



30 October 2023

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Council to be held in The Chamber, Dungannon and by virtual means Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon, BT71 6DT on Thursday, 26 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

AGENDA

OPEN BUSINESS

1. Notice of Recording
This meeting will be webcast for live and subsequent broadcast on the Council's You Tube site [Live Broadcast Link](#)
2. Apologies
3. Declarations of Interest
Members should declare any financial and non-financial interests they have in the items of business for consideration, identifying the relevant agenda item and the nature of their interest.
4. Chair's Business
5. Deputation: Northern Ireland Housing Executive (Housing Investment Plan Embargoed until 27.10.23)

Matters for Decision

6. Special Council Minutes of Meeting held on 25 September 2023 113 - 116
7. Council Minutes of Meeting held on 28 September 2023 117 - 140
8. Planning Committee minutes of meeting held on 3 October 2023 141 - 162
9. Policy & Resources Committee minutes of meeting held on 5 October 2023 163 - 168

10.	Environment Committee minutes of meeting held on 10 October 2023	169 - 176
11.	Development Committee minutes of meeting held on 12 October 2023	177 - 190
12.	Special Development Committee Minutes of Meeting held on 16 October 2023	191 - 196
13.	Conference Report	197 - 206

Matters for Information

14	Consultations notified to Mid Ulster District Council	207 - 214
15	Correspondence to Council	215 - 224

Notice of Motions

- 16 Councillor Kerr to move -
That this Council resolves to contact the 26 County Foreign affairs office and request the immediate expulsion of the Israeli ambassador due to the recent escalation of violence by the Zionist forces to the people of Gaza and Palestine.
- 17 Councillor McLernon to move -
That this Council calls for an immediate ceasefire in Palestine and Israel; and calls for the provision of safe humanitarian corridors; and further calls on the international community to work towards a true and lasting peace settlement for the people in the Middle East.

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

18. Council Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 28 September 2023
19. Planning Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 3 October 2023
20. Policy & Resources Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 5 October 2023
21. Environment Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 10 October 2023
22. Development Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 12 October 2023
23. Document for Sealing - Boundary Rectification of Lands adjacent to Maghera Leisure Centre, Coleraine Road, Maghera (Ref: ENV001-0052)
24. Document for Sealing - Sale of 24 Northland Row, Dungannon (Ref: ENV001-0084)

Matters for Information



Mid Ulster

HOUSING INVESTMENT PLAN 2023-26

Housing
Executive

Contents

Executive Summary	03	Appendix 4	Maintenance Programme, Grants and Adaptations information	88
Foreword	09	Appendix 5	Supporting People Information and Homelessness	92
Introduction	11	Appendix 6	Housing Executive Local Stock at March 2023	93
Overview	13	Appendix 7	Applicants and Allocations at March 2023	98
Part 1 - Strategic Context	15	Appendix 8	Management Team contact details	101
Housing Executive Revitalisation	15	Appendix 9	Glossary	103
Sustainable Development	16			
Emerging issues impacting on housing	17			
Part 2 - Local Context	39			
Local outcomes against Strategic Priorities and Community Planning objectives	63			
Appendix 1				
Community Plan themes and outcomes	83			
Appendix 2				
Social Housing Need by Settlement 2022-27	84			
Appendix 3				
Social Housing Development Programme	86			

This document is available in alternative formats.

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Email: housing.analytics@nihe.gov.uk Website: www.nihe.gov.uk

Executive Summary

Across Northern Ireland in 2022/23 we:



83,500

Managed over 83,500 social homes



5,800

Allocated almost 5,800 homes

822

Approved 822 Disabled facilities grants



£95.05m

Invested £95.05m in Planned Maintenance and Stock Improvement

1,956



Started 1,956 new social homes



£470m

Paid out £470m in Housing Benefit

£371m

Invested £371m in new build social homes



19,000

Provided over 19,000 housing support places to the most vulnerable through the Supporting People Programme and invested £75.23m



554

Sold 554 homes



£55.1m

Approximately £55.1m was invested in our Rural Communities



The past year has delivered significant housing investment for a wide range of services, and the 2022/23 public sector housing investment totalled £694.66m for Northern Ireland.

Northern Ireland 2022/23 Public Sector Housing Spend (£m)

