



12 October 2023

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Development Committee to be held in The Chamber, Cookstown and by virtual means Burn Road, Cookstown BT80 8DT on Thursday, 12 October 2023 at 19:00 to transact the business noted below.

A link to join the meeting through the Council's remote meeting platform will follow.

Yours faithfully

Adrian McCreesh  
Chief Executive

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## AGENDA

### OPEN BUSINESS

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

### Matters for Decision

- |    |                                    |         |
|----|------------------------------------|---------|
| 5. | Walking for All Project            | 3 - 6   |
| 6. | Development Report                 | 7 - 22  |
| 7. | Economic Development Report - OBFD | 23 - 60 |
| 8. | Sperrins Partnership Update        | 61 - 76 |

### Matters for Information

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| 9  | Minutes of Development Committee held on 14 September 2023 | 77 - 92   |
| 10 | Age Friendly Update                                        | 93 - 140  |
| 11 | Sunbed Test Purchasing Exercise                            | 141 - 142 |
| 12 | Economic Development Report - OBF1                         | 143 - 152 |

**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

13. Public Right of Way
14. SHHP Bellaghy Bawn Writers Residency Project
15. Cahore Playing Fields, Draperstown
16. Animal Welfare
17. Economic Development Report – Cbfd

Matters for Information

18. Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 14 September 2023
19. Update on New 11 Council NI Enterprise Support Service ('ESS')

<b>Report on</b>	Walking for All Project
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	12th October 2023
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Leigh Gilmore, Health and Wellbeing Manager

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To update Members on the proposal that Outdoor Recreation NI (ORNI) is currently engaging with all local councils. Their aim to apply to the Peace Plus funding programme for the placement of a "walking for all project coordinator" to be based in the Mid Ulster area.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	ORNI are currently working towards applying to the Peace Plus funding programme, more specifically Theme 4 – Healthy and Inclusive Communities, Investment Area 4.2 – Rural Regeneration and Social Inclusion. Peace Plus is administered by SEUPB.
2.2	The proposed project, Walking for All (WFA) is to use led walks as the conduit to contributing to the creation of healthy communities in rural areas whilst also tackling social isolation and promoting enhanced social inclusion.
2.3	The project will also aim to create opportunities for sustained, meaningful and purposeful contact between people and groups of different backgrounds, and in so doing will seek to make a direct contribution to peace and prosperity.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p>The proposed project, Walking for All (WFA), will aim to specifically deliver on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• contributing to the creation of healthy communities (including individuals and entire communities) in rural areas through a health and well-being focused solution.</li> <li>• providing the opportunities for communities to grow together – economically, socially and culturally.</li> <li>• helping communities become empowered to address social exclusion ensuring all people have access to quality services and therefore achieving a better quality of life for all.</li> <li>• encouraging participants to socialise, gain confidence, build relationships in their local communities, interact reducing rural isolation and exclusion and contributing to more peaceful and prosperous rural areas.</li> <li>• building community networks both cross community and cross border resulting in vibrant, inclusive and sustainable rural communities throughout NI and the border Counties.</li> <li>• fostering a culture of volunteering – with the project focused on training Volunteer Community Walk Leaders, the project will help build the capacity of rural communities to develop and ultimately sustain activities in their own area.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• supporting rural enterprises e.g coffee shops and supports partnership and collaboration effort at all levels and between all stakeholders involved e.g e NGOs, County Council, County LSP and Local Communities.</li> </ul>
3.2	<p>ORNI have stated that they see this project differing from other existing Council walking initiatives with the focus being on training up Volunteer Community Walk Leaders. Their vision is for the Walk Leaders to set up, lead and sustain their own walking groups across the Council area and they propose that these Walk Leaders will be supported at every step by Walking For All Coordinator who will be employed for the sole purpose of the Mid Ulster area should the funding application be successful.</p>
3.3	<p>ORNI have advised that the proposed project is cross border. Confirmed partners include Sport Ireland and the Local Sports Partnerships of Counties Louth, Monaghan, Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim and Cavan. Work is progressing with all Councils in NI (except Belfast City Council) to receive partnership support.</p>
3.4	<p>ORNI have advised that their proposed model for the project includes a core staff team of Project Manager, Finance Officer, Training and Communication Officer and three Regional WFA Managers. These positions will be employed by ORNI as the lead partner in the project. In addition, ORNI feel that the key to any success of the project is to employ a local WFA Coordinator in each of the Council areas in Northern Ireland and in each of the Local Sports Partnerships in the Republic of Ireland.</p>
3.5	<p>ORNI's vision is that each of the local WFA Coordinators will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• undertake an audit of all community groups in the widest sense across the Council area (e.g sporting clubs, Mother and Toddlers groups, Age Friendly clubs, Men's Shed, Church groups).</li> <li>• proactively engage with these groups to recruit Volunteer Community Walk Leaders.</li> <li>• deliver WFA training courses to new Volunteer Community Walk Leaders.</li> <li>• initially lead walks with the new Walk Leaders to build their confidence and ensure quality control.</li> <li>• provide ongoing support to Community Walk Leaders to maintain a weekly regular walk as a minimum.</li> </ul> <p>seek to integrate existing walking groups (Walking In Your Community and Walking for Health) into WFA and providing the necessary refresher training.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• organise and host local networking walks and events for walking groups.</li> <li>• identify and deliver 'peace and reconciliation' interventions in specific communities.</li> <li>• collate walking group data and case studies and share with the Training and Communication Officer to populate the WFA website.</li> <li>• keep records for monitoring and evaluation purposes and preparing reports for the Regional WFA Managers.</li> <li>• collectively report monthly to the Regional WFA Manager on targets and outputs.</li> <li>• report to the Project Working Group when required.</li> </ul>
3.6	<p>Given the potential overall size of the proposed project (c.£6.5 million over 3 years), it is not possible for ORNI to act as the employing body for the intended 16 Local Coordinators. Consequently, the model proposed is that the WFA Coordinators are employed by the individual Councils and Local Sport Partnerships, but all work programmes and outputs will be line managed by ORNI, as the project's lead partner. The intention via this application is that the coordinators will be in post for three years on a three-year fixed term contract.</p>

3.7	<p>It is anticipated that the call for applications to the Peace Plus programme will take place before the end of 2023. It is anticipated that there will be a 6-9 month assessment period, so if the funding application is successful, it is not anticipated that the Coordinator posts will be in place until at least January 2025.</p>
3.8	<p>ORNI have advised they propose highlighting in their application that they anticipate costs are based on a project starting date of April 2025. ORNI has sought the assistance of an economist to calculate projected costs for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 – 30<sup>th</sup> March 2028 and cognisant of increases in inflation during this period.</p>
3.9	<p>There is no expectation from ORNI that after the three years Councils will have to retain the Coordinator or feel under pressure to retain/finance the post from their own existing budgets after the initial 3 year period. However, ORNI have stated they hope that the intended outputs of the project may have had such a positive impact on the work of each respective Council, that some Councils may consider extending the role post-Peace funding and/or work in tandem with the Project Manager who will be tasked with seeking further funding opportunities to extend the project beyond the initial 3 year term.</p>
3.10	<p>As part of SEUPB's requirement, a Service Level Agreement/Partnership Agreement will be expected to be put in place between ORNI as lead partner and the Council.</p> <p>ORNI is therefore seeking agreement from Council to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Formally support the project by being a named partner in the forthcoming application to Peace Plus</li> <li>2. Agree to act as the employing authority for the WFA Local Coordinator.</li> <li>3. Providing office space and administrative support as required throughout the length of the project.</li> <li>4. Offer Officer support throughout the project when required to assist the Coordinator.</li> </ol>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<p><b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b></p> <p>Financial: The intention from ORNI is that this project is fully financed via their funding application, and should this be successful they have advised that they anticipated that there will be no financial commitment or outlay expected from Councils.</p> <p>ORNI have advised that the salary for the coordinator post has been independently evaluated and therefore have used these figures as part of their funding application – in addition they have costed national insurance, pension contribution, essential car users' allowance and statutory redundancy pay. As part of the costings for the funding application, ORNI have advised that costings also include Councils receiving a flat rate of 15% towards administration and 7% towards the coordinator's travel and subsistence. In addition, each Officer will be given a small programme budget to manage each year towards training costs, materials etc.</p> <p>Human: ORNI have advised that should this funding application be successful, then all Coordinators working in individual council areas across the project will have the same Job Description provided by ORNI. ORNI require each Council to be responsible for undertaking the recruitment process and ORNI have advised they can participate in the recruitment and selection process as an observer, subject to consideration/agreement via each Council Human Resources Department.</p>

	Risk Management: Should funding application be successful, to be considered in line with relevant Council Policies and Procedures.
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: To be considered as part of the proposed funding application.
	Rural Needs Implications: To be considered as part of the proposed funding application.
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	To note the contents of this report and to give consideration to agreeing to ORNI request, from Council to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Formally support the project by being a named partner in the forthcoming application to Peace Plus</li> <li>2. Agreeing in principle and subject to due diligence to act as the employing authority for the WFA Local Coordinator.</li> <li>3. Agreeing in principle and subject to due diligence to providing office space and administrative support as required throughout the length of the project.</li> <li>4. Proportionate officer support throughout the project when required to assist the Coordinator.</li> </ul>
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
	N/A

<b>Report on</b>	Development Report
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> October 2023
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Claire Linney, Assistant Director of Development
<b>Contact Officers</b>	Philip Clarke – Neighbourhood Development Manager, Michael McCrory - PCSP Manager, Catherine Fox - Arts Development Manager, Brian McCormick - Seamus Heaney Homeplace Manager

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

<b>1</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>															
1.1	<p>The purpose of this report is to update members and seek approval for the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Grants Rolling Programme</li> <li>• Social Supermarket concept, via the DfC Hardship Fund</li> <li>• DfC Welfare Reform Support</li> <li>• Cookstown Town Twinning</li> <li>• Women's Night Safety Charter</li> <li>• Seamus Heaney Homeplace Sandford Award</li> <li>• Development Update</li> </ul>															
<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>															
2.1	<p><b>Community Grants - Rolling Grants Programme 2023 – 2024</b> Members are advised that the grants assessment panel are making the following recommendations to award grants.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Grant</th> <th>No. of groups awarded</th> <th>Value of Awards</th> <th>Awarded to date</th> <th>Remaining Budget</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Good Relations Grant</td> <td>1</td> <td>£1200.00</td> <td>£12,610</td> <td>£7390</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sport Individual Grant</td> <td>4</td> <td>£850.00</td> <td>£14,185</td> <td>£815</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Please see attached in <b>Appendix 1</b> grant award recommendations</p>	Grant	No. of groups awarded	Value of Awards	Awarded to date	Remaining Budget	Good Relations Grant	1	£1200.00	£12,610	£7390	Sport Individual Grant	4	£850.00	£14,185	£815
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Good Relations Grant	1	£1200.00	£12,610	£7390												
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2.2	<p><b>DfC Hardship Support</b></p> <p>A further contribution of <b>£85,228.75</b> has been provided to Council for the provision of social supermarket(s). It is proposed that the allocation go to the main Foodbanks/SVP, based on area size, deprivation and demand.</p>															

Foodbank/SVP	Recommended Allocation
SVP Magherafelt	£8275
Hope Magherafelt	£8275
Cross Community Link Maghera	£9850
SVP Cookstown	£18,550
SVP Dungannon	£10,275
Vineyard Dungannon	£10,275
SVP Coalisland	£4,925
Coalisland Cross Community Foodbank	£4,925
Hope4U (Clogher Valley)	£4,925
SVP Ballygawley	£4,925
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£85,200</b>

2.3

### **DFC Welfare Reform Support Project Funding**

Council receives annual funding from DFC to do a direct award to the Mid Ulster Advice Service for provision of Welfare Reform and Appeals. Permission is sought to transfer the funding of £93,070.40 for Welfare Reform Mitigations, £22,400 for Welfare Reform Tribunal Representations and £4,932.27 for Advice & Appeals. Monitoring of this funding support is directly via DFC.

2.4

### **Cookstown Town Twinning Report**

A request has been received from Sperrin Choir Cookstown to seek support for an upcoming visit to Cookstown by the Plena Voce Choir in Plerin Sur Mer. The visit is part of an ongoing 'Twinning' relationship between the Sperrin Choir and Plena Voice Choir. The visit to Cookstown will place from Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May to Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

Cookstown's 'Twinning' partnership with Plerin Sur Mer has been in existence from 1995. During this time groups have worked (supported by Council) to promote and support joint projects between the two towns. Over the years, these exchanges have mainly focused on Community Sports and Community Arts through the Sperrin Choir and Cookstown Motor Cycle Club.

During these 'Twinning' visits, the groups from both towns host their respective visitors in their own homes. As part of the visit an evening is hosted by the relevant group and to date this has been supported by Council (Cookstown District Council).

Sperrin Choir has requested that consideration be given by Mid Ulster District Council to approve funding to support the visit in May 2024, detailed as follows:

Transport provided to and from Airport (Dublin)	£950
1 meal for maximum 70 people (approx. £20 per head approx.)	<u>£1400</u>
	<b>£2,350</b>



2.5 **Women's Night Safety Charter NI**

Hospitality Ulster and White Ribbon UK are asking all Councils to sign up to the Women's Night Safety Charter. Whilst research shows Northern Ireland is a safe place it does highlight that women do not always feel safe. Signing up to the Charter allows organisations be more aware of the issues regarding the safety for women. It is proposed that Mid Ulster District Council would sign up to the Charter and would seek to partner with PCSP regarding any awareness and support. A copy of the correspondence and charter committed is available at **Appendix 2**.

2.6 **Seamus Heaney Homeplace – Sandford Award**

Seamus Heaney Homeplace has received the Sandford Award for delivery of its quality education programme. The Sandford Award an independently judged, quality assured assessment of education programmes at heritage sites, museums, archives and collections.

The Award ceremony will take place at Hampton Court Palace London on 6<sup>th</sup> November, approval is sought for the Chair and Education officer at Homeplace to attend. The cost will be for flights and travel as it is a day event.

2.7 **Development Update**

Community Development

Council officers are currently support groups with projects and events and seeking to maximise funding for their community.

Strategic Development

A review of the Council's poverty plan is taking place and a members meeting will be arranged to discuss.

The Social and Affordable Housing Working Group meeting is due to take place on the 6<sup>th</sup> October.

The delivery of the Test and Learn model for Community Wealth Building is continuing and an update meeting of the working group is being scheduled.

Good Relations & Peace

The Good Relations Plan 2023 – 2024 continues to be delivered.

The new Peace Plus Local Action Plan has been submitted to SEUPB for approval. The timeline for notification is end February 2024.

PCSP

Please see attached a copy of the last minutes for information in **Appendix 3**.

Burnavon Arts Centre

The new performance space upgrade has been completed.

The new Autumn programme has commenced with positive numbers across performances and activities.

	<p><u>Seamus Heaney Homeplace</u> The new Autumn programme has commenced with positive numbers across performances and activities.</p> <p><u>Hill of The O’Neill and Ranfurly House</u> The new action plan continues to be delivered with a range of new events, craft activities and educational programmes are currently being rolled out.</p> <p>Hill of The O’Neill Mast - An update has been provided by NI Water to state that they have secured a contractor to take on the study as part of their framework; the final terms of reference has been agreed, pending confirmation of full and final cost. Once the final cost is confirmed they study will take a period of 6 months.</p>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	<p>Financial:</p> <p>Good Relations Grant £1200</p> <p>Sport Representative Grant £850</p> <p>DfC Social Supermarket funding £85,200</p> <p>DfC Welfare Reform Support Project funding £120,402.67</p> <p>Cookstown Town Twinning Visit £2,350</p> <p>Seamus Heaney Homeplace Sandford Award Ceremony attendance – flights and travel</p>
	<p>Human: NA</p>
	<p>Risk Management: NA</p>
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	<p>Equality &amp; Good Relations Implications: NA</p>
	<p>Rural Needs Implications: NA</p>
<b>5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
5.1	<p>Members are recommended to;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Agree the Community Grants Rolling Programme awards</li> <li>II. Agree the Social Supermarket funding allocation</li> </ol>

	III. Agree to allocation of the DfC Welfare Reform Support IV. Agree the Cookstown Town Twinning support V. Agree to sign up to the Women’s Night Safety Charter VI. Agree to representation at the Seamus Heaney Homeplace Sandford Award VII. Note the Development Update
<b>6</b>	<b>List of Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1 Community Grant Awards  Appendix 2 Night Charter  Appendix 3 PCSP Minutes



Appendix 1

**Good Relations October 2023 (Maximum £1,500)**

No	Organisation Name	Organisation Aim	Title Of Event/project	Band	Request	Award
1	CannyMan Community Arts	Community	Halloween Extravaganza	3	£1,500	£1,200.00

**Total                      £1,200.00**

**Ineligible**

No	Organisation Name	Organisation Aim	Title Of Event/project	Requested	Comment
1	Monrush Social Society	Community	Halloween Party	£950.00	<i>ineligible rec'd CF April 2023</i>

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

**Individual Sports Awards October 2023 (Maximum £250)**

<b>No</b>	<b>Applicant Name</b>	<b>Sport discipline</b>	<b>Title Of Event/project</b>	<b>Requested</b>	<b>Awarded</b>
1	Malcolm Graham	Clay Target shooting	Home Countries International Tournament HCIT.	£620	£225
2	Linton Selfridge	Clay Target shooting	Home Countries English Sporting International Clay Target Competition	£250	£225
3	Kym Moore	Showjumping	UK Pony Club National Championships	£250	£200
4	Colette Campbell	Indoor Bowls	International event taking place in Birmingham	£320	£200
<b>Total</b>				<b>£1,440</b>	<b>£850</b>

14th April 2023

Dear Adrian,

### Re: Womens Night Safety Charter Northern Ireland

As key stakeholders, Hospitality Ulster and the White Ribbon NI charity have joined forces to adopt the Women's Night Safety Charter (WNSC) and support its rollout in Northern Ireland.

Northern Ireland is a safe place, but research suggests that too many women feel unsafe when travelling, working, or going out at night. The Northern Ireland Executive Office is working with stakeholders to prioritise the safety of women and girls.

First established in London and now operating in several regions across the UK, the WNSC is a commitment by organisations and businesses involved / operating at night to support the campaign to End Violence Against Women and Girls.

After signing up to the charter, organisations and business will be supported with White Ribbon NI's 'Listen, Learn, Lead' toolkit. Which offers simple ideas, inspiration, information, and resources to help organisations and businesses meet the charter's seven simple pledges. It advises on possible courses of action, some changes that may need to be made and how organisations can upskill their staff.

The rollout of the WNSC in Northern Ireland is supported by the Executive Office's Ending Violence Against Women & Girls (EVAWG) team and PSNI, with key stakeholders including Tourism NI and Translink having already signed the charter.

Before we begin the roll out of the WNSC to businesses, we are asking key stakeholders, including all Local Authorities in Northern Ireland to sign the Womens Night Safety Charter and its seven pledges (below).

The WNSC forms part of a wider Safer Socialising initiative led by the industry and supported by PSNI. To oversee these initiatives, we plan to establish a Steering Group with representation from key stakeholders including a nominated representative from SOLICE to represent Local Authorities in Northern Ireland.

I therefore invite Mid Ulster Council to support the safety of woman at night in Northern Ireland by signing the Womens Night Safety Charter and adding your logo to the Stakeholder section on the Charter.

The Charter Pledges:

- Nominate a champion in your organisation / business who actively promotes women's night safety
- Demonstrate to staff and customers that your organisation takes women's safety at night seriously, for example through a communications campaign

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- Remind customers and staff that Northern Ireland is safe, but tell them what to do if they experience harassment when working, going out or travelling
- Encourage reporting by victims and bystanders as part of your communications campaign
- Train staff to ensure that all women who report are believed
- Train staff to ensure that all reports are recorded and responded to
- Design your public spaces and workplaces to make them safer for women at night

I look forward to welcoming you as a signatory to the Womens Night Safety Charter NI, working to ensure all women and girls feel safe at night.

Yours sincerely,



Colin Neill, CEO Hospitality Ulster

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**Minutes of Mid Ulster Policing and Community Safety Partnership meeting held on Monday  
26 June 2023 in Council Chamber, Dungannon and via MS Teams at 2.30pm**

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

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

Martin Corr (NIFRS), Sharon Crooks (NIHE), Chief Inspector Michael McDonald (PSNI), Sinead Taylor (SH&SCT)

**Apologies:** Councillor John McNamee, Annette McGahan (PCSP Officer)

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

The Meeting commenced at 2.30pm

**PCSP267/23 WELCOME**

The Chair, Councillor McPeake welcomed all to the meeting followed by introductions. The Vice Chair Alexandra Black, congratulated Councillor McPeake on his appointment as PCSP Chair.

**PCSP268/23 DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

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

**PCSP269/23 MINUTES OF MID ULSTER POLICING & COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8 MARCH 2023**

The Minutes of Mid Ulster Policing and Community Safety Partnership meeting held on Wednesday 8 March 2023 were approved by Members.

**Proposed by:** Councillor Clement Cuthbertson

**Seconded by:** Councillor Sean McPeake

**PCSP270/23 MATTERS ARISING – PCSP261/23 – Public Spaces CCTV Report**

In response to a question from Councillor Cuthbertson in relation to the procurement of CCTV for Moy, the PCSP Manager advised that the CCTV Tender is due to close shortly, it will then be evaluated, and the contract awarded. It is hoped to have the system installed in Moy within the next 2 to 3 months, allowing for any delays including electricity connections. The Moy CCTV will be linked into the overall CCTV System.

## **PCSP271/23 FUNDING**

The PCSP Manager referred Members to the Funding Communique issued by the Joint Committee which states that the PCSP budget has been protected for 2023/2024. Meeting expenses paid to Members has been reviewed by the Joint Committee and unfortunately has been reduced to £12,500 a reduction of £5,500 for 2023/2024. Therefore, it is proposed to hold PCSP meetings and Policing Committee meetings on the same day, back-to-back, which will in turn free up both time and meeting expense funding available to allow Members to attend other PCSP events and projects throughout the year.

It is also proposed to reduce the number of Thematic Sub Group meetings; *Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)*; *Night Time Economy (NTE)* and *Vulnerable Victims of Crime (VVC)* from 4 to 3 each per year. If a need arises additional meetings can be arranged if requested by Members. This measure will also assist in ensuring Members expenses are kept within budget limits.

## **PCSP272/23 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – BEAM CREATIVE NETWORK e- safety Programme for Primary Schools**

Shauna McCloskey, PCSP Officer referred Members to the Expression of Interest submitted by Beam Creative Network for their e-Safety Programme for Primary Schools for which approval was sought. This programme has run for several years, the target audience is Key Stage 2 children primary 6 and 7. The Programme will be delivered to 15 Primary Schools across the district, each workshop involves using drama techniques and strategies to engage the children and give them coping mechanism which will keep them safe along with teaching them how to recognise and respond to situations relating e-safety.

Members commented as follows;

Councillor Cuthbertson sought assurance that schools are being rotated to ensure as many primary schools as possible can avail of the programme.

Councillor Varsani asked if would be worthwhile having a discussion with Beam Creative Network regarding the provision of this programme in a format which could be purchased by Primary Schools and delivered in-house, therefore reaching more Key Stage 2 children.

Alexandra Black, Vice Chair stated that a lot of issues within primary schools were highlighted at a recent Neighbourhood Watch event and she was very supportive of this programme. Concerns around vaping amongst primary school children was also highlighted.

The PCSP Manager proposed that Members consider the Expression of Interest submitted by Beam Creative Network. He advised that all available internet safety videos and booklets can be shared with primary schools and advice will be taken from the Neighbourhood Policing Teams and schools' officers in relation to any other prevalent issues and what resources would

be of benefit to schools, details of which will be brought back to the PCSP for consideration. Videos and booklets will be shared with Members.

In response to a question from Grace Meerbeek in relation to the sale of vaping products to under 16s and the current laws, the PCSP Manager advised that this will be checked with Environmental Health and a response circulated.

In response to a question raised by Grace Meerbeek in relation to existing videos which deal with 'sexting', the PCSP Manager advised that any material already available will be further investigated and utilised where possible.

Members were happy to approve the Expression of Interest submitted by Beam Creative Network, e-safety programme for primary schools.

**Proposed by:** Councillor Brian McGuigan

**Seconded by:** Councillor Deirdre Varsani

#### **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – CAUSEWAY & MID ULSTER WOMEN'S AID – Domestic Violence effects on children – training for teachers**

Shauna McCloskey, PCSP Officer sought approval for the Expression of Interest submitted by Causeway & Mid Ulster Women's Aid in respect of Domestic Violence effects on children, training for teachers. This is new training, the need has arisen following the roll out of 'Op Encompass' by the PSNI. Several teachers from Post Primary schools have requested training to better equip themselves to assist and support children who have witnessed domestic violence in their home and their school has been made aware of this through 'Op Encompass'.

