Street, Dungannon, BT70 1DB	£1,478.94
O'Hagan McGlinchey Ltd	32-34 Dungannon Road, Coalisland, BT71 4HP	£3,140.00
Hagans Bar	39 Irish Street, Dungannon, BT70 1DB	£3,920.00
Gordons Chemist	6-10 Old Town Street, Cookstown, BT80 8EF	£4,000.00
Winton & Co	72 Rainey Street, Magherafelt, BT45 5AM	£3,920.00
iTeck NI	1 Queen Street, Magherafelt BT45 6AA	£3,614.60
Re:Academy	Unit 9A Workspace, Magherafelt, BT45 5AG	£3,360.00
Marquee Electronic Ltd	10a Broad Street, Magherafelt, BT45 6EA	£3,785.00
Farrell Products Ltd	Units 1 & 2 Fairhill Industrial Estate, Magherafelt, BT45 6AY	£4,000.00
Church Street Brasserie	23 Church Street, Magherafelt, BT45 6AP	£4,000.00
Romantic Bridal	34 Queen Street, Magherafelt, BT45 6AB	£ 4,000.00
Sunny Spot Tanning Studio & MJ McCaughey Ltd	15 Sloan Street, Dungannon, BT70 1BZ	£3,992.00
B&S Tools Supplies Ltd	84-86 Rainey Street, Magherafelt, BT45 5AJ	£1,823.60
Arlene Jardine Insurance Services	10 Church Street, Dungannon, BT71 7AB	£4,000.00
Collins Solicitors	9a Broad Street, Magherafelt BT45 6EB	£4,000.00
Dapper	46 Main Street, Coalisland, Co. Tyrone	£3,552.00
James Taggart Hair Studio	18-20 William Street, Dungannon, Co. Tyrone	£2,504.00
Xtreme Iron Gym	1 Dinree House, Thomas Street, Dungannon	£4,000.00
Corrigan Opticians	39 Molesworth Street, Cookstown	£4,000.00
Sweet Sugar Clothing Ltd	40-42 William Street, Cookstown, BT80 8NB	£3,260.00
The Beauty Bar	33d Union Street, Cookstown, BT80 8NN	£4,000.00
Paula Maynes & Co Accountants	48a William Street, Cookstown, BT80 8NB	£3,776.00
PFP Clinic & Gym (clinic)	Unit 2, Union Place, Cookstown, BT80 8NP	£4,000.00

Maneely & Co	16 Market Square, Dungannon, BT70 1AB	£3,888.00
Malumera Shop	37 Scotch Street, Dungannon, BT70 IAR	£4,000.00
The Food Doc	48 Market Square, Dungannon	£3,636.80
McClenaghan Family Butchers	16 Market Street, Magherafelt, BT45 6ED	£3,200.00
Retail Store and Website	14-16 Molesworth Street, Cookstown	£4,000.00



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

Mid Ulster District Council
Economic Development, Tourism and
Strategic Programmes Action Plan
2024 - 2025

INTRODUCTION

This Economic Development, Tourism & Strategic Projects Action Plan 2024-2025 sets out the focus on activity and actions, which will support our businesses, urban and rural areas, tourism and heritage sector and general economic recovery and sustainability. Partnership working and collaboration is crucial to ensure the Action Plan is delivered effectively.

This Action Plan has been influenced by Council's Corporate Plan 2024-2028, Community Plan 2017-2027, Economic Development Plan, and Tourism Strategy and reflects the actions that local businesses have asked us to assist them with in the future.

Mid Ulster Economic Development Action Plan - 2024 /2025

Theme	Projects	Outputs	Methodology	Outcomes	Total Budget
Profiling Mid Ulster Business: Marketing, Communication Campaigns	<p>1.1 Develop opportunities to deliver a number of key messaging campaigns that will capture and promote businesses within and beyond the district.</p> <p>1.2 Marketing and Promotion campaigns across the five town centres at key retail periods to promote the offering and town centre brands.</p> <p>1.3 Profiling and publicise business related good news stories (e.g new businesses opening, job creation, increased revenue, successful expansions etc.</p>	<p>1.1 Number of key messaging campaigns that is captured and promoted using marketing collateral.</p> <p>1.2 Implement joint shop local awareness campaigns in the 5 towns linked to key retail periods such as Christmas, Small Business Saturday etc. Build on the brands of the 4 main town centres.</p> <p>1.3 Profile good news business stories within the district via Council’s Social Media Channels.</p>	<p>1.1, 1.2 & 1.3 Outdoor Advertising Radio Social Media. Videos recorded in association with local businesses – rolled out via Council’s social media channels.</p> <p>1.2, 1.3 1.4 - Roll out of marketing plans to enhance awareness.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of key messaging local campaigns delivered promoting local businesses throughout the district in the year. • Measure traffic to Mid Ulster Council’s social media channels, during campaigns. • Number of marketing and promotion of town centre campaigns undertaken during retail periods. 	£57,000

	1.4 Mid Ulster Gift Card	1.4 Primary focus to promote and build on the Mid Ulster Gift Card offering.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater target messaging that encourages the purchase of the Mid Ulster Gift Card, linked with the importance of supporting local. Value of £ of Mid Ulster Gift and purchased and redeemed. 	£14,000
	1.5 Christmas Car Parking Charges	1.5 Provision of reduced Christmas car parking charges in charged car parks.	1.5 Council approval on reduction to fee for a 6-week period.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To encourage footfall and dwell time to the five main towns in Mid Ulster District at Christmas. 	£29,500
	1.6 Mid Ulster Business Welcome Pack	1.6 Development of a digital welcome pack.	1.6 Working alongside colleagues across the organisation to develop digital pack that signposts business to support and guidance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support engagement with new businesses. Number of Mid Ulster Welcome Packs distributed in year. 	£5,000

Events	3.1 Calendar of Events in 5 town centres	<p>3.1 Town Centres Events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continental Market, Cookstown • Summer Bash, Coalisland • Walled Garden, Maghera • Halloween in Dungannon • Halloween in Coalisland • Christmas Lights Switch On in Cookstown • Christmas Lights Switch On in Dungannon • Christmas Lights Switch On in Magherafelt • Christmas Lights Switch On in Coalisland • Christmas Lights Switch On in Maghera 	3.1 Officers Delivery in conjunction with Events Team.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased footfall, spend and across the towns in Mid Ulster as a result of the events. 	£246,500 (The former ED budget has now transferred to Council's Corporate Events Team)
	3.2 Urban and Rural Events	3.2 Develop a number of key urban and rural events to support towns and villages Events will be spearheaded by the Economic and Tourism teams (includes Taste Mid Ulster).	<p>3.2 Officers to develop a programme with key criteria, partnership working, delivery and monitoring.</p> <p>Use of social media and targeted e-shots to all key stakeholders.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create ambience in our Town Centres during key retail periods. 	£110,000

Physical Regeneration / Improving Infrastructure	4.1 Maghera Regeneration Project	4.1 As client team lead, to support the Environment Directorate deliver Maghera Regeneration Project (with specific focus on the Public Realm Scheme and Business Park aspects).	4.1 Partnership working with the Environment Directorate & ICT Teams. Wider Engagement i.e. with businesses trading within the public realm area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced quality, whilst creating a more accessible welcoming streetscape. Increased footfall / visitor numbers across the towns. Increased profile & engagement with town centre businesses. 	£10m (£9m LUF £1m MUDC) Projects/Funding as per Council's Capital Budget previously agreed
	4.2 Feasibility Study to explore developing a Town Park in Magherafelt	4.2 Appointment of professional services to undertake the necessary studies in line with capital plan and funding opportunities.	4.2 Development of Concepts developed, economic appraisal prepared and potential to submit funding bids.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feasibility study for Magherafelt Park Increase traders & footfall. 	Up to £30,000 Feasibility study from Capital Budget

	4.3 Vacancy and Dereliction	4.3 Development of a work plan to support the need to address dereliction and vacancy (subject to both officer and financial support being received from DFC and DAERA).	4.3 Commission commercial professional support to support working group to develop a deliverable plan to tackle long term vacancy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revitalisation of Vacant and Derelict buildings to create an ambience in our towns during key retail periods (only possible if seismic funding can be attained from Govt Depts). 	Up to £30,000 from economic budget, however, project cannot be progressed without seismic capital funding from Govt Depts to provide grants to incentivise owners of vacant /derelict properties to undertake revitalisation works.
	4.4 Cookstown Saturday Market	4.4 Progress early actions contained within Cookstown Saturday Market Scoping Study.	4.4 Review and commencement engagement on the actions outlined within scoping study.		£25,000
	4.5 Town Centre Sound Systems	4.5 Investigate the feasibility and costings of introducing Town Centre Sound Systems in Dungannon, Cookstown, Magherafelt and Maghera.	4.5 Procure and appoint a suitable company to conduct a feasibility study to scope potential options/costs to introduce Town Centre Sound Systems.		Up to £8,000 (less, if DFC provides match funding)

	<p>4.6 Streetscape Interventions /Health Check</p> <p>4.7 Town Business Spruce Up Scheme</p>	<p>4.6 Assessment to appoint professional services to conduct a costed intervention/health check for rural and urban areas. (subject to support from government departments)</p> <p>4.7 Submit funding bid to DFC to request additional funding of £200,000 to progress Phase 2 Town Spruce Up Scheme applications for 50 businesses currently held on a Reserve List</p> <p>Procure an Independent Chartered Architect to oversee Phase 2 (Reserve List) schemes, provided DFC allocate the additional capital funding to allow these schemes to be progressed.</p> <p>Continue the delivery of Phase 1 Town Business Spruce Up Schemes with up to 67 town centre businesses being supported.</p>	<p>4.6 Source suitable professional support to provide costed recommendations/ interventions that would enhance the streetscapes.</p> <p>4.7 Submit application to DFC, seeking an additional £200K funding.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce a document will help facilitate and create forward-looking interventions to seek external funding as and when they become available to enhance streetscapes. • Subject to attaining additional DFC capital funding, progress Phase 2 (Reserve List) Projects for Town Spruce Up Scheme. 	<p>£30,000 (less, if DFC/DAERA provides match funding)</p> <p>A funding application will be submitted to DFC seeking an additional £200K funding</p> <p>£15,000</p> <p>£200,000 (via DFC letter of offer to fund Phase 1 projects)</p>
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Place Shaping	5.1 Place Shaping	5.1 Pilot and produce a Strategic Place Shaping Plan for Cookstown.	<p>5.1 Progress Funding Bid to DFC seeking match funding to Create a Place Shaping Plan for Cookstown.</p> <p>Subject to a successful funding bid to DFC, procure the services of a professional organisation to develop a comprehensive independent Place Plan for Cookstown Town Centre, with proactive engagement and consultation with key stakeholders.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce a Cookstown Strategic Place Plan, that will shape future development (subject to receiving DFC match funding). <p><i>Once Cookstown Place Plan is completed, it is our aspiration in future years to seek match funding from DFC to create similar Place Plans for Dungannon and Magherafelt.</i></p>	<p>Up to £15K from ED budget.</p> <p>Match funding required from DFC.</p>
	5.2 Internal Cross-Departmental Engagement	5.2 Explore development of establishing a Cross Departmental Officer Task & Finish Work Group	5.2 Scheduled officer led meetings to share knowledge, address cross cutting issues and explore opportunities to enhance regeneration across the district.		£2,000

		Town Centre Forum Meetings to maintain engagement and partnership working. With town centre stakeholders from the public, private, community and voluntary sectors.	5.2 Scheduled forum meetings with key stakeholders, whilst enhancing engagement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Co-Ordinated approach for joint advocate of the district.	
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Theme	Projects	Outputs	Methodology	Outcomes	Budget
Business Start and Entrepreneurship	<p>1.1 Delivery of Start Up Support ('GoFort') to include one-to-one mentoring and events.</p> <p>(No of events 2024/25 to be confirmed by ENI)</p>	<p>1.1.1 256 Client-led Business Plans developed with Mid Ulster entrepreneurs.</p> <p>1.1.2 153 Jobs promoted as a result of start-up support.</p> <p>1.1.3 142 New enterprises started.</p>	<p>1.1 Raise awareness and secure client participation through regional and local marketing activities.</p> <p>1.2 Monitor activity and review Contractor claims, providing updates to Lead Council (Belfast CC) re any issues.</p> <p>1.3 Highlight if remedial action required if performance falls below target.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entrepreneurship stimulated and supported in Mid Ulster • Statutory Jobs Target achieved. • Where relevant, on completion, clients to be signposted to access follow-on support. 	<p>£147,926 (As per Collaborative Agreement with Belfast CC, to contribute to statutory element)</p> <p>Staff resources</p>
Business Sustainability and Growth	<p>1.2 Delivery of Growth and Scaling Support (part of the new 2 year Go Succeed service) to include one-to-one mentoring, workshops, and grants.</p>	<p>1.2.1 Supporting the sustainability and growth of 200 Mid Ulster businesses and social enterprises.</p>	<p>2.1 Promotion of support via range of channels to drive business participation.</p> <p>2.2 Monitor activity and review</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote the sustainability and growth of 200 businesses/social enterprises • 90 new jobs created 	<p>(Included within £147,926 above)</p> <p>Staff resources</p>

			<p>Contractor claims, responding to Lead Council (Belfast CC) re any issues.</p> <p>2.3 Actions taken to address any identified areas of underperformance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 107 enterprises engaged in new markets • 55 enterprises with improved productivity 	
	<p>1.2.2 Digital Transformation Flexible Fund ('DTFF') (2023/26)</p> <p>(11 Council Collaborative Prog. led by Newry, Mourne & Down Council)</p>	40 Businesses to access grant support.	Council to promote the Programme to Mid Ulster businesses to drive applications to the DTFF	40 Businesses successfully applying for grant support for digital transformation activities.	£33,831 Contribution from Mid Ulster Council for Year 2 of the DTFF (NM&D Management costs)
Business Information Service	3.1 Mid Ulster District Council's Business E-shot Service	3.1 1 200 Mid Ulster businesses signing up to receive regular e-shots outlining key support and funding opportunities and information re initiatives offered by Council and other business support bodies.	<p>3.1 Officers' ongoing research & information gathering on business supports.</p> <p>Targeted promotion of the service to Mid Ulster businesses to encourage more to sign up.</p>	Registered businesses kept informed of new funding and support opportunities on a regular basis	Staff time

	3.2 Economic Development Officers' signposting and support service for business	Businesses contacting economic development unit are triaged by officers and receive assistance to identify support provision	3.2 Funding and support opportunities also promoted on Council's website and social media channels (where appropriate)		Staff time
Business Capacity Building and Events	5.1 Mid Ulster Enterprise Week Events (Nov 2024)	5.1 Up to 10 events to be delivered as part of Mid Ulster Enterprise Week (mix of online and in person events) providing information on a range of key business areas, delivered to 500 participants.	5.1 Procure delivery of a Management Partner to assist Council deliver and promote a programme with up to 10 events.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide up to 10 seminars and/or webinars for businesses during Mid Ulster Enterprise Week to inform / businesses on a range of issues. 	£28,000 (a proportion of these costs will be used to employ the Management Partner)
	5.2 International Women's Day Events (March 2025)	5.2 Events to celebrate the contribution of women to our society.	5.2 Delivery of two key events to celebrate the valuable contribution made by women to local society.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two women's events to take place in Mid Ulster – locations to be agreed. 	£12,000
	5.3 Mid Ulster Business Awards 2024 supported, (subject to Council conditions)	5.3 Up to 12 Mid Ulster business finalists nominated.	5.3 Council consideration to be given to sponsoring the 'Best SME Award Category'	Mid Ulster Business Awards Event to be held in the Royal Hotel, Cookstown (if Council fund the Best SME Category) they will be allocated 4 places to attend the event.	Mid Ulster Business Awards £2,000+Vat

Supporting cross border initiatives	6.1 Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN)	6.1 Strategic development of central border region supported, including projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Digital Connectivity - Creative Industries & Tourism - Roads & Broadband Infrastructure - Urban & Rural Development - Cross-Border Linkages 	6.1 Council's contribution is paid via a SLA which stipulates the requisite documentation and Progress Updates, required by Council and shared with the Development Committee.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICBAN consists of 8 Member Councils north and south (Mid Ulster District Council, Fermanagh and Omagh Council, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council and Monaghan, Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, and Cavan County Councils). 	£14,750
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Theme	Projects	Outputs	Methodology	Outcomes	Budget
Broadband and Telecommunications	7.1 Broadband and Working Group	7.1 Lobby and Influence greater broadband and telecoms infrastructure development across Mid Ulster.	7.1 Scheduled Meetings with Broadband Working Group 7.1 Meetings with DfE & Fibrus	Monitor the roll out of Project Stratum, Project Gigabit and the Mobile Action Plan (NI)	Staff Resource

Theme	Projects	Outputs	Methodology	Outcomes	Budget
Rural Business support / attracting investment	8.1 Potential Micro business development scheme (TRPSI) – subject to DAERA funding,	8.1 Potential scheme providing Small capital grants for business development activities (subject to funding from DAERA)	8.1 Open call and assessment	Build production capacities and improve turnover within the rural micro business sector in Mid Ulster	Programme subject to funding from DAERA in 2024/25.

Theme	Projects	Outputs	Methodology	Outcomes	Budget
Strategic Projects	1.1 Delivery of Mid South West (MSW) Regional Economic Strategy	<p>1.1 Drive forward a number of collaborative economic development projects as part of the Growth Deal. These include:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A29 Cookstown Bypass Scheme • Desertcreat Green Innovation Business Park • NI Agri-Food Robotics Centre (Loughry) • Industrial Investment Challenge Fund (MSW wide) 	<p>Continue to work in partnership with Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon and Fermanagh and Omagh local authorities.</p> <p>Business Case development</p> <p>Governance arrangements via the MSW Executive Steering Group</p>	Improved productivity and regional competitiveness.	Growth Deal and other funding streams as appropriate.
Strategic Projects	1.2 Support the delivery of the MSW Net Zero Programme.	1.2 Co-ordinate the regional development of each MSW Council's net zero delivery plans, improve delivery pathways and enable adoption at scale of innovative products and services throughout the local economy.	<p>MSW Innovation & Delivery Officer.</p> <p>MSW Project Team.</p>	Improved Net Zero skills and capability among local businesses.	£300,000 secured from Innovate UK

<p>Strategic Projects</p>	<p>1.1 To address barriers to economic growth to include Industrial land supply and investment in strategic road infrastructure and funding.</p>	<p>1.1 Identify pilot project and funding opportunities in partnership with Invest NI.</p> <p>1.2 Develop a Masterplan for the Desertcreat site using funding from Shared Island Unit</p> <p>1.3 Progress the A29 Cookstown Bypass to Draft Orders Stage and commence Outline Business Case (OBC). Continue to lobby for a</p> <p>1.4 Identify key external funding opportunities to support investment in Council's Strategic capital projects e.g. LUF, UK Shared Prosperity Fund.</p>	<p>1.1 Continue to work with Invest NI to progress a pilot project and secure the necessary financial resources.</p> <p>1.2 Work with appointed master planning consultancy team.</p> <p>1.3 Continue to work with DfI to support the delivery of the scheme. High level lobbying to ensure a bypass for Dungannon is included in the RSTNTP.</p> <p>Work closely with central government and submit funding applications for prioritised projects.</p>	<p>Ensure an appropriate supply of industrial serviced land.</p> <p>Improved road infrastructure will support economic growth across the council area. Contribute to funding the delivery of key strategic capital projects.</p> <p>Potential to leverage financial investment into Mid Ulster to support the development of large strategic projects.</p>	<p>MUDC match funding contribution of 15,000 Euros for Shared Island Feasibility Study Report which has been completed, plus a contribution towards development of a Masterplan for Desertcreat</p>
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Supporting skills and employability within Mid Ulster	1.1 To provide appropriate support to the industry-led MEGA Network	1.1 Delivery of MEGA Phase 2 Collaborative Growth Work plan and marketing activities. Delivery of 3-year MEGA Strategic Action Plan.	1.1 Work in partnership with MEGA and Invest NI.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to the growth and development of the manufacturing and engineering sector. 	£15,000
	1.2 To support skills and people issues in the local construction sector.	1.2 Support the Mid Ulster Construction Cluster with an application to Invest NI's Collaborative Growth & Cluster Programme	1.2 Work with local businesses and Invest NI.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional funding support secured to sustain MEGA. 	£15,000 (but subject to match-funding being received from Invest NI)
	1.3 To address skills and employability challenges facing the economic recovery.	1.3 Delivery of Mid Ulster LMP 3 Year Strategy and 1 Year Action Plan 2024-2025.	1.3 Work with partners in the Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved collaboration and partnership working. Contribute to increased skills levels and access to labour. 	Awaiting funding award from DfC. £369,027.93
	1.4 To address low levels of numeracy skills through the Multiply Programme	1.4 Effective development and delivery of the Multiply programme through the planning, delivery and evaluation of a range of numeracy-based projects and initiatives throughout the District.	1.4 Work with community partners to deliver numeracy-based projects and initiatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local skills, labour and employability issues improved by stronger partnership working and co-ordination. Address the low levels of numeracy skills across the district. 	Awaiting funding award from DfE of £235,000 approx.