£16.94m

Affordable Warmth and Boiler Replacement***

£24.71m

ERDF Retrofit Programme

£95.05m

Planned Maintenance incl Stock Improvements*

£14.25m

Adaptations for Persons with a Disability

£9.71m

Grounds Maintenance

£74.57m

Response Maintenance

£11.90m

Private Sector Grants

£75.23m

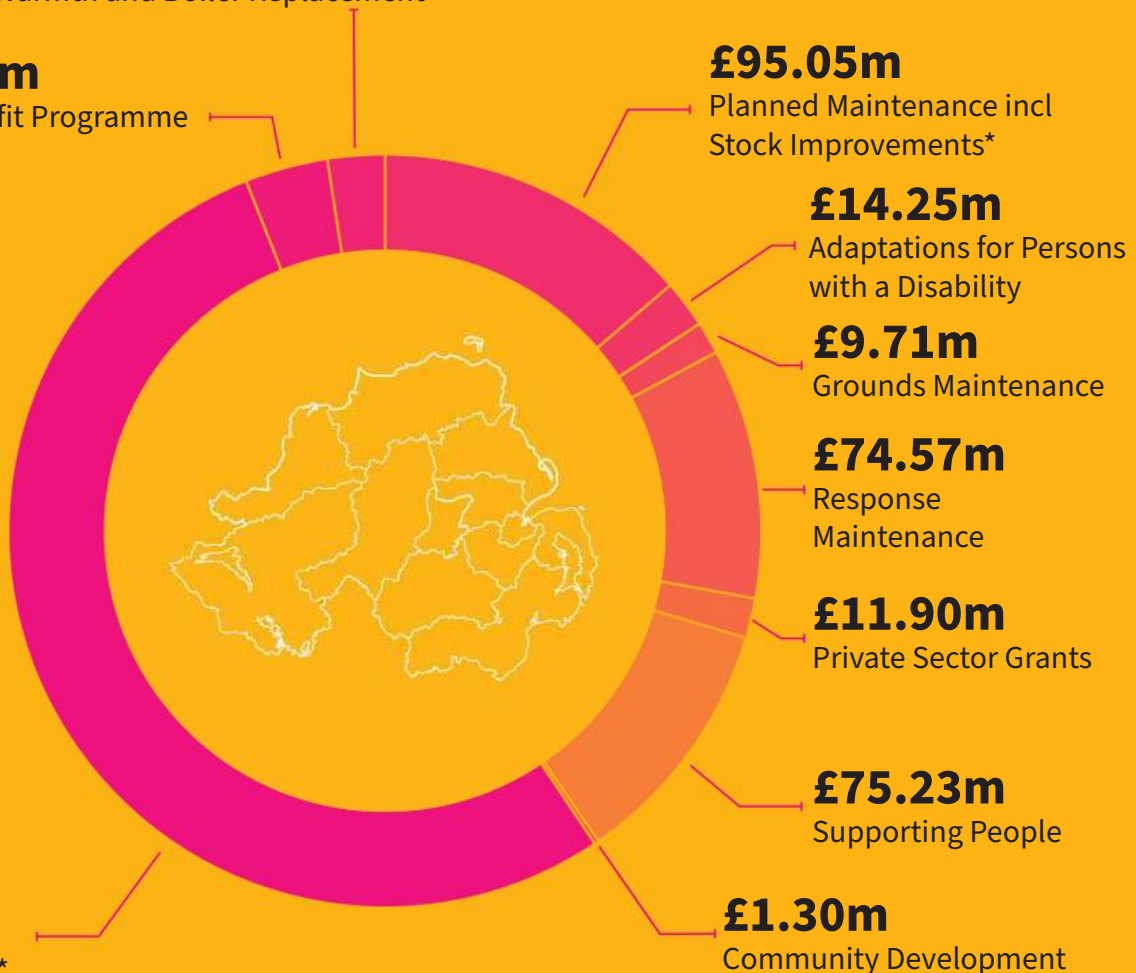
Supporting People

£371m

Investment New Build**

£1.30m

Community Development



Source: NIHE

Notes:

*Planned Maintenance work (Planned, Cyclical, and MS running costs) spend was £75.58m and Stock Improvement Spend was £19.47m.

**Investment in new build is the total cost of schemes starting in the programme year but which may be spent over more than one year.

***Affordable Warmth spend was £16.33m and Boiler Replacement spend was £0.61m.

ERDF - European Regional Development Fund - funding to 'improve thermal efficiency' in NIHE Stock.

NB: 2022/23 expenditure figures in the table above are with NIAO for auditing at present. The audit is expected to complete late summer.

There is also a review of cost uplifts ongoing which may result in the maintenance spend being restated for 2022/23 before the audit is concluded.

The Housing Executive will continue to deliver significant housing investment across a wide range of services, with the planned 2023/24 public sector housing spend totalling £319.02m for Northern Ireland.

Northern Ireland 2023/24 Projected Public Sector Housing Spend (£m)

£14.15m

Affordable Warmth and Boiler Replacement**

£8.50m

ERDF Retrofit Programme

£94.42m

Planned Maintenance incl Stock Improvements*

£71.86m

Supporting People

£18.24m

Private Sector Grants

£16.95m

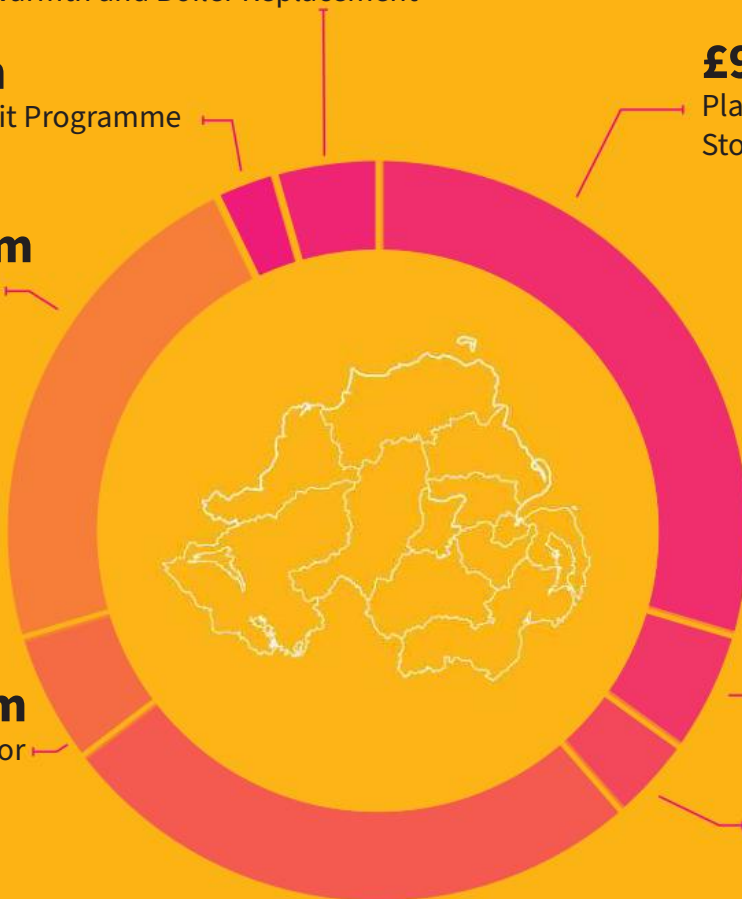
Adaptations for Persons with a Disability

£11.82m

Grounds Maintenance

£83.08m

Response Maintenance



Source: NIHE

Notes:

*Planned Maintenance work (Planned, Cyclical, and MS running costs) projected spend is £79.77m and Stock Improvement Spend is £14.65m.

**Affordable Warmth projected spend is £14m and Boiler Replacement projected spend is £0.15m.

Investment in new build and Community Development projected spend is not available.

ERDF - European Regional Development Fund - funding to 'improve thermal efficiency' in NIHE Stock.