Members were happy to approve the Expression of Interest submitted by Causeway & Mid Ulster Women's Aid, Domestic Violence effects on children training for teachers.

**Proposed by:** Councillor Eimear Carney

**Seconded by:** Councillor Deirdre Varsani

#### **PCSP273/23 ANNUAL REPORT 2022/2023**

The PCSP Manager advised Members that PCSP are obliged by the Joint Committee to produce an Annual Report by 30 June each year. The annual accounts are being compiled by the NIPB to be signed off by the Chief Executive of Mid Ulster District Council. This will be included in an amended annual report and issued to members at the next meeting.

Members were happy to approve the Annual Report 2022/2023.

**Proposed by:** Councillor Clement Cuthbertson

**Seconded by:** Councillor Brian McGuigan

## **PCSP274/23 PROJECTS UPDATE**

The PCSP Manager provided Members with a brief update on *SP1 – PCSP Awareness and Engagements; SP3 – Indicators, How much, How well did we do, and Is anyone better off; Anti-Social Behaviour projects; Night Time Economy projects. Shauna McCloskey, PCSP Officer provided an update on Vulnerable Victims of Crime projects.*

Members commented as follows;

In response to a question from Councillor McGuigan regarding projects taking place during the summer months to combat asb, the PCSP Manager advised that EA Youth have received confirmation that their funding has not been reduced, which means they are able to roll out their full range of intervention programmes during the summer months. Partnership work is ongoing with EA Youth, PSNI and local Youth Clubs in relation to engagement with young people. This includes the introduction of 'Friday late night' engagement to divert young people from certain areas across the district, Draperstown being one of the areas. Discussions have also taken place with EA Youth regarding interventions on a rolling basis to react to incidents of asb across the district, which would be over and above their current intervention schemes. It is hoped this will commence in September 2023.

Councillor McGuigan raised concerns about the dangers associated with cars doing 'do-nuts' / diffing which is happening across the district and stressed the need for a focused effort to combat this activity.

Councillor Carney raised serious concerns about cars doing 'do-nuts' / diffing along a stretch of the Mountjoy Road, Brockagh on a nightly basis which is affecting the health and wellbeing of residents in the area. Councillor Carney asked if this area could be included in regular Police patrols.

## **PCSP275/23 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Life After Support Group**

The PCSP Manager referred to 'Life After Support Group', a charity organisation which provides counselling to bereaved relatives of fatal road traffic collisions. Permission was sought from Members to invite 'Life After Support Group' to future PCSP road safety events, all Members were in agreement.

### **Litter being thrown from cars – who can issue fines**

In response to a question from Councillor Varsani regarding the amount of litter thrown from cars along our roads and if An Garda Síochána's remit involves issuing fines for littering, the PCSP Manager advised that when someone is caught littering in Mid Ulster district, Environmental Health issue fines. Regarding littering laws and who can issue fines in the Republic of Ireland, this will be checked, and findings will be circulated to Members.

Chief Inspector McDonald advised Members if an incident of 'fly tipping' is reported to Police all details are forwarded to the relevant environmental agency. If someone throws litter out of a car and puts other road users in danger, this needs to be reported to Police for further investigation, if proven the individual will be prosecuted. He advised if a particular area is identified with an issue of 'fly tipping', the Neighbourhood Policing Team will open a 'Problem Solving' folder as this type of issue can lead to other anti-social behaviour issues.

### **Congratulations**

Alexandra Black, Vice Chair congratulated the out-going PCSP Chair Councillor Dominic Molloy on his appointment as Chair of Mid Ulster District Council and also congratulated Councillor Anne Forde on being awarded a British Empire Medal (BEM).

### **Date of Next Meeting**

The next PCSP meeting will take place on Wednesday 6 September 2023 in Council Chamber, Dungannon and via MS Teams at 2.30pm.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending today's meeting.

The meeting ended at 3.25pm.



<b>Report on</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lough Neagh Partnership (2023/24)</li> <li>2. Tourism Autumn/Winter Campaign 2023</li> <li>3. Donaghmore Historical Society – Letter of Support</li> <li>4. Social Enterprise NI: Membership Renewal 2023/24</li> <li>5. Dungannon Traders Association Proposal</li> </ol>
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	12 October 2023
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism & Strategic Programmes

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

<b>1.0 Purpose of Report</b>	
<b>1.1</b>	To provide Members with an update on key activities as detailed below.
<b>2.0 Background</b>	
<b>2.1 Lough Neagh Partnership (2023/2024)</b>	Lough Neagh Partnership has made a request for a financial contribution of £22,000 for the 2023-2024 financial year. Council has in previous years provided a financial contribution towards core running costs for Lough Neagh Partnership to assist in the delivery of marketing tourism, recreational, environmental and heritage activities on Lough Neagh and the shoreline on behalf of Council.
<b>2.2 Tourism Autumn/Winter Campaign 2023</b>	<p>The proposed Autumn/Winter 2023 campaign will be the opportunity to promote the 'Visit Mid Ulster' website, through the associated social media channels and in so doing further consolidate the Unwinding Time brand.</p> <p>At its core, the campaign's visual and verbal identity will reflect the brand essence (Unwinding Time), as well as drawing on the narrative and tone of voice reinforcing the brand values and using the 'brand anatomy' as set out in the brand guidelines.</p>

<p><b>2.3</b></p>	<p><b>Donaghmore Historical Society</b></p> <p>Donaghmore Historical Society was established 40 years ago in 1983 with the aim of preserving, documenting, and sharing the history of Donaghmore and its surrounding area. Based in the former Donaghmore National School. The Society has restored and used this space as a focal point for their activities, and for housing important resources such as artefacts connected with Donaghmore Soap Works, local townland studies and Dickson’s Mill, Dungannon. During this time the Society has contributed to the life and culture of the village of Donaghmore and district, engaging with all sectors of the community. The Society has worked in partnership with other community-based organisations in the area, such as BEAM and the Bardic Theatre, and have led on major local projects such as the memorial website for the Dungannon Workhouse (with financial support from Mid Ulster District Council).</p> <p>Up until 2020 almost all of their activity has been ‘in-person’ talks and meeting with people who visited the area and the Heritage Centre to find out more about their family heritage. However, with the challenge of continuing during the Covid pandemic they looked to digital technology to enable their communications with others and through that time it became clear how much people valued the chance to learn more about their heritage. It also became apparent that they had developed an audience further afield who were now able to connect with the Society.</p>
<p><b>2.4</b></p>	<p><b>Social Enterprise NI: Membership Renewal 2023/24</b></p> <p>Social Enterprise NI (SENI) is the membership body for social enterprises across NI with the team providing support to members. In addition to social enterprises, membership includes organisations from outside the sector such as private and public sector bodies, including local Councils.</p>
<p><b>2.5</b></p>	<p><b>Dungannon Traders Association Proposal</b></p> <p>Council has received a proposal seeking support from Dungannon Traders Association who plan to organise the JingleBall Run, community event again on the 16th December 2023 in Dungannon Town Centre.</p>
<p><b>3.0</b></p>	<p><b>Main Report</b></p>
<p><b>3.1</b></p>	<p><b>Lough Neagh Partnership (2023/2024)</b></p> <p>Lough Neagh Partnership’s Update Report (on <b>Appendix 1</b>), provides details of the specific activities the organisation has completed during the 2022/2023 financial year, aligned to LNP’s Service Level Agreement.</p>



Furthermore, Lough Neagh Partnership has requested from Council their annual financial contribution of £22,000 to assist the organisation to continue to co-ordinate and promote tourism, environmental and heritage activities around the Lough Neagh Shoreline.

To progress this funding request, Officers have drafted a Service Level Agreement for 2023/2024 (on **Appendix 2**), documenting a range of activities for Lough Neagh Partnership to complete by March 2024. The Service Level Agreement has been reviewed by Council's legal team and is ready to issue, if Members are minded to approve funding of £22,000.

On a separate matter but also related to Lough Neagh, Members of the Development Committee last month tasked Officers to investigate which Government Department was responsible for forming the new Lough Neagh Water Quality Steering Group and request that Lough Neagh Partnership be given representation on the Group.

A Council Officer spoke to the Manager of Lough Neagh Partnership in the first instance to clarify the name and contact point for the new Water Quality Body for Lough Neagh. The LNP Manager advised that he had met with the NI Environment Agency (NIEA) on 27 September 2023 and requested that LNP's farming representative be afforded the opportunity to sit on the new Water Quality Steering Group, and awaits NIEA's decision. This Group deals only with water quality issues around Lough Neagh. Officers have asked the LNP Manager to provide Council with an update when NIEA responds.

### **3.2 Tourism Autumn/Winter Campaign 2023**

The campaign will position Mid Ulster as an ideal staycation destination for NI domestic markets and a key gateway destination for ROI markets, centring on Mid Ulster's unique offering as NI's only Dark Sky Park which provides a chance to escape and get away from it all. The campaign will showcase our Autumn walks, dark sky, fabulous food and drink, places to stay and spa breaks.

#### *Channels*

It is proposed to use a broad range of channels for the campaign to reach the target segments noted above, with an emphasis on those which are digital.

The campaign will provide an opportunity to further grow the new Visit Mid Ulster social media channels with a clear and consistent call to action that will drive traffic to the Visit Mid Ulster web site.

Complementing these core visitor experiences will be the offerings from the local tourism industry, with the campaign featuring accommodation, food and drink which enhance and add value to any visit to Mid Ulster.

Campaign Content to run from end of October until the start November 2023.

Total project cost £10,000 (breakdown provided below).

<b>Content Item</b>	<b>Description/Brief</b>	<b>Publication Date</b>	<b>Channels</b>	<b>Budget</b>
TV Advert and Video on Demand campaign	Unwinding Time generic focusing on key experiences across Mid Ulster	November	UTV	TV £3,000 Video on Demand £1,000
Radio Advertising	Unwinding Time generic focusing on key experiences across Mid Ulster with Call to Action: Visit Mid Ulster website	October/ November	Cool FM	£2,500
Social Media Advertising	Short form limited copy adverts  Time to Escape: Find your own space between the shore and the high horizons. Call to Action: Visit Mid Ulster website  Take Some 'Me Time' / Time to be Free: Unwind the way you want. Along the shore, under the sky and amongst the stone. Call to Action: Visit Mid Ulster website  Value Your Time: Time away from the stresses and strains of everyday is priceless, but does not have cost the earth. Call to Action: Visit Mid Ulster website	Bursts throughout October/ November	Primary: Visit Mid Ulster	£1,500
Create video content				£2,000
Total				£10,000

### 3.3 Donaghmore Historical Society

Considering the Society's experiences to date, they have developed a three-year strategic plan that will take the work of the society on to the next stage of development – "Donaghmore, Sharing and Connecting with our Heritage".

A significant component of this plan is the building of a replica 6th century working cornmill adjacent to the Back Ford in Donaghmore. By working in partnership with BEAM Creative Network and other local organisations as appropriate, it is their

intention to apply for Heritage Lottery Funding to help achieve some of the identified outcomes within their plan.

The Society has written to Council (**Appendix 3**) to request a letter of support to accompany their external funding application.

### **3.4 Social Enterprise NI: Membership Renewal 2023/24**

The responsibilities that were transferred to local Councils in 2015 under the Reform of Local Government included that of the social economy sector. Since 2015, all Councils have signed up as members of SENI. The range of benefits in becoming a member include the following, as a minimum:

- SENI will promote any Council events for social enterprises in their e-zine and social media.
- SENI offer free membership to any new social enterprise in the area for the first year if they are not already members of SENI.
- Host joint events with the Council including Pitching Events, Buy Social Events, Entrepreneurship week support etc.
- Free training on topics such as “What is Social Value” with any Council staff or members at any time should you feel that appropriate, or any other relevant training required, in order to better understand the business model.
- Listing as a Corporate Member on SENI’s new website
- Access to discounted events for members including Awards and Conferences
- Access to free bursaries that SENI offers to members.

### **3.5 Dungannon Traders Association Proposal**

Dungannon Traders Association last year identified an opportunity to create a new event in the town called the Jingleball run to bring footfall into the town.

They plan to organise it on Saturday 16th December 2023 and have submitted a request to Council (**Appendix 4**). This is the same day as Council are organising town centre activities. Both activities could be organised to complement each other with the town activities starting later in the afternoon.

Last year Dungannon Traders Association received £5,500. This year they have sought £2,500. The contribution is to cover the shortfall in funding as other funders have come on board. The event may not happen if the funding is not provided.

The proposal states there will also be a range of prizes at the event which will include the purchase of a range of Mid Ulster Gift Vouchers from Council, totalling to a value of £1,500.

This event will be held in Market Square, Dungannon and involves other prospective sponsors, local sporting clubs and charitable organizations. The organisers are trying to create a bigger impact for both businesses and shoppers/community alike this year.

	Dungannon Traders Association have already begun preliminary talks with the relevant organisations regarding road closures.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	Financial:
	<b>Lough Neagh Partnership (2023/24)</b> Provision has been made in the 2023/24 Tourism budget for £22,000.
	<b>Tourism Autumn/Winter Campaign 2023</b> £10,000 allocated from the existing Tourism Budget
	<b>Social Enterprise NI: Membership Renewal 2023/24</b> Provision is made within the economic development budget to renew annual membership with SENI for a fee of £500 for the financial year 2023/24.
	<b>Dungannon Traders Association Proposal</b> Dungannon Traders Association has requested a contribution of £2,500 towards the Dungannon Jingle Ball Run 2023 event in Dungannon.
	<b>Human</b> Officer Time
	<b>Risk Management</b>
	<b>Dungannon Traders Association Proposal</b> The funding contribution sought from Council is proposed to cover the shortfall in funding. The event may not happen if the funding is not provided.
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications
	Rural Needs Implications
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
	It is recommended that Members:-
<b>5.1</b>	<b>Lough Neagh Partnership (2023/2024)</b>
	<b>5.1.1 Note</b> content of report, including Lough Neagh Partnership's Progress Report for 2022/23 (on <b>Appendix 1</b> ) outlining actions completed against their 2022/23 Service Level Agreement Targets.

	<p><b>5.1.2 Approve</b> Council funding of £22,000 to Lough Neagh Partnership for the 2023/2024 financial year, and release funding, subject to Council being provided with the requisite documentation.</p> <p><b>5.1.3 Approve</b> Council’s Draft Service Level Agreement with Lough Neagh Partnership for the 2023/2024 financial year (on <b>Appendix 2</b>).</p> <p><b>5.2 Tourism Autumn/Winter Campaign 2023</b></p> <p><b>Approve</b> the content and mediums proposed for the Mid Ulster Tourism Autumn/Winter Campaign 2023 and associated budget of £10,000.</p> <p><b>5.3 Donaghmore Historical Society</b></p> <p><b>Approve</b> that Council facilitates the request from Donaghmore Historical Society and provides the organisation with a letter of support to accompany their funding bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund.</p> <p><b>5.4 Social Enterprise NI: Membership Renewal 2023/24</b></p> <p><b>Approve</b> Council’s membership renewal of Social Enterprise NI (SENI) for the year 2023/24 at a fee of £500.</p> <p><b>5.5 Dungannon Traders Association Proposal</b></p> <p><b>Approve</b> the request from Dungannon Traders Association for a contribution of £2,500 towards Dungannon Jingle Ball Run event, which is proposed, will take place on Saturday 16 December 2023.</p>
<p><b>6.0 Documents Attached &amp; References</b></p>	
	<p><b>Appendix 1</b> – Lough Neagh Partnership Update Report 2022-2023</p> <p><b>Appendix 2</b> – Lough Neagh Partnership Service Level Agreement (2023/2024)</p> <p><b>Appendix 3</b> – Request from Donaghmore Historical Society for Letter of Support</p> <p><b>Appendix 4</b> – Dungannon Traders Association – Funding Request for Jingleball Run</p>



## Lough Neagh Partnership – Progress Report for 2022 - 2023

### Project Development

LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD will continue to develop the following projects for member Councils (five in total including ANBC, ABC, MEA, LCBC and MUDC):

Scheduled Actions	Projects for Further Development	Progress First Six Months (1 Apr 22 – 30 Sept 22)	Progress Second Six Months (1 Oct 22 – 31 Mar 23)
2A	<p>Marketing and promotion of Lough Neagh by sharing information with Tourism NI (TNI), Tourism Ireland (TIL) and visitmidulster.com on a regular basis, producing and distributing Lough Neagh newsletter for stakeholders and consumers online, attend and promote at trade fairs and exhibitions.</p>	<p>Listing of scheduled tours on TNI &amp; TI website, TNI shared them on social media. This was in relation to the Lough Neagh Artisan Tour Series &amp; Artisan Markets in May/June 2022.</p> <p>Set up new social media platforms for LNP, merged Lough Neagh Tours with Love Lough Neagh on Social Media, massive SM &amp; marketing campaign for Lough Neagh Artisan markets – this project was shortlisted for the Embrace a Giant Spirit Awards, LNP attended</p> <p>Produced Five-year report for stakeholders highlighting all the work carried out across LNP’s various projects.</p> <p>Production of Wonders &amp; Legends of LN book &amp; LN Atlas of the Natural &amp; Built Cultural Heritage</p> <p>Newsletters issued to monthly April – September.</p> <p>Attended the Adventure Travel Show in San Francisco in May 2022 with Tourism Ireland. LNP attended Great Days out in Mid Ulster and is registered to attend Meet the Buyer in March.</p>	<p>Email newsletters issued at Halloween and Christmas, monthly during May-Sept.</p> <p>LNP Participated in Tourism Ireland Travel and Adventure Show in San Francisco on May 22 and B2B Tour operator event in Copenhagen in Feb 2023. Portfolio of experiences includes: River Bann Tours, Tyrone Crafted Glass, Rosehill House, Coyle’s Cottage Lough Neagh’s Stories, Glenshane Farm, Seamus Heaney Homeplace, Bakehouse NI, Ballyscullion Park, Katie’s Cottage and the Lough Neagh Fisheries. This was out of a total of 20 experiences.</p> <p>Eimear secured a fam visit on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March with one operator, the itinerary included 2 MUDC businesses: Rosehill House and the Linen Tour at Ardtara.</p> <p>MUDC and other Council Logos were updated on website</p> <p><b>Lough Neagh Tours</b> Facebook 9,546 followers Instagram 1,030 followers Twitter 299</p> <p><b>Lough Neagh Artisans</b> Facebook 2,013 followers Instagram 2,257 followers Twitter 90 followers</p> <p><b>Lough Neagh Partnership</b> Facebook 3,696 followers Twitter 701 followers LinkedIn 287 followers</p>

Scheduled Actions	Projects for Further Development	Progress First Six Months (1 Apr 22 – 30 Sept 22)	Progress Second Six Months (1 Oct 22 – 31 Mar 23)
2A cont.			<p><b>Mailchimp</b> Stakeholder list 882 subscribers Artisan traders 143 subscribers Tourism list 495 subscribers</p> <p><b>Mailing list</b> Tour operator contacts – 296 Stakeholder list 882 subscribers Artisan traders 143 subscribers Tourism list 495 subscribers</p> <p><b>Mailing list</b> Tour operator contacts – 296</p>
2B	Assist Mid Ulster District Council implement recommendations of a Heritage Cluster Plan.	To meet Assistant Director to discuss recommendations in Oct 2022 et al.	<p>Continued discussion occurred with ‘World Heritage Site Tentative List Body’ regarding the proposal for Beaghmore.</p> <p>G Darby met with HED to discuss the possibility of working up a proposal for Beaghmore. To go back after Tentative List decision.</p>
2C	Develop a Lough Neagh Artisan Food Programme, including the development of new and existing artisan members, identifying artisan event opportunities and promotion of both.	<p>Held two successful Artisan Food Markets in Toome May &amp; August 2022.</p> <p>Increased group membership to 20, with 8 members from Mid Ulster council area. Hosted an Artisan Tour Series in May/June, two of the tours included Mid Ulster artisans/venues.</p>	<p>LNP worked with MUDC for the Lough Neagh Artisans to run the Magherafelt Christmas Market in Nov 2022 – very successful.</p> <p>Another market was held 17<sup>th</sup> March at the Lock Keepers in Toome, MUDC businesses traded at the event with Artisans from MUDC attending eg Fishermens Cooperative, Annie’s Delights, Lough Neagh Stories, Bakehouse NI.</p>
2D	Joint development of tourism and economic programmes with Mid Ulster District Council including links with ICBAN and MSW groups, assist with access and recreational plans for school lands Derrytresk, Lower Bann Pathway and Traad Point/Ballyronan.	<p>Held teams meeting with Shane Mc Kinney from ICBAN regarding inclusion of Blackwater River in Shared Island North Ulster Canal Proposal.</p> <p>Request to do presentation to ICBAN and to meet Shared Island personnel on feedback to rejected proposal</p> <p>Meet with WI CEO MUDC CEO and Northern Regional Operations Director regarding development of Lough Neagh.</p>	<p>Met with Senior staff in Oct 2022 to highlight needs of Lough Neagh and LNP regarding possible different ways of viewing core funding needs. Recognised financial restrictions of Council.</p> <p>Gerry gave a presentation to MUDC on the new Strategy in Nov 2022 and highlighted recommendations of the new Lough Neagh Strategic Plan.</p>



Scheduled Actions	Projects for Further Development	Progress First Six Months (1 Apr 22 – 30 Sept 22)	Progress Second Six Months (1 Oct 22 – 31 Mar 23)
2D cont.		<p>Blackwater River and River Bann including access. Held two meetings with MUDC directors, elected representatives and local stakeholders to discuss potential development of Tradd Point.</p> <p>Provided copy of previous Tradd Point plan to MUDC To follow up with advice on River Bann proposal</p>	<p>Very positive feedback from Committee about the value and investment brought into the Council area by the LNP.</p> <p>Gerry met with senior officials from MUDC to discuss the economic, environmental &amp; commercial opportunities for Lough Neagh and LNP to supplement lack of core funding. Positive meeting.</p> <p>New service level agreement to be discussed with MUDC for 2023/24.</p>
2E	<p>Development of Blackwater River, providing technical advice associated with dredging, help with boating needs to council staff on river and lough, assist with Environmental impact study and DfI business plans, link with ICBAN and Waterways Ireland to progress Ulster Canal development.</p>	<p>Helped develop Blackwater Dredging Steering Group Prepared Blackwater Study and did presentation to MUDC Attended Blackwater Steering group in Oxford Island June 2022 Coordinated and held Lough Neagh and Blackwater Dredging workshop in Ballyronan in June 2022. Liaison with DFI rivers section and Fishermen's Co-op regarding dredging of Quays and River mouths LNP Commenced EIA surveying of all quays and river mouths Drew up basis spec for chemical analysis and topography for MUDC Consulted with ICBAN regrading Shared Island North Ulster Canal proposal Offered MUDC and Dredging Steering Group to help with preparing and any DFI business applications. Prepared and submitted Levelling up application for new markers and dredger on Lough Neagh</p>	<p>The LNP's Levelling up application was rejected. Letter sent to MP to get feedback.</p> <p>Met with Waterways Ireland CEO John Mc Donagh regarding development of the River Blackwater. Feedback: CEO was waiting for new government to set up. They indicated they have no remit for the Lough</p> <p>Lough Neagh and the Blackwater navigation needs. The focus for LNP is dredging the opening of the river.</p> <p>LNP wrote a letter to the new DFI permanent secretary asking for new navigation approach to Lough.</p> <p>Gerry met with John O Dowd to get feedback on how to liaise with new Permanent secretary. Positive engagement with former Minister.</p>