Mid Ulster Tourism Action Plan 2024 /2025

Theme	Projects	Outputs	Methodology	Outcomes	Total Budget
Profiling Mid Ulster Tourism offering - Marketing & Promotion	1.1 Summer Campaign	1.1 Unwinding Time Marketing Campaign promoting Mid Ulster tourism regionally, nationally, and internationally.	1.1, 1.2 & 1.3 Outdoor Advertising TV – NI & ROI Radio - NI Social Media, Videos recorded in association with tourism trade. Rolled out via Council, Unwinding Time and Embrace a Giant Spirit Social Media Channels	1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4 & 1.5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create greater awareness of Unwinding Time, Taste Mid Ulster brand and tourism experiences - locally, nationally, and internationally. • Contribute to increased visitor numbers, spend, job creation and skills in Mid Ulster • Contribute to increased traffic to Mid Ulster Council’s social media channels including Visit Mid Ulster 	£34,000
	1.2 Autumn/Winter Campaign	1.2 Marketing Campaign promoting Mid Ulster tourism experiences & attractions regionally, nationally, and internationally.			
	1.3 Spring Campaign	1.3 Marketing Campaign promoting Mid Ulster tourism experiences & attractions regionally, nationally, and internationally.			
	1.4 Promotional Trade and Consumer Shows	1.4 Attend key industry trade events to sell the region - B2B and B2C shows.	1.4 Officers to attend shows, in person, online or hybrid as required to promote our	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage increased local, national, and international visitors to Mid Ulster 	£10,000

			<p>tourism product under the “Unwinding Time” brand.</p> <p>Trade and Consumer Shows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clogher Valley Show, 31 July 2024 • Irish Tour Operators Association workshop, November 2024 • World Travel Market, London, November 2024 • Holiday World, Dublin, January 2025 or Holiday Show Limerick 11 & 12 January 2025 (in show) • Celtic Connections - Glasgow • Nordics Workshop February 2025 or other • Meet the Buyer – April 2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to the increase of International Tour Operators and Group visits to Mid Ulster 	
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	1.5 Fam Trips	1.5 Deliver key Fam trips to showcase tourist attractions and experiences across Mid Ulster. One external learning journey for industry outside of Mid Ulster	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flavours – October 2025/BIM • Great Days Out 5 October 2024 	1.5 Media Fams, Arm Chair Fams to local industry, schools and Tourism Industry Fams		£2,000
	1.6 Digital Presence	1.6 Create a strong digital presence for Visit Mid Ulster & Unwinding Time		1.6 Maintain Tourism Touch Screens in Cookstown, Dungannon, Coalisland & Magherafelt. Continuous update of Visit Mid Ulster Website.	1.6 Contribute to the increase of traffic to Visit Mid Ulster Unwinding Time website. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to update a global platform to attract international and national visitors. 	£14,500
	1.7 Visitor Information Services	1.7 Best practice at all the Visitor Information Centre's		1.7 Upskill Visitor Information staff via training	1.7 Excellence Customer Service	Staff time

Theme	Projects	Outputs	Methodology	Outcomes	Budget
Programmes and Events	2.1 Calendar of Events	<p>2.1 Tourism & Heritage Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hidden Heritage Programme - Who lives in a house like this? Ballyscullion, Blessingbourne, Springhill, Lissan House & Killymoon Castle. - Famine and Folklore tour (Friel's New Visitor Centre, Swatragh) - Enhancing the European Heritage Open Days in Mid Ulster by providing living history and storytelling tours at The Bridewell (Magherafelt), US Grants Ancestral Homestead (Ballygawley) and Emigrants Walk (Swatragh) • Great Days Out, Saturday 5 October 2024, targeting the domestic market and group business. 	2.1 Officers delivery in conjunction with the events team where required.	<p>2.1 Showcasing Mid Ulster's heritage product and experiences.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase visitor numbers across tourism & heritage sites in Mid Ulster • Attracting NI and ROI group organisers to book group days out in Mid Ulster 	£14,500

	<p>2.2 Heritage Strategy 2024-2029</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sperrins Hill Walking Festival focusing on the Sperrins Region in association with Sperrins Partnership September 2024 • Cookstown Christmas Switch on – November 2024 • Taste Mid Ulster Event, Pomeroy - June 2024 • Christmas Grotto at the Bridewell (Magherafelt) <p>2.2 Strategic vision for a Heritage Strategy in Mid Ulster for 2024 – 2029</p>	<p>2.2 The purpose of the Strategy is to enable and facilitate a co-ordinated and consistent approach to the promotion of heritage led tourism development as a local economic driver, while safeguarding the protection of Mid Ulster's heritage assets, through local community engagement and participation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting the Sperrins Region as a hill walking destination • Increase visitor numbers <p>2.2 To complete MUDC Heritage Strategy and Action Plan and identify funding opportunities to progress initial actions.</p>	<p>Funding the Heritage Action Plan, when complete, will be dependent on sourcing external funding</p>
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Theme	Projects	Outputs	Methodology	Outcomes	Budget
Business Support and Mentoring Programmes	3.1 World Host Training	3.1 Deliver WorldHost Principles of Customer Service, and WorldHost Ambassador Training to tourism and hospitality industry.	3.1 Tourism Development Officers are available to deliver WorldHost Customer Service Training both virtually and in-person. Officers attend People First Training when available	3.1 Improve Customer Service in tourism establishments across Mid Ulster	£500
	3.2 Tourism Development Group	3.2 Restructure the Tourism Development group to include members from all sectors. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host 6 meetings per annum 	3.2 Tourism officers manage the Tourism development Group and clusters delivery.	3.2 Continued strong engagement with our tourism and hospitality businesses.	Staff time
	3.3 Tourism Clusters	3.3 Tourism Officers to continue to manage the 4 clusters. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host 4 cluster meetings per annum 	3.3 Tourism officers manage each of the clusters delivery.	3.3 Continued strong engagement with our tourism and hospitality businesses.	Staff time

	3.4 Tourism Mentor Programme	3.4 Deliver mentoring across 5 new and existing tourism experiences including Taste Mid Ulster Businesses	3.4 Recruit mentor to deliver specialised experience development mentoring across selected promoters/ experiences.	3.4 Achieve 2 EAGS brand aligned new experiences in Mid Ulster	£10,000
	3.5 Industry Knowledge and Training	3.5 Deliver 6 relevant, targeted webinars to all businesses across Mid Ulster including, Developing your Seasonal Offer, Effective LinkedIn, TNI Web Portal, Pricing and Branding	3.5 Work in partnership with TNI, TIL and commission external mentor support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote workshops and webinars via Council and Tourism Social media, Whats App group and tourism trade newsletter 	3.5 Train 60 business reps in relevant and targeted webinars	£3,500
	3.6 Brown Signage	3.6 Progress Actions as highlighted in the Brown Signage Audit approved by Council's Development Committee.			Staff time

Theme	Projects	Outputs	Methodology	Outcomes	Budget
Financial Contributions to External Organisations	4.1 Sperrins Partnership	<p>4.1 Commencing work on the delivery of the short and long-term actions contained within the Brand and Tourism Action Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying funding opportunities and creating the respective business cases (HLF, RDP, Peace Plus etc) Completing an audit of the tourism product of Sperrins Region Forming strong cross boundary partnerships Researching and identifying the best practice delivery structure for Sperrin Region The formation and development of the remaining Thematic Groups cases The development of an AONB action and management plan for The Sperrins The formation and development of the remaining Thematic Groups. 	<p>4.1 Sperrins Partnership Project is a joint working collaboration between four councils across the Sperrin area Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, Derry City and Strabane District Council, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council and Mid Ulster District Council. Officers attend regular meetings.</p>	<p>4.1 Enhance the Sperrins Region to realise its potential with increased economic, tourism, heritage and infrastructure.</p>	£22,000

	4.2 Sperrins Partnership – Development of an AONB Management Plan for the Sperrins	4.2 Successful application made to DAERA’s Environmental Fund to develop a 5-year Action Plan and a 10-year Management Plan	4.2 Match funding contribution.	4.2 Completion of Sperrins AONB Management Plan which identifies actions and activities related to the protection, preservation, and promotion of the Sperrins.	Financed By DAERA
	4.3 Lough Neagh Rescue	4.3 To benefit the Lough Shore area within Mid Ulster by providing faster response times for rescues and other operations carried out in and around the Western Shores of Lough Neagh, and provide an emergency flood response service for Mid Ulster.	4.3 Provision of funding contribution towards Lough Neagh Rescue’s core running costs.	4.3 Provision of Rescue service along the Mid Ulster / Lough Neagh shoreline	£12,000
	4.4 Lough Neagh Partnership	4.4 Core running costs associated with Lough Neagh Partnership (LNP) in the delivery of marketing tourism, recreational, environmental and heritage activities on Lough Neagh (LN) and the shoreline on behalf of Mid Ulster District Council.	4.4 Continue to work in partnership with Mid Ulster Council and Lough Neagh Council areas	4.4 Ensure effective co-ordination of activities on Lough Neagh and its shoreline and deliver social, economic, and cultural benefits within Mid Ulster.	£22,000

Theme	Projects	Outputs	Methodology	Outcomes	Budget
Strategic Projects	5.1 Sperrins / Slieve Gallion	5.1 Seek funding to progress initial actions to develop the Sperrins/Slieve Gallion project.	5.1 Continue to work in partnership with local authorities, stakeholders, sponsor departments and Tourism NI.	5.1 Phased approach and source funding to develop phase 1.	Other funding streams as appropriate.
	5.2 Sliabh Beagh Feasibility Study	5.2 Recreation and tourism opportunity as part of a cross border initiative funded through Shared Island The focus of the project was to develop a number of work packages that will build upon existing services and facilities in the region creating Sliabh Beagh as an Eco Tourism Destination.	5.2 Outscope (ORNI) has completed a feasibility study for the region which includes the development of 7 work packages including the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hero Attractor • Walking • Cycling • Equestrian • Signage and Public Art • Auxiliary Services • Skills Gaps 	5.2 Work with partner Councils within the Sliabh Beagh Partnership to identify funding opportunities to deliver aspects of the overall project.	Other funding streams as appropriate such as Shared Island/Peace Plus

	5.3 Tullaghoge Fort Development	<p>5.3 Enhance existing path network with Interpretation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand path network within HED owned land • Provide 'open access' within HED owned land • Provide access to previously inaccessible sites of built heritage interest, such as, the recently discovered Great Hall. 	5.3 Continue to work in partnership with Government departments (HED) stakeholder	5.3 Phased approach and explore funding opportunities to develop phase 1.	<p>Explore potential opportunity to make an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund.</p> <p>Total Project cost estimated at £195,796 + Vat. Project is now at RIBA Stage 2.</p> <p>Other possible funding sources, Shared Island /PeacePlus</p>
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CONCLUSION

The Economic Development, Tourism & Strategic Projects Action Plan 2024-2025 contains a wide range of actions and commitments to drive economic growth and regeneration within Mid Ulster.

To help us deliver the Action Plan we recognise the importance of support from all our key partners across the public, private, community/voluntary sectors.

We acknowledge there are many challenges ahead in the future and over the coming weeks and months we will continue to lobby government to ensure the necessary interventions are brought forward to support those sectors most in need. This will be vital to protect local businesses and sustain jobs within the district.

Approval is sought from Members to approve the Economic Development, Tourism & Strategic Programmes Action Plan 2024-2025 and the projects and budgets contained herein. Members should note that a number of projects are predicated on Council being able to attract external funding to deliver a number of schemes within the Plan.

Fiona McKeown
Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes
Mid Ulster District Council

3 May 2024

Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Wednesday 10 April 2024 in the Council Offices, Burn Road, Cookstown

Members Present

Councillor McNamee, Chair

Councillors Bell, Black, W Buchanan, F Burton, Clarke, Corry, Forde, Gildernew, McLernon, McQuade (7.02 pm), Milne, Molloy, Monteith, Quinn (7.02 pm), Wilson

Officers in Attendance

Mr Black, Strategic Director of Communities & Place (SD: C&P)
Mr Clarke, Neighbourhood Development Manager (NDM)
Mr Gordon, Assistant Director of Health, Leisure & Wellbeing (AD: HL&W)
Ms F McKeown, Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes (AD: EDT&SP)
Ms M McKeown, Tourism Service Manager (TSM)
Ms Smith, Diversity & Integration Manager (D&IM)
Mr Curran, ICT Support
Mrs Grogan, Committee and Member Services Officer

Others in Attendance

Agenda Item 5 – Deputation – Brown Signage
Department for Infrastructure (DfI):
Mr Johnny Graham and Mr Brendan Elliott
Tourism NI (TNI):
Mr David Roberts & Ms Esther Dobbin

Councillor Mallaghan

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

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

D062/24 Notice of Recording

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

D063/24 Apologies

Ms Linney, Assistant Director of Development (AD: Dev).

D064/24 Declaration of Interests

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

Councillor Black declared an interest in Item 7, Community Grants – Drumnaglough Flute Band.

Councillor Gildernew declared an interest in Item 8 – Brantry Bard Group Service Level Agreement

Councillor Clarke declared an interest in Item 7 – Community Grants – Broughderg Area Development Association Ltd.

Councillor Forde declared an interest in Item 7 – Community Grants – Maghera Parish Caring Association and Magherafelt Women’s Group.

Councillor Wilson declared an interest in Item 7 – Community Grants – Friends of Killymoon Castle.

Councillor Milne declared an interest in Item 13 – SHHP Bellaghy Bawn Writers Residency Project.

Councillor Corry declared an interest in Item 7 – Community Grants – Moneyneena & District Development Initiative and Ballinascreen GAC

Councillor Bell declared an interest in Item 7 – Community Grants – Ballinderry Shamrocks GAC.

Councillor Gildernew declared an interest in Item 7 – Community Grants – Derrylatinee Parent Support Group.

Councillor Molloy declared an interest in Item 7 - Community Grants – Square Wheels Cycling Club.

Councillor Monteith declared an interest in Item – Ballysaggart Area Community Association and Eoghan Ruadh Hurling Club, Dungannon.

Councillor Quinn entered the meeting at 7.02 pm

Councillor McQuade entered the meeting at 7.02 pm.

D065/24 Chair’s Business

The Chair welcomed Ms Denise Smith, Diversity and Integration Manager to the her first Development Committee meeting and wished her well in her new role.

Councillor Molloy referred to Charlie Donnelly Winter School which had been ongoing for a number of years since the old legacy Dungannon Council. The member advised that as Mayor of Council this year he had met with a delegation from Spain,

with ongoing discussions taking place around the development of the Winter School going forward and how to develop and get it back up and running again as it had fallen away since Covid in terms of Council engagement and what we are doing. The member stated that there have been a number of contacts with Rivas de Vaciamadrid Council and discussions with their Mayor who was keen to develop the Winter School and to broaden it out and investigate what programmes that can be developed going forward. This would be in terms of the Winter School and possibly involving young people in cultural exchange in learning and development between the two Councils. The member said that it would be beneficial if Officers would work on something as a meeting was taking place with the Mayor of Rivas de Vaciamadrid virtually within the next fortnight and would be important that some sort of a programme can be developed from that.

Councillor Corry said that she would be happy to second Councillor Molloy's proposal.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that Officers investigate possible options for development of programme for Charlie Donnelly Winter School between Council and Rivas de Vaciamadrid Council.

D066/24 Deputation – Brown Signage

The Chair welcomed Ms Mary McKeown, Tourism Service Manager (TSM) to make an overhead presentation on the recently completed Brown Signage Audit commissioned by Council. Mr Johnny Graham and Mr Brendan Elliott from Dfl and Mr David Roberts & Ms Esther Dobbin from Tourism NI, were also in attendance to answer any queries Members had on brown signage (appendix).

Ms McKeown provided an overview to members on Brown Signage Audit as outlined:

- **Brown Signage Policy Background**
 - Tourism brown signage policy in Northern Ireland is implemented by the Department for Infrastructure (Dfl) in partnership with Tourism Northern Ireland (TNI).
 - Brown signs are used as a traffic management tool to guide visitors to tourist destinations in a safe and sustainable manner.
 - The Brown Signage policy in Northern Ireland is based on a set of guidelines including the quality and accessibility of the attraction or destination, the potential number of visitors, and the impact of the sign on the local environment. The policy is also based on the principle that brown signs should only be used for tourism purposes and should not be used for commercial or advertising purposes.
 - Dfl and TNI work closely with local councils and tourism stakeholders to identify locations where brown signs are required, and to ensure that they are designed and installed in accordance with the guidelines. The process involved in implementing and applying for brown signs is as follows:
 - The Council co-ordinates all applications.
 - Tourism NI confirms eligibility of the application as a tourist destination.
 - Dfl will determine the extent of the signage to be provided and will design and erect all signs. As part of its duty to manage the road network, Dfl

Roads will be ultimately responsible for whether signage is provided or not.

- The policy has not been reviewed or updated since 2014 to ensure that it remains effective and sustainable, and to reflect changes in the tourism industry and visitor behaviours.
 - Overall, the Brown Signage Policy in Northern Ireland is a key element of the region's Tourism Strategy and plays an important role in directing the visitor to the visitor experiences in the Council area.
- **Tourism Trade Feedback of the Current Process**
 - The process in general seems to be lengthy, expensive and involves too many partners and stakeholders.
 - Existence of illegal signs has resulted in feedback that DfI do not seem to police or remove them.
 - It was noted that the eligibility criteria for a Tourism Body to be permanently open or have a certain accreditation can be too onerous and excludes a lot of smaller tourism businesses.
 - Meeting to be held with TNI and DfI prior to applications being submitted.
- **Context and Purpose of the Audit**
 - Tourism NI and DfI currently do not hold information on locations of brown signage in MUDC area.
 - MUDC commissioned a Brown Signage Audit in December 2022 and this was completed in March 2023.
 - All brown tourism signs were surveyed, photographed, geo-located and placed on a google map link
 - A schedule of possible new and replacement signage was identified and will be submitted to DfI for approval.
- **Audit Requirements**

The main elements of the work carried out:

 - All signs checked and repositioned if required
 - Report any missing signage
 - Improve the visibility and cleaning of signs
 - Prepare a document displaying a photograph of each sign and its location noting what remedial action was taken or is required.
 - Prepare and submit a report detailing what replacement or new signage is required.
- **Brown Signage Locations**
 - All brown tourism signs were surveyed, photographed, geo-located and placed on a google map link, allowing all photos of the signs to be identified at their actual geographic location.
- **Recommendations Going Forward**
 - Damaged signs
 - Tourist sites no longer operating
 - Update list annually
 - Heritage and Tourism sites

- Policy and procedure review
- Inform tourism stakeholders
- Clear visible signs

Ms M McKeown (TSM) advised that Mr Johnny Graham (Dfl), Mr David Roberts (TNI) and herself would be happy to answer any questions that members may have.

The Chair thanked Ms M McKeown for her presentation and asked for any comments that members may have in relation to Brown Signage.

Councillor Bell thanked Ms McKeown for her very extensive report. The member referred to signs which were currently erected illegally and enquired what the process and policy was to having these signs removed.

Mr Graham advised that policy was there for that process which is taken forward through their maintenance section. A notice is served on the operator who erected the signs illegally and if they refuse to co-operate Dfl can go in and remove them and any costs associated with that removal are then transferred back to the operator. Dfl do not usually go in and remove a one-off sign but go into an area and take them all down rather than being seen as targeting one particular area or business. Mr Graham advised if there was one particular sign members may want removed due to causing issues or contentions, he asked that Dfl be made aware, and this will be addressed. Sometimes signs block sightlines and cause road safety hazards and these are investigated. Mr Graham said that at present there is an issue with staff resources in removing illegal signs and was something that the department was working on.

Councillor Bell enquired if Council were to establish the illegal signs in collaboration with Dfl and TNI could a proposal be made to have all these signs taken down expediently.

Mr Graham said that he could not guarantee the timeframe as there was a process involved as the operator would have to be notified and afforded the opportunity to remove the sign. Due to staff resourcing issues and being referred to maintenance section this could be an issue as their priority is road maintenance. Mr Graham asked if there was a list of signs members were concerned about, then these should be compiled and forwarded on to Dfl who would address them.

Councillor Corry said that she would like to raise two issues. Firstly, in relation to Sperrins Gateway signage, these signs are dilapidated and seen better days by far. The member stated no-one wants to take ownership or maintain the signage which was disappointing as this was one of our biggest tourist assets and disgraceful the way it was left lying.

Councillor Corry also enquired about how criteria or eligibility was met if it was not about a specific business but more about a site, i.e. Bellaghy Hunger Strikers Graves, with hundreds and thousands of visitors coming to visit each year but do not know where the local graveyard is, stopping at local shops and other places enquiring.

Mr Graham in response to process around Sperrin Gateway signage advised that there were a number of signs out there that does require maintenance and if Dfl were

made aware them, then work can be carried out between DfI, TNI and Council. Signs can be redesigned and priced back to Council as Council owned signs, but there is a number of Council owned signs which don't need maintenance but can take report of inventory of the signs for maintenance and repair. If Council owned signs, then can work with Mary and her team to get the signs designed and costed in conjunction with TNI. In terms of business signs, would need to liaise with business owner to invest in that sign which sometimes can be a lengthy negotiation. Mr Graham advised that they would work with Council regarding Sperrin Gateway signage.

Mr Graham in response to query around eligibility advised that it has to be a tourist led facility and TNI will provide advice on whether it is a tourist facility or not. If that is the case, then consideration will be given to paying for the signage on an A or B class road.

Councillor Gildernew said as Chair of the Tourism Development Group, she had already foreseen the audit and the preview she had seen had been much more in-depth, with work going into it being formidable and fabulous on behalf of the team. The member referred to the interactive map and said that it was really good when you go into your own area or other tourist areas, this makes tourism much more accessible for visitors coming to the area. The member said that she would like to raise a question around the policy and failings of the policy in terms of seasonal businesses which are not accessible 24 hours per day and asked if policy would be revised to meet the needs.

Mr Graham advised that the division only implements the policy and do not make the decisions as headquarters deal with that and asked if there was anything which was within the policy which needed addressed which is up for review, now is the time to raise issues and these will be reassessed, but at the moment seasonal type businesses do not meet the criteria.

Councillor Clarke referred to previous comment where it was stated that signage was only available from A and B class roads.

Mr Graham agreed that this was the case, but it would be signposted right into the facility taken from the B class or C class roads but would be signposted from the A and B class roads.

Councillor Clarke referred to a C class road and stated that this would have to come from somewhere else in the first instance.

Mr Graham advised if it was within a town for a bed & breakfast, it would have the shape of a bed on the sign and not naming the business, as it is not seen as an advertisement feature.

Councillor Clarke referred to rural areas which would impact on different Council areas also.

Mr Graham said if there was a particular area to let the department know and this would be investigated.

Councillor Clarke referred to areas around Davagh, OM and Stone Circles which are within Mid Ulster, but two townlands of Fermanagh & Omagh District Council.

Mr Graham advised that the department does work in collaboration with other partners in Councils but was not to say that this would be assessed separately and could be assessed together as one application.

Councillor Burton welcomed the representatives who came along tonight to discuss brown signage. The member stated as previous Chair of the Tourism Development Group, she wanted to commend Mary and her team for the work, they have put into this, which has not been done within the last few months, but with a lot of work going on for years to reach this point. She said that it was her understanding that there was an idea at the beginning when this policy was set, that it would be reviewed within 7 years and now we are into 10 years and no matter what it is after 10 years, it needs looked at in her opinion and a review is something that Council would be very keen to push for at this stage. The member advised that she represents the Clogher Valley area where quite a lot of small rural businesses were established during Covid and would be important for Council to really support our small businesses as getting to a rural location can be difficult and they need help and support. The member said it was her understanding that Council had to write to the policy makers and was something that we really need to push for in this area as the policy and procedures around this needs to be looked at as soon as possible.

Mr Graham said that these can be brought to the local division where it would be forwarded on to the headquarters with any concerns in which members may have for a combined review of the policy. He said that he understood the frustration with the length of time for the review of the policy but due to Covid and other factors like staffing resources, but wanted to reassure members that it is currently being reviewed at present.

Councillor Wilson advised that he was the first one to raise the issue around brown signage especially around the criteria being set by Tourism NI and was curious to know what criteria the Department use to work with DfI to allow brown signage. There was one particular business within Mid Ulster close to Cookstown that the Department had turned down but was hopeful that this was going to be granted. He enquired what the criteria was that the Department would class as tourism attraction is.

Councillor Wilson also enquired whether the applicant was responsible for erecting the signs themselves.

Mr Roberts in response to Councillor Wilson's first query advised that in the first instance this was about signposting people to facilities and attractions which are being used by visitors. He was aware that some of the categories within the policy does need to be reviewed and a case to reconsider whether one or two new categories need to be added in. He said that there is quite a number of categories that are used by locals and visitors like golf courses, picnic sites and restaurants, a whole range of existing facilities that would be multi-use and there was a need to review the policy. From Tourism NI's prospective there was a need to keep the visitor at the forefront and recognise that there will be certain types of categories and facilities that do not meet the criteria due to very limited visitor use. He said that things are evolving and new

experiences coming on board and consideration needs to be given on how to reflect that.

Mr Graham in response to Councillor Wilson's query regarding cost transfer advised that Dfl works with the applicant and TNI on what the applicant wants on the sign and what Dfl can provide due to certain guidelines on what can be implemented. Signs are designed within Dfl Roads and costings responsibility of the applicant, with Dfl going out and erecting the sign on the road. Mr Graham said that Dfl sometimes find particular issues within very rural areas, with limited verge widths around junctions, sightlines and practical issues with putting signs on very minor roads without putting them into the hedge and the possibly of being overgrown in a year's time. He confirmed that the applicant does pay full cost of the sign and putting it on site.

Councillor Wilson enquired about the turnaround time in the event of someone making an application to Council working in conjunction with Dfl and TNI and enquired if there was sufficient manpower in place to turn this around quickly and having it erected.

Mr Roberts advised that when an application is received that this is very quickly checked against TNI database of existing signs, applications and criteria. He said that this is a very quick process with a dedicated team to lead on this and as soon as criteria is satisfied, TNI will inform Dfl to take forward for implementation.

Mr Graham advised that the design and costings does not physically take long, but more down to industrial issues with staff and manpower within this last 12 months in trying to get the signs erected on site. He advised that options were being investigated at the moment i.e. small-scale contractor but would be reluctant to go down that route as additional costs would have to be transferred onto the applicant. Mr Graham advised that the Department was doing their best to get additional staff resources to get the signs out.

The Chair thanked Ms McKeown (TSM) and representatives from Dfl and Tourism NI for coming along tonight to answer queries from members on brown signage.

The representatives from Dfl and TNI withdraw from the meeting at 7.35 pm.

Matters for Decision

D067/24 Development Report

The Strategic Director of Communities and Place (SD: C&P) presented previously circulated report which sought approval for the following –

- Irish Language Plan 2024 – 2025
- D-Day 80
- Development Department - Update

Councillor Wilson advised that Killymoon Castle were having D-Day celebrations that weekend with some impressive shows and one of the lanterns would be ideal for that.

Councillor Monteith declared an interest in Dungannon Gaelic Forum.

Councillor Monteith said that he would be stating his opposition to the D-Day events to promote British militarism.

Councillor Monteith stated that this Council in the interests of equality have not supported or being involved in events in the last number of years in relation to significant centenaries in Irish history and only a token gesture paid to Centenary 1916, nothing done for the War of Independence, 1920's and civil war. If we are supposed to be working together on these issues, felt there was certainly no equality, and his name would not be part of any glorification of British military activity and wished to state on record his opposition to that proposal.

Councillor Monteith referred to item 2.9 – PCSP and stated that within the report there is an issue relating to the Justice and Security Act and the use of stop and search. Councillor Monteith wished to put on record that stop and search is used disproportionately against the nationalist/republican community, it's used disproportionately against communities deemed to be nationalist and republican, it's used disproportionately against the Irish people and an absolutely scandalous piece of legislation where by a member of the British police force can stop you even with no suspicion in whether they believe you are involved in an activity or not. The member said that he would again be stating his opposition to this abhorrent, draconian legislation and should be resisted at all points.

Proposed by Councillor Bell
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to –
- Approve the annual Irish Language Plan
 - Approve proposal for D-Day 80
 - Note the Development update.