In Mid Ulster in 2022/23, the Housing Executive:



Managed
3,835
social homes



Allocated
more than
270
homes



Completed
78
Disabled facilities
grants



Provided
over **1,044**
housing support places to
the most vulnerable through
the Supporting People
Programme



Paid out
£24m
in Housing Benefit



Completed
97.18%
of repairs
to customers'
satisfaction



Community
Grants
£16k
funding awarded



Community
Cohesion
£21k
funding awarded



Community
Safety
£25k
funding awarded



Energy
Efficiency
£2.10m
spend



Affordable
Warmth
483
installations



Affordable
Warmth Spend
£1.35m
spend



Supporting
People
£4.19m
spend



Disabled Facilities
Grants (DFGs)
£961k
approval value



Adaptations
£0.91m
spend



New Build
£6.02m
spend



New Build
Completed
15
homes



Under Construction
164
homes



New Build Planned
137
(2023 – 2026)



Waiting List
March 2023
2,212
applicants, **1,380** in
Housing Stress (62.4%)



NIHE House Sales
27
average selling price
£53,573

The past year has delivered significant housing investment for a wide range of services, and the 2022/23 public sector housing investment totalled £23.02m for Mid Ulster District Council.

Mid Ulster District Council 2022/23 Public Sector Housing Spend (£m)

£1.36m

Affordable Warmth and Boiler Replacement***

£6.02m

Investment New Build**

£0.06m

Community Development

£4.19m

Supporting People

£1.31m

Private Sector Grants

£2.31m

Response Maintenance

£0.43m

Grounds Maintenance

£0.91m

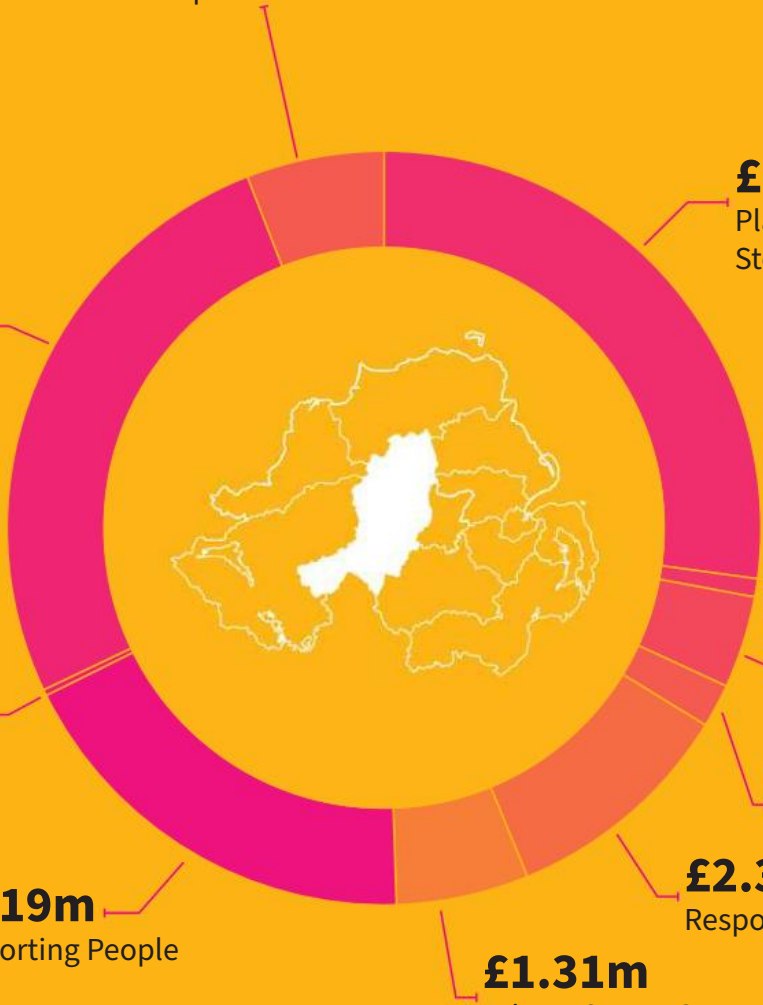
Adaptations for Persons with a Disability

£0.18m

ERDF Retrofit Programme

£6.25m

Planned Maintenance incl Stock Improvements*



Source: NIHE

Notes:

*Planned Maintenance work (Planned, Cyclical, and MS running costs) spend was £5.03m and Stock Improvement Spend was £1.22m.

**Investment in new build is the total cost of schemes starting in the programme year but which may be spent over more than one year.