Scheduled Actions	Projects for Further Development	Progress First Six Months (1 Apr 22 – 30 Sept 22)	Progress Second Six Months (1 Oct 22 – 31 Mar 23)
2F	Continue to develop NIEA Shoreline Plan and securing funding for a management plan for Killycolpy and Killywoolaghan, community bird hides as per 2021/22, develop wet woodland and climate change strategy for Western Shores taking into consideration Mid Ulster District Council's climate change and biodiversity plans. Implement recommendations for Lough Neagh islands and ASSI plan.	Management Plan for Killycolpy complete Wet woodland study being drawn up Climate Change and Carbon study being developed Transfer of Killycolpy nature reserve and School lands signed for and near completion. Community Bird hide received funding from NIEA for stage 2 to prepare off the shelf project. CRESI HLF application successful for new ranger to manage nature reserves. NIEA major 5-year strategic project being prepared SEUPB nature peatlands restoration project being prepared with RSPB Islands conservation work and all bird monitoring continuing via new boat	The Woodland study is now complete and will form the basis of an application to the National Lottery.  An extensive climate change and carbon valuation study is now complete and includes the wider shoreline of MUDC.  Major application submitted to EF fund with NIEA for 2 rangers and an ASSI study. Confirmed funding of £140,000 per year over next 5 years. (£700.000). Approximately £230,000 proportionately for MUDC.  Major fencing and lane work done at Killycolpy in Feb 2023. Approx £80,000 of investment in this area.  School lands and Killycolpy sites now transferred to LNP. Over 320 acres of prime bog in MUDC now to be managed better and in liaison with local community. Potential for access development also.  A major bird hide study and planning permission and costings for 8 sites around Lough Neagh (2 in MUDC) continue to be developed in Ballyronan and at the mouth of Moyola, Ballymaguigan.
2G	Continue to develop and deliver an Environmental Farm Scheme on western shores of Lough Neagh by attracting new funding and through engagement with farmers, landowners, and relevant stakeholders to improve conditions. Assist Mid Ulster District Council in	Environmental Group Farm Scheme continues western shore Major Nature Recovery Network being developed at School Lands and Kilycolpy 143 new members in group scheme £17000 avg investment over last 5 years brought into individual farms New policy engagement with DAERA Countryside Management for next programme.	New pilot project pitched to DAERA to replicate outcomes approach similar to what happens in Burren. Met with DAERA Countryside Management in Mar 2023 to discuss pilot study to expand buffer zones around Lough Neagh and look at the outcomes for an environmental programme for farmers along the shores of Lough. Main beneficiary will be in Mid Ulster area

Scheduled Actions	Projects for Further Development	Progress First Six Months (1 Apr 22 – 30 Sept 22)	Progress Second Six Months (1 Oct 22 – 31 Mar 23)
2G cont.	development of an Agricultural Strategy.	Offer open for help with the development of new agricultural biodiversity and climate change strategies in new 5-year SLA from Mar 2023 – Mar 2028	<p>Lough Neagh EFS Members 115 members in 81 businesses Including East Rivers members: 27 members in 17 businesses</p> <p>Total Investment brought into Lough via EFS Scheme £4,560, £819.25+ but may be as high as £7,682,000</p> <p>Proposed new extension to existing Lough Neagh EFS scheme worked up in Mar 2023 and submitted to DAERA. Applied for approx. £255,000.</p>
2H	Develop funding applications and attract investment from SEUPB for RSPB project, NPA for bicycle tourism development, Levelling Up for navigation aids and new dredger, examine Shared Island funding opportunities.	<p>New independent strategy drawn up for LNP and sent to three main Councils with details of integrated investment strategy with major funders and Councils.</p> <p>Levelling Up application Made for new markers and Dredger Shared Prosperity Application developed and ready to be made</p> <p>Discussions held with RSPB and UWT regarding SEUPB peatland and Nature recovery proposals for Lough Neagh Request for CEO MUDC and Monaghan County Council to meet with Shared Island people.</p>	<p>Discussions with RSPB positive and proposal for Killycolpy and school lands being developed.</p> <p>Dredger proposal rejected by Levelling Up. Replied to Levelling Up Scheme</p> <p>Small development Shared Island application made with partners</p> <p>Meeting with UWT to develop Lough Neagh Peatland Carbon Project</p> <p>Attended SEUPB information event on Rural Development</p>
2I	Develop an Interdepartmental Committee for Lough Neagh and examine funding opportunities for technical developments of Lough Neagh ownership bid.	<p>Meeting and presentation made to Minister O Dowd in Jul 2022 Request for him to set up interdepartmental group for Lough</p> <p>NLHF expression of interest made for ownership of Lough Neagh</p> <p>Follow up Letter sent to Minister regarding Interdepartmental Group sent in Aug 2022 Request for DFI meeting made.</p>	<p>Met with J O Dowd and letter sent to CEO DFI.</p> <p>Met with HLF and agreed to draw up and ownership bid. In process and pending</p> <p>Meeting with Shaftesbury Estates held to discuss the management ownership. Positive feedback</p> <p>Shooting groups engagement meeting held with all shooting groups. Approx 120 people attended with 12 shooting groups and clubs.</p>

APPENDIX 1

<b>Scheduled Actions</b>	<b>Projects for Further Development</b>	<b>Progress First Six Months (1 Apr 22 – 30 Sept 22)</b>	<b>Progress Second Six Months (1 Oct 22 – 31 Mar 23)</b>
2J	Develop Moiled Cattle Scheme for Lough Neagh and western shore members and create a new food chain.	Moiled Cattle scheme set up Website under construction, promotional materials in production and marketing plan is being developed.	Moiled cattle scheme is now set up and all claims with DAERA finalised. This is the only one in Northern Ireland at present, there are currently 4 farm members. This is to be expanded as part of the new EFS scheme.

**Roles and Responsibilities**

LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD will provide the following services for the Council:

<b>Roles &amp; Responsibilities</b>	<b>Progress</b>
LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD will assist with project identification, project co-ordination and financial management as agreed for relevant funding programmes.	Financial management and project coordination continues
LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD will represent the agreed vision of the region in responding to consultations relating to regional, international, and global issues	LNP meetings with CEOs and senior directors of new funding bodies and three main Councils
LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD will organise Best Practice Visits of both elected members and officials as and when required.	EFS best practice meetings and dredging best practice meetings to be put back to 23/24
LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD will submit six monthly reports detailing progress on all key areas of work and its contributions.	First and second six-monthly report provided for 2022/23
LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD will administer all structures necessary to manage and implement the funds appropriately.	All funds recorded
LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD will facilitate the involvement of council staff and elected members in its work.	MUDC Cllrs attend LNP board meetings and AGM, and feedback reports provided.
LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD will provide ongoing support to council's objectives.	Continual liaison with elected and executive officers
LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD Strategic Manager will meet with Council's Tourism Manager at least four times throughout the year to review and monitor progress.	Manager regularly meets with MUDC Tourism Manager. Has met at least three times in last 6 months

**APPENDIX 2**

**SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT**

**BETWEEN**

**MID ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**AND**

**LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD**

**April 2023 – March 2024**

**THIS AGREEMENT** is made on the .....  
**PARTIES**

(1) MID ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL whose address is at Dungannon Office, 15 Circular Road, Dungannon BT71 6DT (the "**Council**"); and

(2) LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD whose registered office is at, The Marina Centre, Unit 3, 135A Shore Road, Ballyronan, Magherafelt, BT45 6JA.

## **BACKGROUND**

a) Lough Neagh Partnership (LNP) was formed in 2003 and has a Board of Directors which is representative of local government, private sector, community sector and special interest groups. It has delivered a large number of infrastructural and marketing programmes on behalf of DAERA, Tourism NI, DfC and local authorities.

b) The LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD co-ordinates and promotes tourism, environmental and heritage activities on Lough Neagh and the Lough Neagh shoreline on behalf of the five councils around the lough; Mid Ulster District Council. Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council, Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, Mid and East Antrim Borough Council and Lisburn and Castlereagh Borough Council.

c) In previous years financial contributions were conditional to requests being made to the other four Councils around the Lough Shore, pro-rata in accordance with the approximate amount of shoreline and/or activity hubs.

## **1. DEFINITIONS**

"Charges" shall mean the charges which shall become due and payable by the Council to (2) LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD in respect of the Services in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement, as such charges are set out in Schedule 2.

"Commencement Date" shall mean 1st April 2023.

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

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

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

“Term” shall mean from the Commencement Date until 31st March 2024.

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

## **2. COMMENCEMENT AND DURATION**

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

## **3. SUPPLY OF SERVICES**

a. LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD shall provide the Services and provide secretariat to LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD Company and its structures with a view to enhancing the region and bring funding in partnership with all 5 local authority members for the duration of the Term and in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement.

b. Responsibility for the management of the LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD will be vested in the Board of Directors of LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD and its executive team.

c. The parties’ authorised representatives for the purpose of this shall be the Tourism Service Manager and the Strategic Manager of LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD.

d. The Council reserves the right to withdraw funding should the LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD fail to adequately provide the service as outlined in this document, which forms the basis of the Council’s agreement to commit funds to it. Funding will be on an annual basis and will require LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD to submit 6 month and end of year progress reports for each year of the Agreement showing progress against the targets and the plan for the year ahead. In addition LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD may be required to attend a committee meeting of council to outline their progress to date and work for the future months.

## **4. COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE**

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

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

a. In performing its obligations under this Agreement LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD shall have regard to and comply with all applicable Law (including but not limited to the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 and any other Law relating to about health and safety).

b. LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD shall monitor and shall keep the Council informed in writing of any changes in the Law which may impact the Services and shall provide the Council with timely details of measures it proposes to take and changes it proposes to make to comply with any such changes.

c. LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD shall neither be relieved of its obligations to supply the Services in accordance with the terms of this Agreement nor be entitled to an increase in the Charges as the result of a change in Law.

## **6. INSURANCE**

a. LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD shall at its own cost effect and maintain with reputable insurance companies adequate insurance to cover all such risks and liabilities as may arise in the course of providing the Services including death or personal injury, loss of or damage to property or any other loss (the "Required Insurances"). Such policies shall include cover in respect of any financial loss arising from any advice given or omitted to be given by the Supplier. This is, in part, to ensure the risk is minimised to the Council against all claims, demands, actions or proceedings made or brought and all losses, damages, costs, expenses and liabilities incurred, suffered or arising directly or indirectly in respect of or otherwise connected with the actions of the Services provided by LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD.

b. If, for whatever reason, the LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD fails to give effect to and maintain the Required Insurances, the Authority may make alternative arrangements to protect its interests and may recover the costs of such arrangements from the LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD.

c. The terms of any insurance or the amount of cover shall not relieve the LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD of any liabilities under the agreement.

## **7. LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP STAFF**

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

b. The Parties believe that the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 (the "Employment Regulations") will not apply to this Agreement, whether on its commencement, during the Term on expiry or termination of the Agreement in whole or in part. In the event that, contrary



to the expressed understanding of the Parties, the Employment Regulations are alleged by any person (including a Party, any trade union or staff association, employee representative or employee) to apply, or held by court of competent jurisdiction to apply, LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD shall indemnify the Council for all liabilities, claims, losses, damages, costs and expenses arising out of or in connection with the application of the Employment Regulations.

## **8. AUDIT**

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

## **9. CHARGES**

a. The Council shall pay the Charges to the LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD in accordance with Schedule 1 and 2.

b. If LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD is in breach of any of its obligations relating to this Agreement then the Council may require LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD to pay the Council the aggregate of all Charges paid to LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD during the Term or such lesser amount as the Council may determine.

c. Mid Ulster District Council shall be entitled to publish details of the assistance referred to in this letter at such times and in such manner as they may decide.

d. The Council would expect that its contribution would receive formal recognition by way of an invitation to the Council Chair to any appropriate regional event/official opening and mention in publicity pertaining to the event/facility.

e. LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD shall be required to submit 6 month and end of year progress reports for each year of the agreement showing progress against the targets and the plan for the year ahead. In addition LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD may be required to attend a committee meeting of council to outline their progress to date and work for the future months.

## **10. INDEMNITY**

a. LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD shall indemnify and keep indemnified the Council against all liabilities, costs, expenses, damages and losses incurred by the Council arising out of or in connection with:

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

## **11. LIABILITY**

a. Nothing in this Agreement limits any liability which cannot legally be limited, including for:

- i. death and personal injury caused by negligence; and
- ii. fraud or fraudulent misrepresentation.

b. Subject to clause 10(a), the Council's total aggregate liability under this Agreement shall be limited to the Charges.

## **12. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION**

a. The Council is subject to the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the "Act"). Any information, which comes into the possession of the Council may be subject to disclosure under the provisions of that Act, unless an exemption applies. Only the Council can make the decision regarding whether information is disclosable or not. In arriving at the decision, The Council will take account of the nature of the information, exemptions provided by the Act, and the public interest. If the information is disclosable in accordance with the terms of the Council has no discretion to prevent its disclosure.

b. LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD will:

- i. provide all necessary assistance and cooperation as reasonably requested by the Council to enable the Authority to comply with its obligations under the Act;
- ii. transfer to the council all requests for Information relating to this Agreement that it receives as soon as practicable and in any event within 2 Working Days of receipt;
- iii. provide the Council with a copy of all information belonging to the Authority requested in the request for information which is in its possession or control in the form that the Council requires within 5 Working Days (or such other period as the Council may reasonably specify) of the Council's request for such information; and
- iv. not respond directly to a request for information unless authorised in writing to do so by the Council.

### **13. DATA PROCESSING**

a. Both parties acknowledge that the only personal data which will be exchanged between the parties is details of employee names of each party. Both parties acknowledge that they shall each act as independent controllers in respect of these employee names.

b. Both parties will comply with all applicable requirements of the Data Protection Legislation. This clause is in addition to, and does not relieve, remove or replace, a party's obligations or rights under the Data Protection Legislation.

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

### **14. NO PARTNERSHIP OR AGENCY**

a. Nothing in this Agreement is intended to, or shall be deemed to, establish any partnership or joint venture between any of the parties, constitute any party the agent of another party, or authorise any party to make or enter into any commitments for or on behalf of any other party.

b. Each party confirms it is acting on its own behalf and not for the benefit of any other person.

### **15. CONFIDENTIALITY**

a. The provisions of this clause do not apply to any Confidential information:

i. is or becomes available to the public (other than as a result of its disclosure by the receiving party or its representatives in breach of this clause);

ii. was available to the receiving party on a non-confidential basis before disclosure by the disclosing party;

iii. was, is, or becomes available to the receiving party on a non-confidential basis from a person who, to the receiving party's knowledge, is not bound by a confidentiality agreement with the disclosing party or otherwise prohibited from disclosing the information to the receiving party;

iv. the parties agree in writing is not confidential or may be disclosed;

v. which is disclosed by the Authority on a confidential basis to any central government or regulatory body.

b. Each party shall keep the other party's Confidential Information secret and confidential and shall not:

i. use such Confidential Information except for the purpose of exercising or performing its rights and obligations under or in connection with this Agreement (**Permitted Purpose**); or

- ii. disclose such Confidential information in whole or in part to any third party, except as expressly permitted by this.
- c. A party may disclose the other party's Confidential information to those of its representatives who need to know such Confidential Information for the Permitted Purpose, provided that:
  - i. it informs such representatives of the confidential nature of the Confidential Information before disclosure; and
  - ii. it procures that its representatives shall, in relation to any Confidential Information disclosed to them, comply with the obligations set out in this clause as if they were a party to this Agreement,
  - iii. and at all times, it is liable for the failure of any Representatives to comply with the obligations set out in this clause.
- d. A party may disclose Confidential Information to the extent such Confidential Information is required to be disclosed by Law (including under the Act), by any governmental or other regulatory authority or by a court or other authority of competent jurisdiction provided that, to the extent it is legally permitted to do so, it gives the other party as much notice of such disclosure as possible.

## **16. REMEDIATION PROCESS**

- a. If LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD is in default in complying with any of its obligations under this Agreement the Council may, at its sole discretion, choose to terminate this Agreement in accordance with clause 17 or enter into a remediation plan process. If the Council chooses to enter into a remediation plan process, it shall give a remediation notice to LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD which shall specify the default in outline and the actions LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD needs to take to remedy the default.
- b. The Council shall be under no obligation to initiate a remediation plan process.
- c. Within 5 Business Days of receipt of a Remediation Notice, LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD shall:
  - i. submit a draft remediation plan, even if it disputes that it is responsible for the matters which are the subject of the remediation notice; or
  - ii. inform the Council that it does not intend to submit a remediation plan, in which event the Council shall be entitled to serve a termination notice.
- d. The Council shall either approve the draft remediation plan within 5 Business Days of its receipt or it shall inform LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD why it cannot accept the draft remediation plan. In such circumstances, LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD shall address all such concerns in a revised

remediation plan, which it shall submit to the Council within 5 Business Days of its receipt of the Council's comments. If no such notice is given, LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD draft remediation plan shall be deemed to be agreed.

e. Once agreed, LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD shall immediately start work on the actions set out in the remediation plan.

f. If a remediation plan cannot be agreed within 5 Business Days then the Council may elect to end the remediation plan process and serve a termination notice.

g. If a remediation plan is agreed between the parties, but LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD fails to implement or successfully complete the remediation plan by the required completion date, the Council may:

- i. terminate this Agreement by serving a termination notice; or
- ii. give LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD a further opportunity to resume full implementation of the remediation plan.

## **17. TERMINATION**

a. Without affecting any other right or remedy available to it the Council may terminate this Agreement with immediate effect or on the expiry of the period specified in the Termination Notice by giving written notice to LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD if one or more of the following circumstances occurs or exists:

- i. if LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD is in material breach of this Agreement, which is irremediable;
- ii. if LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD is in material breach of this Agreement (where, for the avoidance of doubt, failure to adequately provide the services shall constitute a material breach) and, where such breach is remediable, fails to remedy such breach within 3 days of being notified of such breach;
- iii. if there is an Insolvency Event; or
- iv. the Council reasonably believes that the circumstances set out in regulation 73(1) of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 apply.

## **18. TERMINATION ON NOTICE**

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

## **19. WAIVER**

a. A waiver of any right or remedy is only effective if given in writing and shall not be deemed a waiver of any subsequent right or remedy.

b. A delay or failure to exercise, or the single or partial exercise of, any right or remedy shall not waive that or any other right or remedy, nor shall it prevent or restrict the further exercise of that or any other right or remedy.

## **20. SEVERANCE**

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

## **21. ASSIGNMENT AND OTHER DEALINGS**

a. The Council may at any time assign, mortgage, charge, subcontract, delegate, declare a trust over or deal in any other manner with any or all of its rights and obligations under this Agreement.

b. LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD shall not assign, transfer, mortgage, charge, subcontract, delegate, declare a trust over or deal in any other manner with any of its rights and obligations under this Agreement without the prior written consent of the Authority.

## **22. ENTIRE AGREEMENT AND VARIATION**

a. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties and supersedes and extinguishes all previous and contemporaneous agreements, promises, assurances and understandings between them, whether written or oral, relating to its subject matter.

b. No variation of this Agreement shall be effective unless it is in writing and signed by the parties.

## **23. GOVERNING LAW**

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

## **24. JURISDICTION**

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

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

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

LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD will provide a service to Mid Ulster District Council (MUDC) that will deliver the priorities in their agreed LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD Independent Strategic Review and Plan 2023 - 2028 providing services to the wider whole Lough. This permits all areas to work together in developing and setting priorities for the region and play a pivotal role in the formation of strategic alliances between key stakeholders in the region.

### **2. PROJECT DELIVERY**

#### **2.1. Integrated Departmental and Council Services**

LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD will continue to develop the following projects for member Councils around the entirety of Lough Neagh: -

- A.** Marketing and promotion of Lough Neagh by sharing information on LNP websites and weekly posts on social media channels, producing and distributing Lough Neagh monthly newsletters for stakeholders and consumers. Attendance and promotion at relevant trade fairs and exhibitions (minimum of 2 per year).
- B.** Continue to develop a Lough Neagh Artisan Food and Crafts cluster, including the development of new and existing artisan members, and identifying artisan event opportunities and promotion of both. To attract at least 4 new businesses in the Mid Ulster Area.
- C.** NIEA Shoreline Plan - implement recommendations for Lough Neagh islands and ASSI actions for year 2023.
- D.** Continue to develop and deliver the Environmental Farm Scheme on the shores of Lough Neagh by attracting new funding and through engagement with farmers, landowners and relevant stakeholders to improve conditions.
- E.** Develop funding applications and attract investment from SEUPB for RSPB project, explore opportunities for bicycle tourism development, investigate Levelling Up opportunities for navigation aids and new dredger. Examine Shared Island and wider funding opportunities to assist with the delivery of the recommendations within LNP Independent Strategic Review and Plan 2023 – 2028.
- F.** Develop an Interdepartmental Committee for Lough Neagh and examine funding opportunities for technical developments of Lough Neagh ownership bid.
- G.** Continued development and delivery of the Moiled Cattle Scheme for Lough Neagh and western shore members and create a new food chain.

- H. Assist development of Blackwater River, providing technical advice associated with dredging, provide assistance with boating needs to council staff on river and lough, assist with EIA's and DfI business plans, link with ICBAN and Waterways Ireland to progress Ulster Canal development.
- I. Delivery of 2 environmental presentations on Lough Neagh in MUDC area.

### **3. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

**3.1.** LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD will provide the following services for the Council:

**3.1.1.** LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD will assist with project identification, project co-ordination and financial management as agreed for relevant funding programmes.

**3.1.2.** LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD will represent the agreed vision of the region in responding to consultations relating to regional, international and global issues.

**3.1.3.** LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD will organise Best Practice Visits of both elected members and officials as and when required.

**3.1.4.** LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD will submit 6 monthly reports detailing progress on all key areas of work and its contributions.

**3.1.5.** LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD will administer all structures necessary to manage and implement the funds appropriately.

**3.1.6.** LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD will facilitate the involvement of council staff and elected members in its work.

**3.1.7.** LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD will provide ongoing support to council's objectives.

**3.1.8.** LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD Strategic Manager will meet with Council's Tourism Service Manager at least 2 times throughout the year to review and monitor progress.



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

3.1 The Council has agreed that payment of £22,000 sterling (Twenty two thousand pounds) will be paid to LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD for organisation costs for year 1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024.

Payment will be released only upon the following condition:

- Submission of an original invoice. Copies are NOT acceptable.
- Provision of completed and signed Declaration Form confirming LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD has all requisite documentation in place
- Mid Ulster District Council will have the right to request repayment of all or part of the assistance if the conditions outlined in this Agreement are not met.

**ANNEX ONE**

**ACCEPTANCE FORM**

I, Gerry Darby, as Strategic Manager of LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD have read and understood the Council's Service Level Agreement between LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD and Mid Ulster District Council.

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

**Council Official**

**LOUGH NEAGH PARTNERSHIP LTD  
Strategic Manager**

**Signed:**

**Signed:**

**Position:**

**Position:**

**Name (Block Capitals)**

**Name (Block Capitals):**

**Date:**

**Date:**

## Donaghmore Historical Society

The Heritage Centre,  
Pomeroy Road,  
Donaghmore  
BT70 3HG



Donaghmore Historical Society

22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023

Dear Councillors,

### **Ref: Request for a letter in support of Donaghmore Historical Society's funding application to the Heritage Lottery.**

Donaghmore Historical Society was established 40 years ago in 1983 with the aim of preserving, documenting, and sharing the history of Donaghmore and its surrounding area. We are based in the former Donaghmore National School which the Society has restored and used as a focal point for our activities, and for housing important resources such as artefacts connected with Donaghmore Soap Works, local townland studies and Dickson's Mill, Dungannon. During this time the society has contributed to the life and culture of the village of Donaghmore and district, engaging with all sectors of the community. We have worked in partnership with other community-based organisations in the area, such as BEAM and the Bardic Theatre, and we have led on major local projects such as the memorial and website for the Dungannon Workhouse (with financial support from Mid Ulster District Council).

Up until 2020 almost all our activity had been 'in-person' talks and meeting with people who visited the area and the Heritage Centre to find out more about their family heritage. However, with the challenge of continuing during the Covid pandemic we looked to digital technology to enable our communications with others and through that time it became clear how much people valued the chance to learn more about their heritage. It also became apparent that we had developed an audience further afield who were now able to connect with the Society.

Considering our experiences to date we have developed a three-year strategic plan that will take the work of the society on to the next stage of development – "Donaghmore, Sharing and Connecting with our Heritage". A significant component of this plan is the building of a replica 6<sup>th</sup> century working cornmill adjacent to the Back Ford in Donaghmore. By working in partnership with BEAM Creative Network and other local organisations as appropriate, it is our intention to apply for Heritage Lottery Funding to help achieve some of the identified outcomes within our plan. To facilitate this development, we are asking Mid Ulster District Council to provide a letter of support for our external funding application.

The plan includes several key areas of activity.

	<b>Key activity</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>
<b>1</b>	Recruit and employ a Heritage Arts Officer to enable the connections between the community and its history and facilitate	Developing the Heritage Centre as a hub for local history and heritage, engaging people of all ages

APPENDIX 3

	the other outcomes associated with the strategic plan	with their history in creative and interesting ways.
<b>2</b>	Digitise resources	The resources currently held in the centre will be more widely available. The society's resources will be conserved and catalogued
<b>3</b>	Provide heritage signage for the village	Visitors and locals will be more informed about the heritage of the village. People of all ages will have digital access to resources that promote the unique history of Donaghmore
<b>4</b>	Develop a vibrant and dynamic online presence through a website and social media	Effective digital communications that ensure locals, visitors and the Donaghmore diaspora have access to heritage resources and information.
<b>5</b>	Design and construct a fully working water-powered corn mill based on local 6 <sup>th</sup> century archaeological evidence	The Corn Mill will demonstrate the technology used in the 6 <sup>th</sup> century to process grains into flour. A package of learning and interpretive materials, both historical and STEM focused will be available to visitors, including schools.