D068/24 Community Grants

The Chair advised members that Councillor Mallaghan was in attendance and invited him to address the committee.

Councillor Mallaghan thanked members for allowing him the opportunity to address the Development Committee tonight. The member advised that like everyone else he had received the papers last week in regards to Community Grants and had a good opportunity to read through them, but having looked at the limited information which was available within the report and trying to cross analysis with the guidance which is provided during the application process, he found it very difficult to understand how some of the applications had correlated with the objectives that they were trying to achieve. The member advised that he had contacted the Development department and asked for additional information and yesterday was advised that he would not be in receipt of that information, he had reminded Officers since of his rights as a Councillor in terms of the constitution of this Council that he is entitled to see additional information if it's requested. He understood that between a week receiving papers and Development committee commencing that this was a short timescale, but did not have the opportunity to investigate further the information required in order to be in a sound mind to make that decision, particularly when it comes to full Council at

the end of the month. The member said that he was not convinced through the very limited information through the report that some of these applications meet the criteria as set out by guidance as published on the Council website. The member felt that this was of great concern and important to attend the meeting tonight to share his concerns with the rest of the committee but would still like the opportunity to receive the information that he had requested so that the right decisions can be made going forward.

Councillor Bell said that by listening to Councillor Mallaghan he felt it would be prudent that the request that has been made be given a fair hearing and information forthcoming and would make a proposal to defer this particular item to full Council.

Councillor McLernon seconded Councillor Bell's proposal.

Councillor Wilson said that he had listened to the objection but felt that members needed to have faith in our Officers and if there was a query which came in against the criteria which is set, then Councillors have a right to listen and hear that. The member cautioned in that we have all along, every report, every grant in which has come before us has always been approved as members always had that faith within the Officer team dealing with it. He said what strikes him is that the money requested is always £1,500 and very few not on that figure.

Councillor Molloy said that he understood what Councillor Wilson was saying but in previous times committee has been asked just to approve a recommendation but now we have been placed with options and felt that it would be prudent to have all the relevant background information to make that decision.

Councillor Burton declared an interest in Bawn Development Association, Caledon Regeneration Partnership and Community Transport.

Councillor Burton advised that Councillors had made these decisions back in the old Council and the decision was taken that going forward that this would be carried out by our Officer team. The member said that a lot of people were giving up their time freely to do a lot of work in their communities and felt that Councillors had to have faith in our Officer team as the process was there. The member enquired if there could be issues with other things and felt that a lot of these communities drastically need this funding to run their events and Council needed to be careful to be seen providing support when required.

Councillor Quinn said that he would share some of the concerns raised by Councillor Mallaghan and also concerns raised by Councillors Wilson and Burton in having faith with our Officer team. The member said that grants was not an easy process to go through but if questions are being raised and information required by Councillors then it's only but right that these are addressed. The member said that he didn't think it was out of place as Councillors would be in the firing line if something arises and would be happy to support the proposal.

Councillor Mallaghan wished to clarify that he was not questioning the integrity of Officers as he was aware that it was a mammoth task in trying to get grants out, this was about trying to get access to information.

Councillor Wilson requested that the information requested be shared with all members to try and move the process forward.

The Chair agreed that it would be important that the information be forwarded to all members as everyone was equal.

The Chair hoped that this matter could be solved before the next Council meeting at the end of the month.

Councillor Mallaghan withdrew from the meeting at 7.47 pm.

Proposed by Councillor Bell
Seconded by Councillor McLernon and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to defer Community Grants to full Council until members have the opportunity to review the detail of the grants. Any additional documentation shared with a Member should also be forwarded to all Councillors.

D069/24 Brantry BARD Group Service Level Agreement

The Assistant Director of Health, Leisure & Wellbeing (AD: HL&W) presented previously circulated report to seek approval to enter into a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Brantry BARD Community Group for caretaker and cleansing duties within Brantry Wood.

Proposed by Councillor Corry
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to note the contents of the report and approve to:

- Enter into a Service Level Agreement with Brantry BARD Community Group to provide on-site support services 6 hours per week, 4 days per week on a flexible rota at an approx. cost of £100.72 per week/ £5,237.44 per annum.

This is for the period May 2024 – March 2025, and thereafter reviewed annually as part of the overall SLA report presented to Members on an annual basis. This will be reviewed for effectiveness and extension in line with other annual Service Level Agreements in support of Council's leisure and outdoor recreation services.

D070/24 Stewartstown Community Group Service Level Agreement

The Assistant Director of Health, Leisure & Wellbeing (AD: HL&W) presented previously circulated report to seek approval to enter into a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Stewartstown Community Group (SCG) for caretaker and cleansing duties within Drumcairne Forest.

Councillor McLernon said that she would be happy to propose the recommendation within the report as it was very welcome to see the local community working in partnership with Council and doing a great job and this arrangement will be a great benefit to the Council and local community facilities. The member also wished to thank the AD: HL&W and Recreation & Countryside Officer for putting these arrangements in place.

Councillor Quinn said that he would be happy second the proposal as the work which has went into Drumcairne this last number of years has transformed it for the better. The member was aware of how active the local community were and how fierce they defend Drumcairne Forest but asked what was in place if in the event that someday the whole place is littered, and the work is not being done to the level Council expect. The member enquired if reviews were being carried out in the area, with someone going in and out inspecting the area.

The AD: HL&W advised that with all SLA's there is set agreement which sets out key performance indicators to make sure that each of our groups are well informed and have the adequate resources to do so. He advised that spot checks are carried out as part of the SLA's, agreement was Council would withdraw from these sites to the same frequency in which we do currently but does not mean that Council walk away completely. There is still some larger maintenance aspects in which Council were responsible and on some occasions would be in carrying out spot checks if inspectors were on route within the area. The AD: HL&W said that the aim is to meet with the groups formally every 6 months as part of a KPI review, but informally also on a quarterly basis, and hoped there is enough communication loop and feedback loop to address any issues, but if there were some distained areas of concern, there is scope within each SLA to withdrawn the services and financial investment. This would be reviewed each year and brought back to committee for consideration.

Councillor Quinn said that we have great facilities throughout Mid Ulster and enquired if there was a system in place to monitor how many people attends these tourist areas like Drumcairne Forest.

The AD: HL&W advised that Council use footfall counters within each of these sites which is reported back through the P&R Committee, Corporate Improvement Objectives but doesn't go into the granular detail of each of sites of individual locations across the Council. The AD: HL&W said through his team a report could be brought back to this committee to provide an idea of our main visitor sites on the throughput over the last period of time. He stated that from Covid, footfall has increased extensively within our visitor attractions.

Proposed by Councillor McLernon
Seconded by Councillor Quinn and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to note the contents of the report and approve to:

- Enter into a Service Level Agreement with Stewartstown Community Group to provide on-site support services equating to 6 hours per week, 4 days per week on a flexible rota at an approx. cost of £75.54 per week/ £3,928.08 per annum.

This is for the period May 2024 – March 2025, and thereafter reviewed annually as part of the overall SLA report presented to Members on an annual basis. This will be reviewed for effectiveness and extension in line with other annual Service Level Agreements in support of Council's leisure and outdoor recreation services.

D071/24 Economic Development Report - OBFD

The Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes (AD: EDT&SP) presented previously circulated report to provide Members with an update on key activities as detailed below:

- Tourism Trade and Consumer Shows/Events 2024/2025
- Hidden Heritage Tours 2024
- Mid Ulster Brown Signage Audit
- Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP) 2023/2024 Funding
- Service Level Agreement – Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN) 2024/2025
- MEGA – Progress Report for 2023/2024 and Third Funding Contribution for 2024/2025 via Service Level Agreement

Councillor Bell said that he wished to raise a question on item 2 – Hidden Heritage Tours 2024. The member said that he was sure that members would all agree that heritage is a very broad and diverse range within our Council area, but had noted that the plans for this year appear to place a concentration on the Plantation era of our local heritage and asked if the Officer could produce the total list that they have considered of the events for 2024 before seeking approval tonight.

Councillor Clarke concurred with Councillor Bell, we have a wide range of heritage in Mid Ulster and need to showcase it across the range and the first thing that he had noticed was that this was basically one period and would be interesting to show what other opportunities have been explored.

Councillor Corry advised that houses are well known, whether tourist destinations or wedding venues or similar things, but she had thought that Hidden Heritage Tours were a less known attraction of sites and felt that this was something that Council should be trying to promote.

The AD: EDT&SP advised that Officers could summarise the focus of hidden heritage tours in previous years and said that further options could be explored, in addition to those contained within the report, and an update brought to a future meeting for Members consideration.

Councillor Bell enquired if it was the case that in previous years Tourism department would take one particular topic to be concentrated upon for that one particular year. In other words, we take a particular aspect of our heritage and focus on that for 2021 and another topic in 2022 etc.

Ms M McKeown, Tourism Service Manager (TSM) agreed that this was the case. The TSM said that through our Heritage Cluster discussions it was decided where we are going for the next year, and it agreed through that group that we would look at our houses as it brought in the full of the district. This would mean that focus was going to be on Ballyscullion House in the North, Three Sisters Tours in the South which would take in Killymoon Castle, Lissan House and Springhill House and finally Blessingbourne in the Clogher Valley. When this is investigated, we look across the district and obtaining access into some of those houses that you cannot get into and this was why the theme was looked at “Who Lives in a House Like This” but issues can be taken on board and go back to review that. She advised the Tourism Team had completed earlier Tours in Broughderg area, OM Dark Skies area, a lot of archaeology heritage sites, O’Neill dynasty story and Banquet on The Hill etc. In previous years all these things have been looked at and each year a different aspect is looked at, similar to events run by the legacy Cookstown Council called Hidden Heritage Tours and Strolls in the Sperrins. This year the theme was the Plantation and looking at our great houses and providing that spread across Mid Ulster. The TSM said that Officers can look, review and investigate additional initiatives including organising a few other tours.

Councillor Bell said that on hearing the update he was happy enough with what was presented but not taking away from the point the Officer team were going to look at other heritage initiatives.

Councillor Corry referred to the matter around Plantation and said that there should be a balanced type of history as some people got their land and homes taken off them and was all well and good that these people had nice big houses, but there were a lot of people that didn’t have those bonuses.

The Chair advised that Officers had indicated that there were different themes for different years and if members had any extra themes, they wished to be considered then to liaise with Officers who were open to listen.

Proposed by Councillor W Buchanan
Seconded by Councillor Black and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to –

- 1) Tourism Trade and Consumer Shows/Events 2024/2025
Approve officer attendance at the various Tourism Trade and Consumer Shows/Events in 2024/2025 as detailed in the report, at a cost of circa. £10,000 from Council’s Tourism budget.

- 2) Hidden Heritage Tours 2024
Approve content of the proposed Hidden Heritage Programme 2024 and the associated costs to deliver the Tours, circa. £4,000 to be borne by Council's Tourism Budget in 2024/2025. In addition, it was recommended that Officers explore and include a few additional heritage tours and bring back a report to Committee by way of update.
- 3) Mid Ulster Brown Signage Audit
Approve Mid Ulster's Brown Signage Audit Report and Recommendations contained therein.
- 4) Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP) 2023-2024 Funding
 - i) **Note** update report
 - ii) **Retrospectively Approve** that Council's Chief Executive sign and return the Addendum to DfC's Letter of Offer to Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (2023-2024) providing additional funding of £17,505.50 for internal staff costs.
- 5) Service Level Agreement: Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN) (2024/2025)
 - i) **Note** ICBAN'S 2023/2024 Progress Report outlining actions completed against their 2023/2024 Service Level Agreement Projects.
 - ii) **Approve** Council's Service Level Agreement with ICBAN for the financial year April 2024 – March 2025.
 - iii) **Approve** the release of £14,750 from Council's Economic Development Budget (2024/2025), subject to Council being provided with the requisite documentation as detailed in the Service Level Agreement.
- 6) MEGA – Progress Report for 2023/2024 and Third Funding Contribution for 2024/2025 via Service Level Agreement
 - i) **Note** MEGA's Progress Report (2023/2024), outlining actions completed against their Service Level Agreement Targets for 2023/2024.
 - ii) **Approve** release of third and final payment to MEGA to £15,000 for 2024/2025 financial year, from Council's Economic Development Budget, subject to Council being provided with all the requisite documentation as detailed in the original Service Level Agreement (2022-2025)

Matters for Information

D072/24 Minutes of Development Committee held on 15 February 2024

Members noted Minutes of Development Committee held on 14 March 2024.

Councillor Burton said that after it was publicised regarding the towns spruce up schemes and was listed on the website at one stage that Fivemiletown was able to benefit from that which was changed. The member said that she had quite a number of rural villages asking if there was any support or help for them in terms of sprucing up their businesses and through NILGA she had raised this. She said that she was aware that DfC has a call out at the moment and enquired if Council were going to go down this line as she really wants to try and get support for the businesses. DfC has the Village Catalyst Grant Scheme, SEUPB has PEACE money for Urban Regeneration and DAERA has Digital Transformation with one of the calls currently open and would be really important as a rural Council to support the rural villages and businesses.

Councillor Monteith referred to D051/24 – MUDC Air Quality Report 2023 and said that he was aware of Councillor Molloy raising this issue at the last meeting. The member said that he would share his frustration as we seem to be going around in circles for many years and this cannot continue, and an action plan needed to sort these two areas out as a matter of urgency as nothing seems to be done. He said that reluctantly he would propose calling for another meeting and dismayed that this is just going down the same route once again.

The Strategic Director of Communities & Place (SD: C&P) agreed that this matter was ongoing for some time regarding the two AQMAs as identified as part of our statutory report. The SD: C&P advised that there is an action plan associated with the two AQMAs. As members may be aware there has been a number of engagements with members and statutory agencies and a commitment made that this engagement will be repeated on a 6-monthly basis. He appreciated that members were of the opinion that things were progressing slowly but could provide assurances to members that work is ongoing, but this is not an easy fix for these two affected areas and we do need to look at a number of different scenarios in the interim. He concluded by stating there is an action plan in place and Council are working with different agencies and will continue to engage with them and members around the issue.

Councillor Monteith enquired how far away were we away from 6 months.

The AD: HL&W advised that June was the 6-month deadline.

Councillor Monteith said that he will withdraw his proposal at this stage.

The Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes (AD: EDT&SP) in response to Councillor Burton's query advised that she was aware of a number of funding opportunities and her team were currently reviewing these. She said that it was no longer as simple as making a funding bid on behalf of Mid Ulster, as all PeacePlus funding bids requires Northern and Southern Partners, as well as preliminary lead-in works associated with each bid which takes at least six months.

She advised Council is involved in a few PeacePlus bids already through ICBAN and has invested significant time and resources in relation to these.

She further added that PeacePlus Partnership bids, require a Lead Partner (on behalf of all interested North/South Partners) and if MUDC were to assume this role, it would

involve an enormous amount of work and resources in managing the entire programme on a North/South basis. She noted that Mid Ulster would not have the necessary resources to act as Lead Partner, without additional resources, but noted, however, she had been in liaison with some partner organisations to ascertain their willingness to lead a Rural application. In summing up, she advised she was fully supportive of trying to source funding for rural areas and concluded by indicating she would bring back a report to a future Committee meeting to update Members.

Councillor Burton referred to pollution of dog fouling within our whole Council area with a number of suggestions put forward at the last Council meeting. The member referred to Carrons Lane in Clogher which was only opened two weeks ago and already a complete mess again with persistent dog fouling. The member said that this was something that was talked about from when she became a Councillor in 2005 and wished there was a way to alleviate people who were totally tortured with this in their rural areas, towns and villages. There were some suggestions in what other areas were doing put forward to Council and hoped that something would be brought back as a way forward regarding suggestions made at the last Council.

The Chair advised that this matter was to be brought back to a future Environment Committee meeting.

Councillor Quinn enquired if there was any response back from River Blackwater matter and Arts Council invitation.

The SD: C&P advised that response back from Minister regarding Blackwater River would be coming via Environment Committee.

The SD: C&P advised he would confirm if the letter has been issued to Arts Council yet.

D073/24 Corporate Events 2024

Members noted contents of previously circulated update which provided information on the proposed Mid Ulster District Council Corporate Events Programme for 2024.

Councillor McLernon wished to thank Councillor Gildernew in raising the issue of Summer Bash last month on her behalf and also the committee and officials for supporting it. She said that the event has proven to be a great success year on year in Coalisland and showcases the vibrant community spirit especially when running along the side of Newell Stores 10k and a great success and great day out for all. She said that she was keen to see this event grow each year and look forward to seeing the Summer Bash this year again in Coalisland.

Councillor Quinn concurred with Councillor McLernon's comments and said that he was very excited to see the Summer Bash reinstated. He sought clarification from Officers on whether this was a one-off event, or will it be reinstated year on year as we go forward. He referred to the Coalisland Town Forum Meeting next week and decision around Summer Bash and asked if this was the remit of Coalisland Town Forum meeting or by Officers as decision is up in May and a decision needs to be made on it.

The AD: HL&W advised that this is a one-off event for this year and members may recall that another event was also taken out of the Corporate Event Schedule during the rate setting process that year and were able to take it back last year due to no Continental Market and also bring it back this year at the request of this committee. As outlined within the report and members are minded to reinstate this as part of the annual schedule of corporate events, then it be asked that it be considered through rate estimates for next year to ensure that the budget allocation is added in for next year otherwise it will be a similar situation again. In terms of planning for the event, this has already started and normally done in tandem with Keeper Lit, work is progressing, tried and tested and is just a matter of tidying that up and advertising for the event will commence shortly.

The live broadcast ended at 8.16 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor McLernon
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

Resolved In accordance with Section 42, Part 1 Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 that Members of the public in accordance with Section 42, Part 1 Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 that Members of the public be asked to withdraw from the meeting whilst members consider items D074/24 to D076/24.

Matters for Decision

D074/24 SHHP Bellaghy Bawn Writers Residency Project
D075/24 Fivemiletown Partnership Proposal

Matters for Information

D076/24 Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on
14 March 2024

D077/24 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7pm and concluded at 8.30 pm.

Chair _____

Date _____

Annex A – Introductory Remarks from the Chairperson

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

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

I would remind the public and press that taking photographs of proceedings or using any means to enable anyone not present to see or hear proceedings, or making a simultaneous oral report of the proceedings are not permitted.

Thank you and we will now move to the agenda.



Mid Ulster
**Unwinding
Time**



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

Mid Ulster Brown Signage Audit

Development Committee
Wednesday 10th April 2024

Mary McKeown, Tourism Service Manager



BROWN SIGN POLICY BACKGROUND

- Tourism brown signage policy in Northern Ireland is implemented by the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) in partnership with Tourism Northern Ireland (TNI).
- Brown signs are used as a traffic management tool to guide visitors to tourist destinations in a safe and sustainable manner.



- The Brown Signage policy in Northern Ireland is based on a set of guidelines including the quality and accessibility of the attraction or destination, the potential number of visitors, and the impact of the sign on the local environment. The policy is also based on the principle that brown signs should only be used for tourism purposes and should **not be used for commercial or advertising purposes.**



- DfI and TNI work closely with local councils and tourism stakeholders to identify locations where brown signs are required, and to ensure that they are designed and installed in accordance with the guidelines. The process involved in implementing and applying for brown signs is as follows:
 - 1) The Council co-ordinates all applications.
 - 2) Tourism NI confirms eligibility of the application as a tourist destination.
 - 3) DfI will determine the extent of the signage to be provided and will design and erect all signs. As part of its duty to manage the road network, **DfI Roads will be ultimately responsible for whether signage is provided or not.**



- The policy has not been reviewed since 2014 or updated to ensure that it remains effective and sustainable, and to reflect changes in the tourism industry and visitor behaviours.
- Overall, the Brown Signage policy in Northern Ireland is a key element of the region's tourism strategy and plays an important role in directing the visitor to the visitor experiences in the Council area.



TOURISM TRADE FEEDBACK OF THE CURRENT PROCESS

- The process in general seems to be lengthy, expensive and involves too many partners and stakeholders.
- Existence of illegal signs has resulted in feedback that DfI do not seem to police or remove them.
- It was noted that the eligibility criteria for a Tourism Body to be permanently open or have a certain accreditation can be too onerous and excludes a lot of smaller tourism businesses.
- Meeting to be held with TNI and DfI prior to applications being submitted.



CONTEXT AND PURPOSE OF THE AUDIT

- Tourism NI and DfI currently do not hold information on locations of brown signage in MUDC area.
- Audit carried out in December 2022 until March 2023.
- All brown tourism signs were surveyed, photographed, geo-located and placed on a google map link
- A schedule of possible new and replacement signage was identified and will be submitted to DfI/Transport NI for approval.



AUDIT REQUIREMENTS

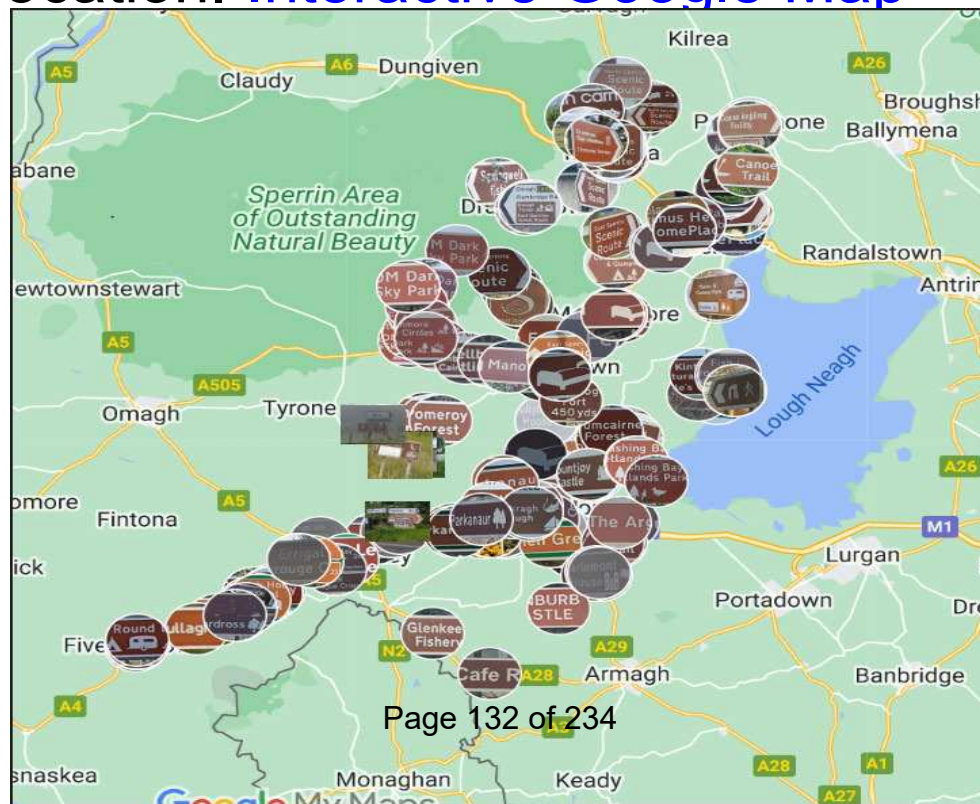
The main elements of the work carried out:

- All signs checked and repositioned if required
- Report any missing signage
- Improve the visibility and cleaning of signs
- Prepare a document displaying a photograph of each sign and its location noting what remedial action was taken or is required.
- Prepare and submit a report detailing what replacement or new signage is required.