***Affordable Warmth spend was £1.35m and Boiler Replacement spend was £13k.

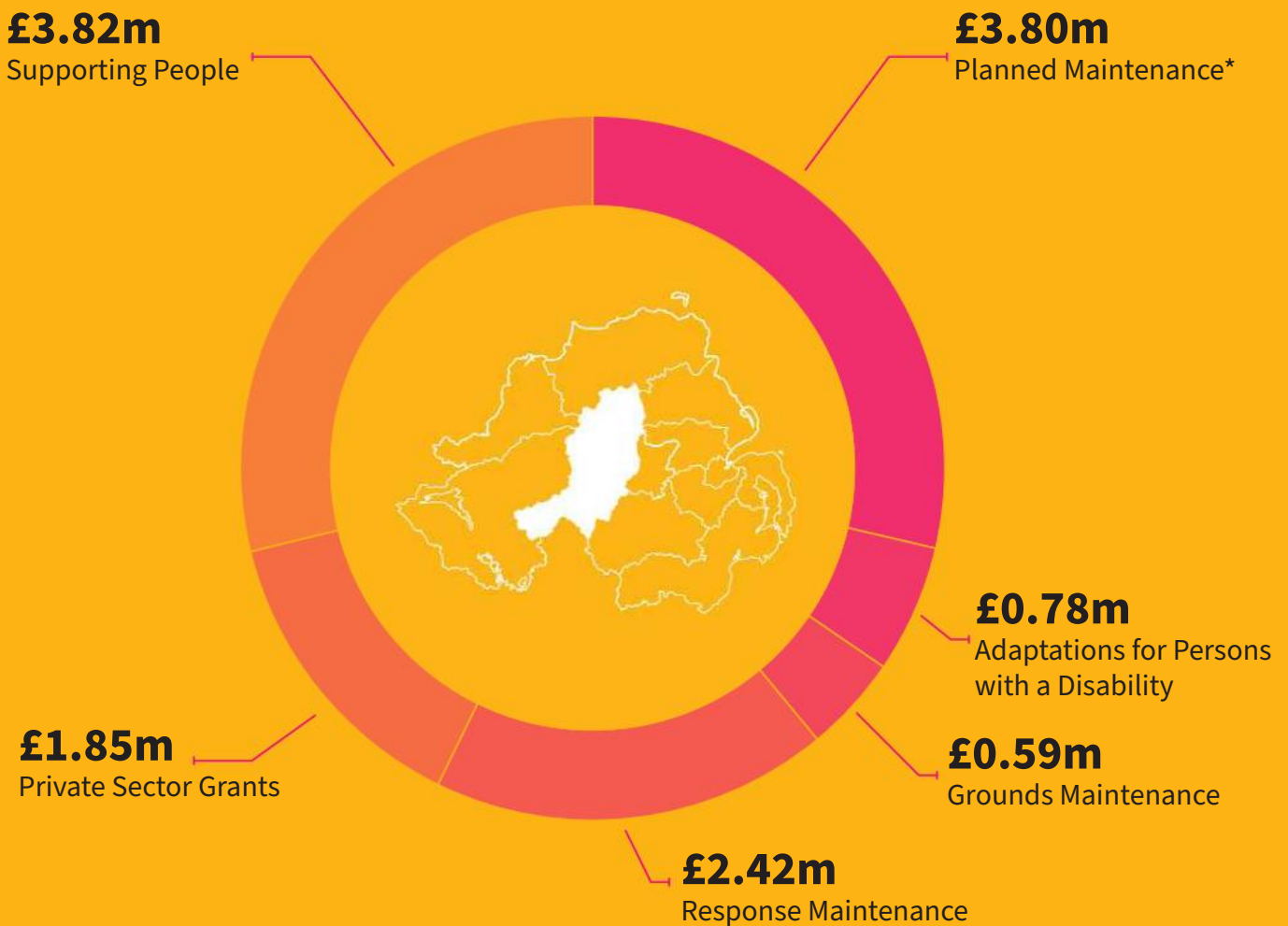
ERDF - European Regional Development Fund - funding to 'improve thermal efficiency' in NIHE Stock.

NB: 2022/23 expenditure figures in the table above are with NIAO for auditing at present. The audit is expected to complete late summer.

There is also a review of cost uplifts ongoing which may result in the maintenance spend being restated for 2022/23 before the audit is concluded.

The Housing Executive will continue to deliver significant housing investment across a wide range of services, with the planned 2023/24 public sector housing spend in Mid Ulster District Council totalling £13.26m.

Mid Ulster District Council 2023/24 Projected Public Sector Housing Spend (£m)



Source: NIHE

Notes:

*Planned Maintenance work (Planned, Cyclical, and MS running costs) projected spend is £3.80m. Investment in new build and Community Development projected spend is not available. Affordable Warmth and Boiler Replacement schemes are demand led and budget cannot be allocated.

Foreword

Welcome to the Northern Ireland Housing Executive's Housing Investment Plan, which reports on progress made over the past twelve months and sets out our ambitions for the coming year.

- While the external environment in which we operate remains challenging, the majority of last year's targets have been met, or exceeded. NIHE has invested more in our tenants' homes, over the past 12 months, than in any of the previous 15 years. This demonstrates our commitment to improving the health and well-being of our tenants by keeping their homes safe, warm and dry.
- In partnership with housing associations, through the Social Housing Development Programme, we facilitated 1,956 new build social housing starts across Northern Ireland.
- We expanded our Financial Inclusion Service to ensure as many tenants as possible had access to the right kind of financial advice.
- We made significant progress in implementing our Sustainable Development Strategy; growing the number of homes benefitting from retrofitting, and expanding our tree planting programme to improve climate adaptation across Northern Ireland.

This Housing Investment Plan demonstrates how we are working as a partner to deliver Community Plans. We continue to engage with Community Planning partners to deliver housing outcomes. The plans also reflect the objectives set out in our own Corporate Strategy:

- A significant shift towards sustainable development – locking us on a path to decarbonising our homes and protecting our assets and our tenants;
- Putting us in a position where we can borrow to build and to invest – and building our capacity to do so;
- Extracting social value from our spending power – delivering local inclusive economic development, by investing in skills and supply chains;

- Much greater involvement of customers in decisions and services that affect their lives and a strategic focus on alleviating the impact of the rising cost of living;
- A strategic shift towards prevention of homelessness and urgent re-housing for those experiencing homelessness; and
- Being a delivery partner for all of government – towards the reduction of economic inactivity, delivery of green growth and early intervention to improve lives.

NIHE takes its responsibilities as a Community Planning Partner very seriously. Delivery of our housing objectives is key to the social, economic and environmental benefits of each council area. I am grateful for the partnerships which we have built with councils across Northern Ireland, and look forward to working together as we deliver against our shared goal of providing better places to live for the people and communities we serve.



Grainia Long
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Introduction

Welcome to the new 'Housing Investment Plan 2023-2026'. The Housing Executive is statutorily required under the 1981 Housing Order to report to Councils on its past year's performance (2022/23) and next year's proposals (2023/24). The Housing Investment Plan 2023-2026 however will look ahead to the next 3 years and is aligned to the [3 year Corporate Strategy](#) (2022/23 -2024/25) and its associated set of strategic priorities, which commit the Housing Executive to:

- Working with our partners to increase social housing supply to help meet identified need and building our capacity to borrow, invest in our stock and add to new supply
- Helping NI meet its emissions targets, address the impact of climate change and help sustain and protect our environment for future generations
- Investing an estimated £1,700m (over the next 3 years) into our local economy, through our housing services, construction activity, employment opportunities and through our support for the health, voluntary and community sectors, while also processing circa £1,148m in Housing Benefit payments across public and private housing tenures over the same period
- Working with our partners to deliver innovative housing solutions for our customers and to help reduce poverty and improve Health & Wellbeing
- Involving our customers to ensure that they are at the heart of service improvements and our business delivery mode
- Being an employer of choice and delivering high quality services for all in Northern Ireland's increasingly diverse community

The Housing Investment Plan is also aligned to the outcomes of each Council's Community Plan to show how our work supports the delivery of the plan's objectives. We look forward to continuing to contribute to shaping the future of housing in each council area with our Community Planning partners.