In conclusion, Donaghmore Historical Society would like to thank Mid Ulster District Council for the support that has been provided to date and we hope that you will consider this request for a letter in support of our application to the Heritage Lottery.

Yours sincerely  
 Evelyn Cardwell  
 Chair of Donaghmore Historical Society



**Background**

The JingleBall Run, originally scheduled for December 2022, took place on Saturday February 25th this year 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm. Adrian Logan hosted this outdoor event, and it garnered substantial attendance with more than 500 members of the public participating. The Dungannon Traders Association recognized it as a successful initiative for boosting town footfall and generating £3000 in funds for local charities.

Representatives from the town's local sports clubs, including soccer, rugby, hockey, Gaelic football, and camogie, were present and actively engaged in a variety of "Jingle ball challenges."



As an innovative pilot project aimed at increasing foot traffic in the town, the traders' event has been recognized as a success with promising prospects for the future. Valuable lessons have been learned to further develop this community initiative as a central town attraction. There are plans to organise it once more on Saturday December 16th this year, as part of the Christmas season preparations, contingent on continued support from the Council. Conversations have commenced with prospective sponsors and charitable organizations to oversee the community event, and preliminary steps have been taken to initiate road closures.



**Proposal Title: **Dungannon JingleBall Run 2023****

**Proposed date for event:** Saturday 16th December 6.30pm – 7.30pm

**Description:**

10,000 coloured plastic balls will be rolled down Castlehill Road (from Dungannon Orange Lodge entrance to Feeney’s Lane) Each ball is numbered and the first 10 balls over the line will win Mid Ulster Council shopping gift vouchers. Proceeds for the event will go to three charities (St Vincent de Paul, TAIS N.I. and Zambia Education and Development).

Balls will be sold in advance of the day and prior to the event.



All the balls would be loaded onto 2 telehandlers located at the gate of the Dungannon Orange Lodge. At 7.15pm the ball would be released

Adrian Logan has agreed to comperre the event and as part of the build up to the “ball drop”, various celebrities from the local sports club would attend to support the event. It is planned that there will be street entertainment at the steps of the top of Market Square including school choirs, demonstrations from local sports clubs, interviews of local celebrities including Santa Clause. It is also planned to offer spot prizes to spectators attending the Ball Drop.

Dungannon Enterprise Centre will also be operating a Christmas market in the Space@Market Square on the Saturday and have a booth to purchase balls on the day.

**Logistics:**

Dungannon Traders Group will work to deliver the event with the voluntary staff support from the following organisations:

- St Vincent De Paul,
- Members of TAIS N.I.
- JPS Construction Ltd.
- South Tyrone Men Shed
- Zambia Education and Development
- Dungannon Enterprise Centre

The following sports clubs will also be involved in the event:

- Dungannon Clarkes GFC
- Dungannon Rugby Club
- Dungannon Hockey Club
- Naomh Treasa Dún Geanainn Camogie Club
- Dungannon Swifts

### **Outcome from the event:**

1. 3000 plus visitors to the town on the day of the event
2. £15000 raised for charity.
3. 50 people from sports clubs, charities and local residents involved in the running of the community event.
4. Increased feel-good factor among local residents and visitors to Dungannon.
5. Province wide publicity of the cross-community family event and the town centre

### **Rationale for the event:**

The event will bring visitors to the town who may do Christmas shopping. This unique event should attract province wide publicity of Dungannon that can only benefit all.

### **Forecasted Costings:**

#### **Expenses**

Lighting	400
Barriers	1000
Labour	1000
Balls - Danielle	100
Compere - A Logan	600
Publicity and social media	600
PA system	1200
DJ	200
Posters	200
Prizes	1500
Banners	200
Insurance	426
Traffic management	1100
website - ecommerce system	400
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 8,926</b>

#### **Funding**

Sponsorship	1000
McKinney Competitions	1000
JPS Construction	1000
Baloo Hire	1000
PA Duffy & Co Solicitors	500
ASM Chartered Accountants	500
Dungannon Credit Union	500
Dungannon Enterprise Centre	1000
	<b>£ 6,500</b>

To ensure the successful execution of a high-quality community event in the town, there is currently a funding gap of approximately £2500. **Dungannon Traders Association request that the Mid Ulster Council consider providing a contribution of £2500 to support this event.**

In appreciation of this support, the Council will receive:

- Prominent recognition, including advertising on all promotional materials,
- Acknowledgment by the event's compere during the evening and an interview with the Council Chair.
- Prizes for the winning balls include Mid Ulster Council gift cards: £750 for first place, £500 for second place, and £250 for third place. This event will also serve as an excellent platform to raise awareness and promote the Gift Card scheme available in the area.





**Background**

The JingleBall Run, originally scheduled for December 2022, took place on Saturday February 25th this year 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm. Adrian Logan hosted this outdoor event, and it garnered substantial attendance with more than 500 members of the public participating. The Dungannon Traders Association recognized it as a successful initiative for boosting town footfall and generating £3000 in funds for local charities.

Representatives from the town's local sports clubs, including soccer, rugby, hockey, Gaelic football, and camogie, were present and actively engaged in a variety of "Jingle ball challenges."



As an innovative pilot project aimed at increasing foot traffic in the town, the traders' event has been recognized as a success with promising prospects for the future. Valuable lessons have been learned to further develop this community initiative as a central town attraction. There are plans to organise it once more on Saturday December 16th this year, as part of the Christmas season preparations, contingent on continued support from the Council. Conversations have commenced with prospective sponsors and charitable organizations to oversee the community event, and preliminary steps have been taken to initiate road closures.



**Proposal Title: **Dungannon JingleBall Run 2023****

**Proposed date for event: Saturday 16th December 6.30pm – 7.30pm**

**Description:**

10,000 coloured plastic balls will be rolled down Castlehill Road (from Dungannon Orange Lodge entrance to Feeney’s Lane) Each ball is numbered and the first 10 balls over the line will win Mid Ulster Council shopping gift vouchers. Proceeds for the event will go to three charities (St Vincent de Paul, TAIS N.I. and Zambia Education and Development).

Balls will be sold in advance of the day and prior to the event.



All the balls would be loaded onto 2 telehandlers located at the gate of the Dungannon Orange Lodge. At 7.15pm the ball would be released

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<b>Report on</b>	Sperrins Partnership Project Update Report
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> October 2023
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism & Strategic Programmes

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	<p><b>Sperrins Partnership Project Update</b></p> <p>To provide members with an update on the Sperrins Partnership Project.</p>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	<p>The Sperrins Future Search Conference entitled 'The Sperrins – Reaching New Heights, Realising Our Potential' was held in the Glenavon House Hotel, Cookstown on 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> September 2017.</p> <p>The event brought together a group of key stakeholders to draft and agree an action plan for the future development of the Sperrins and in particular the designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).</p> <p>The Sperrins Partnership Project is a joint collaboration between 4 councils; Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, Derry City and Strabane District Council, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council and Mid Ulster District Council, who back in 2018 committed to equal financial contribution towards its delivery and have also funded the Sperrins Future Search initiative.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p>Project activity is overseen by a Project Officer and part time Administrative Support who took up their respective roles in October 2020. Derry City and Strabane District Council agreed to lead on the recruitment and employment of the officers in agreement with the partner councils.</p> <p>Work completed or progressed to date include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approval of the Sperrins Partnership Agreement between Partner Councils. <i>(Existing Partnership Agreement concludes this financial year)</i></li> </ul>

and a new Partnership Agreement requires to be developed and commence on 1 April 2024).

- Governance Structure agreed;
- Formation of a Sperrins Partnership Board;
- Development and launch of a new website dedicated to the project [www.sperrinspartnershipproject.com](http://www.sperrinspartnershipproject.com);
- Development of a communication Newsletter
- Official Launch of the Sperrins Future Search Report and Actions Plans;
- Initiation of the Brand and Tourism Thematic Group;
- Review and update of the Brand and Tourism Action Plan;
- Audit of the Sperrins tourism product offering;
- Engagement and regular meetings with Statutory Agencies;
- Support, assistance and promotion of collaborative projects including, the Sperrins Sculpture Trail and IAT (International Appalachian Trail);
- Review and update of Sperrins Scenic Driving Route Brochure and Signage;
- Review of Sperrins Cycle Route Signage underway;
- Input and support to the update exercise of the latest edition of the Rough Guides Accessible Britain;
- Familiarisation Trips;
- Delivery of Sperrins Walking Programme;
- Source and maximise funding opportunities;
- Raise profile of the Sperrins as a place to visit, live, work and invest;
- The Outdoor Partnership – funding secured through National Lottery Community Fund (NLCF) to recruit a Sperrins Outdoor Activity Development Officer. Post commenced Feb 2023.

### **The Outdoor Partnership (TOP)**

The Sperrins Partnership in collaboration and with support from Sport NI 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.”* This means enhancing people’s physical and mental health, and wellbeing while improving the economic return and the social value of outdoor activity such as walking, cycling and adventure sports. The Outdoor Activity Development Officer role is to build capacity, identify training and education needs within outdoor sports and recreation in Sperrins Communities.

The Outdoor Partnership are the main employer and manage the project with input from Partner Councils. Other aims of the project include enabling communities through promoting sustainable use of the environment, enhancing partnership working through local delivery and improving coach and education and opportunities for volunteering. There is also scope to develop existing clubs and create new clubs identified through a needs analysis. The project is very much focused on grass roots and improving outdoor recreation from within communities.

The Officer is currently focused on completing an audit across the region which will identify gaps and opportunities. This exercise is being carried out through effective communication with multiple stakeholders including Council Officials/ Community Groups and National Governing Bodies for sport. Projects are currently being identified across a range of sports and recreational activities.

The Outdoor Partnership Funding Update for the Sperrins:

- **Sport NI funding** for club development. Due in next few months. projects identified are: a need for more paddle sports activities, club start up, a youth development angling program with angling associations and supporting club development/youth development among MTB clubs. (more needs will be identified over the course of gap analysis).
- **ERG Criagmore Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund.** The Grant will go towards utilising the local trail centre by creating a hub for more regular activities aimed at youth and family orientated sessions. TOP will work in partnership with Cycling Ireland on this initiative. Outcome unknown at time of drafting this report.
- **Spar NI funding** application submitted through Charity Support 2gether the fund will go towards a Social Prescribed Health and Well-being program involving the outdoors and cold-water therapy. Outcome unknown at time of drafting this report.
- Updated Outdoor Partnership Sperrin's **Web Page:** <https://outdoorpartnership.co.uk/ayrshire-copy-2>
- **UK lottery Bringing People Together Community Fund.** The idea of this funding will be to work with two community groups supporting people from an under-represented demographic in the outdoors (eg – people from ethnic minority backgrounds, refugees, disabled people, LGBTQI+ groups, etc.) to introduce them to outdoor activities, identify ambassadors two per region to go through a leadership and mentoring programme and then continue to support them to create outdoor activity hubs or clubs within their communities over a two year period, supporting them to gain further qualifications and creating a support network for them to feed into. The Sperrins have been selected as one of the TOP Regions to be included.



**Breakdown of Funding for the post of Sperrins Outdoor Activity Development Officer is as follows:**

<b>Financial Years</b>	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Year 4</b>	<b>Year 5</b>	
	<b>Feb 23 - Mar 23</b>	<b>Apr 23 - Mar 24</b>	<b>Apr 24 - Mar 25</b>	<b>Apr 25 - Mar 26</b>	<b>Apr 26 - Sep 26</b>	<b>Total (£)</b>
OADO Salary (inc Oncosts)	6,083	36,864	37,601	38,353	19,366	138,267
Administration (Laptop/ phone)	2,625	625	500	500	250	4,500
<b>Total Costs (incurred by TOP)</b>	<b>8,708</b>	<b>37,489</b>	<b>38,101</b>	<b>38,853</b>	<b>19,616</b>	<b>142,767</b>
UK Lottery Funding	6,883	26,430	26,821	27,347	13,806	101,287
<b>Balance of Funding Required</b>	<b>£1,825</b>	<b>£11,059</b>	<b>£11,280</b>	<b>£11,506</b>	<b>£5,810</b>	<b>£41,480</b>

The financial contribution up to 31 March 2024<sup>1</sup> totalling £12,884 has been provided by the Sperrin Partnership budget, this was agreed by Partner Councils due to some underspend during the early stages of the project, mainly due to the pandemic. Consideration to financial contributions for years 3 and 4 is required. It is suggested that partner councils as a key partner, make budget provision for these years to ensure the project can continue for its duration.

Broken down, the financial contribution requested from each Partner Council is £4,000 in Year 3 and £4,000 in Year 4. The funding sought requires the agreement of all Partner Councils to contribute the additional funding. Such funding will allow for some programming costs to be included.

In terms of Mid Ulster District Council, the additional budget sought to fund the Sperrins Outdoor Activity Development Officer in Years 3 and 4, is presently being considered by Council's Communities and Place Directorate and a report will be brought back to Committee on the matter.

Members will be kept updated on project developments. Further information on the project can be found here [Northern Ireland-The Sperrins - The Outdoor Partnership](#).



## Sperrins AONB Management

Sperrins Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is the only one of 8 AONB in Northern Ireland without a Management Plan. This is a long-standing matter which the Sperrins Partnership Board had supported as a key issue facing the region. The Partnership engaged with NIEA to assess options and to understand the role/ remit of the agency and explore funding opportunities available to write and deliver a management plan. As a result of this, the Sperrins Partnership undertook internal consultation research amongst the Partner Councils to understand if there is an appetite, resource, and commitment to deliver an AONB Management Plan for the Sperrins.

The Sperrins Partnership Board agreed to apply for funding to the DAERA Environment Fund Strategic Strand 2023 – 2028 in November 2022. The application was successful. The funding will allow a 10-year Management and 5-year Action Plan to be developed for the Sperrins. This is welcome news as following almost 55 years since it was originally Designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, it will now benefit from a multi-agency coordinated approach to protect and promote the unique landscape.

The Letter of Offer sets out the financial allocation for each year of the project and the work plan for each year thereafter will be agreed in advance with NIEA and Councils. The final Letter of Offer is attached at **Appendix 1**. There is no further financial request to Partner Councils. Previous approval to accept the Letter of Offer was sought through the four partner council committees earlier this year.

The funding will allow for recruitment of an AONB Project Officer who will assist with developing the Management Plan and Action Plan. The post will be guaranteed initially for a 2-year period and subject to delivery of the work programme in years 1 and 2, the post will be extended for the remainder of the funding period.

A slight change in the current Sperrins Partnership structure will be required to include the recruitment of the AONB Project Officer and the suggested structure amendments are included in **Appendix 2**. Partner Councils have also requested the Sperrins Outdoor Activity Development Officer post to be shown on the structure, and whilst this officer is not directly employed by Sperrins Partnership, the postholder is delivering projects in the Sperrins region, in association with Councils.

Considering the suggested structural changes, it is anticipated that salary costs for current staff will increase by c.£1,000 per Council, per year. There is enough budget from the existing financial contributions from each Council to cover this slight increase. Members are asked to note this slight increase and the allocation of overall budget to this.

## **Sperrins Partnership Project – Financial Contributions and Invoicing Arrangements**

Current invoicing arrangements for Partner Council contributions to support the Sperrins Partnership cover the period October to October each year which falls in line with staff employment dates.

However, invoicing arrangements for the contributions currently takes place in February/March each year falling in line with Partner Councils' financial years. This current arrangement is proving problematic as essentially invoicing is being carried out retrospectively to account for contributions for the 6 months prior to March each year.

In an attempt to align invoicing arrangements, it is suggested that Partner Councils are not invoiced in October 2023 and instead the next invoices for contributions are issued in March 2024 to align with Councils' financial years.

## **Sperrins Walking Programme**

Council may recall receiving an update on the Sperrins Walking Programme 2022/2023. The Programme was a huge success with a high majority of walks selling out and feedback from Partner Councils and those who took part was extremely positive. Due to the success and in an attempt to build on the event the 4 partner councils are working in collaboration to deliver the Programme again commencing in Autumn 2023 with one element taking place in Spring 2024. Budgets have been identified and the range of walks will include individual Council specifications.

An activity provider has been appointed to oversee the events and Councils have agreed for a single procurement exercise be undertaken (Fermanagh and Omagh District Council to act as procuring authority) to plan and deliver a walking weekend in each of the four Council areas in the 2023/2024 financial year on behalf of the Sperrins Partnership. Further information and updates can be found at [Sperrins Walking Festival - Sperrins Partnership Project](#)

## **Council Projects in the context of the Sperrins**

The Partner Councils involved with the project have delivered a number of specific projects that are of significant benefit to the Sperrins. These projects will support the collaborative work of the partnership and enhance the product offering in the region.

## **Sperrins Sculpture Trail Project**

The Sperrins Sculpture Trail Project consists of 3 iconic pieces of artwork positioned in spectacular settings within the Sperrins. The sculpture trail is designed to promote the natural and built heritage of the region and encourage rural tourism and out of state visitors whilst preserving the natural assets of the rural community.

This project is a working partnership between Derry City and Strabane District, Mid Ulster District Council and Fermanagh and Omagh District Council. The Sperrins Giant Sculptures - The Storyteller, The Guardian and The Stargazer have been installed at their respective sites. Works are now complete, and the official launch took place in July 2023. More information on the project can be found at [Sperrins Sculpture Trail - Sperrins Partnership Project](#)

### **International Appalachian Trail (IAT) Ulster Ireland**

The International Appalachian Trail (IAT) Ulster Ireland links the mountains in West Donegal through to Larne in Co. Antrim along the geological Appalachian trail. The route crosses 6 different Council areas which include the 4 Sperrins Partnership Councils with varying distances in each Council area.

The capital works and marketing programme for the International Appalachian Trail Ulster Ireland delivered through Rural Development Programme Co-Operation Scheme is now completed.

The Sperrins Partnership Project's four Council Partners all participated in the initiative which delivered significant enhancement to the overall walking experience within the Sperrins region. Key improvements within the Sperrins section of the IAT Ulster Ireland included improved waymarking, signage and interpretation along the entirety of the route as well as upgrades to the Barnes Amenity site, Goles Stone Row.

### **Banagher Glen and Garvagh Mountain Bike Trail**

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council secured external funding for enhancement works at Banagher Glen located in the Southwest of the council area just outside Dungiven in the North Sperrins. The project completed in early Spring and has improved and enhanced the visitor experience at this stunning location. The project will create opportunities for the local community and visitors to enjoy the site on a year-round basis and also create opportunities for visitors to explore the High Sperrins on foot. The Official launch of the enhancement works took place in June 2023.

Garvagh mountain bike trail located on the Sperrins boundary within Causeway Coast and Glens has proved to be a very popular attraction. The project has created a Community Health Hub in Garvagh Forest through the development of a multi-use walk and off-road family cycling trails. The location is also home to the weekly Parkrun which encourages people to get out, get active and stay healthy. Garvagh Forest is also one of the locations for the Picture This Trail as part of Borough wide rural tourism driving trail.

	<p><b>Gortin Glen Forest Park</b></p> <p>In Fermanagh and Omagh District Council the redevelopment of Gortin Glen Forest Park has transformed it into a family friendly outdoor experience and includes a destination Play Park, trim trail, additional parking and the creation of mountain biking trails. Gortin Glen Forest Park continues to develop the product offering at the location which includes the addition of the Sperrins Sculpture Trail giant located at the top of Mullaghcarn within the forest park.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	<p>Financial:</p> <p>The Sperrins Partnership Project is presently funded by 4 Partner Councils at a total annual cost of c£88,000 (£22,000 per Council). Officers are currently looking at options to secure additional funding from external sources for relevant projects. This contribution includes salary and programming costs and concludes in October 2023.</p> <p>Each Council has committed £22,000 to Sperrins Partnership for the current financial year. A similar financial request from Sperrins Partnership will be brought to Committee for consideration early in the new 2024/25 financial year, subject to available budgets, to seek to extend the project to maintain momentum and build on early success and allow for effective forward planning and project management.</p> <p>This funding will be vital to ensure the Sperrins Partnership Project can deliver on its vision as outlined at the Sperrins Future Search Conference, predicated upon the same match funding being agreed by all Partner Councils.</p>
	<p>Human: Officers time</p>
	<p>Risk Management:</p>
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	<p>Equality &amp; Good Relations Implications</p>
	<p>Rural Needs Implications</p>

<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
	<p>It is recommended that Members;</p> <p><b>5.1 Note</b> content of report.</p> <p><b>5.2 Approve</b> in principle that Council continue to provide financial support to Sperrins Partnership when their financial request is made to Committee early in the 2024/25 financial year, subject to confirmation of the reciprocal financial contribution from all Partner Councils. The financial request should be accompanied by a refreshed Partnership Agreement.</p> <p><b>5.3 Approve</b> realignment of Sperrins Partnership financial requests to Partner Councils to mirror financial years (1 April – 31 March).</p> <p><b>5.4 Accept</b> the terms and conditions of the DAERA Environment Fund Strategic Strand 2023 – 2028. Letter of Offer attached at <b>Appendix 1</b>.</p> <p><b>5.5 Support</b> recruitment of an AONB Project Officer to assist with development of the Sperrin AONB Management Plan and Action Plan.</p> <p><b>5.6 Approve</b> the suggested amendment to the current Sperrins Partnership Structure as set out on <b>Appendix 2</b> and budget allocation to salary costs as detailed in the report.</p>
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
	<p><b>Appendix 1</b> - Sperrins Partnership – Letter of Offer – July 2023</p> <p><b>Appendix 2</b> – Existing and Proposed Sperrins Partnership Structure</p>



**Applicant – by email only**

[ciara.toner@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk](mailto:ciara.toner@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk)

Our Ref: EFSS 20

Direct Tel: 02890 569610

04/07/2023

Dear Ciara

### **Letter of Offer: The Sperrins - From Future Search to AONB Delivery**

Following your application to the Environment Fund I am pleased to inform you that the Department is offering the level of grant outlined below for 2023/24, subject to the Terms and Conditions that are attached to this letter of offer in Appendix 4 and the Additional Terms and Conditions below.

This is to deliver Option 1 within your application and, where appropriate with the amendments outlined below. The Outcomes and Targets to be delivered, monitored and reported on are listed in Appendix 2, alongside the Risk Register that must be maintained and reported on with each grant claim.

#### **Offer:**

**1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024: Up to £103,660 at up to 62% of eligible costs.**

#### **Future years**

**1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025: Up to £108,487 at up to 62% of eligible costs.**

**1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026: Up to £122,927 at up to 62% of eligible costs.**

**1 April 2026 – 31 March 2027: Up to £123,477 at up to 62% of eligible costs.**

**1 April 2027 – 31 March 2028: Up to £129,884 at up to 62% of eligible costs.**

#### **The following elements are excluded from this offer:**

- School Engagement
- Funding for Built Heritage Features
- Updates/revision to Driving Routes and Cycle Routes

#### **Client Officer:**

The DAERA Client Officer allocated for this project is Michael Gillespie; Tel 02890 569576; e-mail [Michael.gillespie2@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Michael.gillespie2@daera-ni.gov.uk).

#### **Additional Project Specific Terms and Conditions:**

1. Final draft Sperrins AONB management plan to be submitted to the NIEA by 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024.
2. Draft AONB Action plan to be submitted to NIEA by 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024 and action plan to be finalised by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025.
3. NIEA to fully engaged in consultation and development of the management plan and action plan
4. Draft proposals for the establishment of a Sperrins AONB wildfire group including draft terms of reference and proposed membership to be submitted to NIEA within 12mths of project commencement.
5. Sperrins AONB to be represented at the NI Wildfire Stakeholder Forum
6. Wildfire awareness messages to be agreed in advance with NIEA and NIFRS before being released to the public and landowners
7. Only the actions within the “Environment and Heritage” section of the Future Search Conference Report” are eligible for support, the precise actions much be agreed with the cline officer as part of the agreed work plan for the project.
8. Funding for years three, four and five to be dependent on the production of a satisfactory AONB management plan and action plan.
9. HRA on AONB management plan and Action plan must be undertaken by the Council carried out once both documents are complete, this to be shared with the Department in advance of adopting the AONB Management Plan.
10. NIEAs outdoor recreation officer to be invited onto the recreation forum (if not already represented) and to be engaged on all proposed outdoor recreation projects and proposals.
11. Update to the Sperrins Outdoor Recreation Action Plan.
12. Geospatial mapping of working areas and locations of projects delivered will be required as a condition of any offer.
13. once the HRA is developed by the Council for the AONB management plan and any projects to be delivered through EF funding, this must be submitted to the EF Grant Client Officer must agree that they are content with it prior to implementation of any elements that might affect designated sites.
14. The Applicant is responsible for obtaining and complying with statutory approvals in advance of the conduct of any activities that may affect designated sites. In awarding this grant DAERA is not inferring that “as an owner/occupier<sup>1</sup> of the protected site(s) named in the EF Application Form, or as a public body, you may carry out, cause or permit to be carried out, the operation(s) specified in the manner prescribed” and outlined in your grant application and supplementary information. This Letter of Offer is not therefore a Consent/Assent, under the Environment Order (Northern Ireland) 2002 as amended, for any of the operations proposed in your project.