BROWN SIGNAGE LOCATIONS

All brown tourism signs were surveyed, photographed, geo-located and placed on a google map link, allowing all photos of the signs to be identified at their actual geographic location. [Interactive Google Map](#)





BROWN SIGNAGE LOCATIONS

WIDER DUNGANNON AREA					
Ref	Attraction	Address	Area	WKT	Photo of Signage
A1	Altmore Fishery	1 Pomeroy Road, Donaghmore, Dungannon BT70 3BF	Wider Dungannon Area	POINT (-6.82 54.53)	
A2	Altmore Fishery	Aghnagar Road, Dungannon BT70	Wider Dungannon Area	POINT (-6.96 54.49)	
A3	Altmore Fishery	Inishative Road	Wider Dungannon Area	POINT (-6.94 54.55)	
A4	Altmore Fishery	Altmore Road, Dungannon BT70	Wider Dungannon Area	POINT (-6.95 54.56)	
A5	Altmore Fishery	Termon Road B4	Wider Dungannon Area	POINT (-6.99 54.58)	



RECOMMENDATIONS GOING FORWARD

- Damaged signs
- Tourist sites no longer operating
- Update list annually
- Heritage and Tourism sites
- Policy and procedure review
- Inform tourism stakeholders
- Clear visible signs



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QUESTIONS



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THANK YOU

Report on	Environmental Health Service Update
Date of Meeting	16 th May 2024
Reporting Officer	Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing
Contact Officer	Melanie Patterson, Environmental Health Service Manager

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	At the meeting of the Development Committee in September 2023, Members resolved that a regular update on the work of Mid Ulster District Council's Environmental Health Service should be provided to committee. This report seeks to provide Members with an update on the work of the Environmental Health Service during the period 1 st February 2024 and 31 st March 2024.
2.0	Background
2.1	The Health, Leisure, and Wellbeing Department's 'Environmental Health Service' provides a statutory regulatory service on behalf of Mid Ulster District Council.
2.2	The Environmental Health Service provides a range of Environmental Health and licensing services across the Mid Ulster District Council area, together with an animal welfare function which is currently delivered by Fermanagh and Omagh District Council as part of a Service Level Agreement, administered on our behalf.
2.3	The MUDC Environmental Health team are also contracted to deliver a range of other regulatory services on behalf of third-party statutory agencies, namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The assessment of Category 3 and 4 fireworks displays and the inspection of premises storing / selling fireworks on behalf of the Department of Justice • The sampling of private drinking water and completion of associated drinking water risk assessments on behalf of the Drinking Water Inspectorate for Northern Ireland. • House Fitness inspections on behalf of Northern Ireland Housing Executive
2.4	The Environmental Health Service also works in partnership with a diverse range of stakeholders, both internal and external, in striving to improve the health, safety and wellbeing of those who live, work, and visit the Mid Ulster District Council area.
2.5	The Environmental Health Service is currently delivered by officers who work across the three functional areas as set out below, they are supported by key Business Support Officers within the team. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Safety, Consumer Safety and Tobacco Control • Health and Safety, Planning and Environment • Neighbourhoods and Licensing

3.0	Main Report																						
3.1	The Environmental Health Service update set out below provides a substantial reflection of the work undertaken by the team in the period between 1 st February 2024 and 31 st March 2024																						
3.2	The statistics within this report are indicative of the requests for service received by the Department within the specified period and these new demands are in addition to officers' ongoing work on existing caseloads.																						
3.3	<p>Food Safety, Consumer Safety and Tobacco Control</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Nature of Regulatory Work</th> <th>Number Undertaken</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Food hygiene inspections / visits</td> <td>147</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Food standards inspections / visits</td> <td>93</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Food Samples taken for analysis</td> <td>116</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Food Hygiene requests for service / advice</td> <td>91</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Food Standards requests for service / advice</td> <td>21</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Response to Infectious Disease Notifications</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Consumer Protection requests for service / advice</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Consumer Protection inspections / visits</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Consumer Protection Initiatives Undertaken</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Smoke Free Inspections / Visits</td> <td>91</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Nature of Regulatory Work	Number Undertaken	Food hygiene inspections / visits	147	Food standards inspections / visits	93	Food Samples taken for analysis	116	Food Hygiene requests for service / advice	91	Food Standards requests for service / advice	21	Response to Infectious Disease Notifications	15	Consumer Protection requests for service / advice	5	Consumer Protection inspections / visits	7	Consumer Protection Initiatives Undertaken	1	Smoke Free Inspections / Visits	91
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3.4	<p>Within the reporting period the 'Food Safety, Consumer Safety and Tobacco Control' team also</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worked extensively with the Food Standards Agency (FSA) and liaised with relevant businesses to gather information to assist the FSA with the completion and issue of food safety advice on consuming fish taken from Lough Neagh during blue green algal affected periods. Promoted Environmental Health at 3 schools, through attendance at Health Fairs' and presentations to students. Members from the team participated in the Health, Leisure and Wellbeing Roadshow at 3 venues and provided advice to members of the public on any aspect of food safety and standards for which they had queries. Shared food hygiene campaign material and information on vaping on social media channels, via the MUDC communications team. 																						
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	Planning Consultations completed	87																								
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	Environmental Protection requests for service	108 <i>(total - not split by team)</i>																								
	Air Quality Diffusion Tubes changed over 28 sites	96																								
3.6	<p>Members may recall that the Air Quality Monitoring report for 2023 was presented to March 2024 Development Committee and officers subsequently submitted the report to DAERA.</p> <p>An Air Quality stakeholder meeting was held at on 29th January 2024 to review the air quality issues within the District. The next scheduled follow up meeting to review the action plan and progress is scheduled for Monday 24th June 2024. Meeting invites to attend a virtual meeting will be extended to stakeholders from other statutory agencies and all MUDC elected Members in the near future.</p>																									
3.7	<p>Officers organised a ‘Sports Grounds’ Safety Advisory Group’ meeting on 12th March 2024 for those venues that are subject to legislative safety certification requirements. Representatives from 7 sports clubs, Sport NI, Sports ground safety authority (SGSA) and other statutory agencies attended.</p>																									
3.8	<p>3 x Immediate Health and Safety prohibition notices were served on businesses due to unsafe and damaged racking and a guard missing from a dangerous piece of equipment.</p>																									
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4.0	<p>Officers conducted further monitoring on odour issues that are the subject of complaints at a designated site within the district.</p>																									
4.1	<p>During this period, as part of Council’s annual audit plan, there was a review of Environmental Health – Dog Control and the internal audit concluded that there is a satisfactory system of governance, risk management and control.</p> <p>The team continued to work on prioritised workstream arising from the digital transformation programme in relation to dog licences.</p> <p>Freedom of Information Requests</p>																									
4.2	<p>The Environmental Health Service provided relevant information in relation to 19 freedom of information and environmental information requests during this period.</p>																									

4.3	A further update on Councils Environmental Health Service will be brought to the Development Committee in July 2024.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: None anticipated at this juncture.
	Human: None anticipated at this juncture.
	Risk Management: None anticipated at this juncture
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: None anticipated at this juncture.
	Rural Needs Implications: None anticipated at this juncture.
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	To note the contents of this report.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	N/A

Report on	Forest Schools Programme for 2024/25
Date of Meeting	16 th May 2024
Reporting Officer	Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing
Contact Officer	Martin Conlan, Recreation & Countryside Officer

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To update Members on the Forest Schools programme for 2024 - 2025 within the Mid Ulster District Council area.
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>Northern Ireland Forest School Awards is an environmental awareness initiative which encourages local schools to visit and take on an ownership of their local Council Park. It has been operating successfully at Hill of The O'Neill Heritage Park, since April 2017, and through the Parks, since 2018, as part of the education programme at Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House.</p> <p>As part of the NIFSA programme, pupils and teachers identify an area within the local Council Park that they can develop as their own Forest School site. Here they undertake exciting and innovative activities to help them understand the importance of our natural environment and local heritage. Activities can include making a map of the Council Park using only natural resources, den building, as well as the use of trees to help children better understand maths.</p>
2.2	At Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House, teachers involved undertake a Forest School Leader qualification (OCN Level 3). This gives them the confidence to continue visiting the Council Park year after year and developing more exciting outdoor activities to replace classroom led lessons.
2.3	Much interest has been shown in NIFSA by many local schools and community groups in the Mid Ulster District Council area via both programme applications and expressions of interest on the Mid Ulster District Council section of the NIFSA website. The Recreation & Countryside Officer within Council's Health, Leisure & Wellbeing department along with the Education Officer (Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House) will continue to examine ways in which this demand for environmental activities across the Mid Ulster District Council area can be met.

<p>2.4</p> <p>2.5</p>	<p>Previously in January 2024, Members at the Development Committee resolved to approve the continuation of Forest Schools Project up until March 2025. (minute reference: D006/24). The Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House programme costs £6,000 per annum, subject to available funding with costs shared equally between Health Leisure & Wellbeing and Arts & Culture Services within Council.</p> <p>Members had requested an update report be brought back to a future Development Committee with a schedule detailing the dates and locations for the forest school programme.</p>
<p>3.0</p>	<p>Main Report</p>
<p>3.1</p> <p>3.2</p> <p>3.3</p> <p>3.4</p>	<p>Recently 3 staff members within Dungannon Park have completed the Forest School Leader qualification (OCN Level 3) and this brings the total number of qualified staff to 5 who can deliver the Forrest school programme within Council.</p> <p>In March 2024, invitations were sent out to primary schools to apply to participate in up to 6 forest school sessions for the 2024/25 school year, beginning in September 2024 at Hill of The O'Neill Heritage Park, Dungannon for Nursery, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 pupils.</p> <p>Furthermore, in April 2024, invitations were sent out to primary schools to apply to participate in up to 4 forest school sessions between September and December 2024 at Dungannon park for Nursery, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 pupils. Towards the end of 2024, it is anticipated that another invitation will be sent out to schools to encourage them to apply to participate in up to 4 forest school sessions at Dungannon Park and some other suitable locations in the district between February and May 2025.</p> <p>In addition, the Health Leisure & Wellbeing department are running 4 x Family Forest School drop-in events during summer 2024. Drop-in sessions are free of charge and no booking is required. All sessions will run from 1pm to 4pm and are suitable primarily for nursery and primary school ages, with family members encouraged to join in activities also. Lessons will be delivered by council staff who have achieved Forest School Leader qualification (OCN Level 3) and locations are listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday 26 May at Dungannon Park • Sunday 30 June at Knockmany Forest • Sunday 28 July at Pomeroy Forest • Sunday 25 August at Ballyronan Wood <p>Further information is available via the Council's website:</p>

3.5	<p>https://www.midulstercouncil.org/forestschoools</p> <p>The Northern Ireland Forest Schools Awards continues to prove a very popular addition to the Council’s education programme. The continuation of this programme will maintain this connection of environmental awareness and citizenship skills with Council Parks, while extending the learning of ecological and conservation skills to even more pupils and teachers in the Mid Ulster District Council area.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <p>Financial: The NIFS Awards programme costs £6,000 per annum, subject to available funding being approved within existing budgets. Programme costs are contained within the approved 24/25 revenue budgets and costs shared equally between Health Leisure & Wellbeing and Arts & Culture Services within Council.</p> <p>Approx £1,500 in costs to coordinate the Family Forest School drop-in events in summer 2024 – contained within 24/25 revenue budgets.</p> <p>Human: Staff time and commitment. Health Leisure & Wellbeing staff support the programme and have undertaken the required training to deliver the workshops and activities associated to the FSNI Scheme. Education Officer (Hill of the O Neill) and Recreation & Countryside Officer within the Health, Leisure & Wellbeing department coordinate and delivery the project in conjunction with NIFSA.</p> <p>Risk Management: Considered in line with relevant Council policies and procedures.</p>
4.2	<p>Screening & Impact Assessments</p> <p>Equality & Good Relations Implications: Considered in line with relevant Council policies and procedures.</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications: Considered in line with relevant Council policies and procedures.</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	To note the contents of this report.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	N/A

Report on	Open Spaces & Outdoor Recreation Update
Date of Meeting	16 th May 2024
Reporting Officer	Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing
Contact Officer	Paul Bailie, Open Spaces & Recreation Development Manager John Howard, Open Spaces & Recreation Development Manager

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	Previously in April 2024, a request was proposed via the Development Committee to bring forward a report on visitor throughput at our primary outdoor recreational sites throughout the Council.
2.0	Background
2.1	Mid Ulster District Council encompasses a variety of outdoor sites, including parks, forests, and recreational areas, which are frequented by residents and visitors alike for leisure activities and outdoor experiences. Over the past three years, there has been a notable increase in footfall across these sites, reflecting a growing interest in outdoor recreation and a shift in public behaviour influenced by the covid pandemic.
2.2	This report aims to update Members on the overall footfall data for outdoor sites across the Mid Ulster District Council for the years 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24.
2.3	Additionally, it will outline the impact of improvements made to key sites with capital investments made by council and in some cases with assistance from external funding – namely completed projects at Knockmanny Forest, Iniscarn Forest, Manor Park Moneymore, Moydamlaght Forest, Pomeroy Forrest, Round Lake Fivemiletown and Washingbay.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	At designated outdoor sites within Council, footfall counters are used to measure visitor numbers. These devices are strategically located at key entrances/exits and come in many shapes and sizes. Common footfall counting technologies include sensors which can measure objects at a certain height passing by within a designated special area. Whilst each of these footfall counters can be subject to its own limitations and may not capture exactly every movement in and out of a site (<i>for example, individuals can use alternate entry/exit locations which are not in the proximity of the footfall counter</i>), these counters are an accepted measurement tool within the industry and the data arising give a fair approximation of visitors numbers (<i>whilst accepting actual usage can in fact in most case be a bit higher due to other factors</i>). Additionally, being able to record and benchmark visitor numbers can also help with strategic decisions in terms of future developments, enhancements and also for the use in funding applications,etc.

3.2	<p>The footfall data for outdoor sites within the Mid Ulster District Council for the period April 2021 – March 2024 are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2021-22: Footfall - 1,001,249 visitors • 2022-23: Footfall - 1,117,870 visitors • 2023-24: Footfall - 1,231,450 visitors <p>Further details on specific sites are enclosed within the appendix.</p>
3.3	<p>The data demonstrates a consistent and significant increase in footfall over the past three years, with a notable year-on-year growth rate. Amongst many factors, this upward trend can be attributed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing Public Behaviour: The covid pandemic has anecdotally prompted a shift in public behaviour, with individuals and families increasingly seeking outdoor activities as safer alternatives to indoor gatherings. This has led to a surge in the number of people visiting outdoor sites for recreation, exercise, and relaxation. • Improvements to Key Sites: key investments and enhancements as outlined in section 2.3 above have contributed to the attractiveness and accessibility of these locations, thereby attracting more visitors.
3.3	<p>During 2023/2024, projects were recently completed at Derrynoyd Forrest and Drumcairne Forrest and as part of these projects footfall counters have been installed. Whilst figures are not available in this report, it is envisaged that data will now be generated to allow these sites to form part of this overall analysis moving forward in addition to projects that will soon be moving into delivery stage at Bellaghy, Castlecaulfield, Castledawson and Coalisland Canal as part of the funded Covid Small Settlements Scheme. These upcoming projects are expected to continue driving footfall growth in the coming years.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <p>Financial: Ongoing maintenance fees associated with existing footfall counters and purchase of new equipment.</p> <p>Human: Officer time to extract, record and interpret the data.</p> <p>Risk Management: Considered in line with relevant council policies and procedures.</p>
4.2	<p>Screening & Impact Assessments</p> <p>Equality & Good Relations Implications: None anticipated at this juncture.</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications: None anticipated at this juncture.</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	To note the contents of this report.

6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix A – Itemised sites and visitor numbers

Appendix A – Itemised sites and visitor numbers

FOOTFALL	Quarter 1			Quarter 2			Quarter 3			Quarter 4			Overall Year Totals		
	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	21-22	22-23	23-24
Ballyronan Marina	79,299	84,089	105,306	106,832	88,752	78,660	48,600	41,280	55,166	46,848	47,560	62,009	281,579	261,681	301,141
Dungannon Park	151,286	124,631	145,800	141,537	133,707	132,124	77,652	73,433	77,326	94,559	86,087	76,330	465,034	417,858	431,580
Round Lake	-	14,043	19,350	1,789	13,722	23,586	9,145	11,470	10,560	11,650	10,030	14,602	22,584	49,265	68,098
Blessingbourne FMBT	2,827	666	628	1,644	796	2,952	570	368	372	502	486	449	5,543	2,316	4,401
Davagh FMBT	4,898	3,875	4,334	4,095	4,909	5,044	3,282	2,570	3,078	3,562	2,598	2,142	15,837	13,952	14,598
Lough Fea	27,946	17,292	15,810	24,973	25,009	18,370	15,675	12,379	13,730	13,453	11,806	14,958	82,047	66,486	62,868
Pomeroy Forest	5,034	4,100	5,350	4,467	4,321	6,088	5,106	4,417	5,951	3,534	3,612	7,536	18,141	16,450	24,925
Portgleneone Riverside Walk	14,942	17,667	17,146	7,934	8,952	16,804	5,455	7,242	4,368	4,775	11,407	3,833	33,106	45,268	42,151
Iniscarn Forest	4,361	4,143	4,851	3,178	3,020	4,911	2,299	2,185	3,228	2,477	1,875	4,044	12,315	11,223	17,034
Augher Riverside Walk	1,989	1,167	-	956	819	2,954	1,267	96	1,852	1,033	-	797	5,245	2,082	5,603
Coalisland Canal Walk	11,113	6,904	6,521	6,624	11,867	7,442	4,812	2,394	2,569	4,329	2,899	3,189	26,878	24,064	19,721
Davagh Dark Skies (Tours)	320	1,387	6,249	1,075	1,298	15,100	1,495	1,812	10,249	919	1,391	12,956	3,809	5,888	44,554
Brantry Lodge	11,300	7,037	4,056	5,732	9,924	5,016	5,042	4,343	4,850	7,057	6,785	3,038	29,131	28,089	16,960
Knockmann Forest	0	18,256	16,565	0	10,163	12,217	0	11,809	11,451	0	13,512	14,023	0	53,740	54,256
Long Point Wood	0	3,984	7,653	0	3,669	3,808	0	2,687	2,000	0	2,110	2,147	0	12,450	15,608
Moydamlaght Forest	0	6,486	7,042	0	4,356	6,175	0	3,266	2,587	0	3,990	5,178	0	18,098	20,982
Moyola Riverside Walk	0	11,832	9,662	0	11,751	9,436	0	5,284	6,869	0	7,529	7,102	0	36,396	33,069
Washingbay	0	13,545	13,178	0	12,432	11,213	0	11,670	12,498	0	14,917	17,012	0	52,564	53,901
Total	304,015	341,104	389,501	304,015	349,467	361,900	175,358	198,705	228,704	187,641	228,594	251,345	1,001,249	1,117,870	1,231,450

Report on	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. International Women’s Day Events – March 2024 2. Rural Regeneration and Business Support Funding 3. Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes – 21.2.24 4. Maghera Town Centre Forum Minutes – 25.9.23 5. Tourism Development Group Minutes – 10.1.24 6. N2/A5 Cross Border Committee Minutes – 30.11.23
Date of Meeting	Thursday 16 th May 2024
Reporting Officer	Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To provide Members with an update on key activities as detailed below.
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>International Women’s Day Events – March 2024</p> <p>Mid Ulster District Council organised two events to celebrate International Women’s Day 2024. The events took place on Wednesday 6 March 2024 at the Royal Hotel, Cookstown and Wednesday 13 March 2024 at Ryandale Inn, Moy.</p>
2.2	<p>Rural Regeneration and Business Support</p> <p>At the Development Committee in April 2024, Members requested further research be carried out on regeneration and businesses support funding for rural areas. Officers have engaged with a Department for Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) the Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF), the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE), Department for Communities (DFC) and Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN).</p> <p>Previously funding for the regeneration of rural settlements had been funded via the former Rural Development Programme, funded by DAERA. Since the Rural</p>

	<p>Development Programme ended, this has resulted in more limited funding opportunities being made available to support rural areas.</p>
2.3	<p>Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes – 21 February 2024</p> <p>Coalisland Town Centre Forum was established in 2018 to develop a partnership approach for the development and delivery of key town centre initiatives. The Forum meets at regular intervals throughout the year.</p>
2.4	<p>Maghera Town Centre Forum Minutes – 25 September 2023</p> <p>Maghera Town Centre Forum was established in 2018 to develop a partnership approach for the development and delivery of key town centre initiatives. The Forum meets at regular intervals throughout the year.</p>
2.5	<p>Tourism Development Group Minutes – 10 January 2024</p> <p>The Tourism Development Group (TDG) was established to create a working forum between Council and private sector businesses. The TDG will assist with policy development and support the implementation of Council’s Tourism Strategy and associated work in order to create economic growth, increase visitor numbers and create employment. The group meet on a bi-monthly basis and as per the agreed Terms of Reference all business will be reported to Council through the Development Committee.</p>
2.6	<p>A5/N2/TEN-T Cross Border Committee Minutes – 30 November 2023</p> <p>The A5/N2/TEN-T Cross Border Committee was established in 2019 to lobby for the delivery of infrastructure improvements and upgrades to the N2/A5/TEN-T route from Dublin to the Northwest and serving the border region and Northern Ireland, with a particular emphasis on projects on the N2/A5/TEN-T corridor in the border region and Northern Ireland.</p> <p>There are 5 Councils represented - Derry City and Strabane District Council, Donegal County Council, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, Mid Ulster District Council and Monaghan County Council – each Council nominates up to 4 Members to the Committee.</p>
3.0	<p>Main Report</p>
3.1	<p>International Women’s Day Events – March 2024</p> <p>Two successful events to celebrate International Women’s Day 2024, took place on Wednesday 6 March 2024 at the Royal Hotel, Cookstown and Wednesday 13 March 2024, in the Ryandale Inn, Moy. All funds raised was donated to the Chair’s chosen charity for the event; ‘Causeway and Mid Ulster Women’s Aid’.</p>

Over 265 women attended over the two evenings. The events celebrating International Women's Day 2024 supported this year's theme, 'Inspire Inclusion'.

The Chair, Councillor Dominic Molloy and Deputy Chair, Councillor Meta Graham welcomed guests to both events and thanked attendees for their support.

At the first event on Wednesday 6 March 2024 in The Royal Hotel, Cookstown, Lynda Bryans (Journalist and Director of Belfast Metropolitan College) and Jade Bradley (Burnout Recovery Specialist, Nutritionist & Health Coach) took to the stage, with Carol Doey acting as MC.

The second event was held on Wednesday 13 March 2024 at the Ryandale Inn, Moy. Vivian McKinnon, Award-Winning Public Speaker and Post Traumatic Growth Specialist and Tara Grimes, Nutritionist and accredited Personal Trainer were the main speakers, with Carol Doey acting as MC again.

A representative from 'Causeway and Mid Ulster Women's Aid' also spoke at each event and highlighted the significant challenges facing the charity with growing numbers of women coming forward for help.

The total proceeds raised via ticket sales over the two nights was £892.69.

3.2 Rural Regeneration and Business Support Funding

The following funding calls are currently open to rural villages and businesses at present.

1. Village Catalyst Scheme

The Village Catalyst grant scheme is a partnership initiative between the Department for Communities (DfC), the Department for Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) the Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF), and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE).

Funding is open to charities, social enterprises and other not-for-profit groups in rural villages with a population under 5,000 people, who want to tackle rural poverty and social isolation in their area, by developing a sustainable use for a disused historic building in their area.

Support is available for communities to:

- carry out viability work (up to £10k), (Expression of Interest at [The Architectural Heritage Fund\(external link opens in a new window / tab\)](#))
- develop their plans (up to £20k), (Expression of Interest at [The Architectural Heritage Fund\(external link opens in a new window / tab\)](#))
- deliver their project (up to £200k).

Please note: Council is not eligible to apply to this scheme.

2. Peace Plus: Measure 4.2 Rural Regeneration and Social Inclusion Programme

- Current call is open until 5pm on 23 May 2024

Objective of call – Create a more cohesive society, through an increased provision of shared space and services in rural areas.

Rural Regeneration and Social Inclusion is identified as;

- Community Development Resource
- Family Support Hubs
- Social Enterprise
- Green Infrastructure
- Social Farming

Key criteria of the fund will require applications to demonstrate cross – community/cross border collaboration leading to increased integration and show cohesive community.

It is anticipated that the funding for infrastructure work, will be kept to a minimum.

Jointly developed solutions/projects implies the involvement of organisations from at least two participating jurisdictions during the drafting and design process.

Following discussions with our cross-border funding partner, ICBAN, they have advised Council that they do not have the available staff resources to commit to developing an application on behalf of interested Member Councils (north and south) during this current open call.

Some early conversations, prior to the call opening, suggested there may be a desire to consider 'mobile hubs' being located within rural areas across the ICBAN region, thereby, it was noted that further feasibly work would be required prior to the submission of a project application.

It is important to note that these cross-border programmes, take a lead in time of approximately six months, including finding suitable cross-border partners, and preparing comprehensive bids, prior to submission.

3. Digital Transformation Flexible Fund

The Digital Transformation Flexible Fund (DTFF) is delivered by all local authorities in Northern Ireland under the Full Fibre Northern Ireland Consortium (FFNI) and supported by Invest NI. The project is part funded by the NI Executive, UK Government, Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) and all local authorities in Northern Ireland.

The DTFF offers eligible businesses and social enterprises support to fund a digital transformation project.

The programme provides grants between £5,000 to £20,000 and are designed to help small and micro business accelerate their digital transformation ambitions.

If eligible, the grant will fund up to 70% of the cost of a project, with 30% match funding from the applicant.

The DTFF programme is a competitive process where proposals are compared to each other to determine those that offer the biggest potential for business growth and digital transformation.

- Funding Call 1 - the scheme awarded funding to 12 businesses.
- Funding Call 2 - 29 expressions of interest were received and are currently being screened and if eligible, will be invited to apply.
- Funding Call 3 - expressions of interest will open on 3 June 2024.

4. Go Succeed Business Growth Support Programme

Go Succeed is the new go-to source for expert business advice, led by the eleven Councils in NI.