Part 1 below is the Strategic Context, focusing on achievements during the 2022/23 business year in respect of the Housing Executive's suite of Strategies, Programmes and Action Plans as the Strategic Housing Authority for Northern Ireland and a landlord at scale. The Strategic Context will also include links to relevant documents and related additional reference material. Part 2 sets out the local context and outcomes tables of locally specific Housing Executive performance against Council's Community Planning objectives.

Overview

When writing the HIP, we have taken account of the wider strategic context, including:



The Communities Minister’s November 2020 statement on housing reform and plans to revitalise the Housing Executive



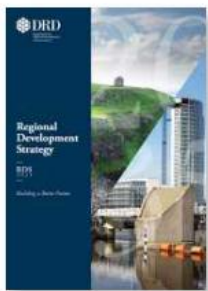
New Decade New Approach



The consultation on the Programme for Government Draft Outcomes Framework 2021



The Sustainable Development Strategy



The Regional Development Strategy



The Housing Supply Strategy



Strategic Planning Policy Statement

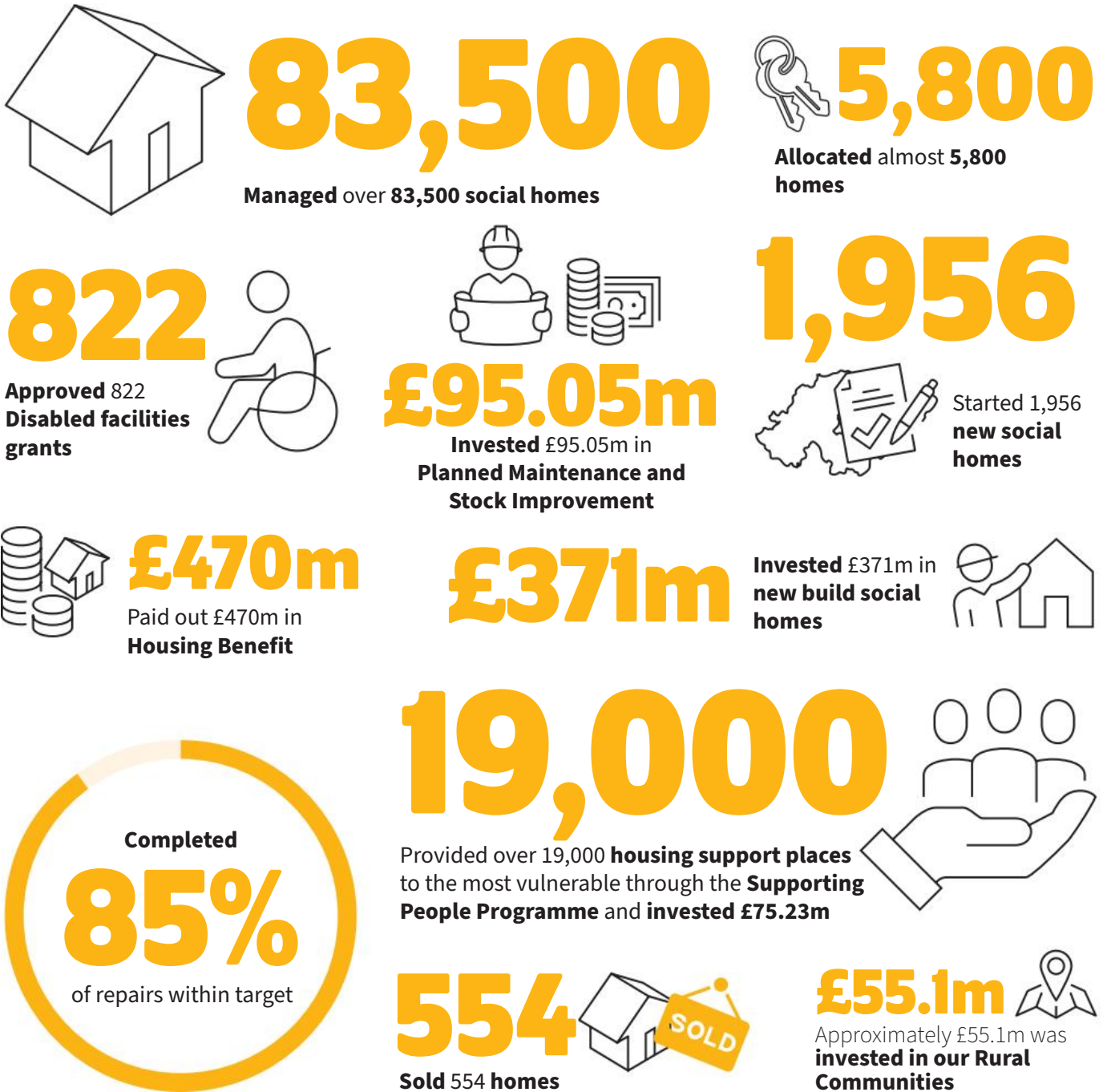


The emerging suite of new Local Development Plans

In addition, the broader context of post-Covid recovery, environmental and climate risks, Economic challenges associated with market uncertainty and increased household costs are all important factors for planning for the future.

In this context, we have set out our plans to ensure that we address the challenges and maximise the opportunities open to us over the coming years. In the sections below, we have highlighted some of these key themes and their implications for the Housing Executive.

Across **Northern Ireland in 2022/23**, the Housing Executive achieved a significant amount as summarised below.