Where you do not have current Consent/Assent in place for the proposed project, and intend to carry out operations within or near ASSIs, you must gain this via your Environment Fund (EF) Client Officer in writing prior to carrying out any operations. You must fill in the appropriate form in Appendix 4.

Competent Authorities (Government, Councils and Statutory Undertakers) intending to carry out projects within or near ASSIs must have the Assent of



DAERA in order to proceed, and for European sites are required to carry out their own Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) prior to applying for Assent from their EF Client Officer.

If you propose to amend, or carry out additional operations, or where the period identified in the proposal for the operation to take place has expired, you must provide sufficient information to enable the environmental assessment to be carried out to consider whether the operation(s) can be granted Consent/Assent.

Where any operations also require permission from a local planning or other regulatory authority, separate to a permission under the Environment Order (Northern Ireland) 2002 as amended, you must ensure these permissions are also obtained before any operations take place.

<sup>1</sup> You must have written permission of the owner.

**Acceptance of Offer:**

If you are accepting this offer you must confirm this using the attached Grant Acceptance Form by **03/08/2023**. This must be signed by 2 authorised representatives.

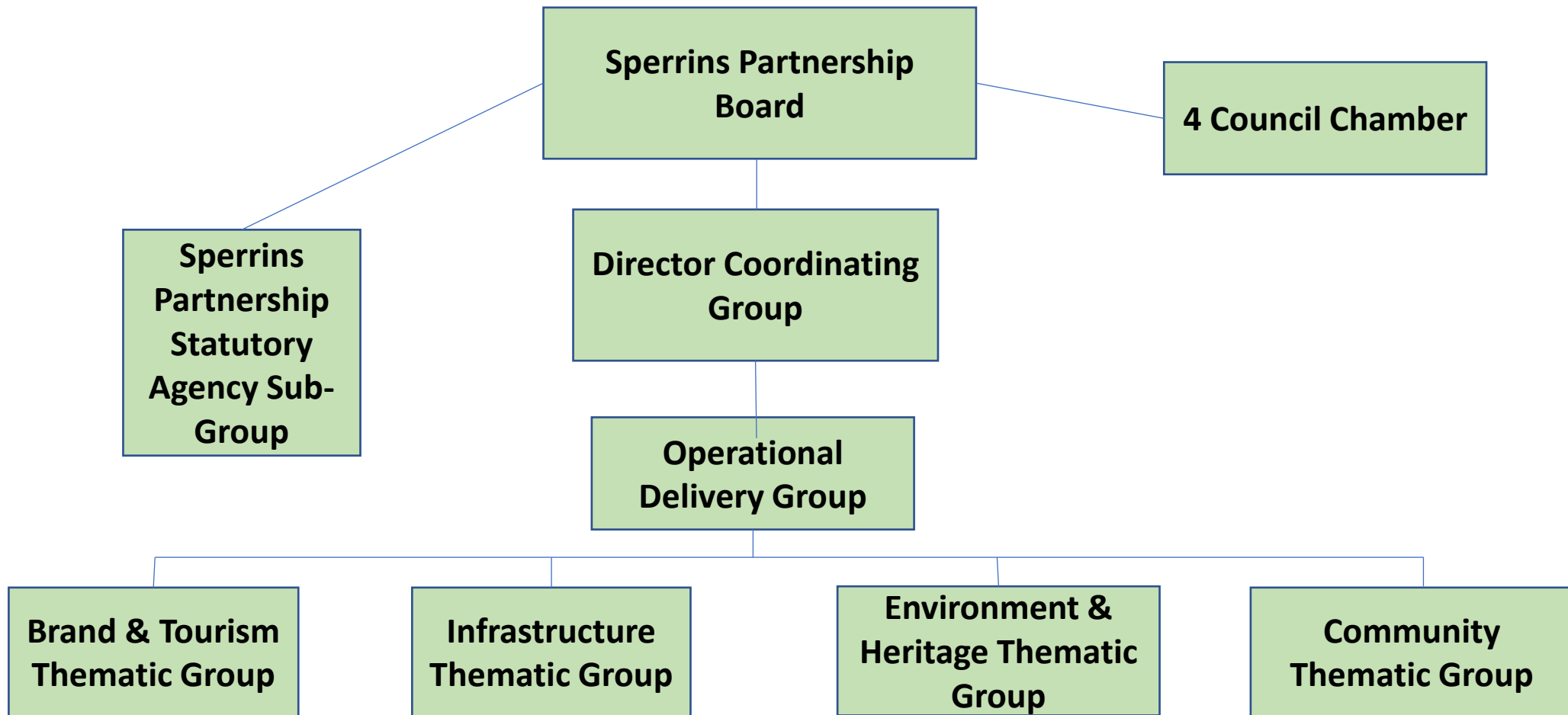
Yours sincerely



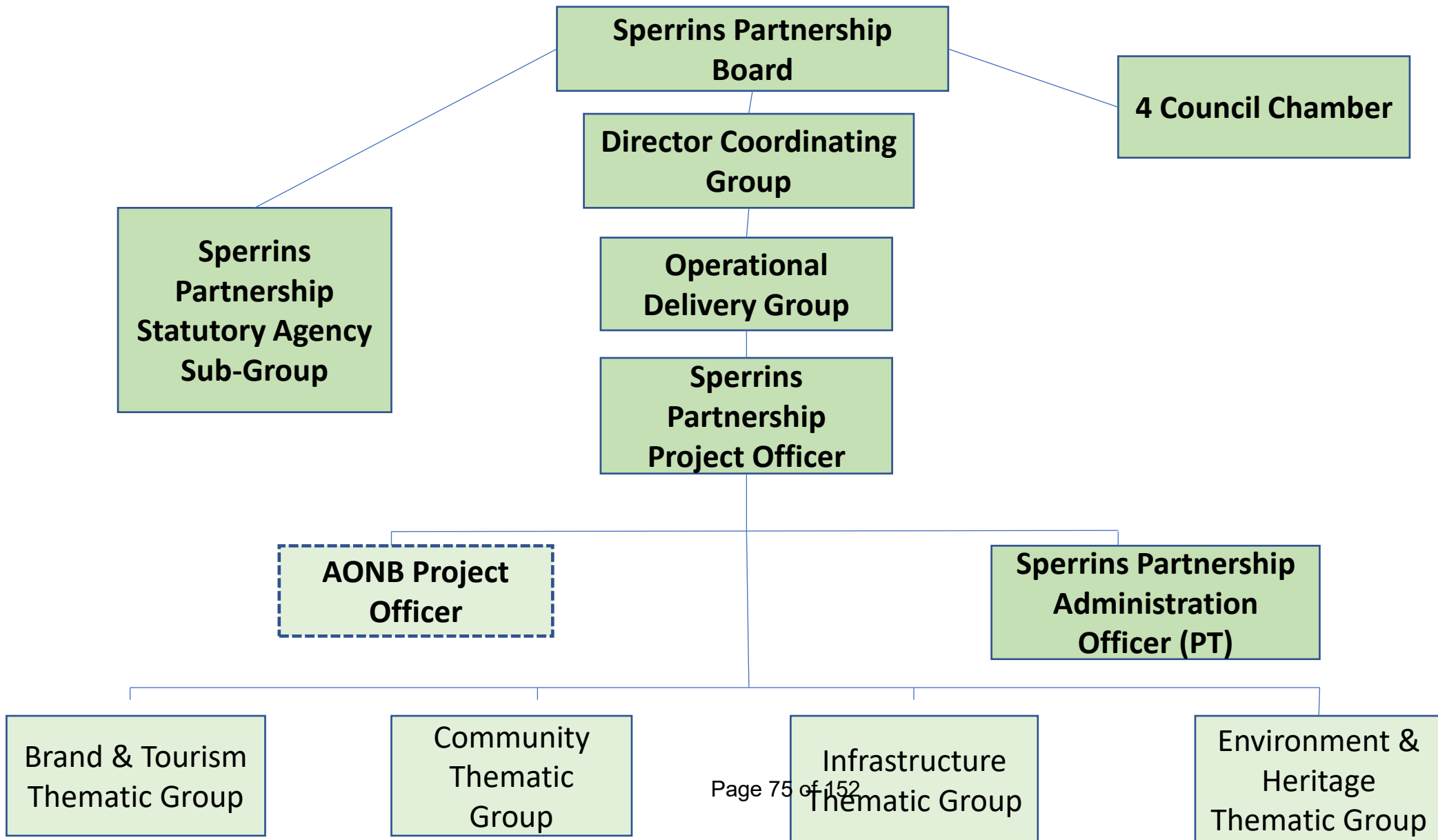
**Mark Hammond**  
Director, Natural Environment Division  
DAERA

Copy: Michael Gillespie, DAERA Client Officer  
[efgrants@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:efgrants@daera-ni.gov.uk)  
Katie Birbeck, DAERA

# Current Sperrins Partnership Structure



# Proposed Sperrins Partnership Structure





**Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 14 September 2023 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon and by Virtual Means**

<b>Members Present</b>	Councillor McNamee, Chair  Councillors Bell*, Black, W Buchanan, F Burton, Clarke, Corry*, Forde, Gildernew, McLernon, McQuade, Monteith*, Milne*, Wilson
<b>Officers in Attendance</b>	Mr Gordon, Assistant Director of Health, Leisure and Wellbeing (AD: HL&W) Ms Linney, Assistant Director of Development (AD: Dev)** Ms McKeown, Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes (AD: EDT&SP) ** Mr Brown, ICT Support Mrs Grogan, Committee and Member Services Officer
<b>Others in Attendance</b>	Councillor S McPeake***

\* Denotes Members present in remote attendance

\*\* Denotes Officers present by remote means

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

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

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

**D122/23 Notice of Recording**

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

**D123/23 Apologies**

Councillors Molloy and Quinn.

**D124/23 Declaration of Interests**

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

### **D125/23 Chair's Business**

The Chair advised that Councillor Wilson wished to raise any issue under Chair's Business.

Councillor Wilson advised that the old Social Security Building in Cookstown was up for sale which was an absolute eyesore and in dire need of being renovated. The member believed that there were a number of organisations who were looking to bid on it, one in particular and as Chair of Cookstown Enterprise Centre, were looking to redevelop the whole site and would require a letter of support from the Council to allow this to happen.

Councillor Wilson sought approval from Council to allow the Chief Executive permission to write a letter of support to move this project forward and to include any of the other interested parties to do the same. The member felt that it was important that this building and site gets tidied up.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson  
Seconded by Councillor W Buchanan and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to grant approval for the Chief Executive to write a letter of support for Cookstown Enterprise Centre any other interested parties to progress the upgrade and renovation of Cookstown Social Security Building.

The Chair advised that other people had indicated to him that they may send in a letter to Council in due course.

### **Matters for Decision**

#### **D126/23 Ballyronan Boat Club – Development Proposal**

The Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing (AD: HL&W) presented previously circulated report to update members on engagement to date and proposals for consideration.

Councillor Clarke thanked the AD: HL&W for his good explanation and said that he was delighted to see progress being made and would be happy to propose the recommendation. The member stated that this would really be a new development and what happened there before is now in the past and with the current situation now at Ballyronan and the space at the site, it would great to see the progress.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke  
Seconded by Councillor Bell and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Committee that approval be granted for Officers:

- (a) To ascertain conditions and agreement needed to facilitate the Ballyronan Boat Club proposal and if permissible and agreeable to all parties, draft terms for a lease of 25 years with possibility of extension for the disused old changing areas currently located on site.
- (b) To engage with Land and Property Services to ascertain current market value for retail/leasing options and incorporate into an agreement with agreed rent review conditions.
- (c) Subject to mutual agreement on above, that Council proceed to finalise the necessary agreements.

Councillor Black advised that he would be happy to support the proposal as this was a good opportunity for the Council to support the Boat Club and show a keen interest in trying to better the facility at Ballyronan.

Councillor W Buchanan enquired how the blue/green algae affect the long-term boating on the lough.

The Chair agreed that this was a very pertinent question at the minute regarding what was going on in the lough and enquired if the AD: HL&W had any update.

The AD: HL&W said that members may have been aware that a meeting had taken place last Monday at the request of this committee, Council had invited NIEA and NI Water to provide an information session for Councillors which included slides that could be circulated to members for information if they so wish. The AD: HL&W advised that one of the actions arising out of that meeting was to invite NIEA and NI Water back to this committee in due course at an appropriate time to provide an update on any of the agreed actions that was discussed at the meeting.

Councillor McLernon said that whilst discussing the matter of blue/green algae at the lough she wished to take the opportunity to raise the issue of the dredging at Blackwater and the fact that Lough Neagh Rescue were potentially being jeopardised in doing their job and providing a service due to the fact of the river in dire need of being dredged. The member requested that this matter be raised at the Environment Committee.

The Chair advised that the Council was dealing previously with ABC Council in relation to the dredging of the Blackwater where potential legal issues had arisen.

The Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes (AD: EDT&SP) said that she understood the Strategic Director of Environment (SD: Env) had been instructed by Council to seek legal advice from Council's solicitors upon the legal vires of Council undertaking any proposed dredging works to the mouth of the Blackwater River, given that this was the responsibility of Department for Infrastructure. The AD: EDT&SP said that it was her understanding that the SD: Env would bring back an update report to the Environment Committee once the legal advice had been attained.

The Chair stated Councillor McLernon's concerns would be raised at the Environment Committee and was aware that the member had indicated that the situation on the Blackwater is worse now than it ever has been.

Councillor Milne advised that he had attended a Lough Neagh Partnership meeting today and the organisation had indicated to him that a new body had been formed by possibly DAERA or some other government body where different groups have been invited along and dismayed to see Lough Neagh Partnership not being included. The member stated that Lough Neagh Partnership was one of the groups that knows everything about the lough and shocking to see them not being invited and enquired if there was any possibility of this Council making representation to DAERA or whoever to include Lough Neagh Partnership onto the newly formed body.

Proposed by Councillor Milne  
Seconded by Councillor McLernon and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council that to approve that:

- (a) Officers liaise with DAERA or other Government Department responsible for forming the new body for the Lough Neagh asking them to involve Lough Neagh Partnership in their future proceedings.
- (b) Dredging of Blackwater be referred to Environment Committee for consideration.

Councillor Monteith said that coming in on the back of this regarding the Environment Committee, there seemed to be an overlap given now we have environmental health responsibilities. The member suggested that Environmental Health Report be a continuous standing item on the agenda as there has always been an item on the agenda for Development Report, Community Development Update and Economic Development. The member advised that increasingly there were issues coming, including Lough Neagh due to the crisis at the minute, but there were other crisis' including the whole situation around Northway facility in the Clogher Valley area relating to air pollution the same as Dungannon and Moy. The member felt that the public do expect our Environmental Health Officers and our department to be taking a lot of the lead on this, often there is not the statutory base for it, but when there is work coming off our staff could they be in a position to look at this sort of stuff as the first point of contact for the community. He felt there was a need for this Council to be more publicly proactive in public health issues and promotion of public health.

Councillor Monteith proposed that Environmental Health Report be a standing agenda item each month to allow Councillors to raise these types of issues as some were very pertinent to local communities and important to have monthly reports.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith  
Seconded by Councillor Burton and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council that Environmental Health Report be a standing item each month on the Development Committee agenda going forward.



Councillor Wilson following on from Councillor McLernon's comments advised that he had previously sat on the Environment committee and was his understanding that the vast majority of the area which needed to be dredged at Blackwater belonged to ABC Council. The member agreed that whilst we were the statutory body that could dredge it or indeed if it was our responsibility in Mid Ulster Council, it could relate to ABC Council also and was unsure where ABC Council currently stood relating to this.

The Chair advised that there had been an in-depth conversation around this and agreed there were serious issues around the Lough. The member stated that there were all types of pollution around Mid Ulster and the recommended Environmental Health Report each month would provide everyone with the opportunity to raise any concerns which they may have.

### **D127/23      Development Report**

The Assistant Director of Development (AD: Dev) presented previously circulated report to update members and to seek approval for the following:

- Strategic Development/Community Planning – letter of offer support for the proposed Magherafelt Health Village
- VPRS Storage Scheme Support
- Development Update

Councillor Corry said that she would be happy to propose the recommendation as it was important to keep up the good work that has been done with the refugee community. The member referred to Magherafelt Health Village and said that she was aware of a number of members attending the meeting in July and was a very exciting opportunity to bring free GP services into the one space including child services, opticians, pharmacists, physio, dentist etc along with caring also. The member stated that this was an extremely exciting opportunity and was very happy to support it.

Councillor Clarke said that he would be happy to second the recommendation as it was very important to move forward with this.

Proposed by Councillor Corry  
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

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

- Approve the issuing of a Council letter of support for the Magherafelt Health Village.
- Approve the contribution to the VPRS Storage Scheme.
- Note the Development Update.

### **D128/23      Development – Peace Plus Plan**

The Assistant Director of Development (AD: Dev) presented previously circulated report to update members and seek approval for the Peace Plus Plan.

The AD: Dev asked members to note that one of these was in Capital and the programme which was being looked at the moment through a masterplan process is for Traad and this masterplan will be brought back to members in due course as it was currently being finalised through co-design and consultation with the communities.

Councillor Gildernew proposed the Peace Plus Plan for submission for SEUPB as she was delighted to see this much needed Peace funding coming to Mid Ulster District Council area from the European Union. The member hoped that the process would not be as bureaucratic in Peace funding as it previously was over the years.

Proposed by Councillor Gildernew  
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to approve the Peace Plus Plan for submission to SEUPB.

Councillor Monteith said that he had a query regarding the other themes and enquired if Council were able to avail of the other themes in the mix for future applications or were we confined to this particular theme.

The AD: Dev advised that Council could apply for regional Peace Plus themes. Theme 1.1 is specifically for Council and has a dedicated allocation based on the plan. Council can apply competitively to other themes and that a number of these were open at the minute for example youth, shared education, environment etc. she can send members a full update of what is currently available.

Councillor Monteith enquired if it would be beneficial arranging a workshop for Councillors to chat and generate ideas as there was a fairly large capital works plan. The Member suggested that Officers could investigate to see if there was anything that would fit in for potential applications as there were areas which kept coming up i.e., Ballysaggart Lough, Dungannon which would integrate well with no. 5 as it was a registered bird sanctuary and was also included in our capital works. The member felt that a workshop would be beneficial for members on the whole Peace Plus programme, with a view to what projects Council has already in the pipeline and potential for available funding through it.

The Chair agreed that this would be beneficial to showcase the new model and include new members of Council who may not be on the partnership or fully informed on the whole concept and may better place themselves to lever monies for their own communities.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith  
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council that a workshop be arranged for all members on the entire Peace Plus Programme.

Councillor Wilson advised that Peace Plus funding was very welcome as the vast majority of the money was coming from the Exchequer. The member said that whilst reading through the report he did not see anything relating to the arts although he has seen culture mentioned all the time and enquired was arts part of the culture or was it being excluded.

The AD: Dev confirmed that arts would be part of the culture theme. She advised that an independent consultant was brought in “Insight Solutions” who had went out and identified a number of themes through engagement with the community and peace partnerships and these were the key themes which had come back. The AD: Dev said that Council had focused on as many social inclusion schemes ones as possible but arts has been incorporated under the cultural element and although it may not be as strong as some of the others in relation to potentially poverty, health and wellbeing, it was still there but may not have the same allocation of funding.

Councillor Wilson asked if this could be included as Arts and Culture as this would give it a purpose. The member advised that members had met last with the strategic arts delivery groups and that it would be good to provide them with a boost by using the word Arts.

The AD: Dev confirmed that Councillor Wilson’s request could be accommodated.

Councillor Burton said that on a similar vein to Councillor Monteith, referred to Clogher Valley Workhouse where a consultation event took place at Corick House at the end of August and was her understanding that the Education Authority hoped to get some support through this Peace money. There was a presentation from the Early Years and was strongly felt that there is very little childcare facilities in Clogher Valley area for working mothers and would appreciate an update regarding this to make sure that Council was still focused on the effort that the whole cross-community put in. There was ongoing work between Early Years and some of the older people in the care home to carry out intergenerational work which would benefit both the older and younger people. The member felt that it would be very important to keep this on the radar and to generate any support available.

The AD: Dev said that Officers were aware that Early Years had put in for a regional project which closed on the 4<sup>th</sup> of September 2023. The AD: Dev advised that a letter of support has been provided based on previous letters of support following a presentation on the scheme. The AD: Dev said it was her understanding that the group were quite hopeful that they have a strong application to the large capital fund.

Councillor Burton suggested that it may be beneficial to organise a meeting around the table so that the new local representatives of Council can get a little bit more of a steer around what we are trying to achieve up in there. The member enquired if this could be accommodated pre-Christmas.

Proposed by Councillor Burton  
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council that a meeting be arranged for members particularly our new local representatives so that they can be

made aware of what Council were trying to achieve in the Clogher Valley area regarding Early Years proposals.

**D129/23 Mountain Bike NI Consortium**

The Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing (AD: HL&W) presented previously circulated report to seek approval to commit to Mountain Bike NI Marketing Consortium Campaigns for 2023-2024.

Councillor Clarke said that he would like to support the proposal as it has been in place for a number of years which was delivering well. The member felt that it was good to be part of a region wide organisation which promotes the mountain-biking facilities across the region.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke  
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council that approval be granted for Mid Ulster District Council to participate as a Consortium Partner with the Mountain Bike NI Marketing Consortium and contribute £10,500 to 2023-24 campaign.

Councillor Burton enquired if promotion was all the Council got through this or was there any other benefits.

The AD: HL&W advised that appendix and short report was included around the work which has went on this last year which allowed Council the opportunity to do a shared promotion of the facilities that we have and also to avail of some expertise and the extra insight that we need. He said that it was felt that working in partnership provides Council with the maximum amount of opportunity to deliver this specialist marketing campaign right across the spectrum, not just marketing but expertise on ongoing work on trails we have also.

**D130/23 Walk NI Consortium**

The Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing (AD: HL&W) presented previously circulated report to seek Council approval to commit to Walking NI Marketing Consortium for 2023-2024.

Councillor Corry said she was happy to propose the recommendation as it was a great opportunity to showcase our Sperrins and for all we have to offer here in Mid Ulster. The member advised that she would see a lot of walkers around her own area in Hudy's Way, Slieve Gallion, Derrynoyd and Carntogher and was a good opportunity to promote hillwalking in the area.

Proposed by Councillor Corry  
Seconded by Councillor McLernon and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council that approval be granted for Mid Ulster District Council to participate as a Regional Partner with the

Walking NI Marketing Consortium with a contribution of £3,617.00 towards the 2023-2024 campaign.

### **D131/23 Dog Friendly Park Trial in Dungannon Park**

The Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing (AD: HL&W) presented previously circulated report to advised members of proposal to develop a trial Dog Friendly Park at Nunnery Hill in Dungannon Park.

Councillor Monteith advised that it was himself that brought this initiative forward though this committee on the request from the doggy community and said that it was good to see it up and running. The member said that he understood the need for a trial period but felt that 12-month period was a bit long and felt that if things were progressing well that consideration be given to bringing this down to a 6-month trial period with a potential for rollout across other Council areas. The member felt that if this was any sort of success in Dungannon Park at all, then there was potential for other members getting lobbied for roll out in other areas and felt that after 6 months a review be taken then. The member stated that if this facility could be set up for this minimal amount of money, it would be something certainly worthwhile for other areas.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith  
Seconded by Councillor McLernon and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council that approval be granted to develop a trial Dog Friendly Park in Dungannon Park. Trail to be reviewed after a 6-month period as opposed to 12 months and also investigate the potential for a similar facility across other areas of Mid Ulster.

The Chair said that it would be useful to earmark some ground in other areas if there is a big uptake in Dungannon and important to move relatively quickly on that.

Councillor Monteith proposed that Railway Park DEA meeting be resumed as soon as possible as he felt that it has fallen of the radar once again.