Whether you're a budding entrepreneur thinking of starting out; are looking to grow your business; or are planning to scale up; a team of advisors will provide tailored support and guidance to help you achieve your business goals.

Go Succeed – Start Up

You have a great idea but you're not sure how to turn it into a business, or you have already started out in business and require mentorship on your next steps. Our Go Succeed Start experts will help you to create a business plan, seek funding and put all the foundations in place to get your business up and running

Go Succeed – Grow Your Business

Your business is already established and is now ready to expand, but growth is slow and you're not sure how to progress. Our Go Succeed Grow experts have seen it all before in just about every sector, so they'll provide tailored support to help shorten the journey to business growth.

Go Succeed – Scale

Your business is ready to go to the next level locally and internationally, but you need guidance, support or resources to achieve your ambitions. Our Go Succeed Scale industry experts will help tailor your plans to penetrate new markets, identify investment opportunities and scale up your operations.

To apply visit: [Go Succeed](#) or call 0800 027 0639.

5. Future DAERA Programmes - Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation (TRPSI) Framework

At present DAERA is developing a Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation (TRPSI) Programme Action Plan for 2024/2025.

Programmes below are subject to Ministerial Approval from DAERA, and being granted a budget by the NI Executive budget.

- **Rural Micro Capital Grant Scheme** and;
- **Rural Business Development Grant Scheme** (delivered by Councils).

Subject also to the necessary permissions being granted above, DAERA has also advised that through their TRPSI Programme, it is their intention to continue to support the Rural Community Development infrastructure through funding for the **Rural Support Networks**, whilst also supporting the work the **Rural Support Charity** to assist farmers and farm families who are experiencing farm business or emotional stress.

DAERA will also continue to deliver the **Village Catalyst Programme** in conjunction with colleagues in DfC as noted earlier in the report.

Also in conjunction with DfC, DfI, and DAERA will continue to **monitor the delivery of the Covid Recovery Small Settlements Regeneration Scheme** which is being delivered by Councils.

Further to this delivery work, DAERA's Rural Affairs Division will continue to work on **developing a future Rural Policy for NI**, to strengthen the rural position across government in advocating for rural, as well as monitoring compliance with the Rural Needs Act.

6. Covid Small Settlements Revitalisation Programme

In December 2022, funding was secured by Government Departments DFI/DFC/DAERA under Covid Small Settlement Regeneration Project, to deliver capital interventions across small settlements where the population is between 1,000 – 4,999.

A number of projects are currently being delivered in the Mid Ulster District, these include; *Capital works at Castlecaufield Recreation area and Allotments, Manor Park Moneymore, Coalisland Canal, Bellaghy Walking Trail & Recreation area, Clady Recreation Area and Moy 4G.*

Currently, no additional funding has been earmarked to continue schemes of this nature.

In summary, to warrant further discussion on future funding for rural and urban areas, representatives from DAERA and DFC will attend the meeting which Members requested be convened to discuss dereliction / vacancy levels. This virtual meeting will be inclusive of all 40 Members and is scheduled to take place on 20 May 2024. It will provide Members with a direct opportunity to engage with DAERA and DFC officials and lobby for greater levels of regeneration funding to be made available.

On a separate business matter, the Council Chairman, Councillor Dominic Molloy, is **Launching a number of new Mid Ulster Business Programmes** on behalf of Council, in the Burnavon Theatre, Cookstown on **Friday 17 May 2024 from 11am** (registration opens 10:45am) to 12noon with lunch and an opportunity to network afterwards with a wide range of business support agencies including; Invest NI, InterTradeIreland, Go Succeed, Digital Transformation Flexible Fund, Fast Followers, Mid Ulster Enterprise Agencies, Social Enterprise NI, South West College and Northern Regional College.

Invitations have been issued to all Members and a cross-section of Mid Ulster's business community. If Members have not yet responded, we would be grateful if you could let us know your availability by emailing Emma Hughes emma.hughes@midulstercouncil.org to advise of your plans.

- 3.3 Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes – 21 February 2024**
Present minutes of Coalisland Town Centre Forum meeting held on 21 February 2024 (**Appendix 1**).
- 3.4 Maghera Town Centre Forum Minutes – 25 September 2023**
Present minutes of Maghera Town Centre Forum meeting held on 25 September 2023 (**Appendix 2**).
- 3.5 Tourism Development Group Minutes – 10 January 2024**
Present minutes of the Tourism Development Group meeting held on 10 January 2024 (**Appendix 3**).
- 3.6 A5/N2/TEN-T Cross Border Committee Minutes – 30 November 2023**
The above Committee meets quarterly, and the role of Chair is rotated annually, with the Chair's Council providing the secretariat. Councillor Gael Gildernew from Mid Ulster District Council undertook the role of Chair for 2024. Present minutes of the A5/N2/TEN-T Cross Border Committee meeting held on 30 November 2023 (**Appendix 4**).

4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
4.2	Financial:
	Human: Officer time.
	Risk Management: N/A
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
5.0	Recommendation(s)
	It is recommended that Members;
5.1	International Women’s Day Events – March 2024 Note update on Council’s International Women’s Day Events in March 2024.
5.2	Rural Regeneration and Business Support Funding Note update on a range of rural regeneration and business support funding opportunities.
5.3	Coalisland Town Centre Forum - 21 February 2024 Note Coalisland Town Centre Forum minutes held on 21 February 2024
5.4	Maghera Town Centre Forum - 25 September 2023 Note Maghera Town Centre Forum minutes held on 25 September 2023
5.5	Tourism Development Group Minutes – 10 January 2024 Note Mid Ulster Tourism Development Group minutes held on 10 January 2024.
5.6	A5/N2/TEN-T Cross Border Committee Minutes – 30 November 2023 Note N2/A5 Cross Border Committee minutes held on 30 November 2023.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	Appendix 1 – Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes - 21.2.24

Appendix 2 – Maghera Town Centre Forum Minutes - 25.9.23

Appendix 3 – Mid Ulster Tourism Development Group Minutes - 10.1.24

Appendix 4 – N2/A5 Cross Border Committee Minutes - 30.11.23

	<p>Dermot McGirr Translink</p> <p>Fiona McKeown Mid Ulster District Council</p> <p>Johnny McNeill Mid Ulster District Council</p> <p>Francie Molloy MP Coalisland Community and Voluntary Representative</p> <p>Avril Sharkey Department for Communities</p> <p>Sgt Kevin Smyth PSNI</p> <p>Patricia Toner Sole Sister</p> <p>PC Peter Waugh PSNI</p>
	<p>Cllr N McLernon, the Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting both in-person and those attending virtually.</p>
2.	<p>Minutes of Previous Meeting – Monday 9th October 2023</p> <p>Proposed by Cllr M Quinn</p> <p>Seconded by Cllr E Carney and agreed:</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 9th October 2023 were a true and accurate record of proceedings.</p>
3.	<p>Matters Arising from Previous Meeting – Monday 9th October 2023</p> <p>Cllr N McLernon asked Council Officers for updates on the following matters arising:</p> <p><i>3.1 Air Quality update</i></p> <p>O Donnelly advised the results from the nitrogen dioxide monitors will be released later this year. He explained that the data is collected over the course of a year and analysed before the first annual report will be published.</p> <p>R O'Neill expressed that he believes monitors have not been placed in the correct locations and that one should be in King's Row.</p> <p>Cllr M Quinn informed Members that other Councillors have been given preliminary and asked if this could be shared with Members.</p> <p>B O'Neill asked if Members could be furnished with rationale/criteria for monitors locations if available.</p> <p>Action: O Donnelly to liaise with Environmental Health to get preliminary results for Members and report at next meeting.</p> <p><i>3.2 Update regarding issues raised about Coalisland Public Realm works</i></p>

O Donnelly informed Members that handover to Dfl is imminent and that the final claim is near completion.

R O'Neill showed members an article by Shauna Corr printed in the Daily Mirror on 3rd February 2024 in relation to the one-way system in Main Street. He expressed that the town was very busy at certain times of the day, and this would be disastrous if an emergency incident occurred at those times. He asked if footpaths could be narrowed in order to return Main Street to two-way.

B O'Neill added that the parking is very good in Main Street since the Public Realm works but understands R O'Neill's opinion. He asked if a survey can be carried out with local businesses for feedback on the work.

Action: Council Officers to prepare high level overview for next meeting

3.3 Gritting in town centre

Cllr N McLernon thanked Council staff for their support in getting the town centre footpaths gritted during the icy spell in January. She added that along with Cllr M Quinn, they had raised in Council the length of time before gritting is actioned. The current agreement with Dfl is that gritting is triggered after 3 days of continuous freezing or snowfall which Members believe is too long

Cllr N McLernon asked if local businesses can be provided with grit and whether there is any liability if someone were to fall.

Action: O Donnelly to share Dfl's guidance with regards to gritting at next meeting

Cllr N McLernon added that pavements are slippery even in wet weather due to the sandstone surface. She welcomed that Council staff had been cleaning the town centre but conveyed that there is a requirement for more regular cleaning due to green algae on the paths which is exacerbating the issue.

3.4 Mid Ulster Gift Card / Coalisland Credit Union

B O'Neill informed that discussion had taken place between Coalisland Credit Union and Council Officers. He advised that there are logistical issues that are hindering progress (cards are limited to £500 balance). E Hughes stated that a new account manager for the gift card programme had been appointed for Northern Ireland

Action: Council Officers to arrange meeting with Miconex

	<p><i>3.5 Land Issues DfC / Mid Ulster District Council</i></p> <p>S McGowan provided Members with an update. The current position is that DfC are working on rectifying boundaries of the land in question with the view to selling the land once this has been finalised. She added that this is a long-term task.</p> <p>Cllr N McLernon asked if the land could be used by the community. S McGowan stated that a “meanwhile use” is something that DfC would be happy to explore.</p> <p>Cllr M Quinn queried if there may be an issue with diesel contamination of the land due to the old railway and if so, whether the land is safe to use.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Town Centre Updates</p> <p><i>Coalisland Revitalisation & Coalisland Public Realm</i></p> <p>O Donnelly informed Members that snags have been resolved and that handover to DfI is imminent.</p> <p><i>Mid Ulster Gift Card</i></p> <p>O Donnelly informed Members that Officers are working with Miconex in relation to getting more outlets to stock the Mid Ulster Gift Card. Currently only three Council facilities hold stock – Hill of the O’Neill, The Burnavon, and The Bridewell. He advised that there are approximately 220 businesses participating in the programme.</p> <p>E Hughes added that participating businesses have been provided with a window sticker and graphics for social media. She advised that it would be useful for businesses to promote that they accept the gift card on their own social media platforms.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>O Donnelly informed Members about the Town Centre Spruce Up Scheme. He advised that a letter drop had taken place that day, Wednesday 21st February 2024, to local businesses in the town boundary. R O’Neill queried the competition process.</p> <p>O Donnelly explained that applications are processed by an independent assessor to ensure impartiality. Cllr N McLernon encouraged local businesses to apply.</p>

	<p>Cllr M Quinn queried if there is any possibility of a continental/artisan style market. Cllr N McLernon agreed that a market would be an excellent opportunity to raise the profile of Coalisland. She noted the success of the Coalisland Summer Bash and Fleadh held on the same weekend in May 2023. B O'Neill asked if local businesses could be utilised for a continental/artisan style market in a pop-up shop style. JA Spence suggested that the forum could explore opportunities and speak with other groups that delivery independent market e.g Farmers Market.</p> <p>Action: Forum to explore opportunities</p> <p>R O'Neill asked for an update on the closure Coalisland Recycling Centre. Cllr N McLernon advised that the Recycling Centre is not closing and noted that there had been some misinformation regarding this matter. She reported that there will be a consultation about the provision of the service.</p> <p>R O'Neill asked about parking enforcement in the town centre. O Donnelly advised that once the Public Realm works had been adopted, that it would be a Dfl matter.</p> <p>R O'Neill informed Members of two noisy manholes on the Brackaville Road; one outside the Sinn Fein office and one outside Herron's shop. Cllr N McLernon advised that these can be reported using the portal on NI Direct.</p> <p>R O'Neill raised a query with regards to anti-social behaviour in the town. Cllr E Carney advised that she would raise this matter at the next PCSP meeting as there is no representation from the PSNI at the meeting. E Hughes informed members that there had been a change in personnel in the PSNI Neighbourhood Team but that there had been no update from PSNI directly.</p> <p>Action: Cllr E Carney to raise matter at the next PCSP meeting</p> <p>Action: Council Officers to liaise with PSNI Neighbourhood Team to ask for representation at next meeting</p> <p>B O'Neill informed Members about the forthcoming move of Coalisland Credit Union to the former First Trust Bank/Formme Building on the Dungannon Road.</p>
6.	Date of Next Meeting

	<p>It was agreed that meetings should continue to be held on a quarterly basis with the next meeting to take place in April 2024. Cllr N McLernon added that going forward, meetings will be in-person but that Members can be facilitated virtually if required.</p> <p>Date of next meeting to be confirmed.</p>
	<p>Meeting concluded at 6:55pm</p>

**MINUTES OF MAGHERA TOWN CENTRE FORUM MEETING HELD MONDAY 25
SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 12.50PM IN MAGHERA LEISURE CENTRE**

Present:

Councillor Brian McGuigan	Mid Ulster District Council (Chair)
Councillor Cora Corry	Mid Ulster District Council
Councillor Sean McPeake	Mid Ulster District Council
Councillor Paddy Kelly	Mid Ulster District Council
Councillor Anne Forde	Mid Ulster District Council (in place of K Black)
Gary Burns	Maghera Development Association
Una Morgan	The Dugout
Ursula Marshall	Mid Ulster Disability Forum
Conall McKee	Department for Infrastructure
James Armour	Maghera Heritage Association
Raymond Holbeach	RPS Consulting

In attendance:

Colin McKenna	Mid Ulster District Council
James Donnelly	Mid Ulster District Council
Dean McBride	Mid Ulster District Council
Lynn Shiels	Mid Ulster District Council

	DISCUSSION	ACTION												
1.	WELCOME Cllr McGuigan welcomed each member to the meeting and asked for people to introduce themselves.													
2.	APOLOGIES Apologies were received on behalf of <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Kyle Black</td> <td>Mid Ulster District Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Michael McCrory</td> <td>Mid Ulster District Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Colin McKeown</td> <td>Mid Ulster District Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Avril Sharkey</td> <td>Department for Communities</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fiona McKeown</td> <td>Mid Ulster District Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Anne Marie Campbell</td> <td>Mid Ulster District Council</td> </tr> </table>	Kyle Black	Mid Ulster District Council	Michael McCrory	Mid Ulster District Council	Colin McKeown	Mid Ulster District Council	Avril Sharkey	Department for Communities	Fiona McKeown	Mid Ulster District Council	Anne Marie Campbell	Mid Ulster District Council	
Kyle Black	Mid Ulster District Council													
Michael McCrory	Mid Ulster District Council													
Colin McKeown	Mid Ulster District Council													
Avril Sharkey	Department for Communities													
Fiona McKeown	Mid Ulster District Council													
Anne Marie Campbell	Mid Ulster District Council													
3.	To receive minutes of the Town Centre Forum Meeting held on 29 March 2023 The minutes of the Town Centre Forum Meeting held on 29 March 2023 were proposed by Una Morgan and seconded by Councillor Sean McPeake.													
4.	Matters arising from Minutes No matters were raised relating to the minutes.													
5.	Town Centre Projects Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Events, Marketing & Promotion 													

<p>L Shiels give an update on Events, Marketing, and Promotion. The following points were discussed:</p> <p>Cllr McGuigan and G Burns both commented that the Walled Garden was an excellent facility and location available for town centre events. Cllr Forde agreed that the recent event held in the Walled Garden “Roar Roar Dinosaur” on 9 September 2023 was an excellent day.</p> <p>Cllr Forde noted that at the Maghera Christmas Lights Switch On in 2022 the PSNI had some concerns regarding the safety of people attending the Event in regards to Traffic Management and Crowd Control. Cllr McGuigan stated that Council Officers are currently in discussions with PSNI and the Council’s Health and Safety Team regarding a solution to ensure that the event is delivered in a safe and satisfactory manner for the whole community. L Shiels noted that the committee will be updated once the plans are confirmed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maghera Regeneration Project – <p>James Donnelly (Council’s Strategic Project Manager) gave an update on the Levelling Up Fund including the Public Realm Scheme, Maghera Business Park and the Wetland Park.</p> <p>R Holbeach presented a Maghera Public Realm update by way of PowerPoint presentation. R Holbeach gave an overview of the public realm plans and detailed the areas which will be included in the scheme.</p> <p>R Holbeach showed PowerPoint slides with examples of the proposed public realm materials, street furniture, lighting and tree planting considerations.</p> <p>Concluding R Holbeach highlighted some additional items which have been added to the scheme proposals after the previous consultation process was completed (additional items are subject to funding availability):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tannoy Speakers (Location: Pole mounted – Various locations) • Archway entrance feature (Location: Lower Main St & St Lurach’s Road entrances to pedestrian alleyway) • VIS Touchscreen Panel (Location: Hall Street pedestrian area) • Clock tower elevation (Location: Hall Street pedestrian area) <p>The Chair thanked R Holbeach for the presentation and opened the forum for questions.</p> <p>G Burns enquired about the status of the Maghera Business Park. J Donnelly noted that Council had responded to Dfl’s request for additional planning clarifications and Council are currently awaiting the outcome.</p> <p>Cllr McGuigan enquired if a pedestrian gate could be considered from the Youth Centre to Main Street to encourage usage of the</p>	<p>Forum members to be updated regarding the plans for the Christmas Lights Switch On Event</p>
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<p>carpark. J Donnelly noted that any works at the Youth Centre will be carried out separate from and unrelated to the Public Realm Scheme.</p> <p>J Armour enquired how the parking will be enforced within the town centre and Cllr McGuigan noted that it is likely that Council will look at parking enforcement after the Public Realm Scheme is completed.</p> <p>G Burns enquired about footpath widths on upper Main Street. R Holbeach confirmed that all footpath widths will meet DfI requirements.</p> <p>Cllr McGuigan enquired about the arrangement with Translink on St Lurachs Road. R Holbeach noted that Council are currently in discussions with Translink regarding developing dedicated Bus Stop bays on the opposite side of the Cinema to allow buses to move off the carriageway. This would help with traffic congestion in this area.</p> <p>Cllr McGuigan noted that the roundabout at Fair Hill would improve traffic flow. J Armour enquired if there would be a filter lane coming up to this roundabout from the Tobermore Road direction. R Holbeach noted that the width of the carriageway does not allow space for a filter lane.</p> <p>U Marshall requested that the Disability Forum is consulted regarding the specific furniture being selected for the scheme. R Holbeach noted that there are limited seats/benches in the scheme due to lack of appropriate space for them however the Disability Forum will be consulted before the contractor confirms the furniture in the scheme. U Marshall enquired if the Presentation would be available to the Committee. L Shiels agreed to seek clarification from senior management and revert back to the Committee.</p> <p>Cllr McGuigan enquired if the pedestrian crossing is suitable for the Visual Impaired community. U Marshall and G Burns noted that the colour of pavements need to be suitable for Visual Impaired and also complement the medieval and traditional infrastructure in the town. J Armour stated that the colour should match each of the buildings in the town centre. R Holbeach informed the committee that there was a vast range of colours in the current infrastructure. However the grey palette colour scheme of the natural stone recommended was selected by the Design Team as it is consistent with the colour of St Lurach Church building and the surrounding walls and would therefore complement the heritage of the town.</p> <p>Cllr McGuigan noted that the new lighting system would benefit the town.</p> <p>J Armour enquired about the purpose of the Tannoy System and J Donnelly noted that it was for events and to create ambience in the town at core retail times i.e. Christmas. Cllr Corry noted that the Tannoy system installed as part of the Coalisland Public Realm Scheme was very beneficial and successful.</p> <p>J Armour enquired if the Visitor Information Screen could be</p>	<p>L Shiels to plan a meeting with the Disability Forum to consider proposals</p> <p>L Shiels to consult with Senior Management regarding making Public Realm information available.</p>
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	<p>positioned outside the Heritage & Cultural Centre. L Shiels informed the Committee that there were limited locations for the device as consideration of a number of factors was considered including footpath widths, connectivity and footfall. L Shiels agreed to enquire with the Tourism department if there was an option of a similar device which would be located in the Heritage & Cultural Centre.</p> <p>J Armour enquired if the Heritage & Cultural Centre could have keys to St Lurach's Graveyard at the Walled Garden. L Shiels agreed to contact the Property Services team to make the enquiry.</p> <p>J Donnelly informed the committee that the Public Realm groundwork investigations were due to take place beginning – mid October. It was agreed that L Shiels would inform the committee when the date and information for the works was confirmed.</p>	<p>L Shiels to consult with the Tourism Department regarding the VIS Information Panel suitable for the Heritage & Cultural Centre</p> <p>L Shiels to enquire with Property Services regarding J Armour having a key to St Lurach Graveyard at the Walled Garden</p> <p>L Shiels to inform the committee of the confirmed dates for the GI Works</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Any other Business No other business was recorded</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>Date & time of next meeting It was agreed that members will be informed of the next meeting which is thought to be early 2024.</p> <p>The meeting ended at 1.50pm.</p>	

MID ULSTER TOURISM DEVELOPMENT GROUP MINUTES
Wednesday 10th January 2024 via Microsoft Teams

Present:

Chair G Gildernew	Mid Ulster District Council
Cllr P Kelly	Mid Ulster District Council
Cllr S Clarke	Mid Ulster District Council
Cllr F Burton	Mid Ulster District Council
Cllr E Cahoon	Mid Ulster District Council
R Mulholland	Ballyscullion Park
C O'Neill	Visitor experience
D Friel	Hospitality
N Bell	Visitor experience
D Houlahan	Visitor experience
N Quinn	Education
S Wiggins	Education
M McKeown	Mid Ulster District Council
M Beattie	Mid Ulster District Council
G Booth	Mid Ulster District Council
K Irwin	Mid Ulster District Council
A O'Keefe	Mid Ulster District Council
G Bell	Mid Ulster District Council

	DISCUSSION	ACTIONS								
1.	<p>Welcome and Introductions Cllr Gael Gildernew welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>Apologies</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">F McKeown</td> <td>Mid Ulster District Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr N McLernon</td> <td>Mid Ulster District Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E Dobbin</td> <td>Tourism NI</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C Murray</td> <td>Deli on the Green</td> </tr> </table>	F McKeown	Mid Ulster District Council	Cllr N McLernon	Mid Ulster District Council	E Dobbin	Tourism NI	C Murray	Deli on the Green	
F McKeown	Mid Ulster District Council									
Cllr N McLernon	Mid Ulster District Council									
E Dobbin	Tourism NI									
C Murray	Deli on the Green									
2.	<p>Declarations of Interest N/A</p>									
3.	<p>Minutes of Meeting held on 19th October 2023 Having been circulated in advance were taken as read and correct.</p> <p><i>Proposed: Cllr B McGuigan Seconded: N Bell</i></p>									

<p>4.</p>	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>Cllr F Burton requested an update on Lumfords Glen in relation to the Shared Island Sliabh Beagh funding application.</p> <p>M McKeown responded that Shared Island Phase 1 Feasibility Study on Sliabh Beagh Eco Destination is now complete. She added that we are awaiting confirmation on Shared Island Capital funding to be released. M McKeown informed that funding from reserves of £24,500 has been allocated to complete the additional studies required for Lumfords Glen.</p> <p>M McKeown further advised that there could be potential new funding available through the Heritage Lottery Fund.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Skills Focus Programme – Presentation by Nicola Quinn – South West College</p> <p>N Quinn was welcomed to the meeting to provide present to members support available to small businesses through South West College.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovate Us programme focuses on bringing new product or service to market for small SME’s with under 50 employees are eligible. Examples of innovative programmes included Customer Relationship Management systems. • Innovation Voucher Scheme funded through Invest NI provides mentor support from a public sector knowledge provider up to 80 hours and up to the value of £5,000. • The Knowledge Transfer Programme is a 3-way process involving the college, business and graduate to provide entrance support to employment through training and staff development. • SME Productivity Booster Programme provides up to 30 hours mentor support on how to implement lead processes and sustainability. Businesses are offered a health check and road map on how best to implement processes, reducing costs and increasing productivity. • Skills Focus Programme funded by DfE is aimed at businesses who have less than 250 employees. It is 100% funded until the end of March 2024 and then reduced to 75%. 	