Part 1 - Strategic Context

The Housing Investment Plan 2023-2026 has not been developed or delivered in a policy vacuum; it sits alongside a range of interrelated strategies and programmes which impact on the daily lives of the Housing Executive's customers and tenants. Underpinning much of the work that the Housing Executive do are the key themes of Revitalisation and Sustainable Development, as well as all the measures and interventions at a local level that are firmly focused on the needs of our customers and providing high quality public services, in achieving positive housing outcomes across Northern Ireland. Also in this section, aligning with the Corporate and Business Plan, we present our strategies and key programmes of work that have been progressed over the last year under the six strategic priorities. This work has impacted across the community and the environment and continues to inform the work of the Community Planning Partnerships.

Housing Executive Revitalisation

Following commitments in New Decade New Approach and in the Minister for Communities statement in November 2020, the Housing Executive continues to work with the Department for Communities (DfC) in progressing the Revitalisation Programme, which will consider and assess options to meet the investment challenge through a revitalised strategic housing authority and a sustainable social landlord that can maintain and provide good quality and affordable social homes for current tenants and future generations.

An informal board briefing presentation on Revitalisation took place on 14th December 2022 outlining the case for change and the key elements of the Outline Business Case. Further presentations will be made as work is progressed.

The current situation is that the Minister provided a written update on

progress with the Outline Business Case on the 21st October providing the following detail:

- A commitment that the Housing Executive will not be privatised;
- An assurance that consideration will be given only to options that limit change and which ensure that the Housing Executive remains dedicated to the essential public service of social housing as it has done so successfully for the past 50 years; and
- The ideal option as always is one in which the Housing Executive strengthens its role as the Strategic Housing Authority and, as a public housing landlord, has access to borrowing.

Discussions are ongoing between DfC and the Housing Executive on next steps.

Sustainable Development

The work of the Housing Executive has long been associated with sustainable practices and continues to endeavour to make a difference to help to sustain the environment for future generations. The key focus is on improving the lives of the people in our communities and making the planet a better place, which aligns with our Strategic Vision of Making a Difference. Our work ranges from providing land for community allotments and gardens, planting of open spaces, to energy efficiency interventions for Housing Executive stock and reporting on home energy conservation across the residential sector.

During 2022, the Housing Executive achieved Platinum in the Business in the Community NI (BITC) Environmental Benchmarking Survey. In conjunction with BITC, the Housing Executive have signed up to the Climate Action Pledge, by signing this Pledge we have committed to reduce our absolute scope 1 and scope 2 Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by either 30% by 2030; and to work towards measuring and reporting our scope 3 GHG emissions.

Emerging issues Impacting on Housing

Supply

After two years of decline, the number of new dwellings started in 2021-22 stood at 7,400, which is still some way off the 2018-19 high of 8,400. A similar pattern emerges in completions: in 2021-22, 7,300 dwellings were completed, and although higher than the previous year, still lower than the number of new dwellings completed in 2018-19 (7,800). In 2022/23, there were just over 6,400 completions.

Rents

Taking a longer term view on rental levels, rents have increased by almost 50% from 2015 to date, and the number of properties available to rent has decreased by around 50% over the same period. The rent charged for new properties to let continues to increase – the average monthly rent across the Belfast City Council Area (BCCA) increased by 12.7% annually to £875, whilst outside of Belfast, the average Local Government District rent was up by 7.2% over the year period to £708 per month.

Undoubtedly the wider economic environment has impacted on affordability issues for households in Northern Ireland. In turn, these affordability issues coupled with the economic conditions impacts on housing supply.

Cost of living

Northern Ireland has the UK's highest proportion of low paid jobs (almost one in five), the lowest discretionary disposable income, and local households spend disproportionately higher amounts of their income on energy, food and fuel relative to the rest of the country, so the country is particularly impacted by the cost of living crisis. Useful link: [Cost of Living | nidirect](#)

Construction industry & Labour market

Pressures are apparent within the construction industry. The CEFNI survey found that 50% experienced a worsening in profit margins since 2021, and looking forward into 2023, the 4 main challenges were reported to be:

increased cost of materials, Inflation, access to skilled labour and political uncertainty / no functioning Executive.

The labour market in Northern Ireland recovered relatively quickly from the pandemic and 2022 saw the lowest unemployment rate in the Labour Force Series to date. Further analysis shows however that there has been a slump in self-employment, down one quarter on where it was pre-pandemic, and conversely that there has been an increase in employees. The number of weekly hours that an average full-time worker works is still less than those pre-pandemic. Vacancies remain stubbornly high, with double the jobs being advertised than pre-pandemic.

House prices

Over the past year, the housing market has showed strong resilience in terms of pricing levels, however, the first quarter of 2023 recorded the first marginal quarter-on-quarter decline in pricing levels in just over 2 years. This was accompanied by reduced transactional activity. The average price of a dwelling in Northern Ireland in Q1 2023 was £203,326, an annual increase 2.2% from Q1 2022, but a 0.7% decline from Q4 2022. Continuing desire for home ownership will be tempered by ongoing economic conditions.

Inflation & Interest rates

The surge in inflation resulted in a 41 year high figure of 11.1% in October 2022. By March 2023 the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) decreased slightly to 10.1%, but despite this drop, CPI inflation remains stubbornly high, particularly for necessities such as food and non-alcoholic beverages. After an extended period of abnormally low interest rates between 2009 and early 2022, the Bank of England base rate has risen steadily over the last year. By March 2023, the interest rate stood at 4.25% and some commentators expect that gradual increases will continue during 2023 in an effort to control inflation.

Relationship with our Customers

The Housing Executive is a trusted organisation, with strong relationships with our customers, at the most local level. Delivering our vision will require continued strengthening of these relationships, particularly following a period of remote service delivery due to restrictions imposed due to COVID-19. Over this plan period we look forward to more face to face

contact with customers, and making our services as seamless and easy to access as possible. We are constantly seeking to build new, and further develop existing relationships with organisations who advocate, champion or support customers.