The AD: Dev advised that there has been an update with a meeting taking place today on the design, there is a few tweaks to make and has to go out to the DEA but advised that this can be organised through the Capital team relatively soon.

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to resume Railway Park DEA meetings as soon as possible.

### **D132/23 Sports Representative Grants**

The Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing (AD: HL&W) presented previously circulated report to update on the proposed Community Grant allocations for the range of:

- Sports Representative Grant – Individual 44 (September 2023) - Total £9160
- Sport Presentative Grant – Teams 4 (September 2023) - Total £1450

Councillor McLernon said that she would like to propose the recommendations and also to say that it was great to see the Sports Grants reaching so many different sports individuals within the community.

Proposed by Councillor McLernon  
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council that approval be granted for the Sports Grant allocations as outlined within the report.

### **D133/23 DfC Evaluation Exercise on Pavement Café Legislation**

The The Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing (AD: HL&W) presented previously circulated report to agree Council's response to Department of Infrastructure's evaluation exercise on Pavement Café legislation.

Proposed by Councillor McLernon  
Seconded by Councillor Gildernew and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council that approval be granted for the previously circulated draft response to be submitted to the Department for Communities' evaluation exercise on pavement café licensing.

### **D134/23 Economic Development Report – September 2023**

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

- **Christmas Off Street Car Parking Charges Dungannon & Magherafelt**
- **TV Christmas Promotional Campaign for Retail and Hospitality**
- **Tourism Trade and Consumer Shows/Events 2023/2024**
- **Project Gigabit – Public Review**
- **ICBAN – Peace Plus – DS3 Smart Town and Villages**

Councillor Corry said that she would be happy to propose the report. The member enquired would it be possible to get a date brought forward for the Broadband Working Group as the group has not met for quite a long time and felt that this would be beneficial as there were still gaps in the Mid Ulster area.

Councillor Gildernew said she would like to second the proposal and support the contribution of £1500 to ICBAN for the funding bid associated with employment of a contractor to coordinate a major funding bid (€6 million) as this funding would be transformative for the border communities which have been extremely adversely affected through the years and would be great to see and would fully supported it.

Councillor Wilson referred to item 5.1 – Off Street Carparking and advised that high streets were dying on their feet at the moment and asked if it was possible or how

much it would cost to offer free carparking in Dungannon and Magherafelt over the festive period.

Councillor Wilson also referred to item 5.4 – Project Gigabit and wished to pay tribute to Mr McKenna (Economic Regeneration Service Manager) on this. The member advised that there was a 5G mast erected on the Morgans Hill Road, Cookstown which has affected an elderly lady living behind it as she hasn't got a smart tv and has no picture what-so-ever for this last 2 months. The problem being that no-one can identify who the suppliers are to confirm that it is their mast. The member said that he was unsure where we can go with this, but it was an absolute disgrace that some of these telecom people cannot and will not take responsibility for that mast. The member said that he was aware that the Economic Development department especially Mr McKenna was doing excellent work on this but felt there was an issue with planning on this also as obviously this Council has approved it.

In response to Councillor Wilson's query regarding Off Street Carparking, the AD: EDT&SP advised that she would liaise with the Assistant Director of Property Services (AD: PS) to ascertain costs for the proposal to provide free carparking during the 6 week festive period, but advised that such costs had not been budgeted for in the current year.

In relation to Member's query regarding Project Gigabit, the AD: EDT&SP advised that her team has been working with Planners in an attempt to identify the owner of the new 5G mast in Cookstown. However, as the mast has no branding on it, it has not been possible at this juncture to identify which telecoms company owns it.

In response to Councillor Corry's comment regarding Broadband Working Group, the AD: EDT&SP advised that she is happy to convene a meeting of the Group but felt it would be appropriate to obtain the data sets from Department for the Economy first, so that staff could analyse these and be better briefed to meet Members of the Working Group.

Councillor Corry said that this made perfect sense and would be good to get this information.

Councillor Monteith said that he would be happy to second what Councillor Wilson had suggested regarding free carparking. The member said that he had long had the view that there should be free carparking in the town centre and there were issues raised previously regarding parking at Castlehill about people parking all day but free for 2 hours would sort this issue out. The member asked that this be investigated as a matter of urgency and if not workable then revert back to 10 pence fee.

Councillor Monteith asked for Ann Street DEA meeting to be reinstated again to discuss proposals as there hasn't been a meeting before the elections in May.

The Chair advised that there had been requests received looking different subgroups to be reconvened again.

It was:

Proposed by Councillor Corry  
Seconded by Councillor Gildernew and

- **Christmas Off Street Car Parking Charges Dungannon & Magherafelt**

**Resolved** That it be recommended that approval be given to investigate costs associated with free carparking in Dungannon and Magherafelt town centres during the festive period as a matter of urgency. In the event of this not being workable approval be given to the temporary reduced tariff for the First 3 Hours of 10 pence in all Off Street Pay and Display Car Parks in Dungannon and Magherafelt from Saturday 25 November 2023 to Saturday 6 January 2024 (6-week period) at a cost to Council of £24,000.

- **TV Christmas Promotional Campaign for Retail and Hospitality**

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve the development of a high-profile Christmas Promotional Campaign (involving TV and other social media channels) to support the Retail and Hospitality sectors during the festive period at an approximate cost of £35,000 with funding from Council's Economic Development budget.

- **Tourism Trade and Consumer Shows/Events 2023/2024**

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve Officer attendance at the various Tourism Trade and Consumer Shows/Events in 2023/2024 as detailed in the report, at a cost of circa. £10,000 from Council's Tourism budget.

- **Project Gigabit – Public Review**

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

- (i) Note update on Project Gigabit
- (ii) Approve that delegated authority be given to Council's Chief Executive to sign and return the Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) to the Department for the Economy to enable release of Project Gigabit datasets, upon Council's legal team having satisfactorily completed their review of the NDA.

- **ICBAN – Peace Plus – DS3 Smart Town and Villages**

**Resolved** That it be recommended to:

- (i) Note progress of funding bid
- (ii) Approve a partner funding contribution to the Irish Central Border Area Network of up to £1,500 (sterling) towards costs associated with employment of a contractor to coordinate a major funding bid (circ.



€6 million) on behalf of the ICBAN region, related to Smart Towns and Villages.

## **Matters for Information**

### **D135/23 Minutes of Development Committee held on 5 July 2023**

Members noted Minutes of Development Committee held on 5 July 2023.

Councillor Corry referred to D108/23 Macmillan Move More and said that a meeting was due to take place in August and enquired if there was any further update from that.

The Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing (AD: HL&W) advised that all of the Councils were in the same boat at the minute as still waiting on proposals coming forward from Macmillan and or other agencies. As members may know the current Macmillan funded programme is due to finish on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 and was something that Council was pushing hard with the funder to establish what their plans were. The AD: HL&W said that just over 18 months ago there was an extension put forward on that scheme with additional funding and indeed Council also contributed as part of that funding extension. The AD: HL&W advised that there was no update yet but was something that Officers were currently working on and as soon as there is any update this would be brought back through this committee. Councillor Monteith referred to D106/23 and the British Military mast at Castlehill and asked if there was any update from the Consultant and if not, proposed that Council initiate contact with Consultant to try and move this forward as once again this was one of the issues constantly a victim of drift.

The Chair said that he thought that more information had come back and members hadn't received it.

The Assistant Director of Development (AD: Dev) advised that Officers have been liaising back and forward, not with the Consultant, but with the agency. She stated that there was an issue in terms of costings and bringing the Consultant on board. The AD: Dev confirmed that liaisons has taken place but hasn't been finalised yet and an update would be forwarded to members.

### **D136/23 Affordable Warmth Scheme**

Members noted previously circulated report which provided an update on the ending of Councils involvement with Affordable Warmth Scheme.

Councillor Corry advised that a number of members had met with the Housing Executive regarding them taking over this scheme from Council and the great work that this Council had done through the area in being able to provide for our constituents. The member stated that from the scheme has been taken over by the Housing Executive she had a number of people contacting her regarding difficulties about getting through to the scheme and when she tried herself she was advised that they had been inundated by the volume and asked if she provide numbers and contact for residents who were in contact with her, but she was unable to do that.

The member said that it may be interesting to possibly have a future meeting with the Housing Executive again just to see any impacts that this scheme was having and whether it was reaching the same levels as it did before and if not what they were going to do to address this issue.

The Chair concurred with Councillor Corry's comments and said that it would be interesting to see how the Housing Executive was squaring up to what we were doing over the past few years.

Councillor Burton noted where the Housing Executive were saying that anyone who was not fully processed by Council Officers that their application literally starts from scratch again. The member said that she would be interested to know how many people were in that limbo place as she was aware of residents who were granted approval through an Officer as they had met the criteria and unfortunately the work hadn't just started and enquired if these people would be in the same place if the actual work hasn't been completed and having to go through the whole process again. The member said that bearing in mind that we were coming into the winter months and would be amazed at how many people who will contact Councillors to say that they have no form of heating in their house other than an open fire at this stage. The member stated that this was something that really needed to be taken on board and fight for constituents.

The Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing (AD: HL&W) advised that Council has been given the assurances that any applications that Council Officers has recommended across the department and met the eligibility criteria, wouldn't have to restart their application process as they were already in the system. This was for anyone who had made an enquiry to Council Officers who were possibly sitting on a waiting list that were due to get their application assessed, regrettably it was those individuals that have been told that they need to restart their application and their eligibility request from the start. The AD: HL&W stated that all Councils has pushed very hard on this with the department and regrettably that has fell on deaf ears. Officers has been in touch with all those individuals and explained the referral process and they still remain on hand to guide and talk them through that even though the relevant staff member has moved on from this post.

The AD: HL&W advised that when meeting took place with representatives from DfC and Housing Executive on 31<sup>st</sup> July, part of the commitment was that we would invite them back to a future Development Committee in the Autumn where they would provide the Council with an update on how the transition period has went and provide members with an opportunity to further scrutinise that. The AD: HL&W said if members were minded, he could certainly reach out to them and make a request for a future deputation to this committee as agreed back in July.

Councillor Forde said that she would second the proposal made by the AD: HL&W.

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council that an invite be issued to DfC and Housing Executive to come back to Development Committee with an update on the transition of the Affordable Warmth Scheme as agreed back in July.

## **D137/23 Economic Development Report – OBF1**

Members noted previously circulated report which provided an update on key activities as detailed below:

- Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP) – Action Plan 2023-24
- Rural Business Development Grants Scheme 2023

*The live broadcast ended at 7.55 pm.*

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

Proposed by Councillor Clarke  
Seconded by Councillor McLernon and

**Resolved** In accordance with Section 42, Part 1 Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 that Members of the public in accordance with Section 42, Part 1 Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 that Members of the public be asked to withdraw from the meeting whilst members consider items D138/23 to D142/23.

### **Matters for Decision**

D138/23 Development Report – Community Grants  
D139/23 Tender for Play Park Facilities  
D140/23 Altmore/Cappagh Tender Award

### **Matters for Information**

D141/23 Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 5 July 2023  
D142/23 Economic Development Report – CBF1

## **D143/23 Duration of Meeting**

The meeting commenced at 7pm and concluded at 8.08 pm.

Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Annex A – Introductory Remarks from the Chairperson

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

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

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

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

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

<b>Report on</b>	Age Friendly Update
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	12th October 2023
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Raisa Donnelly, Age Friendly Co-ordinator

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	The purpose of the report is to provide information on the event to mark Mid Ulster Loneliness Network 2nd birthday along with the formal launch the Mid Ulster Age Friendly Strategy and action plan. In addition, information is also provided on Positive Ageing month taking place during October.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	The "Ageing Well" initiative is one of the outcomes within the Health and Wellbeing Theme of the Mid Ulster Community Plan. Work on this theme is being progressed by the Age Friendly Co-ordinator who is funded by the Public Health Agency.
2.2	In Northern Ireland, the Active Ageing Strategy is one of the Northern Ireland Executive's key strategies to address the ageing of our population. It's vision is 'one of Northern Ireland being an Age Friendly region in which people, as they get older, are valued and supported to live actively to their fullest potential; with their rights respected and their dignity protected'.
2.3	The Age Friendly Co-ordinator continues to meet the PHA objectives by working alongside Mid Ulster Loneliness Network, Mid Ulster Disability Forum, Mid Ulster Seniors Network and Mid Ulster Age Well to further develop a positive ageing community within Mid Ulster.
2.4	The Age Friendly Co-ordinator along with the Mid Ulster Loneliness Network delivered an event on 29th September 2023 in the Burnavon Cookstown to mark the networks 2nd birthday along with the formal launch of the Mid Ulster Age Friendly Strategy and action plan.
2.5	October celebrates Positive Ageing Month, a month-long festival of events and activities for older people. It celebrates the contribution that older people make to their communities.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	A new Age-friendly structure that aligns with Councils' Community plans has been implemented with the formation of an Age-friendly Alliance to deliver on the 3-year Age-Friendly Strategy and Action Plan that was approved at Development Committee in July 2023 (minute reference: D109/23).

<p>3.2</p> <p>3.3</p> <p>3.4</p> <p>3.5</p>	<p>The Age-friendly Co-ordinator will be responsible for engaging with the Older Persons forum and will report back to the Strategic Alliance on a continual basis to enable effective co-production and consultation with older people throughout all stages of the Age-friendly Strategy and Action plan and any other local issues. This is a co-production and people-led process where local people and organisations have made contributions on what it is like to live in their area. Their views have informed this three-year action plan for delivery.</p> <p>The Age Friendly co-ordinator has been working to bring together a programme of events for Positive Ageing Month – further details enclosed within the appendix. A mix of events have been organised for residents to enable them to connect both virtually through online sessions and face to face in person events.</p> <p>The programme began on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October, International Day of Older Persons. The programme of events is focused on raising awareness of the impact of an ageing population and the need to ensure that people can grow old with dignity and continue to participate in society as citizens with full rights. It also seeks to emphasise how older people can make major contributions to their communities, through volunteer work, transmitting experience and knowledge, helping their families with caring responsibilities and participating in the paid labour force. It's also a chance to bring national attention to a shared topic or common issue this year, Pride in Place has been chosen as a theme by the UK Network of Age Friendly Communities, to highlight older people's contributions to where they live.</p> <p>Mid Ulster based activities include a number of free series of sessions held by the Council's Age Friendly Co-ordinator including a Tea Dance, a Falls awareness and prevention workshop and Chatty Walks with the Council's Make A Change officers and the Southern Health and Social Care trust.</p> <p>Other events such as, Mid Ulster reminisce exhibitions, craft making workshops, physical activity classes, cuppas and chats and drop-in hearing clinics are available to residents to participate in.</p> <p>A wide range of free online sessions are also organised for people available to attend, covering topics such as financial wellbeing, Pension advice, Energy Efficiency in the Home and Staying Safe whilst online.</p>
<p><b>4.0</b></p>	<p><b>Other Considerations</b></p>
<p><b>4.1</b></p>	<p><b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b></p> <p>Financial: Costs for development of programme of events contained within annual grant funding received from the PHA and also funding from Northern Healthy Lifestyle Partnership grant. Contribution of £3,000 from Council to MULN approved in April 2023 (minute reference: D066/23).</p> <p>Human: Staff time</p> <p>Risk Management: Considered in line with relevant Council Policies and Procedures.</p>
<p><b>4.2</b></p>	<p><b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b></p> <p>Equality &amp; Good Relations Implications: None anticipated at this juncture.</p>

	Rural Needs Implications: None anticipated at this juncture.
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	To note the contents of this report.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	Appendix A: Positive Aging Month Schedule of Activities Appendix B: Mid Ulster Age Friendly Strategy (easy read)





# Positive Ageing Month

October



Comhairle Ceantair  
**Lár Uladh**  
**Mid Ulster**  
District Council



A month-long programme of events and activities across Mid Ulster.

**October 2023**

[midulstercouncil.org/positiveageingmonth](http://midulstercouncil.org/positiveageingmonth)



October 2023

## Mid Ulster Positive Ageing Month

Throughout October, Positive Ageing Month will celebrate the contribution that Mid Ulster's older citizens make to their local communities.

With a mix of events to enable older people to connect both virtually through online events and physically there's something for everyone to enjoy.



This programme of events is focused on decreasing the sense of isolation and loneliness that many older people feel. Our Mid-Ulster older people's population size is increasing every year and with that comes the need for increased support around issues of health, well-being, financial advice, cost of living issues and even drop-in hearing clinics which are all covered and on offer in this great timetable of free events.

### **Councillor Dominic Molloy**

Chair, Mid Ulster District Council

For more information on any of the events visit our website [midulstercouncil.org/positiveageingmonth](http://midulstercouncil.org/positiveageingmonth) or contact:

Raisa Donnelly (Age Friendly Co-ordinator)  
T: 03000 132 132  
E: [raisa.donnelly@midulstercouncil.org](mailto:raisa.donnelly@midulstercouncil.org)

## **International Day of Older Persons 2023**

Sunday 1 October

Each Autumn, Positive Ageing month provides the perfect opportunity to recognise and celebrate the positive contributions of older people in society.

It's also a chance to bring national attention to a shared topic or common issue and this year, Pride in Place has been chosen as a theme by the UK Network of Age Friendly Communities, to highlight older people's contributions to where they live.

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### **RNID - Get support with hearing loss**

Monday 2 October from 10am - 12pm

Visit our free drop-in service (no appointment needed) where our friendly volunteers can help with:

- Information on hearing loss and tinnitus
- How to do a hearing check
- Hearing aids, basic repairs and maintenance of NHS hearing aids
- Access to support and services in your area

Contact Iain Irvine - RNID Near You Co Ordinator (NHSCT)  
Call: 07940 160672

**Cookstown Community Centre, 42 Fairhill Road, BT80 8AG**

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### **Magherafelt Library - Cuppa and Chat**

Monday 2 October from 1pm - 3pm

Join us for a chat and cuppa in Magherafelt library every Monday from 1pm to 3pm. This is a brilliant opportunity to meet new people and make friendships.

**For more information contact Breda at Agewell on 028 7963 2170.**



# the burnavon

To celebrate Positive Ageing Month in October The Burnavon is offering a selection of workshops to the 60+ age group.

## Slate Decoupage Workshop

Wednesday 4 October  
10.30am - 1pm

## Wind Chime / Sun Catcher Workshop

Wednesday 18 October  
10.30am - 1pm

## Bath Bomb Making Workshop

Wednesday 11 October  
10.30am - 12.30pm

## Create Your Own Personalised Fabric Bag

Wednesday 25 October  
10.30am - 1pm

**Individual workshops cost £5 - All materials supplied  
Book all four workshops for a reduced cost of £17.**

Tea / coffee and scones provided at each workshop above.  
Please advise of any allergies or intolerances at time of booking.

**Contact the Burnavon Box Office on 028 8676 9949 to register.**

## **Local Places & Faces Exhibition - Cookstown Memories**

Monday 2 October - Friday 27 October

Local photographer Norman Bell will take you on a stroll down memory lane in Cookstown, with his digital display of photographs taken over the years. To complement this exhibition Norman will give a talk on his photographs on Thursday 5 October 7.30pm.

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## **Make A Change - Walking Connects**

Tuesday 3 October from 11am - 12pm

A Free Walking Programme for anyone over the age of 50 to help promote and raise awareness of the benefits of physical activity every Tuesday in October from 11am-12pm at Meadowbank Sports Arena, Magherafelt.

**Contact [Teresa.McBennett@midulstercouncil.org](mailto:Teresa.McBennett@midulstercouncil.org) call 03000 132 132.**

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## **RNID - Hearing Check (Dungannon)**

Wednesday 4 October from 10am - 4pm

Visit our free drop-in service from 10am to 4pm in Dungannon Council Offices. No appointment needed.

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## **Take a Trip down memory lane with Norman Bell**

Thursday 5 October at 7.30pm

As well as a lifelong interest in recording local events Norman has always been interested in the history of the Cookstown area. The places and faces that will appear on the screen will be familiar to many and will be a trip down memory lane. A digital display of Norman's archived photos will be on display in The Burnavon during the month of October.

**To complement this exhibition Norman will give a talk on his photographs on Thursday 5th October in the Burnavon.**

# Positive Ageing Month Celebration Event

Positive Ageing Month October



Stay Steady



## Physical Activity for Falls Awareness

### WHERE AND WHEN:

4th October

**BANBRIDGE LEISURE CENTRE**

10th October

**DUNGANNON LEISURE CENTRE**

17th October

**NEWRY LEISURE CENTRE**

Each event will be from 10.30-12.30 with refreshments



Southern Health and Social Care Trust

Quality Care - for you, with you



### PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AT EACH EVENT

Falls Fighters Talk (20 mins)

Strength and Balance (15 mins)

Chi Me (15 mins)

Functional Fitness MOT (15 mins)

To book your place please contact

**BANBRIDGE EVENT: Stephanie Rock**  
agefriendly@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk  
Tel: 07825 010630

**DUNGANNON EVENT:**  
Raisa.Donnelly@midulstercouncil.org  
Mobile: 07553 379721

**NEWRY EVENT: Tara.Smyth@nmandd.org**  
Mobile: 07511 046135



## **RNID - Get support with hearing loss**

Friday 6 October from 11am - 1pm

Visit our free drop-in service (no appointment needed) where our friendly volunteers can support you with:

- Information on hearing loss and tinnitus
- How to do a hearing check
- Hearing aids, basic repairs and maintenance of NHS hearing aids
- Access to support and services in your area

**Clogher Valley Health & Day Centre, 38 Augher Road, BT76 0AP**

Call: 0808 808 0123 Email: [contact@rnid.org.uk](mailto:contact@rnid.org.uk) SMS/text: 07360 268988

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## **Bank of Ireland Financial Wellbeing**

Friday 6 October from 11am - 12.30pm



The Bank of Ireland will present a webinar on a variety of financial wellbeing topics. The webinar will also look at fraud and protecting your finances as well as cost of living savings tips, support and resources. Online via teams.

**Registration is essential contact Raisa Donnelly 03000 132 132 or email [raisa.donnelly@midulstercouncil.org](mailto:raisa.donnelly@midulstercouncil.org)**

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## **Dungannon Library - Cuppa and Chat**

Friday 6 October from 1pm - 3pm

Every Friday drop in for a Coffee and Chat Dungannon Library 1pm to 3pm. This is a brilliant opportunity to meet new people and make friendships.

**For more information please contact Breda at Agewell on 028 7963 2170.**

## **Mid Ulster Memories with Maura Johnston**

Monday 9 October from 1pm - 3pm

Join us for Mid Ulster Memories facilitated by Maura Johnston, a chat and cuppa in Cookstown library. Memories are important. This is a great opportunity to share memories and experiences. This session is funded by the Public Health Agency open to anyone who wishes to come along and meeting and reminisce, to tell, to share and to reflect.

Location: Magherafelt Library

**For more information please contact Raisa Donnelly 03000 132 132 or email [raisa.donnelly@midulstercouncil.org](mailto:raisa.donnelly@midulstercouncil.org)**

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## **Falls Awareness Session**

Tuesday 10 October from 10.30am - 12.30pm

Information on preventing falls along with MOT fitness checks and strength and balance exercises.

Dungannon Leisure Centre from 10.30am - 12.30pm followed by light refreshments.

**Registration is essential contact Raisa Donnelly 03000 132 132 or email [raisa.donnelly@midulstercouncil.org](mailto:raisa.donnelly@midulstercouncil.org)**

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## **Make A Change Walking Connects**

Tuesday 10 October from 11am - 12pm

A Free Walking Programme for anyone over the age of 50 to help promote and raise awareness of the benefits of physical activity every Tuesday in October.

Location: Meadowbank Sports Arena, Magherafelt

**Contact Make A Change Officer Teresa Mc Bennett on 03000 132 132 or [Teresa.McBennett@midulstercouncil.org](mailto:Teresa.McBennett@midulstercouncil.org)**



## **RNID - Hearing Check (Cookstown)**

Wednesday 11 October from 10am - 4pm

Visit our free drop-in service from 10am to 4pm in Cookstown Council Offices. No appointment needed.

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## **Chatty Walks with Age Friendly Co-ordinator & SHSCT**

Thursday 12 October from 11am - 12 noon

**Meet at Coalisland Canal (Newell stores car park).**

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## **Dungannon Library - Cuppa and Chat**

Friday 13 October from 1pm - 3pm

Every Friday drop into Dungannon Library for a coffee and chat from 1pm-3pm. This is a brilliant opportunity to meet new people and make friendships.

**For more information contact Breda at Agewell on 028 7963 2170.**

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## **Virtual Tea Dance**

Friday 13 October from 3pm - 4pm via Zoom

To register please contact seniors [info@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:info@belfastcity.gov.uk).