	<p>N Quinn informed that the following courses commence January 2024 at no charge.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ignite your skills - This focuses on the economically inactive, supporting those aged 40 plus back to work. • Recognise - This focuses on upskilling people in the workplace from level 2 to level 4. <p>M McKeown added that the presentation would be circulated to tourism and economic development businesses.</p>	<p>G Booth to circulate to tourism and economic development databases.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Industry Update – Tourism Development Group Members</p> <p>Each TDG member provided an update on their business</p> <p><u>South West College</u> S Wiggins advised that Open days are taking place across the colleges with the first being held on 23rd January in Dungannon from 3pm – 7pm.</p> <p><u>Ballyscullion Park</u> R Mullholland alluded to the cost of living increases that are affecting business in terms of supplier costs.</p> <p>He informed that Ballyscullion Park will hold the first inaugural Literature Festival on 11 and 12 May 2024 which is being organised through the Loughinsholin cluster. 30 authors from across Ireland have been invited to attend. R Mullholland proposed the Loughinsholin cluster develop packages to coincide with the festival, such as, accommodation and activities/attractions etc.</p> <p><u>Friels Bar and Restaurant</u> D Friel updated that Friels Bar and Restaurant had a busy 2023 and Christmas period. Work on the new visitor centre has commenced and is due to open at Easter. The motorhome park is steady with bookings. D Friel stated that there is a lack of accommodation in the Mid Ulster area.</p> <p><u>Killymoon Castle</u> N Bell spoke that Killymoon Castle had a busy Christmas period. He added that there had been an increase in bookings from local history groups, women’s groups and coach tours in 2024. They are planning an event on 31st May, 1st June & 2nd June to mark D Day.</p>	

	<p>N Bell enquired about the opening of Spring Hill and Wellbrook Beetling Mill. M McKeown responded that a meeting has being requested with Springhill management team.</p> <p><u>Croga Tours</u> D Houlahan introduced himself as the new Business Development Manager at Croga Tours responsible for developing business for inbound tours and foster relationships with international tour operators.</p>	
7.	<p>Business Engagement Programme – G Booth G Booth stated that applications have closed for Meet the Buyer.</p> <p>M McKeown informed that two new officers will be joining the tourism team to cover the Business Engagement and Tourism Development posts.</p> <p>A O’Keefe stated that the new Go Succeed provides business support and this is available through the Economic Development team.</p>	
8.	<p>Cluster Reports Cluster reports were circulated in advance of the meeting with the following comments made in addition:</p> <p>Loughinsholin Cluster R Mulholland informed that CIE and Abbey Tours are visiting Ballyscullion Park in January 2024. He added that a Valentines charity ball will take place on 17th February. M McKeown asked that the information is submitted to the Visit Mid Ulster website. D Friel spoke of his upcoming sales mission to east coast Canada in collaboration with Tourism NI to promote Friels and the wider Mid Ulster area.</p> <p>Clogher Valley Cluster – G Bell G Bell reported that information sessions will be held on 6th February in the Valley Hotel, Fivemiletown and 7th Feb in Tailors House, Ballygawley to seek new members to the Cluster.</p> <p>Archaeology, History and Heritage – G Bell As read.</p> <p>Outdoor Activities – A O’Keefe As read.</p>	<p>G Booth to forward tourism presentations on the region to D Friel.</p> <p>G Booth to share details of the Information Sessions on the tourism WhatsApp group and next tourism e-zine.</p>
9.	<p>Tourism Strategy for Northern Ireland (DFE) MUDC Response</p>	

	<p>M McKeown reported that Council's Consultation Response to the Draft Tourism Strategy for NI – 10 Year Plan was presented to Development Committee for approval before submission. M McKeown advised that the response has now been submitted.</p>	
10.	<p>Food Heritage Event – Moy Village 2024 – M McKeown M McKeown stated that the Tourism team and Economic Development team are organising a pilot food heritage event to be held in Moy village on Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th March. If successful it is anticipated to deliver an annual food heritage event throughout the rural towns and villages across the district. The event will host up to 21 traders, cookery demonstrations by well-known local chefs, and live music and entertainment. A stringent PR and marketing plan will be delivered by Harriott Communications and will include television, radio and social platforms.</p> <p>Consultations have taken place with businesses in the Moy and majority are very agreeable to the event with some committing to increase opening hours and deliver their own entertainment to create a festival weekend.</p>	
11.	<p>Shared Island, Tullaghoge Fort, Sliabh Beagh – M McKeown</p> <p>Sliabh Beagh update was provided at Item 4. The Shared Island Phase 1 Feasibility Study on Tullaghoge Fort Access and Interpretation Study is now complete.</p>	
12.	<p>Any Other Business Cllr B McGuigan thanked M McKeown and the Tourism team for their hard work across Mid Ulster. Cllr G Gildernew reiterated this.</p> <p>M McKeown advised that the Sperrins Partnership had appointed an AONB officer.</p> <p>M McKeown asked members for their approval to ask the Sperrins Partnership Officers to attend the tourism development group meeting going forward so they can provide an update on the Sperrins Partnership. It was agreed.</p> <p><i>Proposed: Cllr G Gildernew Seconded: Cllr B McGuigan</i></p>	<p>G Booth to forward invitation to new Sperrins Partnership Officer.</p>

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 16th April 2024 10:30am

CLUSTER REPORTS

LOUGHINSHOLIN CLUSTER REPORT – L GOODALL

The last cluster meeting took place at Ballyscullion Park on Thursday 30th November 2023 facilitated by Lara Goodall as the cluster continue to work through the Work streams as identified in their Phase 2 Invest NI Collaborative Growth Programme.

Governance:

Interest in the group is increasing, the application process for new members will open in January 2024. It is anticipated that no more than 3 new members will join. The recruitment process will aim to identify those tourism businesses that will contribute most to the Loughinsholin brand values.

Marketing and Communications:

A working communications strategy for the cluster has been developed and is shared to cluster members to review and add too. Feedback from ongoing communications with Operators has highlighted that they are keen to work with the cluster, but noted that there is limited awareness of the product offering with their customer base. The cluster is planning to launch an ongoing B2C campaign to complement the business development activities and assist the work of the Operators.

Business Development:

The cluster attended WTM London in November and had a productive three days, with 18 meetings with potential international operators. This has generated a number of opportunities for members which will be pursued in the coming months. The cluster also attended ITOA in November and met with 10 buyers. The cluster has secured a place at the Celtic Connections trade event and Holiday World trade / consumer event in January 2024.

The cluster will also welcome 5 buyers from CIE Tours on 16th and 17th January and 10 buyers from Abbey Tours on 23rd and 24th January. Work on additional FAM trips is also continuing and includes Wilderness Travel and Visit Belfast Conference Team for January / February 2024.

The group were unable to host a networking event in Westminster in November as Tourism Ireland hosted a networking dinner and would have created conflicting events. The group are now investigating the potential to host a business reception with potential Tour Operators, influencer's and stakeholders at Westminster in March 2024 and Dublin in February 2024.

Skills Development

Cluster members will take part in a workshop "AI to assist with Marketing – A How To" in January 2024.

Events:

The literature festival at Ballyscullion Park will be launched in January 2024. The

Ballyscullion Park Book Festival is a celebration of literature, music and art in the heart of Seamus Heaney country. The weekend event on 11th and 12th May 2024 and features 18 writers, performers and artists.

CLOGHER VALLEY CLUSTER – G BELL

Each of the cluster businesses will continue to focus on marketing their own unique product whilst collectively working with other businesses within the cluster to develop new packages and programmes, market their product as an add-on, scope out new markets and market segments while encouraging visitors to spend more time and money in the area.

Julie O'Brien will continue to mentor each business on their individual needs.

Location and dates discussed for community events.

ARCHAEOLOGY, HISTORY AND HERITAGE CLUSTER – G BELL

Tourism Mentor Programme

The Tourism Mentoring Programme is continuing to take shape with a number of the applicants moving forward to the next stage. The facilitator from Lough Neagh Partnership has compiled a brief survey to identify the skills that need developed and then plans to offer skills mentoring to support the development of the new tourism experiences.

Hidden Heritage 2024

The Tourism team are now planning for the Hidden Heritage Programme 2024 and will be encouraging Mid Ulster's Heritage cluster members to forward suggested itineraries.

The National Lottery Heritage Fund

The National Lottery Heritage Fund has published the first three-year delivery plan for their new 10-year strategy, Heritage 2033. It includes details about budgets and priorities, and forthcoming changes to National Lottery Grants for Heritage.

The following National Lottery Grant for Heritage is now temporarily closed:

- Project enquiry forms and applications for grants from £10,000–£250,000. This will re-open in late January with new forms and guidance available. Exact date to be confirmed.
- Once this programme re-opens there will be a rolling deadline and applications will take around 8 weeks to assess.
- Expressions of Interest form for grants from £250,000-£10m is currently available. An EOI can be submitted at any time and if approved the applicant will be invited to submit an application. The applications forms and guidance in line with Heritage 2033 will be available at the end of January. Exact date to be confirmed. This level of grant has quarterly deadlines with 2024-25 dates to be confirmed.

Once an application has been submitted it will take around 12 weeks for assessment and decision.

The Heritage Fund Engagement team in NI will deliver a series of online and in person workshops in early 2024. The exact dates are still being confirmed and will be circulated via social media and other platforms in January 2024.

OUTDOOR CLUSTER REPORT – A O’KEEFE

The Sperrins Partnership in collaboration and with support from Sport NI and Partner Councils, secured funding through The Outdoor Partnership (TOP) to appoint an Outdoor Activity Development Officer for the Sperrins for a 4-year funded period. The Outdoor Partnership is an organisation based in Wales who work to support people across the UK to take up outdoor activities as a life-long pursuit. Their vision is: “Enhancing people’s lives through outdoor activity”. Gary Donaldson was appointed as The Outdoor Activity Development Officer in February 2023 and his role is to build capacity, identify training and education needs within outdoor sports and recreation in Sperrins Communities. Gary has already made great strides during his short time in post and is building networks within the Sperrins. Gary has carried out a gap analysis audit of the Sperrins AONB and surrounding areas in order to highlight opportunities for development, Sperrins facilities and resources, club and community links and to greater understand local needs and interests.

Gap Analysis activity included:

- Face to face meetings
- Site visits
- Community engagement meetings
- Stakeholder meetings including NGBs & Councils
- Community Survey

The Outdoor Activity Development Officer will look to secure grant funding opportunities to develop activities and capitalise on what has been delivered so far.

MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of:	N2 A5 Cross Border Committee
Date and Time:	Thursday, 30 th November 2023 at 4.00pm
Location:	via MS Teams
Chair:	Councillor Brian McKenna
Councillors Present:	<p>Derry City and Strabane District Council: Brian Harte</p> <p>Donegal County Council: Johnny McGuinness; Paul Canning;</p> <p>Fermanagh and Omagh District Council: Allan Rainey MBE; Bernard McGrath</p> <p>Mid Ulster District Council: Mark Robinson; Gael Gildernew; Kevin McElvogue</p> <p>Monaghan County Council: Brian McKenna; David Maxwell; Paudge Connolly</p>
In Attendance:	<p>Monaghan County Council: Ms. Roisin Moore (N2 Project Liaison Officer) Ms. Leanne Lennon (Meeting Secretariat) Robert Burns (Chief Executive)</p> <p>Fermanagh and Omagh District Council: Mr. John News (Director of Environment and Place)</p> <p>Donegal County Council: Mr. Bryan Cannon (A/Director of Service, Roads and Transportation)</p>
Apologies:	Cllr Ruairi McHugh; Mr Gareth McMahan (A/Director of Services, Roads and Transportation)

No	Item	Action By:
1.	Welcome & apologies.	
	Cllr B. McKenna welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies from Cllr Ruairi McHugh; Mr Gareth McMahan.	Note
2.	Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2023	
	AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor P. Connolly, seconded by Councillor P. Canning that the minutes of the previous meeting on 23 rd September 2023 are agreed.	Note
3.	Matters Arising	
	The committee heard that the Department for Infrastructure received the final advisory Report on the Public Inquiry proceedings of 2020 and May / June 2023 from the Planning Appeals Commission (PAC) on 31 st October 2023, and that further liaison would be undertaken with the Permanent Secretary before a formal decision on whether to proceed is made by a Minister (or Senior Civil Servant). Discussion took place about the potential timeline and impact of delays.	

	On the proposal of Cllr A. Rainey, seconded by Cllr B McGrath, it was agreed that write to the Northern Ireland Permanent Secretary. [Post meeting update: Correspondence issued from MCC to the Permanent Secretary, 17 th January 2024]	MCC
4.	Meeting with Minister Eamon Ryan	
	No response in relation to the meeting request issued by the committee to Minister Eamon Ryan. MCC to write again requesting a meeting. [Post meeting update: Letter issued from MCC on 17 th January 2024]	MCC
	Cllr Brian Mckenna noted that Minister Ryan met with representatives of Monaghan Co Co on the 2 nd Nov 2023, where a range of local road and transport issues were discussed. A priority of Minister Ryan is active travel.	Note
5.	Project overview and update	
	R. Moore, N2 Project Liaison Officer, Monaghan County Council, briefly give an overview/update to the committee of each of the 4 major projects along the northwest corridor. R. Moore said it would be beneficial if project updates became a standing item on the agenda going forward, and that the co-ordinating authority would request updates from each of the 4 projects in advance of each quarterly meeting going forward. This was agreed at the meeting.	Note
6.	Terms of Reference	
	Donegal County Council submitted a proposal to change the committee's name to N2/A5/TEN-T Cross Border Committee. The Committee agreed on the name change to N2/A5/TEN-T Cross Border Committee. [Post meeting update: Fermanagh & Omagh District Council subsequently wrote to MCC on 10 th January 2024 voicing concern about the name change. This correspondence was circulated to all Local Authorities on the 23 rd January 2024, and is to be included on the agenda for the next meeting.]	Note
7.	Correspondence	
	There was no correspondence.	Note
8.	To agree rotation and schedule of meetings of the A5-N2 Cross Border Committee for 2024	
	It was proposed that Donegal County Council or Mid Ulster Council provide secretariat services to the committee over the coming year. The committee agreed that the role should alternate north and south of the border each year. Cllr Gael Gildernew nominated Mid Ulster District Council take over the secretary role for 2024	Mid Ulster District Council
9.	Date of the next meeting	
	That the next meeting of the A5-N2 Cross Border Committee would be scheduled for early March (Mid Ulster District Council to confirm details).	Mid Ulster District Council
	The meeting concluded at 5.00pm	

Report on	Service Improvement Plan for Chief Executive's Directorate 2024-2025
Date of Meeting	16 May 2024
Reporting Officer	Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To update Members on the overall Service Improvement Plan for the Chief Executive's Directorate 2024-2025, and most specifically to content related to the Economic Development, Tourism & Strategic Programmes Department Service Plan for 2024/2025.
2.0	Background
2.1	In line with corporate performance improvement requirements and to ensure that every service contributes to performance improvement, each service produces an annual improvement plan. In 2024/2025 these plans are being presented for Departments as a whole.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>The Economic Development, Tourism & Strategic Programmes Service is a division of the Chief Executive's Department.</p> <p>The Service Improvement Plan for the Economic Development, Tourism & Strategic Programmes Service is contained within Appendix 1.</p> <p>The Plan identifies the key the priorities and activities for the Economic Development, Tourism & Strategic Programmes Service for the year ahead and seeks to build on the work undertaken during the last year.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: N/A
	Human: N/A

	Risk Management: N/A
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	<p>It is recommended that Members;</p> <p>Note content of the Departmental Service Improvement Plan for the Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes Service (2024-2025), which forms an integral part of the overall Chief Executive’s Directorate Service Improvement Plan (2024-2025).</p>
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	Appendix 1 - Service Improvement Plan for Chief Executive’s Directorate 2024-2025.



Chief Executive's Directorate Service Plan 2024/2025

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE PLAN - 2024 / 2025

	Date
Consulted within staff team	22/4/24
Discussed & signed off by Director	8/5/24

CONTENT

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	Foreword
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1.1	Purpose and scope of the department
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2.1	Budget - 2024/25
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2.4	Risk Management of Department
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1.0 OVERALL PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE DEPARTMENT

1.1 Purpose and Scope of the Department

Chief Executive Department

The Chief Executive is responsible for the delivery of services across the Council as well as managing the business of the Chair and Deputy Chair. The office also holds responsibility for the following functions:

- Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes
- Marketing and Communications and Democratic Services

The department is headed by Adrian McCreesh, Chief Executive. Fiona McKeown is the Assistant Director for Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes, while Kate Keys holds the role of Head of Marketing and Communications. An overview of each section follows below.

1.1.1 Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes

The Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes Section provides a range of services including economic development, tourism, heritage, business development initiatives, skills, and employability programmes, nurturing of industry/sectoral clusters, urban and rural regeneration projects, and cross border activities.

More recently, a substantial amount of work has been undertaken to progress strategic projects identified within the Mid-South West (MSW) Growth Deal and preparation and submission of applications to the Levelling Up Fund. In addition, the Section leads the effective delivery of the Labour Market Partnership (LMP) initiative which has been established to improve employability outcomes and labour market conditions in the region.

The Section also builds strategic alliances with partner organisations to maximise opportunities for the economic growth of the District through leverage of additional funding or support provision.

The Tourism team is responsible for the successful management of Council's Tourism and Heritage Service. Its key functional responsibilities are district wide strategic tourism and heritage development, business engagement, visitor servicing from Council sites located at Seamus Heaney HomePlace, Burnavon, Bridewell, OM Dark Sky Park & Observatory, US Grants and Ranfurly House.

The 25.71 staff complement within the Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes team are located across three main sites in Dungannon, Cookstown and Magherafelt

1.1.2 Marketing and Communications

The Marketing and Communications service forms part of the Chief Executive's Department and provides strategic and operational marketing and communication services to the Council.

There are 5.5 staff members within the service structure, all based at the Council's Magherafelt offices.

1.2 Responsibilities

1.2.1 Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes

This Department is specifically responsible for the development, implementation and management of a wide range of key strategic local and regional initiatives to develop the district. The main thematic areas are highlighted below.

Economic Development

- Develop and deliver a range of economic support programmes, (including the new 11-Council collaborative Go Succeed service) to support the economic development of the district on across a range of levels, including business support interventions.
- Identify and bid for sources of funding to resource and support the growth of the Mid Ulster economy.
- Lobby for and identify opportunities for significant infrastructure investments.
- Manage / service a range of Working Groups and Partnerships such as Council's Broadband Working Group, the A5/N2 Cross Border Committee, Town Centre Forums, Labour Market Partnership etc.
- Progress opportunities to further develop strategic local, regional and cross border alliances by partnering with others, eg, Irish Central Border Area Network, A5/N2 Cross Border Committee, Sliabh Beagh Committee, Lough Neagh Partnership, Sperrins Partnership, Lough Neagh Rescue, etc.
- Maximise opportunities for development and inward investment to the district from a range of sources, collaborating with appropriate local, regional, national, and European partners etc.

Urban and Rural Regeneration

- Manage, develop, and deliver a comprehensive range of initiatives relating to Urban and Rural Regeneration to support the growth and development of a competitive retail sector across Mid Ulster, and the reinvigoration of rural areas; eg, Town Business Spruce Up Schemes, Mid Ulster Gift Card, Maghera Public Realm, etc
- Improve townscape quality and maximise the profile of the town centres (Dungannon, Cookstown, Magherafelt, Coalisland and Maghera), including reinforcing the brand identities of the main towns.
- Develop, promote, and deliver a number of key signature events that add vitality and vibrancy to urban and rural areas.
- Identify regeneration priorities from Masterplans, Village Plans as agreed by Council and progress revitalise/regeneration schemes across the Mid Ulster.
- Promote and provide support for funding opportunities that become available for rural Mid Ulster, monitoring the implementation of approved projects.

Strategic Programmes/Initiatives

- Mid South West (MSW) Growth Deal
- Mid South West Industrial Investment Challenge Fund
- Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP)
- Development of Strategic Opportunity Sites (Ann Street, Dungannon and the former Maghera High School site)
- Community Planning – Economic Growth Initiatives
- Levelling Up Fund - Maghera.
- Digital Transformation Flexible Fund

Tourism/Heritage

- Develop and progress initiatives identified in Council's Tourism Action Plan and complete the new Heritage Strategy for the District.
- Manage and deliver Visitor Information Services for Mid Ulster through the Visitor Information Centres in Bellaghy, Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt.
- Ensure Tourism delivery becomes more commercially, and customer focussed by maintaining and increasing domestic and international visitors.
- Build and develop relationships with a wide range of stakeholders through business engagement.
- Develop the Tourism Service through the delivery of a programme of innovative activities and experiences that promotes tourism and heritage to ensure Mid Ulster is an attractive and competitive location.
- Identify sources of external funding opportunities for tourism and heritage, formulating fund bids and liaising with funding bodies to maximise the tourism/heritage profile of Mid Ulster.
- Provide guidance and professional advice to Stakeholders and elected members, ensuring clear communication, and delivery of Tourism and Heritage services.

Marketing and Communications: The service develops and delivers external and internal marketing and communications which supports the Council's vision, values, and strategic direction.

This includes (but is not limited to)

- Marketing and communications planning and delivery across departments and services
- Brand management
- The development and content management of multiple digital platforms (web and social media)
- The proactive management of media relations
- Delivery of in-house graphic design services
- Communications support for the Chair, Deputy Chair and Committee Chairs.

1.3 Customers & Stakeholders

Below are details of the wide number of internal and external customers and stakeholders the Chief Executive's department engages with on a daily basis to ensure high quality, inclusive service delivery.