For our tenants the Housing Community Network (HCN) is fundamental structure through which the Housing Executive maintains positive engagement and involvement with tenants and community representatives through approximately 300 community groups at a community-based level, in both rural and urban locations across Northern Ireland. The Central Housing Forum sits at the top of the HCN pyramid structure and has a recognised and meaningful role in the monitoring and decision-making process of the Housing Executive and influences decisions affecting tenants and communities all over Northern Ireland. Supporting Communities organises this network and acts as a secretariat to the various forums. However we intend to go further and create a more central role for tenants and customers in NIHE governance. It will result in an approach to service design and delivery based on partnership or co-production, whereby we design our systems and services with rather than onto our customers.

Useful links: [Corporate Customer Charter \(nihe.gov.uk\)](https://www.nihe.gov.uk/corporate/customer-charter)
[Customer Excellence Strategy](#)

Strategic Priority 1

Taking the lead role as the Strategic Housing Authority, we will work with our partners to increase social housing supply to help meet identified need

Workstream	Summary / Current Status	Further reading
Affordable Housing / SHMA	The Housing Executive has continued to work closely with DFC on the provision of new affordable housing products. This includes the development of Intermediate Rent housing. Intermediate Rent aims to increase housing supply and provide a housing choice, which is of high quality, is more affordable and more secure for households. DFC published an Intermediate Rent Policy in March 2023 and we are now working on the delivery of Intermediate Rent units to those whose needs cannot be met in the housing market.	Definition of affordable housing Department for Communities (communities-ni.gov.uk) Northern-Ireland-Summary-Report-(PDF-1-4MB).pdf (nihe.gov.uk) The Housing Executive - News (nihe.gov.uk)
Asset Management Strategy	The Asset Management Strategy that was approved by the Board and the Department in 2015/16 was ‘parked’ in late 2017 on funding grounds. A temporary strategic investment approach was agreed with the Department and has been in place since, which is aimed at maximising our stock available for letting in the face of high and rising housing need. Work is continuing via the Housing Executive Revitalisation Programme on developing a sustainable funding solution to meet our stock investment requirements.	An Asset Management Strategy for the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (nihe.gov.uk)
Housing Supply Strategy	The NIHE have prepared an action plan on the expansion of the Social Housing Development Programme and this has been agreed with DFC. Actions are progressing including the preparation of a Housing Executive Land Acquisition Business Case which is with DFC for approval.	A new housing supply strategy Department for Communities (communities-ni.gov.uk)
Land Asset Management Strategy	As the Strategic Housing Authority of Northern Ireland and the largest landlord, the Housing Executive has been, and continues to be, in a unique position as custodian of significant public assets to ensure our land and property assets are effectively utilised to provide new housing and to enable and facilitate safe and sustainable communities.	

Table continues

Workstream	Summary / Current Status	Further reading
	<p>The Land Asset Management Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2026 is part of the NIHE’s overall Corporate Asset Management Strategy and has been developed in the context of persistently increasing numbers of people living in housing stress and the growing waiting list.</p> <p>The Strategy sets out how the Housing Executive proposes to utilise its land assets over the next three years to support its vision, and that of our partners, to deliver positive and meaningful outcomes for our tenants and citizens across Northern Ireland.</p>	
<p>Local Development Plans (LDP)</p>	<p>As a statutory consultee in the development plan process we have been working with Councils to assist in the preparation of Local Development Plans (LDP). These Plans are central to enabling positive place making and ambitious developments that will shape local areas over a long term 15-year period. LDPs are a valuable way to provide affordable, accessible and sustainable housing for those in need and can support the development of balanced and cohesive communities.</p> <p>This partnership working with different agencies will be important to help more people access suitable housing to meet their needs, and to improve wellbeing and quality of life. Our role is to help ensure everyone has access to good-quality, affordable housing and to promote an integrated, shared society.</p> <p>Seven Councils have published their draft Plan Strategies and five of these have completed Independent Examination (IE) stage. Derry and Strabane’s public hearing element of the IE is scheduled to start in September 2024. Belfast City Council’s Plan Strategy and Fermanagh & Omagh Plan Strategy document have now been adopted, and three additional development plans are likely to progress to adoption during 2023/24, (Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council, Antrim & Newtownabbey and Mid & East Antrim).</p>	<p>NI Planning System Department for Infrastructure (infrastructure-ni.gov.uk)</p>

Table continues

Workstream	Summary / Current Status	Further reading
<p>Social Housing Development Programme (SHDP)</p>	<p>The key SHDP targets for the 22/23 year were to deliver a minimum of 1,950 social housing Starts and 1,400 social housing Completions. There was also a target for 10% of General Needs New Build social housing Starts to be designed in line with Wheelchair Design Standards; and for 12.9% of all new social housing Starts to be in Rural locations.</p> <p>At the end of March 2023, the SHDP out-turn position was confirmed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,956 new social housing Starts; • 1,449 new social housing Completions; • 150 new social housing Wheelchair Starts (9% of General Needs New Build Starts); <p>71 new Rural social housing Starts (4% of total Starts).</p>	<p>Social Housing Development Programme</p> <p>Housing Association Guide Department for Communities (communities-ni.gov.uk)</p> <p>Development Guide Department for Communities (communities-ni.gov.uk)</p>

Strategic Priority 2

As NI’s largest landlord, we will help NI meet its emissions targets, address the impact of climate change and help sustain and protect our environment for future generations

Workstream	Summary / Current Status	Further reading
<p>Sustainable Development Strategy</p>	<p>The Housing Executive launched our Corporate Sustainable Development Strategy and Action Plan which outlines our commitment to sustaining our environment for future generations and providing quality, affordable housing, while reducing net zero carbon emissions by 2050.</p> <p>Over the next five years, as the strategic housing authority for Northern Ireland, we have committed to improving our social and environmental impact while addressing the cost of living crisis.</p> <p>Strategic sustainable development targets include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a 6% reduction in carbon emissions by 2026; • as a landlord, retrofit housing to increase energy efficiency by 2030, plus a 23% reduction in carbon emissions up to 2030/31; and • a corporate 25% reduction in carbon emissions by 2030/31. <p>Key strategic actions include improving the organisation’s built environment, supporting biodiversity, assisting sustainable communities and promoting sustainable transport.</p> <p>Educational empowerment leading to behaviour change is essential, and improved health and wellbeing outcomes through more sustainable living is also a key focus for change.</p>	<p>Housing Executive zeros in to eliminate carbon</p> <p>Corporate Sustainable Development Strategy and Action Plan (2022-2027)</p>
<p>Modern Methods of Construction / Low Energy Pilot</p>	<p>We have developed a pilot new build scheme of 6 homes for a site in Ballysillan utilising Modern Methods of Construction and Low Energy technology. Due to rising costs in the construction sector it is necessary to re-tender the scheme, and we hope to start on site later this year.</p>	