## **Magherafelt Library - Cuppa and Chat**

Monday 16 October from 1pm - 3pm

Why not join us for a chat and cuppa in Magherafelt library? Every Monday from 1pm – 3pm. This is a brilliant opportunity to meet new people and make friendships.

**For more information contact Breda at Agewell on 028 7963 2170.**

# Fuel Stamp Savings Scheme

## Stamp your way to a warmer home

### Fuel Stamps and Collection Cards **NOW AVAILABLE**



Public Health  
Agency

The fuel stamp scheme is designed to help householders spread the cost of their central heating oil and solid fuel.



[www.midulstercouncil.org/fuelstamps](http://www.midulstercouncil.org/fuelstamps)



Comhairle Ceantair  
**Lár Uladh**  
**Mid Ulster**  
District Council

## **Make A Change Walking Connects**

Tuesday 17 October from 11am - 12pm

A Free Walking Programme for anyone over the age of 50 to help promote and raise awareness of the benefits of physical activity every Tuesday in October. Location: Meadowbank Sports Arena, Magherafelt.

**Contact Teresa McBennett on 03000 132 132 or [Teresa.McBennett@midulstercouncil.org](mailto:Teresa.McBennett@midulstercouncil.org)**

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## **Money and Pensions Service Talk**

Tuesday 17 October at 11am



One hour webinar covering all aspects of pensions with a 45 min presentation via Teams and 15 mins for questions.

There will be a general overview of pensions, state pensions, options on retirement and scams. Meeting link available at [www.midulstercouncil.org/positiveageingmonth](http://www.midulstercouncil.org/positiveageingmonth).

**Contact [pensionsoutreach.enquiries@maps.org.uk](mailto:pensionsoutreach.enquiries@maps.org.uk) or Raisa Donnelly 03000 132 132 for further information.**

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## **RNID - Hearing Check (Magherafelt)**

Wednesday 18 October from 10am - 4pm

Visit our free drop-in service from 10am to 4pm in Magherafelt Council Offices. No appointment needed.

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## **Virtual Quiz**

Wednesday 18 October from 3pm - 4pm via Zoom



**To register please contact [seniorsinfo@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:seniorsinfo@belfastcity.gov.uk)**



Mid Ulster District Council  
**Information For Residents**

# Energy Efficiency Advice Service



The Energy Efficiency Advice Service is a 1-1 personal approach to manage the energy efficiency of domestic properties within Mid Ulster District Council (Cookstown & Magherafelt areas).

## **Are you, or someone you know, living in a cold or damp home?**

The Energy Advisor can provide tailored support for clients including the generation of referrals to other available support schemes.

**For further information please contact Mid Ulster District Council and ask to speak to the Energy Efficiency Adviser on 03000 132 132 or email [health.wellbeing@midulster.council.org](mailto:health.wellbeing@midulster.council.org)**

## **What assistance is available from your local council?**

- Onward referrals for heating and insulation grants.
- Bespoke energy efficiency advice.
- Home visits to provide tailored information and support.
- Information on local oil buying clubs.
- Information on fuel/oil stamp schemes.
- Attendance at talks and events.



Project supported by the PHA



Comhairle Ceantair  
**Lár Uladh**  
**Mid Ulster**  
District Council

## Learn to Safely Navigate the Internet with Allstate Cyber Safety for Older Adults

Thursday 19 October at 10.30pm



The online interactive training covers common online scams, fraud protection, and cybersecurity awareness, including password protection and privacy settings.

Webinar Via Zoom.

**Meeting details at [www.midulstercouncil.org/positiveageingmonth](http://www.midulstercouncil.org/positiveageingmonth)**

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## Chatty Walks with Age Friendly Co-ordinator and SHSCT

Thursday 19 October 11am

Time: 11am – 12noon

**Meet at the Round Lake, Fivemiletown (Main car park)**

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## Cookstown and District in World War II Talk: America's Appreciation and Pride of Place - John McCann

Thursday 19 October at 7.30pm

The arrival in Cookstown in mid-July 1942 of the United States 28th Quartermaster Regiment was the beginning of a two year period when tens of thousands of American G.I.'s became a familiar sight to the local people in and around the Cookstown District. Within that time, as the war progressed in Europe, many relationships developed between citizens and soldiers.

By using their written words, the aim of this presentation is to examine and celebrate the pride and appreciation of those G.I.'s who found Cookstown a worthy temporary home and 'Oasis between Battlefields' some - not so long - 80 years ago.

**The Burnavon, Cookstown. Time 7.30pm. Cost £5**

To register contact Burnavon Box Office by telephone 028 8676 9949



# Mid Ulster Home Safety Scheme

Mid Ulster Home Safety Scheme helps those over 65, families with children under 5 and vulnerable adults/children avoid serious accidents within the home. The scheme includes:

- Free Home Safety Visits
- Home Safety equipment (where criteria is met)
- Home Safety talks to groups (open to all age groups).

## Have you had your FREE Home Safety Visit?

Every year, there are thousands of accidents and injuries in our homes, from burns and scalds to trips and falls. The Mid Ulster Home Safety Scheme aims to reduce the number of accidents which happen in the home by providing information and advice.

## Can anyone apply for a FREE Home Safety Check?

If you:  
Are **65 or over**, have a **child under 5** or a **vulnerable adult/child** then you are eligible for a free home safety check.

If you request a home safety check, or are referred for a check by someone like a health visitor, a Health & Wellbeing Officer will visit your home when it's convenient. It's a relaxed and informal visit, giving you an opportunity to discuss any home safety concerns you might have.

The Health & Wellbeing Officer will discuss important areas of home safety and establish what safety equipment you may need.



Comhairle Ceantair  
**Lár Uladh**  
**Mid Ulster**  
District Council

## **Dungannon Library - Cuppa and Chat**

Friday 20 October from 1pm to 3pm

Why not join us for a chat and cuppa in Dungannon library? Every Friday from 1pm to 3pm. This is a brilliant opportunity to meet new people and make friendships.

**For more information please contact Breda at Agewell on 028 7963 2170.**

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## **RNID - Get support with hearing loss**

Friday 20 October from 2pm - 4pm

Visit our free drop-in service (no appointment needed) where our friendly volunteers can help with:

- Information on hearing loss and tinnitus
- How to do a hearing check
- Hearing aids, basic repairs and maintenance of NHS hearing aids
- Access to support and services in your area

**Dungannon Library, Market Square, Dungannon, BT70 1JD**

Call: 0808 808 0123 Email: [contact@rnid.org.uk](mailto:contact@rnid.org.uk) SMS/text: 07360 268988

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## **Sing for Victory workshop with Karen Diamond**

Friday 20 October at 2pm

Look back at life in the past and sing along to songs from the 1940s with live piano by music therapist Karen Diamond. Music has the power to unlock memories and participants are encouraged to reminisce in this dementia friendly workshop. A songbook is provided for requests. The workshop lasts approximately 45 minutes to 1 hour. Numbers are limited to 15 participants so please get in contact to book your place.

**Email [outreach@niwarmemorial.org](mailto:outreach@niwarmemorial.org) or phone 02890 320392 option 3.**

## **Belfast Blitz Cathedral Quarter Walking Tour**

Tuesday 24 October 2023 at 2pm

In this walking tour of Belfast's Cathedral Quarter, join staff from the Northern Ireland War Memorial to uncover the history and impact of the Belfast Blitz of 1941. Look at images from the time and compare them to how the streets look today. Perfect for the active history lover.

The tour lasts approxi-mately 1 hour and 30 minutes. Numbers are limited to 20 participants so please get in contact to book your place.

**Email [outreach@niwarmemorial.org](mailto:outreach@niwarmemorial.org) or call 028 9032 0392 option 3.**

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## **Mid Ulster Memories with Maura Johnston**

Monday 23 October from 1pm - 3pm

Join us for Mid Ulster Memories facilitated by Maura Johnston, a chat and cuppa in Cookstown library.

Memories are important. This is a great opportunity to share memories and experiences. This session is funded by the Public Health Agency open to anyone who wishes to come along and meeting and reminisce, to tell, to share and to reflect.

**For more information contact Raisa Donnelly 03000 132 132 or email [raisa.donnelly@midulstercouncil.org](mailto:raisa.donnelly@midulstercouncil.org)**

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## **Magherafelt Library**

Monday 23 October from 1pm - 3pm

Why not join us for a chat and cuppa in Magherafelt library? Every Monday from 1pm - 3pm. This is a brilliant opportunity to meet new people and make friendships.

**For more information contact Breda at Agewell on 028 7963 2170.**





# Deafblind NI

## Live better with sight and hearing loss

Our wide range of services are designed to help you continue to live the life you love.

### Contact us today

[www.deafblind.org.uk](http://www.deafblind.org.uk)

Free helpline: 0800 132 320

Text: 07903 572885

Email: [info@deafblind.org.uk](mailto:info@deafblind.org.uk)

Text relay: 18001 then 0800 132320

BSL video relay: [deafblind.org.uk/bsl](http://deafblind.org.uk/bsl)

# Celebrate Positive Aging Month with an Allstate Cyber Safety Session



**When:** 19 October, 10:30am  
**Where:** Zoom



Learn to safely navigate the internet with **Allstate Cyber Safety for Older Adults!** Our interactive training covers common online scams, fraud protection, and cybersecurity awareness, including password protection and privacy settings.

**Register for this FREE training session** and gain essential skills to protect yourself online.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

**Allstate  
cybersafety**



For more information, contact us at  
[AllstateCyberSafety@allstate.com](mailto:AllstateCyberSafety@allstate.com)

**Allstate**

## **Make A Change Walking Connects**

Tuesday 24 October from 11am - 12pm

A Free Walking Programme for anyone over the age of 50 to help promote and raise awareness of the benefits of physical activity every Tuesday in October.

Location: Meadowbank Sports Arena, Magherafelt

**Contact Teresa Mc Bennett on 03000 132 132 or  
Teresa.McBennett@midulstercouncil.org**

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## **Chatty Walks with Age Friendly Co-ordinator & SHSCT**

Thursday 26 October from 11am - 12 noon

Meet at the Fishing lodge in Dungannon Park.

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## **Dungannon Library - Cuppa and Chat**

Friday 27 October from 1pm - 3pm

Why not join us for a chat and cuppa in Magherafelt library? Every Friday from 1pm to 3pm. This is a brilliant opportunity to meet new people and make friendships.

**For more information contact Breda at Agewell on 028 7963 2170.**

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## **Magherafelt Library - Cuppa and Chat**

Monday 30 October from 1pm - 3pm

Why not join us for a chat and cuppa in Magherafelt library? Every Monday from 1pm - 3pm. This is a brilliant opportunity to meet new people and make friendships.

**For more information contact Breda at Agewell on 028 7963 2170.**

## **Move With Music - Tea Dance**

Monday 30 October from 12.30pm - 3pm

A fun afternoon to get out, connect and to keep active; and what better way than to dance the afternoon away with music and dance steps provided by Marie Garrity. Enjoy music and dance in company with some light refreshments provided.

**The Terrace Hotel Magherafelt - Admission free.**

Please note spaces are limited. To register contact Raisa Donnelly 03000 132 132 or email [raisa.donnelly@midulstercouncil.org](mailto:raisa.donnelly@midulstercouncil.org)

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## **Halloween Celebrations in Mid Ulster**

- 27 October 2023 - Dungannon Halloween Dungannon
- 28 October 2023 - MUSA Halloween MUSA
- 31 October 2023 - Halloween Hooley Maghera Leisure Centre
- 31 October 2023 - Maghera Fireworks Maghera
- 31 October 2023 - Coalisland Halloween

For further details see [www.midulstercouncil.org](http://www.midulstercouncil.org)

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## **Physical Activity and Information Talks**

Strength and balance exercise classes delivered by Healthy Kidz across the centres along with health and wellbeing information talks from health professionals. Light refreshments provided.

**To register or further information please contact Raisa Donnelly 03000 132 132 or email [raisa.donnelly@midulstercouncil.org](mailto:raisa.donnelly@midulstercouncil.org)**

**Every Thursday in October:**

- Maghera Leisure Centre 10am - 12pm
- Greenvale Leisure Centre 11:30am - 1:30pm

### Every Friday in October:

- Moneymore recreation centre 11-1pm
- Cookstown Leisure centre 12:30 - 2:30pm

### Tai Chi and Wellness

Tuesday 10 and 17 October

Tai Chi and Wellness Programme with Ann and Paula from New Life Directions on from 10am to 1pm in the Rowan Tree Centre Pomeroy. To book your place, please contact Anita 075 4063 5862 or [healthalliance@cwsan.org](mailto:healthalliance@cwsan.org)

### Move More Live More

Monday 23 October from 2pm - 3pm

Regional online session to promote falls prevention messages and inform individuals how they can access the 6 week Move More Live More programme

To get Zoom link for session email: [move-more@ageni.org](mailto:move-more@ageni.org)

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### Positive Ageing Month 2023

For further information on Positive Ageing Month in Mid Ulster contact:

#### Raisa Donnelly

Age Friendly Co-ordinator  
Mid Ulster District Council  
Ballyronan Road  
Magherafelt  
BT45 6EN

Tel: 03000 132 132

Mob: 07553379721

Email: [Raisa.Donnelly@midulstercouncil.org](mailto:Raisa.Donnelly@midulstercouncil.org)

**PLEASE NOTE:** All information is correct at time of printing and is subject to change. Please visit [midulstercouncil.org/positiveageingmonth](http://midulstercouncil.org/positiveageingmonth) for updates.



make a *change*  
a helping hand for your health

## Are you aged 50 or over?

**Do you live in the Mid Ulster District Council area?  
Are you interested in making a small change for  
your health and getting support to do so?**

Make A Change offers one-to-one support to help you 'make a change'. Whether you want to improve your diet or get more active, Make A Change could be for you. The dedicated Health and Wellbeing Officer will work closely with you over a period of weeks or months, to help you along the way. You don't have to do it alone!

**You decide what you want to change.  
We provide you with help and support to change it.**

**This service is confidential and FREE of charge.**

**Please contact the Health & Wellbeing Officer  
E: [health.wellbeing@midulstercouncil.org](mailto:health.wellbeing@midulstercouncil.org)  
T: 03000 132 132**

 Northern Health  
and Social Care Trust

 Southern Health  
and Social Care Trust

 Public Health  
Agency  
Project supported by the PHA



Comhairle Ceantair  
**Lár Uladh**  
**Mid Ulster**  
District Council





Comhairle Ceantair  
**Lár Uladh**  
**Mid Ulster**  
District Council



**Age Friendly**  
Mid Ulster

Supporting Organisations



**Age Friendly**  
Network NI



**HSC** Public Health  
Agency



**Bank of  
Ireland**



**Allstate  
cybersafety**



**HSC** Northern Health  
and Social Care Trust



**HSC** Southern Health  
and Social Care Trust





# Age Friendly Strategic Plan **2023 - 2026**

**Our Plan for an Ageing Community**

*Ensuring people age well in Mid Ulster*



**Easy read**











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**Age Friendly**  
Mid Ulster



# What is the plan

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# Age-friendly plan Introduction

This easy read version of the Age-friendly plan tells you our vision and what we plan to do to support older people to age well.

An Age-friendly community is one in which people of all ages can live healthy and active lives and where everyone is treated with respect, regardless of their age. As we all live longer, there are huge opportunities to create ageing well communities.

Mid Ulster District Council have been engaging with residents over the age of 50 from April 2022 – March 2023 to find out how it feels to grow older in their communities and what matters most to them with improvements for the future.

The findings from engagement with 425 people have informed actions to make improvements over the next three years, looking at key actions covering the 8 Age-friendly themes.

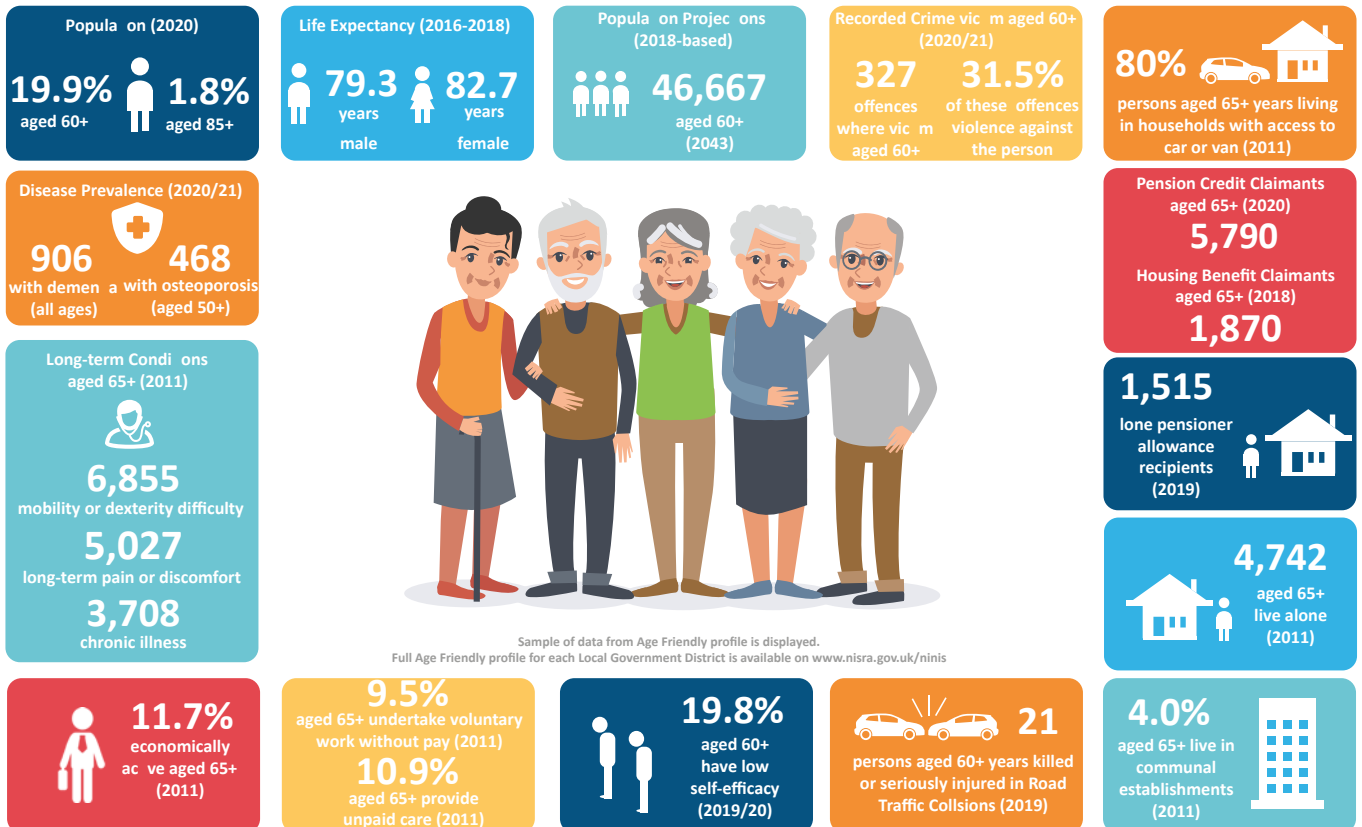
Mid Ulster is fully aware we have an ageing population meaning that there will be more older people over the age of 50 in the next 10-20 years. We want to be better prepared to support older people and future generations.



# Profile of growing older in Mid Ulster



## Age Friendly Profile for Mid Ulster



**148,528** Population of Mid Ulster (2020)

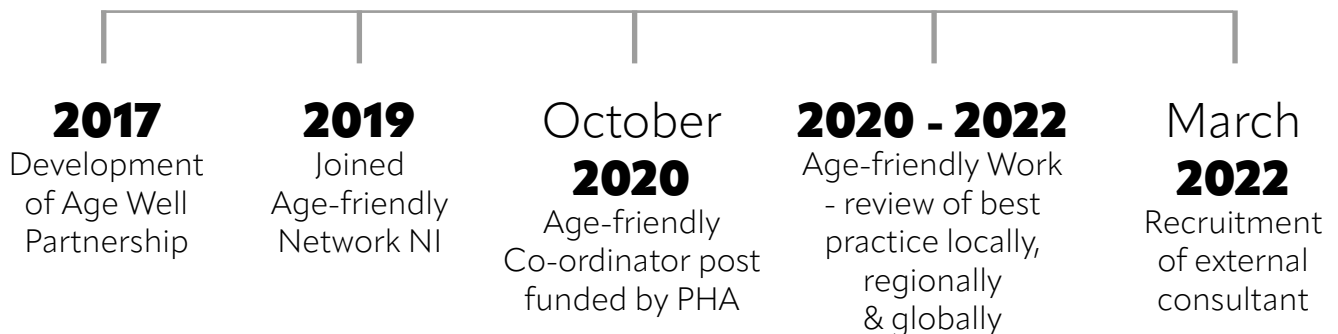
**29,557** Mid Ulster population aged 60+ years 19.9%

**2,673** Aged 85+ 1.8%

**46,667** Mid Ulster aged 60+ expected to rise to by 2043

## Steps taken by Council to date

Over the past five years Mid Ulster Council have been working hard to support older people with care, connections and wellbeing.



## Mid Ulster Age friendly Journey to Date



**Positive Ageing  
Month Delivery  
(October)**

**Launch of Chatty Cafés,  
Chatty benched and Chatty  
Libraries alongside Mid  
Ulster Loneliness Network**

**Delivery of  
small Grant  
programmes**

**Kindness postbox project delivered to local  
schools community groups & nursing homes**

**Access Adult Training and  
walkability audits alongside Mid  
Ulster Disability Forum**

**Meeting with Commissioner  
for Older People NI Eddie  
Lynch**

**Involved in consultation DfC  
Active Ageing Strategy and Age NI  
Pensioners' Parliament**

**Centre For Better Ageing  
Annual Conference  
Birmingham**



## Age-friendly and our community plan

The Mid Ulster District Council Community plan, alongside the Age-friendly plan, will build on the solid foundation of the existing relationships, partnerships, programmes already in place.

The Age-friendly plan will link to the community plans outcomes as it highlights that an ageing population is an important issue to address.

With the purpose of community planning being to improve how public services work together, with local people, to plan and deliver better services. Age-friendly will be a relevant way of working to gain positive outcomes for the Council's population in future years, linking to the current eight Age-friendly themes ensuring that everyone will benefit.

This Age-friendly plan tells you our vision and what we plan to do to support residents to age well in their community.





## Our Vision

Mid Ulster is an Age-friendly district where older people are valued, engaged and supported to live healthy, active and fulfilling lives.



# Theme 1:

## Outdoor Spaces Buildings Action Plan

We plan to increase infrastructure to support an Age-friendly community, with increased access to Mid Ulster community areas and green spaces, both town and rural, that the public enjoys.

### Suggested Actions:

- Encourage and promote more access to outdoor spaces – recreation, leisure, parks, chatty benches and chatty cafes.
- Develop a set of Age-friendly design guidelines and business charters for our district that will grow over time.
- Promote accessibility apps and websites and recognition of Age-friendly awards to places to promote accessibility.
- Promote anti-littering programmes of education, awareness raising and enforcement.
- Explore options to improve accessibility along pavements and roads e.g. Awareness raising and signage.



## Theme 2: Transport Action Plan

We plan to increase partnership working to ensure better transport options and for improved accessibility, equality and safety.

### Suggested Actions:

- Engage with decision makers to maintain community transport services; improving the reliability, accessibility and affordability of transport within town, rural areas and hospital settings.
- Promote smart passes and community transport, volunteer driver schemes with good news stories promoting services and easy to read timetables.
- Promote Shopmobility and GObility services and increase referrals from healthcare professionals across Mid Ulster, including NHSCT and SHSCT.
- Promote Age-friendly Awareness Training to all transport providers.





## Theme 3: Housing Action Plan

We plan to give older people more choices to live independently and safely within their homes.

### Suggested Actions:

- Scope and promote the opportunities for people to remain independently at home in a safe, warm and affordable environment as they age well in their own homes.
- Lobby government to support home grant schemes that enable people to live independently in a safe, warm and affordable home.
- Maintain a good morning call and home maintenance service for those in need.
- Promote Dementia Friendly assisted technology and safety measures with Herbert Protocol and PSNI.



## Theme 4: Social Participation

We plan to increase social participation, addressing loneliness and isolation by connecting older people to services and their local communities.

### Suggested Actions:

- Develop more chatty places – warm, friendly chat areas, promoting libraries providing services for older people such as reading newspapers aloud, a cup of tea etc.
- Increase Age-friendly promotion, i.e: social media/ newsletter to highlight current activities, organisations and good news stories.
- Encourage the development of buddy schemes to support involvement in local activities and community groups.
- Promote training for staff who work in the community, the voluntary and educational sectors.
- Ensure better access to affordable services and activities that are age appropriate with convenient times and locations.