Customers & Stakeholders
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal: Other Council Departments, Elected Members, Senior Management Team, and Staff
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government Departments and Agencies (DfE, DfI, DfC, Invest NI, DAERA, Dept for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSW Growth Deal Councils and associated Project Partners
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local businesses, social enterprises and farmers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further and Higher Education Providers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ENI & Local Enterprise Agencies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MPs and MLAs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional sectoral representative bodies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local and Regional Media
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP), Chambers of Commerce, Town Centre Forums.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inward Investors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community / voluntary sectors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Enterprise NI (SENI)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism Northern Ireland
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism Ireland
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Trust
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sport NI
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sperrin's Partnership
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lough Neagh Partnership and Lough Neagh Rescue
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism Trade
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event Organisers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outscape
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ulster Scots Agency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICBAN
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SOLACE Economic Development Group
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MEGA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid Ulster Construction Cluster/Forum
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid Ulster Residents
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Service Users
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funders
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elected Members
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal Staff
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central Government Departments e.g., DfC, DfI, DAERA, DfE

1.4 Performance Overview in 2023/24 (Retrospective Review)

1.4.1 Economic Development and Strategic Programmes

2023/2024 Performance Response/ Overview (What we achieved- Measured Activities)	End of Year Progress Status: Activity was - Completed /Commenced/ Other
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mid Ulster Town Business Spruce Up Scheme. Capital Funding secured from the Department for Communities. Funding to the value of £200,000 currently committed to schemes in town centre boundary areas within the towns of Dungannon, Coalisland, Cookstown and Magherafelt. 	On-Going
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NI Business Start Up Programme (Go For It) - due to deliver at least 128 Plans (promoting 77 jobs by 30 Sept 2023) Outcome - 80 jobs promoted supporting 134 clients with Plans Start Up support to be delivered via new 'Go Succeed' Service from Nov 2023 – March 2025 (Yr 1 target 194 – achieved 299 clients engaged) 	Completed (30 September 2023) Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business Growth and Scaling support to be delivered via new 'Go Succeed' Service from Nov 2023 – March 2025 (Yr. 1 target – support to 200 businesses achieved) 	Completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Four Business Support Programmes completed Feb 2023) (Funded: 60% EU/ERDF, 20% Invest NI, 20% Council) outcomes to be independently evaluated Gearing for Growth Programme, Tender Ready Programme, Digital First Programme and Transform Programme <p>Independent Evaluation (completed Sept 2023) confirmed following key outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 714 business places taken up (of target 690) - 344 new jobs created (against target of 900) – valued at £7.33M - 32 businesses won new work of £28.45M (against target of £5m) - 57 businesses accepted as Invest NI Quality Referrals (against target of 90) - 31 Mid Ulster businesses offered £1.015M from Invest NI's Ambition to Grow Fund 	Completed

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership - Developed and submitted a Mid Ulster LMP Action Plan 2023-24 to the Department for Communities (DfC) for funding. - Delivered the Mid Ulster LMP Action Plan 2023-24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New programmes on-going with 132 residents furthest from the labour market supported into employment. ○ Range of employer support events delivered – both face to face and via online seminar, providing support to local organisations in employability related subjects ○ 6 Job Fairs held – 5 local fairs in partnership with our 3 Jobs and Benefits Offices (Dungannon, Cookstown and Magherafelt) and one large Jobs and Apprenticeship Fair. Minimum 15 residents gained employment because of attending the fairs. ○ Developed a Three-Year Strategy for Mid Ulster LMP 2024-2027 	<p>Letter of offer for £386,510.71 received from DfC to deliver Action Plan (including additional funding allocated February 2024).</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSW Growth Deal - Developed Strategic Outline Cases for Desertcreat Industrial lands Project and Sperrins Slieve Gallion Project. The Desertcreat project has since evolved into the Desertcreat Green Innovation Business Park and a Programme Business Case has commenced. - Progress A29 Cookstown Bypass to Draft Orders stage and Public Information Event. - A successful funding application was submitted to the Innovate UK Fast Followers Programme on behalf of the MSW Region. The funding will help to further develop each Council's net zero delivery plans, improve delivery pathways, and enable adoption at scale of innovative products and services throughout the local economy. 	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Draft Orders issued</p> <p>Letter of offer for £300k received from Innovate UK for the period 2023-25.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared Island Funding (SIF) - In 2022, Council partnered in three cross-border projects which bid into the Shared Island Local Authority Development Fund. - The projects involved collaborative cross-border investment with border Councils including Cavan, Monaghan, and Leitrim, as well as northern partner Councils in Fermanagh and Omagh and Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon. 	<p>Three Cross-Border Studies completed.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The outputs included; 1) a feasibility study for ringforts at Tullaghoge and Killahurk, 2) the development of Report to investigate the feasibility of enhancing cross border economic growth, innovation, clustering and networking in key growth sectors through the development of strategic green industrial serviced land and enterprise space for SMEs (Desertcreat), and 3) a feasibility study for the development of an Eco Tourism Destination in Sliabh Beagh. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid Ulster Enterprise Week (Monday 13 November – Friday 17 November 2023) - Theme of Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2023 was challenge, adopt and succeed. Throughout the week 11 free events had been held both on-line and in person. - Wide range of topics relevant to the needs of businesses had been provided. - 700 business people attended the programme of events during Enterprise Week. 	Completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban Regeneration Initiatives – Maghera Regeneration Project - Council successfully secured £9.1m from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities’ Levelling Up Fund to support the regeneration of Maghera to include a town centre public realm scheme, the redevelopment of the former High School site as a Business Park and the creation of a Wetland Park. Economic Development and Strategic Programmes are the client team on the delivery of the public realm scheme and the business park with the technical support being received from under the Environment Directorate to oversee the management of Maghera Regeneration Project. - Council appointed a contractor at the end of March 2024 to deliver Maghera Public Realm Scheme. 	On-going
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid Ulster Gift Card - This initiative supports the ethos of shopping local. - To date 226 businesses have registered/pending across the district. - Over £75K has been uploaded onto gift cards and spent in participating businesses within Mid Ulster. 	On-Going

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced Christmas Car Parking Charges and Christmas Campaign - As in previous years Dungannon & Magherafelt benefitted from reduced Christmas Car Parking charges over the Christmas period. - A district wide Christmas Marketing Campaign had been delivered to promote the retail/hospitality offering in 2023, including a TV Advertisement. 	Complete
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1.4.2 Tourism Performance Overview in 2023/24 (Retrospective Review)

2023/2024 Performance Response/ Overview – Tourism (What we achieved- Measured Activities)	End of Year Progress Status: Activity was - Completed /Commenced/ Other
<p>Broadened the appeal of visitor attractions through experience development and therefore increasing footfall at our tourism attractions.</p> <p>Funding was secured to mentor 6 new visitor experiences within the district. Two experiences are currently going through the 'Embrace A Giant Spirit' brand alignment process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 1798 rebellion with a focus on Watty Graham (Currently going through brand alignment process) • Killymoon Castle WW2 story (Currently going through brand alignment process) • Ulster Fry • Broughderg History tour • Ben's Hollow Forge • The Three Sisters Experience 	Completed
<p>Delivery of Mid Ulster's Tourism Action Plan</p> <p>As a result of the success of the Trade and Consumer shows with the robust seasonal marketing campaigns, the MUDC Tourism team maintained its focus on the ROI, GB and International markets.</p>	Completed

<p>Increased awareness of the new Visit Mid Ulster brand and exposure through various digital platforms, including Tourism NI's 'Embrace a Giant Spirit' website and the destination website www.visitmidulster.com</p> <p>Continuous development and maintenance of the tourism website and touchscreens 'Visit Mid Ulster Unwinding Time.' Content for the touchscreen is a live feed from the www.visitmidulster.com website.</p>	Completed
<p>Increased attendance at trade and consumer shows.</p> <p>Tourism staff attended eight national and international trade and consumer shows across Ireland, UK and Europe.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holiday World Dublin • Nordics Workshop Stockholm • World Travel Market • Meet the Buyer Belfast • Clogher Valley show • Irish Tour Operators Association • Flavours London • Great Days Out 	Completed
<p>Delivered a series of events, Hidden Heritage, Great Days Out, Food Heritage Event, and a Hill Walking Programme to increase economic spend and overnight stays.</p> <p>Another successful Hidden Heritage programme ran from June to September 2023 across the district which attracted the staycation market. In September 2023 the Sperrins Hillwalking Programme took place, following the success of this a further hill walking programme is scheduled to take place again in 2024/25. The Great Days Out initiative showcased over 26 tourism businesses to 80 group organisers and members of the public at an event in 2023. A successful Food Heritage Event (branded as Taste Mid Ulster) took place in Moy on 8-9 March 2024.</p> <p>Draft Heritage Plan for Mid Ulster is nearing completion.</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>Nearing Completion</p>

<p>Provided industry knowledge and training to local businesses through social media, mentoring and collaborative working.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fortnightly Ezine was distributed to 380 businesses. • Live WhatsApp engagement 186 businesses. • Delivered six in-house business mentoring in addition to Tourism NI's TED programme to 120 tourism businesses. • Four active clusters as highlighted below with up to 50 businesses collaboratively working with Invest NI. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Loughinsholin Cluster 2. Archaeology Heritage and History Cluster 3. Clogher Valley Cluster 4. Outdoor Cluster • Hosted six meetings with Tourism Development Group 	<p>Completed</p>
<p>Service Level Agreements and Partnerships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service Level Agreement in place with Lough Neagh Partnership • Service Level Agreement in place with Lough Neagh Rescue • Partnership Agreement in place with Sperrins Partnership 	<p>Completed for 2023/24 Completed for 2023/24 Completed for 2023/24</p>

1.4.3 Marketing and Communications Performance Overview in 2023/24 -Retrospective Review

<p align="center">2023/2024 Performance Response/ Overview (What we achieved- Measured Activities)</p>	<p align="center">End of Year Progress Status: Activity was - Completed /Commenced/ Other</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and deliver an integrated marketing and communications plan to address dog fouling and littering hotspots. <p>The service developed and delivered an integrated marketing and communications plan to address dog fouling and littering throughout 2023-24. Actions focused on several key areas including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big Spring Clean Campaign launched in April 2023 encouraging residents to organise Big Spring Clean events in their areas. Reminding residents that we loan the litter pickers, provide the bin bags and collect the rubbish after the event. The efforts help to keep Mid Ulster clean, tidy and free from rubbish. • Dog fouling campaign launched in June 2023 encouraging responsible dog ownership by cleaning up dog mess and carrying poo bags at all times for disposing of dog waste to help keep our district clean and tidy and to help protect the environment. • Rubbish Visitor campaign shared in June 2023 encouraging residents not to be a ‘rubbish visitor’ by leaving no trace behind of their visit to our parks and forests by disposing of any waste properly in bins to help keep Mid Ulster clean and tidy. • Publicity of the chewing gum task force carried out in July 2023. The Council secured a grant of £25K from the chewing gum task force to remove chewing gum from our footpaths which helped restore unsightly paths in our towns and kept paths presentable and clean. • Further dog fouling campaign publicity issued in July and August encouraging residents to continue to exercise responsible dog ownership by cleaning up after their dog while out and about at our parks, forests and footpaths to help keep Mid Ulster clean and tidy. 	<p>Completed</p>

- Publicity issued in July 2023 about Mid Ulster securing 5 green flags for Dungannon Park, Davagh Forest Park, Ballyronan Marina, Maghera Walled Garden & Hill of the O'Neill emphasising the standards upheld at our parks and outdoor spaces, encouraging residents to help keep them that way out of civic pride.
- Paint reuse scheme was launched in July 2023. This scheme prevented the illegal dumping of paint in the district by introducing a handy and environmentally friendly way for disposing of any unwanted paint.
- Uniform reuse scheme launched in August 2023 encouraging residents to donate any used uniform items in good condition so they can be reused to avoid unnecessary dumping which will affect the environment, while at the same time helping families who may not be able to afford brand new school uniforms to purchase the items more easily at a reduced cost.
- Vape recycling campaign carried out in September 2023 encouraging residents to dispose of vapes correctly to avoid littering and to reduce contamination in our household refuse bins.
- Recycle Week 2023 publicity issued in October 2023 - Join the Big Recycling Hunt - calling on children aged 5 to 11 in Mid Ulster to take the lead in protecting our environment and looking after our planet.
- International E-Waste Day publicity was carried out in October 2023- highlighting the importance of recycling ALL vapes separately from household waste & recycling to protect the environment and prevent disposal of vapes on our roads and paths.
- A Halloween recycling campaign ran from 26 – 31 October 2023 to promote the importance of recycling properly and reducing food waste over the Halloween period.
- European Week for Waste Reduction publicity was issued in November 2023– this year's theme was packaging, so we encouraged residents not to use unnecessary packaging to help protect the environment and reduce dumping on our roads.
- A Christmas Recycling Campaign ran from 5 December 2023 to 3 January 2024 to encourage residents to recycle properly and reduce food waste over the Christmas period.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further dog fouling campaign publicity issued in January 2024 to remind residents to exercise responsible dog ownership by ensuring to clean up after their dog to help keep the district clean and tidy. • A Food waste recycling campaign ran from 19 – 29 February 2024 encouraging residents to reduce food waste through reuse and recycling to help them save up to £1,000 a year while also protecting and benefiting our environment and planet. • Big Spring Clean promotion for 2024 commenced in February 2024 encouraging residents to keep our district tidy by taking part in Big Spring Clean events for the new season and organising them in their areas. Reminding them that we support all efforts by loaning litter pickers, providing the bin bags and collecting the rubbish afterwards. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement Digital Transformation Communications actions to contribute to a more connected Mid Ulster • The service has continued to manage the review and updating of content on the Council’s website, removing content that is underused and updating change items, for example, new services, initiatives, price changes across leisure, planning, environmental services and cemeteries. • Web accessibility, content and user experience has remained a priority for the service. • The website has received 424,401 visitors over the course of 2023. • An email marketing tool has been secured and an initial template has been designed to support delivery of corporate email messaging in the next financial year. • The service has provided significant support to assist with customer service, registration, missed bins and dog licencing digital transformation strategy work throughout 2023-24. • The service has completed a pilot exercise to research social media management tools which involved creating a long list of martech social media management tools that would streamline our 	Completed

<p>publishing and response to enquiries. A resulting short list of three were trialled by the service and the results of the trial used to identify the best tool in relation to effectiveness, efficiency and value for money to be implemented in 2024-25.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and deliver a Sustainable Communications Plan to support the Council’s sustainability and climate change programme • Initial research for a sustainable communications plan has been completed and the service has engaged with the Waste and Sustainability Officer as well as participated in the Climate Change Action Plan workshops. • Further progress is dependent on the publication of the Council’s Climate Change Action Plan (still to be confirmed at the time of writing) which will inform the final Sustainable Communications Plan. 	Commenced
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and deliver an internal communications strategy and action plan that connects, engages and brings together all Council staff. • Due to resource pressures within the service structure, this objective was paused and will be carried forward to the next service improvement plan. • The service continues to contribute to the delivery of member and staff briefings and manages the intranet as the Council’s key internal communications channel. It developed a Staff Matters newsletter template and works with the HR team to publish to all staff within the organisation. 	Carried Forward
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To continue to create and deliver an integrated communications plan for the Council’s capital investment programme. • The service has contributed significantly to the communication of the outputs of the Council’s capital investment programme, through inputting into the Capital Projects Board and delivering communications activities across several key investment programmes, including those listed below. 	Completed

- | | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Significant assistance has been given to support the Maghera Regeneration Programme, which has included creation and delivery of communications activity across all three strands of the programme, managing significant media and online social media interest in the programme.• Support has been given through the marketing and communications service for community engagement events for the Coalisland Canal Active Travel and the Altmore and Cappagh projects.• An online and print publicity campaign was delivered to mark the official opening of the Derrynoyd and Drumcairne Forests capital projects in March 2024. | |
|--|--|

2.0 IMPROVING OUR SERVICES AND MANAGING PERFORMANCE - 2024/25

The following tables confirm the resources, financial and people, which the Department has access to throughout 2024-25 to deliver its actions, activities and core business.

2.1 Budget 2024/2025

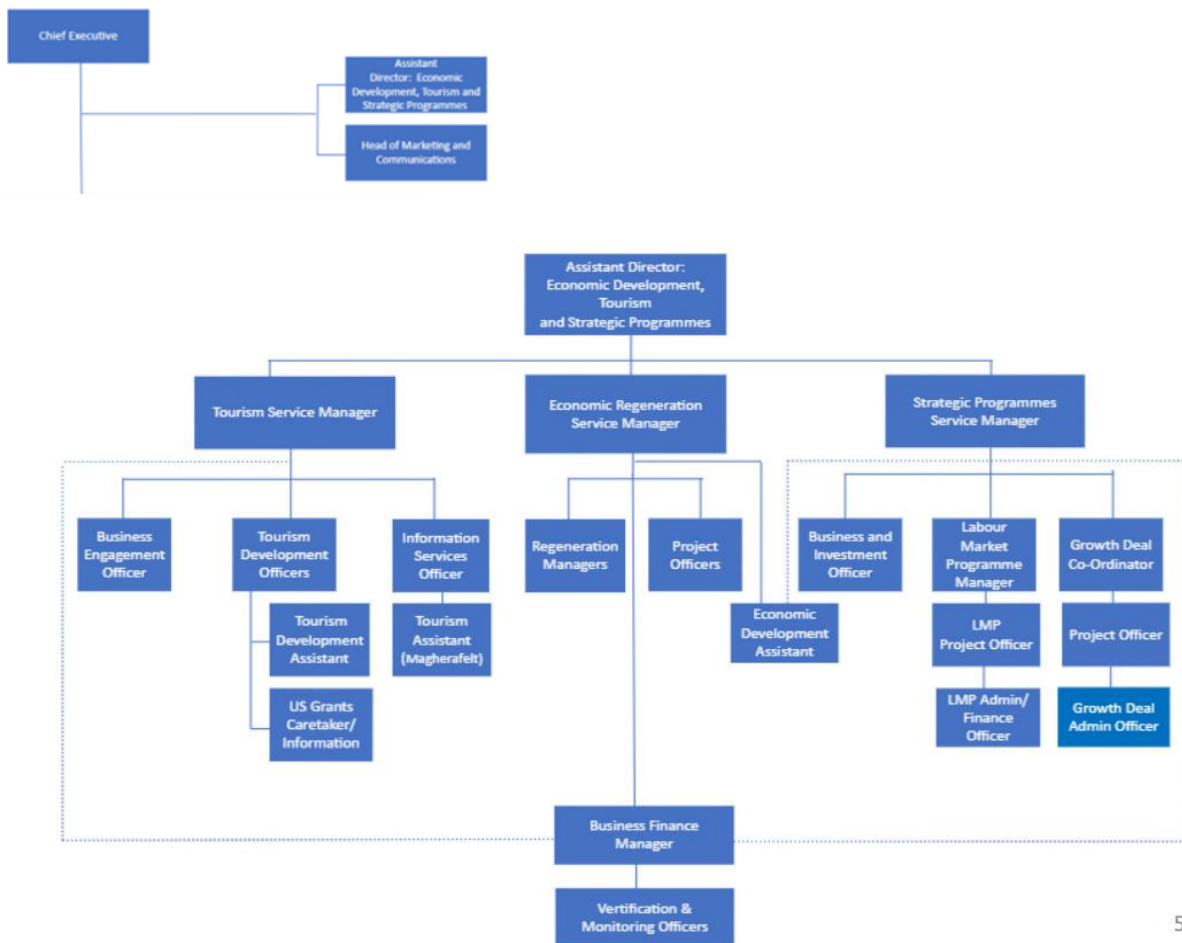
Economic Development and Strategic Programmes	£
General Economic Development	1,349,014
Town Strategy	480,375
Gross Budget	1,829,389
Income	188,428
Net Budget for 2024-25	1,640,961

Tourism	£
Bridewell	99,630
Tourism General	428,370
US Grants	10,159
Gross Budget	538,159
Income	58,018
Net Budget for 2024-25	480,141

Marketing and Communications	£
Central ICT Costs	5,200
Fees	3,000
Office Expenses	92
Marketing Costs	63,000
Staff Costs	311,630
Gross Budget	382,922

2.2 Departmental Services - Council Structure - 2024/2025

Economic Development, Tourism & Strategic Programmes Department



5

Assistant Director	1
Service Managers	3
Economic Regeneration	
Managers	3.8
Officers	5.8
Remaining Team	1
Sub-Total	10.6
Tourism	
Officers	3.24
Remaining Team	1.87
Sub Total	5.11
Strategic Programmes Section	
Managers	2
Officers	6
Sub Total	8
Total Staff Within EDT&SP	25.71

Marketing and Communications



Staffing	No. of Staff
Assistant Director	
Head of Service	
Managers	2
Officers	3.5
Remaining Team	
Total	5.5

2.3 Service Work Plan- 2024/25

This plan outlines the core activities and actions, which will form the Chief Executive's Directorate Service Work Plan for 2024-2025.

This is a high-level capture of the Department and the Service outcomes /activities/measures as well as some improvement undertakings which the services will focus on throughout 2024-2025.

The Plan links to hierarchy of other plans and measures such as:

1. Community Plan
2. Strategic plans e.g. Local Development Plan
3. 2024-2028 Corporate Plan priorities,
4. Annual Corporate Performance Improvement (PIP plan)
5. Corporate Improvement Project Plans (CIP's)
6. Statutory Indicators,
7. Corporate Health Indicators

Mid Ulster District Council's Improvement Objectives for 2024 to 2025 are:

1. Mid Ulster District Council will seek to reduce the environmental impacts of our own activities and will contribute to the improvement of the wider environment through local action
2. We will ensure a more connected Mid Ulster where new technologies and ways of working, empower citizens to get the best services that matter to them
3. To create cleaner neighbourhoods, where everyone takes responsibility for their waste and environment
4. We will contribute to the on-going regeneration of our district by delivering a capital investment programme, enhancing facilities and opportunities for local people

SERVICE WORK PLAN 2024/2025

Service Name: Economic Development & Strategic Programmes						
Link to Community Plan Theme:			Align to Corporate Plan Theme			
CMP 1.1 Economic Growth - We prosper in a stronger & more competitive economy			Theme 1 : Our Service Delivery			
Service Objective (What do we want to achieve?):		What are the key activities we will deliver (actions):	By When (Date?)	Service Name /Lead Officers(s)	What difference will it make? (Outcomes)	How Will we Know? (Measures) clear measurement e.g. %, #, £, date etc.
CORP-001	Support delivery of a strong business economy by fostering start-ups; creating growth/scalability opportunities; and job promotion.	Deliver the requisite number of approved business plans for start-ups to achieve current Statutory Jobs Target * <i>*Due to ongoing considerations this measure is currently under review by DfC and DfE. DfE have advised the new agreed amended lower Stat target of 153 (jobs promoted) has been agreed (July2023) but DfE yet to formally confirm with Councils.</i> Nov 2023 - delivery is via the new 11-Council Go Succeed Enterprise Support Service (led by Belfast City Council)	31/03/25	Business & Investment Officer	Support service to budding entrepreneurs to develop a client-led business plan and start a business.	No. of jobs promoted through business start-up activity. (Target: 153 jobs promoted - 256 approved client business plans completed per annum) <i>* Changed to target of 153 jobs created (see column 2) via 256 Plans</i>
	Support delivery of a strong business economy by fostering start-ups; creating growth/scalability opportunities; and job promotion.	Deliver and manage growth support to 200 businesses and social enterprises. From Nov 2023 - delivery is via new 11-Council Go Succeed	31/03/25	Business & Investment Officer	Building the sustainability, growth, and job creation potential of Mid Ulster businesses/social enterprises	No. of businesses supported through growth orientated scaling programmes and

		Enterprise Support Service (led by Belfast City Council)				events (will include Tourism)
		Participate in and promote the 3-year NI 11 Council Digital Transformation Flexible Fund ('DTFF') led by Newry, Mourne & Down District Council. 40 Mid Ulster businesses to avail of funding in year 2	31/03/25			(Target: 200 businesses / social enterprises supported per annum)
					The DTFF will provide funding to businesses to implement digital transformation measures.	(Target: 90 jobs created and 40 businesses to avail of funding opportunity to deliver digital transformation measures).

SERVICES WORK PLAN 2024/25

Service Name: Economic Development & Strategic Programmes						
Link to Community Plan Theme:			Align to Corporate Plan Theme			
CMP 1.1 Economic Growth - We prosper in a stronger & more competitive economy			Theme 2: Leadership and Partnership for Local Growth			
Service Objective (What do we want to achieve?):		What are the key activities we will deliver (actions):	By When (Date?)	Service Name /Lead Officers(s)	What difference will it make? (Outcomes)	How Will we Know? (Measures) clear measurement e.g. %, #, £, date etc.
No.001	Profiling Mid Ulster Business: Marketing, Communication Campaigns	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Working within internal communications across the district to deliver a number of key messaging campaigns that will capture and promote businesses within and beyond the district. Undertake a number of Marketing and Promotion campaigns across 5 town centres during key retail periods to promote offering and town centre brands. Profile and publicise Business Related Good News Stories (e.g. new business openings, job creation, increased revenue, 	31/03/25	Regeneration Managers, Project Officers Marketing and Communications Team.	<i>Raising the profile of local businesses in the district by boosting visibility, driving economic growth, enhancing community engagement, facilitating networking and improving the district's reputation</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Number. of key messaging local campaigns delivered promoting local businesses throughout the district in the year. Number of marketing and promotion town centre campaigns undertaken during key retail periods. Number of participating businesses "Good News" stories profiled and publicised in year.

		<p>successful expansions etc)</p> <p>4. Promote and build on the success of the Mid Ulster Gift Card in year.</p> <p>5. Provide reduced Carparking Charges during the Christmas period.</p> <p>6. Develop a Mid Ulster Business Welcome Pack.</p>				<p>4. Value in £ of Mid Ulster Gift Cards purchased and redeemed.</p> <p>5. Number of weeks that parking fees were reduced in Council car parks over the Christmas period in Dungannon and Magherafelt</p> <p>6. Number of Mid Ulster Welcome Packs distributed in year.</p>
No.002	Delivery of Strategic Events	<p>Calendar of corporate events in five town centres:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cookstown Continental Market • Summer Bash, Coalisland • Walled Garden Maghera • Halloween in Dungannon • Halloween in Coalisland • Christmas Lights Switch On in Cookstown 	31/03/25	<p>Regeneration Managers</p> <p>Project Officers</p> <p>Corporate Events Team.</p>	Increase Civic Pride, and footfall across the five town centres	Delivery of ten town centre events in the five town centres during 2024/25

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lights Switch On in Dungannon • Lights Switch On in Magherafelt • Christmas Lights Switch On in Coalisland • Christmas Lights Switch On in Maghera 				
No.003	Events	Develop several events in towns and villages to benefit businesses and local communities (includes Taste Mid Ulster event in Pomeroy)	31/03/2025	Regeneration Managers Project Officers	Increase Civic Pride, dwell time, spend and footfall across the five town centres.	Number of events held Number of evaluations completed
No.004	Physical Regeneration /Improving Infrastructure	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Delivery of Maghera Public Realm. 2. Development of a work plan to support the need to address dereliction and vacancy. (subject to both human and financial commitment from government departments – DFC & DAERA) 	31/03/2025	Regeneration Service Manager Regeneration Managers	<p>Improved town centre aesthetics and enhanced civic pride in Maghera once the public realm works are completed.</p> <p>A working document that will facilitate and create forward looking interventions that can be used to source external funding that will enhance the streetscapes within Mid Ulster</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Completion of Maghera Public Realm Scheme as client lead in partnership with Environment Directorate. 2. Working document plan to lobby and submit applications to relevant departments such as DFC and other potential funders.