## Theme 5: Respect and Social Inclusion Action Plan

This plan will support and focus on the diverse range of people living within mid ulster from 50+. As we all live longer, there are great opportunities to create vibrant communities, develop life-long interests and aspirations, and support diversity amongst our ageing population considering people living with a disability, LGBT communities, BAME groups and carers.

We plan to increase opportunities to support and promote active ageing, removing barriers to older people to ensure they are more respected, valued and included.

### Suggested Actions

- Develop an Age-friendly older people's forum to consult on policies and inclusion.
- Connect and support people to participate in digital training and digital inclusion programmes.
- Develop and roll out a 'Positive Aging' plan e.g. appreciating diversity





## Theme 6: Civic Participation Action Plan

We plan to increase employment support, financial well-being and volunteering opportunities, ensuring older people have vital roles in their communities.

### Suggested Actions

- Support people to plan for a better later, i.e. Produce Retirement packs for 50+, and promote volunteering opportunities.
- Encourage businesses to prioritise Age-friendly planning and retain an older workforce, i.e. Age NI Age @ Work mid-career reviews, Age-friendly training and policies to support roles i.e. Menopause.
- Promote cost-of-living, benefit uptake and financial well-being workshops i.e. Make the Call pop-up clinics.



## Theme 7: Communication and Information Action Plan

We plan to have an effective communication system to ensure older people have the information, advice and support they need to claim their rights and entitlements and access services.

### Suggested Actions

- To develop a communication action plan i.e. developing a database for partners, organisations and older people's groups for future communication.
- Provide online sessions such as pension advice, and TV licensing scam awareness talks.
- Develop an Age-friendly newsletter with essential contacts, linking to Mid Ulster District Council website.
- Develop one-stop shops for people to access information i.e. Rural areas information roadshows.
- Connect and support people to access information, including digital training, digital inclusion programmes and promoting digital champions.
- Encourage organisations to produce Age-friendly documents, including funding applications.





## Theme 8: Community Support and Health

We plan to help people stay well and feel good for longer by connecting them to community and healthcare services to live independent and healthy lives.

### Suggested Actions

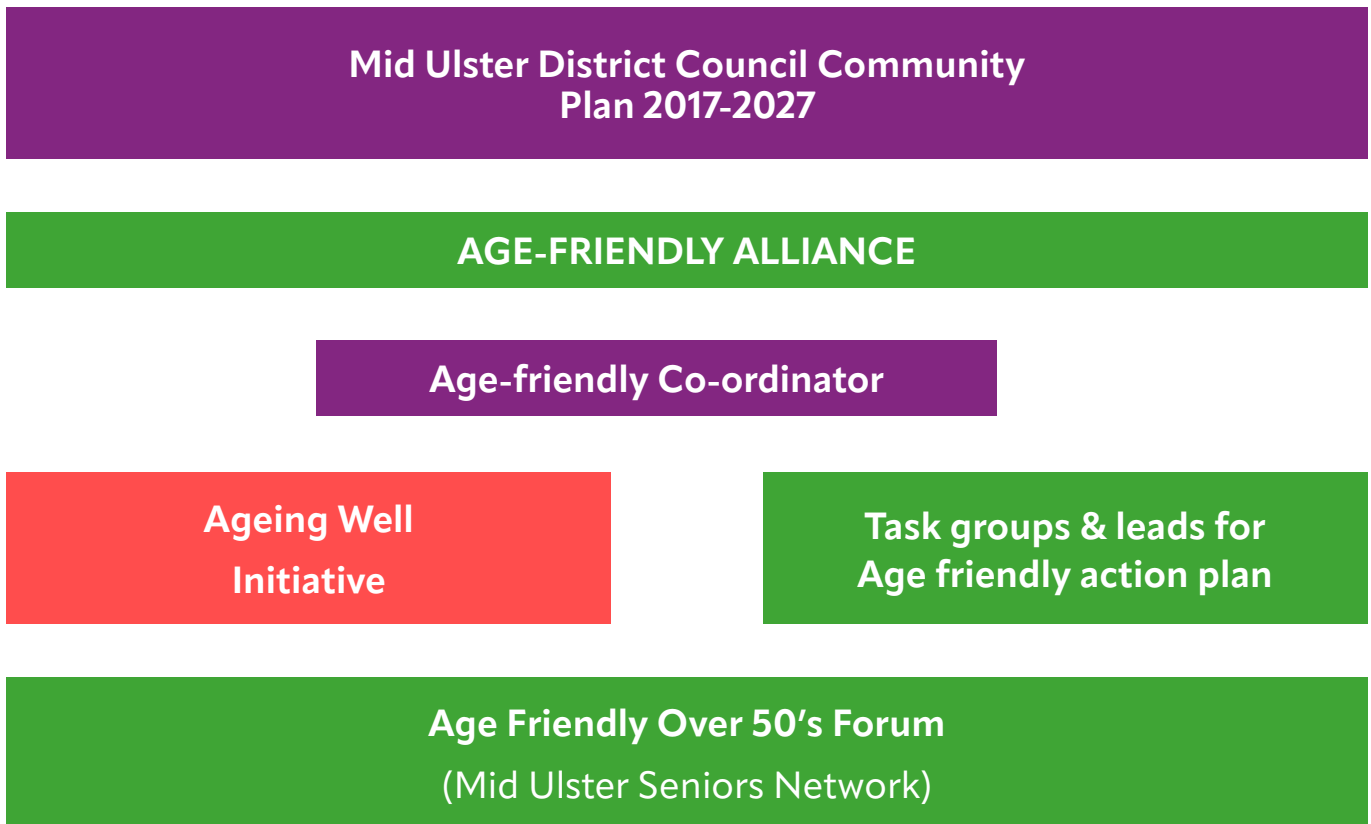
- Build and maintain relationships with all service providers to share support and increase referrals, i.e., meals on wheels, luncheon clubs and food banks.
- Identify and promote good mental health, physical activity and well-being programmes and support i.e. Mental Health Community Ambassadors, Physical activity referral scheme, walking groups and leisure centre activities, Make a change programme, Take 5 Programme, Safer U App, Scam Wise and Action Mental Health support.
- Share information on health issues, relevant services, development opportunities regarding nutrition, diabetes, sleep routines and public health messages.
- Support and raise awareness around End-of-Life Care.



# Making our plan happen

By working together with all partners and interested individuals, we can all do our part to ensure that the Mid Ulster District is a great place to grow older.

- An Age-friendly Alliance is a multiagency partnership who will lead in delivering this Age-friendly strategic plan.
- An Age-friendly co-ordinator will facilitate quarterly meetings and liaise with partners, task groups and action leads.
- We will refresh the membership of the Mid Ulster Seniors Network (representatives of older people’s groups and service providers) to include an older people’s forum, ensuring older people have their voices heard.



- Already in place
- Community and Voluntary service
- Needs developed

**Contact details:**

Raisa Donnelly  
Age-friendly Co-Ordinator  
Mid Ulster District Council  
Ballyronan Road  
Magherafelt  
BT45 6EN





<b>Report on</b>	Sunbed Test Purchasing Exercise
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> October 2023
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Melanie Patterson, Environmental Health Service Manager

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To provide information on the outcome of two sunbed test purchase exercises carried out on 3 <sup>rd</sup> August and 24 <sup>th</sup> August 2023 under the Sunbeds Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	The Sunbeds Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 came into effect in May 2012. The Act was introduced because of the growing evidence of the health risks associated with sunbed use, including skin cancer, with young people at particular risk.
2.2	District Council Environmental Health Departments have a statutory duty to enforce the provisions of the Act.
2.3	Regulation 1 of the Act prohibits the use/sale and/or hire of sunbeds to persons under the age of 18. The Public Health Agency has set a target for all premises operating sunbeds to be subject to test purchasing at least once every two years.
2.4	Sunbeds for use by the public have been identified in standalone tanning salons, hairdressers, beauty salons and gyms within the district.
2.5	Test purchase exercises using child volunteers under the age of 18 are considered an appropriate means of assessing the level of compliance with Regulation 1.
2.6	The Environmental Health Service undertakes all test purchase exercises in accordance with most up to date guidance produced by the Northern Ireland Sunbed Working Group (NISWG).
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	Prior to the test purchasing exercise all sunbed premises owners within the Mid Ulster District Council area were reminded in writing of their responsibilities under the provisions of the Act and informed that a test purchase exercise would be taking place within the next 12 months.
3.2	A test purchasing exercise for sunbeds involves sending a young person under the age of 18 years into a sunbed premises to ask to purchase a sunbed session. On this occasion a 13-year-old child was used, and the young person received training prior to the test purchase exercise.

3.3	<p>For the purposes of the test purchase exercise, a total of 25 sunbed premises were identified and visited. The outcome of the test purchasing exercise was that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 18 premises refused a sale to the child volunteer,</li> <li>• 3 premises made a sale to the child volunteer,</li> <li>• 2 premises confirmed that they no longer offered sunbeds</li> <li>• 2 premises were closed at the time of the exercise.</li> </ul>
3.4	<p>In line with section 12 of the Sunbeds Act, the three sunbed owners where a sale had taken place were each issued with a £250 fixed penalty notice. Th fixed penalty notice offers the opportunity to discharge any liability to conviction for the offence. All 3 notices were paid within the specified timeframes.</p>
3.5	<p>A further test purchase exercise will be conducted later in the year to capture those sunbed premises that were closed and retest those who failed this exercise.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<p><b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b></p> <p>Financial: Officer time</p> <p>Human: Officer time</p> <p>Risk Management: Considered in line with relevant policies and procedures.</p>
<b>4.2</b>	<p><b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b></p> <p>Equality &amp; Good Relations Implications: N/A</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications: N/A</p>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	<p>To note the contents of this report.</p>
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
	<p>N/A</p>

<b>Report on</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Christmas 2023 Town Activities</li> <li>2. ICBAN – Peace Plus Funding</li> <li>3. Digital Transformation Flexible Fund (DTFF) Update</li> <li>4. Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2023</li> </ol>
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	12 October 2023
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
<b>1.1</b>	To provide Members with an update on key activities as detailed below.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
<b>2.1</b>	<p><b>Christmas 2023 Town Activities</b></p> <p>In an effort to create a festive ambience in our main shopping towns in the lead up to Christmas 2023, it is proposed the Economic Development team organise entertainment on several Saturdays in December.</p>
<b>2.2</b>	<p><b>ICBAN – Peace Plus Funding</b></p> <p>The Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN) is currently working with partner Councils to develop and submit two major funding bids under the Peace Plus Investment Area 2.4: Smart Towns &amp; Villages &amp; 4.2: Rural Regeneration and Social Inclusion, which is anticipated will open in November 2023.</p>
<b>2.3</b>	<p><b>Digital Transformation Flexible Fund (DTFF) Update</b></p> <p>The Digital Transformation Flexible Fund (DTFF) is a new initiative developed by Belfast Region City Deal partners and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (NMDDC) and is supported by the wider city and growth deals across the region. It is a unique project as it is one of the first Cross-Growth deal projects to be developed and funded. The DTFF has been in development since May 2020 and</p>

the business case has gone through a series of iterations as it has migrated through the City and Growth deal approval process. The project was approved by Invest NI and Department for Economy in June 2023 and more recently by Department of Finance on 26 September 2023, now enabling the project to go live in October 2023.

DTFF is an important step forward in Councils positioning their intent to drive their local economies – with an increasing focus on innovation support for our local businesses. The Programme’s key purpose is to support economic recovery and fast track the progress of the micro and small business community to respond to the opportunities of digital transformation using advanced and emerging technologies.

*Fund Value and Overview* - £6 million has been secured for the DTFF through the Complementary Fund. The Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) has committed a further £1.1 million. Having secured funding from the NI Executive for an Inclusive Futures Fund, Derry City and Strabane District Council (City Deal Region) were excluded from applying to the Complementary Fund. However, given Derry City and Strabane District Council’s interest in participating, it will now contribute £450,000 to pay for their involvement thereby creating a total capital grant fund of £7.5 million.

The DTFF will be led and managed by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (NMDDC).

## **2.4 Mid Ulster Enterprise Week (2023)**

Mid Ulster Enterprise Week is now in its fifth year. The activities this year will take place from 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

Event details are being finalised and include a mix of in person events and online webinars encompassing a range of issues relevant to all types of businesses, set within the context of the current economic climate.

### *Operational Excellence Workshop Series*

Mid Ulster District Council has agreed to partner with Invest NI in the roll out of an innovative new series of Operational Excellence Workshops for Businesses. These are aimed at supporting Mid Ulster companies from all sectors to implement more efficient processes which will help them improve their competitive advantage by increasing their productivity and profitability. With the increase in the cost of doing business, this will equip businesses from across Mid Ulster to analyse their cost model and operations to increase efficiency, reduce waste and implement change.

It is proposed to launch the first Operational Excellence Workshop during Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2023.



<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
<b>3.1</b>	<p data-bbox="228 257 715 293"><b>Christmas 2023 Town Activities</b></p> <p data-bbox="228 331 1406 555">To complement the Christmas switch on events across the five main towns, there will be entertainment from 12noon – 3pm on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December and 16<sup>th</sup> December 2023. This will include characters in costumes walking around the towns greeting children and handing out sweets, live music entertainment and face painting. The purpose of this is to create festive cheer and festive spirit for the shoppers.</p> <p data-bbox="228 593 1337 667">The Christmas lights switch on and events in the five towns will be held on the following dates:</p> <ul data-bbox="276 705 1037 891" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cookstown - Friday 24 November 6pm - 8pm</li> <li>- Dungannon - Saturday 25 November 6pm - 8pm</li> <li>- Magherafelt - Saturday 25 November 2pm - 8pm</li> <li>- Maghera - Saturday 2 December 3pm - 6pm</li> <li>- Coalisland - Sunday 3 December 2023 5pm - 7pm</li> </ul> <p data-bbox="142 920 536 956"><b>3.2 ICBAN – Peace Plus</b></p> <p data-bbox="228 1001 1326 1072">ICBAN staff together with partner Council officers are in the pre-development stages and are currently developing funding bids under the Peace Plus;</p> <ul data-bbox="276 1113 1222 1187" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investment Area 2.4: Smart Towns &amp; Villages and;</li> <li>• Investment Area 4.2: Rural Regeneration and Social Inclusion.</li> </ul> <p data-bbox="228 1225 1390 1366">Both calls are due to open in November 2023 until January 2024. The Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) has reiterated that all projects must be able to measure the change and show how a peaceful and prosperous society has been achieved.</p> <ul data-bbox="276 1406 845 1444" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Area 2.4: Smart Towns &amp; Villages</b></li> </ul> <p data-bbox="228 1482 1329 1590">The Project Lead for this application is ICBAN. Partners are the eight ICBAN member Councils, Southern Regional College and the Western Development Board.</p> <p data-bbox="228 1628 1402 1812">The project is identifying ways the area can best use ICT to enhance social and economic development across the Central Border Region. This includes looking at smart solutions for rural communities and cross border relationships. It provides the opportunity to build on existing infrastructure to use technology to generate prosperity.</p> <p data-bbox="228 1850 1335 1921">The working title of this project is ‘DS3’, which means: Digital Services, Digital Support and Digital Services.</p> <ul data-bbox="276 1960 1098 1998" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Area 4.2: Rural Regeneration and Social Inclusion</b></li> </ul>

The Project Lead for this application is ICBAN. Partners are the eight ICBAN member Councils, Community Transport UK (N Ireland), ESB and the Technological University of the Shannon.

The project is looking to develop strategic investment in a series of mobility hubs across the Central Border Region to provide a comprehensive transportation facility that prioritizes the integration of various modes of transportation, promotes sustainable practices, and enhances the overall travel experience for local citizens.

The mobility hub concept is designed to provide seamless connectivity and a range of transportation options that play a crucial role in creating more efficient, accessible, and sustainable transportation systems. The working title of this project is 'Refresh'. MUDC has highlighted the potential to link hub development with local disability groupings in their area.

Both projects are still in their early stages and further workshops are planned to finalise ideas and prepare for submission of detailed applications.

### **3.3 Digital Transformation Flexible Fund (DTFF) Update**

The DTFF seeks to address the financial barrier that many small businesses face when seeking to digitally transform, by establishing a capital grant fund that will support investment in equipment critical to their strategic digital transformation ambitions. This grant can assist those smaller organisations that do not have the necessary capital available to develop and trial new products and services using new and advanced technologies.

Grant funding levels: will range from £5,000 - £20,000 with a grant rate of 70% of total project costs.

Eligible expenditure: will be for limited to the purchase of capital equipment to advance the business' digital transformation and/or resources for software or bespoke system development.

The DTFF capital investments are designed to enable business transformation and not improve the 'digitisation' of existing business models/operations. As such the DTFF will fund advanced digital technologies projects which include the following:

- Smart technologies/ smart environments and the Internet of Things (IoT);
- Process automation via robotics/robotics;
- Big-data and analytics;
- Immersive Technologies (AR/VR/MR/Haptics);
- Artificial intelligence and machine learning; and
- Distributed ledger systems/ blockchain technologies.

The DTFF will not cover the on-going revenue costs of leasing software, any ongoing maintenance/update costs or the digitisation of existing operations.

*Eligibility Criteria*

Businesses wishing to access the DTFF must be:

- Based in Northern Ireland and operate within 1 of the 11 local Council areas;
- A small or micro business (Micro business: 1-9 employees (full time). Small business 10-49 employees.)
- VAT registered
- Actively trading for a minimum of 12 months
- Have a Digital Transformation Plan or equivalent
- Centred on one or more of the six advanced digital technologies; and
- Have not received State Aid/Subsidy (funding from any national or local public sector scheme) in excess of €200,000 over the previous three financial years (De Minimis aid).

The Programme is open to all sectors with the exception of primary agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

For more details and full eligibility guidelines please refer to the DTFF website: [www.dtff.co.uk](http://www.dtff.co.uk)

The programme aligns with a number of other key projects in the Digital and Innovation Ecosystem including those offered through the City and Growth deal projects and is supported by a number of key stakeholders operating in the same area.

Newry, Mourne and Down Council Officials will centrally manage and administrate the DTFF grant with support from all Councils. Marketing and PR activities will be coordinated by NMDDC with local animation conducted by local Economic Development teams.

Provision has been made to fund approximately 600 businesses across the 11 Council areas through the DTFF, (subject to the demand and the levels of grants requested) with **60** of these being allocated for Mid Ulster.

The first call for applications is planned for mid-October 2023, during this call a series of pre-briefing sessions will be delivered by an external delivery agent across all council areas including online sessions for those businesses that cannot attend in person. It is anticipated there will be 3-4 calls for applications over the next 2 years.

Eligibility and Application guidance will be outlined at the pre-briefing sessions and is also provided through the DTFF website, along with the Expression of Interest: [www.dtff.co.uk](http://www.dtff.co.uk). The Expression of Interest (EoI) stage is mandatory, businesses will not be allowed to progress to complete an application without first submitting an EoI to NM&DDC's Team.

With the slippage of timescales during the approval process for the Business Case, the priority now is to open the first funding call to allow businesses to apply, and a formal launch is being developed in parallel to promote the scheme officially.

	<p>Members will be updated on the progress of this project on an ongoing basis.</p> <p><b>3.4 Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2023</b></p> <p>Mid Ulster’s fifth Enterprise Week will take place from Monday 13<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023, with a series of online webinars and in-person events to support local businesses, from start-up through to growth.</p> <p>Provisionally there are ten events being staged across the week, that include Cyber Security/Artificial Intelligence, Marketing for Businesses, Topical Tourism matters and much more.</p> <p>A full programme of events is under development and will be issued to all Members in advance of Mid Ulster Enterprise Week. There will also be the opportunity for Members to attend any of the events via an Enterprise Week 2023 link when this has been developed.</p> <p><i>Invest NI – Operational Excellence Workshop Series</i></p> <p>The series of five workshops will take place from 10am – 1pm in consecutive weeks. The first workshop is scheduled to take place within Mid Ulster Enterprise Week, marking the launch of the series, on Thursday 16 November 2023 in The Junction, Dungannon, with the remainder of workshops occurring over the following four weeks in venues across the District as noted below;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thursday 16 November (10am–1pm) – Improving Processes &amp; Visual Management</li> <li>• Thursday 23 November (10am–1pm) – Identifying &amp; Quantifying Wasteful Processes</li> <li>• Thursday 30 November (10am–1pm) – Organising the Workplace for Improved Workflow</li> <li>• Thursday 7 December (10am–1pm) – Make Value Flow</li> <li>• Thursday 14 December (10am–1pm) – Managing Change in Your Business</li> </ul> <p>Invest NI has agreed to cover the costs of Speakers at each of the events. Mid Ulster District Council will cover the venue hire costs and hospitality.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<p><b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Financial</b></p>

	<p><b>Christmas 2023 Town Activities</b> Budget will be available from the existing Economic Development budget 2023/24.</p> <p><b>ICBAN – Peace Plus Bids</b> Financial contribution to the bid writer previously agreed as £1,500</p> <p><b>Digital Transformation Flexible Fund (DTFF) Update</b> Revenue contributions for all Councils have been previously approved. The revenue cost contribution (for programme management) from Mid Ulster District Council across the three-year period is £87,055 to March 2026, as approved by the Development Committee in June 2023.</p> <p><b>Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2023</b> Provision made in 2023/24 Economic Development budget circ. £28,000</p>
	<p><b>Human:</b> Officer time</p> <p><b>Digital Transformation Flexible Fund (DTFF) Update</b> In addition to the budget requirement, Council’s participation will require Officer resource input to promote the DTFF to businesses and other key economic stakeholders, liaise with and signpost businesses to NMDDC Team to check if they have the capacity to avail of this opportunity, co-assess applications, issue payments and undertake post-project monitoring checks.</p>
	<p><b>Risk Management:</b></p> <p><b>Digital Transformation Flexible Fund (DTFF) Update</b> A Risk Register has been developed for the DTFF to help identify and manage risks. The project is being led, managed and administered by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (NMDDC) on behalf of the 11 Councils.</p>
4.2	<p><b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b></p> <p>Equality &amp; Good Relations Implications:</p> <p><b>Digital Transformation Flexible Fund (DTFF) Update</b> It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations.</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications:</p> <p><b>Digital Transformation Flexible Fund (DTFF) Update</b> Rural Needs Impact Assessment has been completed.</p>

<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
	It is recommended that Members;
<b>5.1</b>	<b>Christmas 2023 Town Activities</b> <b>Note</b> update.
<b>5.2</b>	<b>ICBAN – Peace Plus</b> <b>Note</b> progress of funding bids.
<b>5.3</b>	<b>Digital Transformation Flexible Fund (DTFF) Update</b> <b>Note</b> update.
<b>5.4</b>	<b>Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2023</b> <b>Note</b> Mid Ulster Enterprise Week will take place from 13 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> November 2023, and will include a wide range of business events, including the launch of a series of Operational Excellence Workshops.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
	<b>Appendix 1 – Digital Transformation Flexible Fund (DTFF) Information Flyer</b>



## Digital Transformation Flexible Fund



The Digital Transformation Flexible Fund (DTFF) is a demand led grant scheme aimed at establishing a Northern Ireland wide fund to stimulate digital innovation.

It seeks to address the financial barriers to the adoption of advanced digital technologies to achieve business transformation amongst small and micro-businesses.

### Funding Available:

The DTFF will enable the purchasing of capital equipment and/or resources for 'off the shelf' software solutions and/or bespoke system development, based on the following advanced digital technologies:



Smart technologies/smart environments, the Internet of Things (IoT) and simulation



Process automation via robotics/cobotics, additive manufacturing



Big-data and analytics



Immersive Technologies (AR/VR/MR/Haptics)



Artificial intelligence and machine learning



Horizontal and vertical system integration, distributed ledger systems/ blockchain technologies



dtff.co.uk

£5,000 -  
£20,000

Eligible businesses can access between £5,000 to £20,000 ex VAT to cover up to 70% of the total value of an investment project.

30%

All applicants will be required to provide 30% matched co-investment of the overall project costs.

### Applicant Eligibility:

Businesses wishing to access the Digital Transformation Flexible Fund must:

- Be based in Northern Ireland and operate within 1 of the 11 local Council areas;
- Be a small or micro-business;
- Be VAT registered;
- Be actively trading for a minimum of 12 months;
- Have a Digital Transformation Plan or equivalent;
- Be centred on one or more of the six advanced digital technologies.

The Programme is open to all sectors with the exception of primary agriculture, forestry and fisheries.



For more information and how to apply, please scan the QR code or visit us online.

dtff.co.uk  
0330 137 4052  
dtff@nmandd.org

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.