		<p>3. Progress early actions recommended within Cookstown Saturday Market Scoping Study.</p> <p>4. Assessment to appoint professional services to conduct a costed intervention/health check for rural and urban areas. (subject to support from Govt Depts – (DFC/DAERA)</p> <p>5. Town Business Spruce Up Scheme - Make a £200K funding bid to DFC to acquire monies to deliver Phase 2 'Reserve List' Projects on the Town Business Spruce Up Scheme - Progress Phase 1 Town Business Spruce Up Scheme</p> <p>6. Continue to progress development of key opportunity sites – Maghera High School</p>			<p>Phased reinvigoration of Cookstown Saturday Market by undertaking initial actions.</p> <p>Increased private sector investment in Mid Ulster</p> <p>Increased private sector investment through redevelopment of a long-term vacant site.</p>	<p>3. Measure actions within Cookstown Saturday Market Scoping Study.</p> <p>4. Working document to explore intervention/health checks to support regeneration in rural and urban areas across the district.</p> <p>5. Secure £ in additional funding from DFC to deliver applications on the Phase 2 Reserve List for the Town Business Spruce Up Scheme.</p> <p>Complete Phase 1 Town Business Spruce Up Scheme</p>
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		7. Continue to progress Ann Street Development site, Dungannon		Strategic Programmes Service Manager	Increased private sector investment through redevelopment of a long-term vacant site.	6. Planning permission secured for 6. Maghera High School site by Q2/3 7. Agreement for lease completion and Planning application submitted by Q2. Commitment and Consultation to progress on to Business Case stage.
No.005	Place Shaping Plans	1. To collaboratively develop a robust strategic place shaping plan for Cookstown with proactive engagement, consultation with key stakeholders to develop a plan that reflects the aspirations and needs of Cookstown communities by Summer 2025. 2. Establish an Officer Led Cross Departmental Task & Finish Group to share knowledge, address cross cutting issues and explore opportunities to enhance regeneration across the district.	30/09/2025	Economic Regeneration Service Manager Economic Regeneration Managers	A meaningful place plan document, that will shape the future of Cookstown. Co-ordinated approach for joint advocate on rural and urban issues/opportunities.	1. Delivery of Cookstown Place Plan by Sept 2025. 2. Number of Key Stakeholder Engagement and Consultations.

No. 006	Broadband and Telecommunications	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work to deliver the objectives of the Broadband and Telecommunications Working Group. 2. Work closely with DfE to enhance access to quality, reliable broadband and Telecommunications throughout the district. 	31/03/2025	Economic Regeneration Service Manager Economic Regeneration Manager	Enhanced broadband and Telecommunications within the district.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number of Broadband working group meetings to support lobbying and engagement with DfE and broadband/telecommunication providers.
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SERVICES WORK PLAN 2024/25

Service Name: Economic Development & Strategic Programmes						
Link to Community Plan Theme:			Align to Corporate Plan Theme			
CMP 1.1 Economic Growth - We prosper in a stronger & more competitive economy			Theme 2: Leadership and Partnership for Local Growth			
Service Objective (What do we want to achieve?):	What are the key activities we will deliver (actions):	By When (Date?)	Service Name /Lead Officers(s)	What difference will it make? (Outcomes)	How Will we Know? (Measures) clear measurement e.g. %, #, £, date etc.	
CORP-001	Visibly progress the Mid-South West Growth Deal initiatives.	1. Work in partnership with DfE to develop and secure approval for an Innovation Programme Business Case (Phase 1) to include Desertcreat Green Innovation Industrial Park project by Q2 (Sept 24)	30/09/24	Assistant Director, Economy, Tourism & Strategic Programmes and Strategic Programmes Service Manager	Potential availability of significant funding to implement a key MSW intervention in Mid Ulster	Number of Growth Deal projects progressed by 2028
		2. Work with DfI and other stakeholders to progress delivery of the A29 Cookstown Bypass to Outline Business Case stage (Phase 2)	30/09/25		Improved transport connectivity in Mid Ulster	Number of Growth Deal Business Cases progressed by 2028. Scheme Draft Orders Stage and statutory consultation completed.

		3. Continue to lobby DFI for the inclusion of a bypass for Dungannon in the Regional Strategic Transport Network Transport Plan (RSTNTP)	31/03/25			Commence Phase 2 Outline Business Case Scheme included in RSTNTP
No.001	MSW Fast Followers Programme	Support the delivery of the Fast Followers Programme within Mid Ulster during 2024/25	31/03/25	Strategic Programmes Service Manager	Improved Net Zero skills and capability among local businesses in Mid Ulster.	100% progress on actions contained in the agreed Project Plan 2024/25
No.002	Supporting Employability and Skills	Deliver a Mid Ulster LMP Action Plan 2024-25* <i>*Subject to funding from the Department for Communities.</i>	31/03/25	LMP Manager	Employability outcomes and labour market conditions improved by a stronger co-ordinated, multi-agency approach.	100% progress of no. of assigned actions from the Action Plan 2024-25 delivered (Subject to funding)
		Effectively deliver events which connect local people to local jobs and continues to support employers with skilled labour shortages.	31/03/25	LMP Manager	Addressing industry needs for skilled labour.	Up to 10 relevant events (face to face and online successfully delivered.
		Support MEGA in the delivery of a three-year Strategic Action Plan 2022-25.	31/03/25	Strategic Programmes Service Manager	Contribute to the economic growth and sustainability of the manufacturing and engineering sector.	100% progress on funded actions detailed in SLA Employability & Skills Scoping

		<p>Support the Mid Ulster Construction Cluster with an application to Invest NI to secure funding to deliver a Three-Year Action Plan (Subject to funding opportunity from Invest NI)</p>	31/03/25	Strategic Programmes Service Manager	Contribute to addressing skills and labour challenges facing the construction sector.	<p>Study and Action Plan developed</p> <p>Application submitted to Invest NI when funding opportunity becomes available.</p>
		<p>Develop and deliver a Multiply programme through the planning, implementation, and evaluation of a range of numeracy-based projects and initiatives throughout the district.</p>	31/03/25	Multiply Project Officer	Raising the numeracy levels of adults through the delivery of skills courses and qualifications.	<p>100% progress of no. of assigned actions for 2024-25 delivered.</p>
No.003	Business Support, Networking and Capacity Building	<p>Deliver Mid Ulster Enterprise Week (Nov 2024)</p> <p>Delivery of International Women's Events in March 2025</p> <p>Mid Ulster Business Awards 2024 (subject to Council agreeing to fund the awards)</p>	31/03/25	Economic Development & Strategic Programme	Improved capacity building, empowerment and opportunities for businesses trading within the district.	<p>Number of events</p> <p>Number of participants attending events.</p>

No.004	Industrial Land and Serviced Sites	Identify pilot project and explore potential funding opportunities in partnership with Invest NI. Develop a Masterplan for the Desertcreat site (funded by Shared Island Fund).	31/03/25	Strategic Programmes Service Manager Business & Investment Officer	Ensure an appropriate supply of employment land and premises.	Identify Pilot Project and secure funding for intervention. Complete Masterplan
No.005	Identify funding opportunities to support investment in strategic Council projects	Work closely with central government and key stakeholders and develop funding bids for prioritised projects within EDTSP.	31/03/25	Strategic Programmes Service Manager Business & Investment Officer	Potential to leverage financial investment into Mid Ulster	Two funding bids submitted for strategic projects
No.006	Promote Mid Ulster as an Investment location	Develop a high-profile video to showcase and promote Mid Ulster as an attractive investment location.	31/03/25	Strategic Programmes Service Manager Business & Investment Officer	Increased opportunity to attract investment into Mid Ulster	Number of video impressions

SERVICES WORK PLAN 2024/25

Service Name: Tourism						
Link to Community Plan Theme:			Align to Corporate Plan Theme			
<i>CMP 1.1 Economic Growth - We prosper in a stronger & more competitive economy</i>			<i>Theme 1 : Our Service Delivery</i>			
Service Objective (What do we want to achieve?):		What are the key activities we will deliver (actions):	By When (Date?)	Service Name /Lead Officers(s)	What difference will it make? (Outcomes)	How Will we Know? (Measures) clear measurement e.g. %, #, £, date etc.
CORP-001	Support delivery of a strong business economy by fostering start-ups; creating growth/scalability opportunities; and job promotion.	<p>Develop a portfolio of systems and communications channels to keep the tourism and heritage sectors informed and connected with each other to ensure that they receive the latest and most current business information.</p> <p>Develop a series of webinars to support and inform the sector.</p> <p>Continue to develop and grow our Taste Mid Ulster food and drink offering, upskilling the hospitality industry and hosting a Taste Mid Ulster Market.</p> <p>Deliver programmes that will support and create opportunities for the sector under one or more of the 'Embrace a Giant Spirit' experiences.</p>	31/03/25	Tourism Service Manager and Tourism team.	<p>Greater and more focused support for the tourism & hospitality business sector.</p> <p>Supporting and developing new local experiences under the 'Embrace a Giant Spirit' branding.</p> <p>Sustainable growth and job creation in the Tourism and Hospitality Industry.</p>	<p>No. of businesses supported through growth orientated scaling programmes and events (will include Tourism)</p> <p>No. of businesses supported through mentoring programmes and events.</p> <p>(Target: 60 supported businesses per annum)</p> <p>Deliver 1 Taste Mid Ulster Food Heritage Market.</p>

						Develop and deliver 2 new 'Embrace a Giant Spirit' brand aligned experiences.
CORP-002	Develop Mid Ulster as an enriched vibrant tourist destination.	<p>Deliver the actions within the tourism/heritage action plan for 2024/25.</p> <p>Delivery of a calendar of events such as Hidden Heritage, Great Days Out, Hillwalking, Taste Mid Ulster Food Market, Christmas Grotto.</p> <p>Increase destination digital presence via the Unwinding Time website and social media platforms.</p> <p>Robust seasonal marketing campaign centred around events and the tourism attractions.</p> <p>Collate NISRA tourism visitor stats and Visitor monitoring statistics.</p> <p>Analyse figures from Mid Ulster Council Tourism website and social media platforms.</p>	31/03/25	Tourism Service Manager and Tourism team.	<p>Direct economic benefit to the tourism and hospitality businesses helping them expand and increase their workforce.</p> <p>Reinforce the national and local tourism brand.</p> <p>Increased staycation and out of state visitors to Mid Ulster.</p>	No. of visitors (footfall) to Council visitor attractions.

No. 001	Explore funding opportunities for Tourism and Heritage projects.	<p>Bid for funding (DAERA, Shared Island, HLF, Tourism NI and Tourism Ireland, PEACEPLUS).</p> <p>Design programmes of work established and agreed.</p> <p>Identify funding sources and complete bids for projects such as Sperrins/Slieve Gallion, Tullaghoge Fort and Sliabh Beagh.</p>	31/03/25	Tourism Service Manager and Tourism team	Investigate funding opportunities which could help produce high quality, innovative and immersive experiences/attractions that will preserve our tourism and heritage, increase visitor numbers and investment.	Number of funding bids made.
No.002	Lough Neagh Rescue	To benefit the Lough Shore area within Mid Ulster by providing faster response times for rescues and other operations carried out in and around the Western Shores of Lough Neagh, and provide an emergency flood response service for Mid Ulster.	31/03/25	Tourism Service Manager and Tourism team	Rescue service in situ across the Mid Ulster Lough Neagh shoreline.	Number of call outs on Lough Neagh
No.003	Sperrins Partnership	<p>Commencing work on the delivery of the short and long-term actions contained within the Brand and Tourism Action Plan.</p> <p>Identifying funding opportunities and creating the respective business cases (HLF, RDP, Peace Plus etc).</p>	31/03/25	Tourism Service Manager and Tourism team	Work with partner Councils in Sperrins Partnership to develop the Sperrins Region as a unique tourism and heritage destination.	<p>No. of visitors (footfall)</p> <p>No. Of events</p> <p>No. Of participants attending events.</p>

		<p>Forming strong cross boundary partnerships.</p> <p>Researching and identifying the best practice delivery structure for Sperrin region.</p> <p>The formation and development of the remaining Thematic Groups.</p> <p>The development of an AONB action and management plan for Sperrins.</p>				<p>Completion of Sperrins Management Plan</p>
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Service Name: Tourism						
Link to Community Plan Theme:			Align to Corporate Plan Theme			
CMP 1.1 Economic Growth - We prosper in a stronger & more competitive economy			Theme 2: Leadership and Partnership for Local Growth			
Service Objective (What do we want to achieve?):		What are the key activities we will deliver (actions):	By When (Date?)	Service Name /Lead Officers(s)	What difference will it make? (Outcomes)	How Will we Know? (Measures) clear measurement e.g. %, #, £, date etc.
CORP-001	Actively participate with other partners to substantially progress the co-ordinated management of Lough Neagh.	Develop an SLA for Lough Neagh Partnership. Monitor 6 monthly and annually. Provide funding.	31/03/25	Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism & Strategic Programmes Tourism Manager	Contribute to the preservation economic growth and sustainability of Lough Neagh.	Number of engagements with other statutory bodies responsible for the co-ordinated management of Lough Neagh

SERVICES WORK PLAN 2024/25

Service Name: Marketing and Communications						
Link to Community Plan Theme:			Align to Corporate Plan Theme			
<i>CMP 3.3 Education & Skills - We are more entrepreneurial, innovative & creative</i>			<i>Theme 1 : Our Service Delivery</i>			
Service Objective (What do we want to achieve?):		What are the key activities we will deliver (actions):	By When (Date?)	Service Name /Lead Officers(s)	What difference will it make? (Outcomes)	How Will we Know? (Measures) clear measurement e.g. %, #, £, date etc.
No.001	A connected, engaged and cohesive staff complement that feels informed and involved.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Lead on the research, development and delivery of a new intranet that is fit for purpose and suitable for integration within other online tools currently in place. Work with key content leads from each of the directorates to establish the functionality and content needed for a new intranet. 	Complete by 31/03/25	Marketing and Communications Development Manager / Design & Digital Officer	Improved internal communications that will contribute to a connected and engaged employee group that feels informed and involved.	SMT decision made. New intranet to be implemented (budget implications to be confirmed).
No.002	Ensure that the Council understands the needs of its staff in order to target communication effectively.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Complete a staff survey to establish employee feedback and provide a benchmark for the development of internal communications 	December 2024	Marketing and Communications Development Manager	Results of the survey will inform effective internal communications strategy.	% of employees participating in survey Survey results

SERVICES WORK PLAN 2024/25

Service Name: Marketing and Communications						
Link to Community Plan Theme:			Align to Corporate Plan Theme			
<i>CMP 3.1 Education & Skills - Our People are better qualified & more skilled</i>			<i>Theme 3: Being the Best Council Possible</i>			
Service Objective (What do we want to achieve?):	What are the key activities we will deliver (actions):	By When (Date?)	Service Name /Lead Officers(s)	What difference will it make? (Outcomes)	How Will we Know? (Measures) clear measurement e.g. %, #, £, date etc.	
No.003	Improve cross-directorate/service communications and increase external PR opportunities.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a pilot cross-service communications working group, chaired by the M&C Development Manager that will improve communications. 2. Hold four meetings of the group per year. 3. Design and carry out campaigns plan in line with priorities raised by Working Group. 	<p>Group established by June 2024</p> <p>Programme of work agreed by July 2024</p>	Marketing and Communications Development Manager	<p>Communications will be improved by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing a key contact within each service area to develop positive communications initiatives. Developing and embedding corporate communications Sharing and disseminating good practice Using knowledge, skills, and capabilities in a more effective and co-ordinated way 	<p>No . Of meetings held</p> <p>Media coverage</p> <p>Social media data</p>
No.004	Develop more engaging social media content such as video to explain Council priorities and activities and	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create corporate social media content plan to address key themes throughout the year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Content plan drafted by June 2024 	Marketing and Communications Development Manager	Stakeholders aware of Council's vision, priorities, and remit through effective campaigns.	Social media and digital analytics to measure reach and engagement

	to increase awareness of services Council provides.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Procure external video production company to assist in provision of content. 3. Publish content on corporate social media channels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Company procured by August 2024 • Completed by March 2025 		The awareness and understanding of the Council and the services it delivers is improved.	
No.005	Continue to develop and deliver an integrated marketing and communications plan to address dog fouling and littering hotspots	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and deliver quarterly action plans in partnership with the Environmental Health service to include positive stories about what we're doing well. 	Completed by March 2025	Marketing and Communications Officer (Corporate Lead)	Residents are supported to reduce dog fouling in their neighbourhoods. Reduction in incidents. Recognition is given to the efforts of community groups.	EH monitoring figures of incidents and hot spots Media coverage Social media data
No.006	Ensure our communications allows us to prepare, respond and recover in a crisis	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Draft a crisis communications improvement plan including the development of a toolkit to include playbook. 	Completed by May 2024	Marketing and Communications Development Manager	The plan will assist in clarifying roles and responsibilities during a crisis, define how the M&C service will support the delivery of the BCP, build our crisis comms expertise, and create a living structure, that can be flexed to learnings as we deal with more crisis situations.	Improvement plan in place. Crisis comms toolkit in place.

SERVICES WORK PLAN 2024/2025

Service Name: Marketing and Communications						
Link to Community Plan Theme:			Align to Corporate Plan Theme			
<i>CMP 3.3 Education & Skills - We are more entrepreneurial, innovative & creative</i>			<i>Theme 2: Leadership and Partnership for Local Growth</i>			
Service Objective (What do we want to achieve?):		What are the key activities we will deliver (actions):	By When (Date?)	Service Name /Lead Officers(s)	What difference will it make? (Outcomes)	How Will we Know? (Measures) clear measurement e.g. %, #, £, date etc.
No.007	Ensure the reputation of the Council is protected and raise the profile of the District in a positive way.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to provide a proactive approach to Council news and supply local, regional, and national media with ready-made stories. 2. Continue to monitor the media for reputational issues and act if necessary. 3. Improve social media monitoring through implementation of social media management tools. 4. Secure 2-4 positive pieces of TV coverage a year from proactive media work and selling in of stories. 	Completed by March 2025	Marketing and Communications Development Manager	Our residents, businesses and visitors are aware of our activities and trust us because we communicate effectively.	90% of all press releases used by at least one media outlet 80% positive or neutral tone of coverage 2-4 TV pieces achieved

No.008	Ensure the Council's brand is applied consistently and within identity guidelines	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review existing brand guidelines. 2. Extend brand guidelines to include tone of voice, style guide and all instances of brand application internally and externally. 	Completed by September 2024	Marketing and Communications Development Manager	Our corporate body communications will be clear, consistent, unified, credible, and effective.	Revised brand guidelines are produced, communicated internally, and are in operation consistently.
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2.4 RISK MANAGEMENT OF DEPARTMENT/SERVICES

The purpose of risk management is to manage the barriers which prevents the Council from achieving its objectives. This section of the service plan includes space for the Department to input their key risks (in summary form), which have been identified during the business planning process. The Council uses risk management to maximize opportunities and minimize risks. This improves its ability to deliver priorities and improve outcomes. This is why the Council deems it important to link business planning and risk management. Risk Management aims to:

- Help the Council achieve its overall aims and objectives
- Manage the significant risks the Council faces to an acceptable level
- Assist with the decision making process
- Implement the most effective measures to avoid, reduce and control those risks
- Balance risk with opportunity
- Manage risk and internal controls in the most effective way.

This table illustrates the risks identified to deliver the Department's/Services business as outlined in service plan for 2024-25.

Risk Ref Number	Description of Risk	Risk Rating	Mitigation Activity
1.	Failure to manage and deliver all Departmental funding (internal/external) in line with Governance procedures to effectively manage projects	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Budget, projections & monitoring & reporting progress in place. Policies & Procedures in place for funding. Letter of offers/service level agreements/partnership agreements issued to third party organisations setting out terms & conditions / targets / deadlines etc. Monthly monitoring returns made to funding bodies and capital planning team (where relevant). Funding approval reports submitted to the relevant Council Committee. Legal Services review all Legal Agreements between Council and funding partners/organisations (as applicable for each funding stream). - Ongoing engagement & communication with Funders, Stakeholders, Staff & Members. Structured team meetings with Agenda. Regular review of key existing and new risks in line with the changing risk landscape. PC&SP 1-1 staff meetings with training / development plans in place. - Raising staff knowledge, awareness and ongoing training opportunities in line with Council's Information Governance procedures. - Ongoing staff development & training provided to ensure compliance with statutory / mandatory requirements. - Economic Development, Tourism & Strategic Programmes Service Improvement Plan and Action Plan

			<p>in place annually and agreed by Council. Quarterly reporting to SMT on corporate improvement objectives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Networking / Collaboration with other Councils and Stakeholders to maximise resources and share information. Attended numerous internal / external meetings / working groups. Guidance provided to stakeholders. Ongoing review. - Advance liaison with Councils Procurement Dept. for larger projects to ensure appropriate scheduling of procurement expertise etc. - Initial governance procedures in place for Mid South West Growth Deal up to Head of Terms - EDTSP officers to explore and maximise new funding opportunities for delivery of projects. - Assurance that EDTSP financial priorities and commitments are aligned with Councils financial plan. - Establishment of baselines to measure progress and outputs in programme delivery. - Liaise with legal services to determine a working agreement/schedule to support EDTSP - Ensure appropriate partnership agreements are in place. - Governance for MSW Growth Deal post Head of Terms
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2.	Failure to maximise the tourism/heritage potential in the District.	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ongoing seasonal campaigns with online engagement through click, comment & share tools via Visit Mid Ulster website and social platforms to reinforce the brand and align with Tourism NI Embrace a Giant Spirit and Tourism Ireland campaigns. - Liaising with Council's Capital department in the management and statutory compliance of tourism assets, Bridewell and US Grants Ancestral Homestead with annual meetings with tenants. - Ongoing engagement and communication with funders, stakeholders, staff and members. - Raising staff knowledge, awareness and ongoing training opportunities in line with Councils Information Governance procedures. - Networking / Collaboration with other government departments and Stakeholders to maximise resources and share information to assist with the delivery of the Heritage Strategy. Ongoing review. - To increase the number of visitor footfall to Council visitor attractions with 3 seasonal campaigns - Manage tourism assets - Mid Ulster District Council's 5 year Heritage Strategy to be completed and launched
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3.	Failure to prevent Fraud, bribery, theft	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Control/processes developed and reviewed to minimise the risk of fraud e.g. SoD management checks. - Data checking takes place through internal audit - Employees Code of Conduct in place with good ethical standards in place. - Encryption, staff awareness, passwords, access controls, restricted access, security policy. - Internal and external audit checks takes place. - Internet use policy, surf control, access controls, management reports on internet usage, software audit facilities. - New policies are communicated to staff regularly. - Raising concerns/complaints handling process in place. - Random spot checks by trained staff and documentation of same takes place. - Tenders are carried out by experienced/trained staff. Adhere to Council procedures. - Trained staff carryout monitoring checks. Ongoing review of staff training needs with mandatory training required. - Implement existing controls. - Raise staff awareness. - Undertake random checks.
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4.	Failure to miss deadlines for the development of marketing to inform visitors of what is on offer to the visitor.	6	To ensure that there is a robust marketing strategy with resources.
5.	Misuse or inconsistent use of the Council's branding internally and externally.	6	Brand guidelines in place, reviewed and updated. Service oversees and has oversight of brand application and manages internal graphic design service to ensure correct application.
6.	Ineffective use of the Council's social media channels.	6	Documented protocol issued to all staff, only designated staff with access to content management of social media channels, ongoing monitoring of social media channels and regular contact meetings with service/facility-based social media editors.
7.	Failure to adhere to Public Sector Bodies (website and mobile apps) Accessibility regulations.	2	Accessibility standards monitored on a weekly basis using the third-party tool, Silktide, issues addressed either directly via the service or, where required, by engaging with the Council's web development company to address technical accessibility issues.
8.	Failure to communicate effectively in response to emergencies or crisis situations.	8	Emergency / Business Continuity Plan in place with sections relating to Communication Plan. Ongoing review of lessons learned in response to managing communications in emergency or crisis situations & continued attendance at the EP Public Information/Media Working Group.

Rating	Descriptor
16 - 25	Extreme Risk (immediate action required)
10 - 15	High Risk (urgent action required)
7 - 9	Moderate Risk (action required)
1 – 6	Low Risk (keep under review)

3.0 OUR STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

In carrying out our responsibilities, the Service is cognisant of the statutory duties placed upon the council in the delivery of its services. Whilst the Service operates, under various obligations it is however mindful of the changing context in which it operates and endeavours to mainstream the equality and rural needs duties in the design and delivery of our functions.

3.1 EQUALITY DUTY

The council and by consequence our Service is committed to contributing towards its part in working towards fulfilling obligations under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 to ensure adequate time, staff and resources to fulfil our duties.

The Service will also work towards adherence to the council's Equality Scheme ensuring equality duties, together with promoting positive attitudes towards persons with a disability and the participation of people with a disability in public life when carrying out our functions.

3.2 RURAL NEEDS DUTY

The Service will be mindful of the rural needs of its customers when carrying out its functions and subsequent responsibilities, particularly in developing any new policies, plans, or strategies throughout the year. In line with the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 we will give due regard to rurality in terms of needs in carrying out the activities within our Service.