Table continues

Workstream	Summary / Current Status	Further reading
<p>Cavity Wall Insulation (CWI)</p>	<p>Following a research report on cavity wall insulation in our stock, our CWI Action Plan was launched in March 2022. The Action Plan is aimed at addressing the findings and recommendations made in the report. A number of actions are set out in the plan relating to, for example, a new CWI extraction/refill process and a small remedial programme. Work is ongoing.</p>	<p>The Cavity Wall Insulation Action Plan is available at Cavity Wall insulation action plan 2022 (nihe.gov.uk)</p>
<p>NI Energy Advice Service and Oil Savings Network Service</p>	<p>As the Home Energy Conservation Authority for Northern Ireland, part of the Housing Executives strategy to deliver its statutory responsibilities is to promote energy efficiency and advice to all households. Since April 2020, the refreshed Northern Ireland Energy Advice Service, delivered in house by the Housing Executive, has received over 14,000 queries up to 31st December 2022.</p> <p>The NI Energy Advice Service (NIEAS) is NI's only one-stop-shop for information on energy efficiency, grant availability, cost savings and renewables. This advice offers vital help via energy cost saving information to vulnerable householders, older people and those on low incomes and answers over 5,000 queries annually. The NIEAS team annually signpost nearly 4,000 customers to available energy grants such as the Housing Executive Boiler Replacement Scheme; a Council-led targeted Affordable Warmth Scheme, aimed at those in fuel poverty and those more vulnerable within our society, and the Utility Regulator's Northern Ireland Sustainable Energy Programme (NISEP).</p> <p>The Oil Savings Network service is actively growing its membership across all Northern Ireland householders (9,000 active members), with the key objective of tackling fuel poverty. The delivery of this service is now an integrated part of the NI Energy Advice Service and its aim is to help householders across Northern Ireland continue to save on their home heating oil.</p>	<p>Energy Advice Service Oil Buying Club Service</p>
<p>Rural-Led Energy Transition (RULET)</p>	<p>The Report on the outcomes of the RULET project is due for release early 2023. This scheme tested the deployment of various energy efficiency measures including smart energy technology in Housing Executive homes.</p> <p>2023-2025 will see the roll out of a low carbon programme of 300+ dwellings to provide evidence for a future of decarbonised heating policy.</p>	<p>GIRONA www.gironaenergy.com</p>

Table continues

Workstream	Summary / Current Status	Further reading
European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	<p>This six-year €45 million programme is expected to be completed by September 2023. There are currently 20 schemes on site. However, due to delays during COVID-19 and contractor issues, the target of home completions has been reduced to 1,597 properties by September 2023. This scheme also won a National Inside Housing Development Award as 'Climate Change Retrofit Project of the Year 2022'.</p>	

Strategic Priority 3

As NI’s largest landlord, we will invest around £1,700m (over the next three years) into our local economy, through our housing services, construction activity, and employment opportunities and through our support for the health, voluntary and community sectors. In the same period we will process circa. £1,148m in Housing Benefit across public and private housing tenures

Workstream	Summary / Current Status	Further reading
Social Enterprise Strategy	<p>Since the introduction of the Social Enterprise Plus Strategy 2020 – 2024 we awarded £372,660 with an actual spend of £366,360 to date.</p> <p>During the COVID-19 Pandemic the funding programme for Social Enterprise was frontloaded and two years funding was awarded between 2021 and early 2022. From March 2022 onwards there was no spend as there was a midterm review of the strategy to take cognisance of changing environment and Government Policy. A further round of funding is planned totalling up to £200,000 for 2023/24 financial year.</p> <p>This review included the 4 elements below of being of particular interest;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost of living crisis • Climate change • The Introduction of Social Value in Public Sector Procurement • Post-COVID-19 Recovery <p>The Social Enterprise Team continue to engage with those social enterprises within our communities in the development of new and existing enterprises.</p>	<p>Social Enterprise Plus Strategy 2020-2024</p>
Supporting People Strategic Plan and COVID-19 Recovery Plan 2022-25	<p>The Supporting People Strategic Plan and COVID-19 Recovery Plan 2022-25 was approved by the Housing Executive Board on 6th July 2022. Since then, Supporting People have been actively engaged in delivery of the Strategic Actions detailed under the four Strategic Priorities, which are:</p>	<p>Supporting People Three Year Strategic Plan and Covid-19 Recovery Plan (nihe.gov.uk)</p>

Table continues

Workstream	Summary / Current Status	Further reading
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Drive the recovery and re-build beyond COVID-19. 2. Work towards closing the 14% gap between need for services and supply. 3. Collaborate with providers, to invest in service innovation to achieve greater outcomes. 4. Strengthen relationships across health, criminal justice with the aim of generating greater value from public funds. <p>Accordingly, Supporting People have developed a Draft Strategic Action Plan and a Progress and Monitoring Framework and Report, and have established an internal Project Board to ensure effective governance, delivery and reporting of our strategic commitments.</p>	
<p>Welfare Reform</p>	<p>NIHE has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • continued to communicate with staff and customers regarding relevant welfare changes via social media, publications and via housing community networks and community based events; • ‘Making Your Money Work’ has delivered training to front line staff, ensuring tenants are offered appropriate advice and support at key points in their tenancy journey to improve their financial wellbeing; • expanded the Financial Inclusion Team, increasing the number of staff delivering direct benefits and money advice to tenants housing customers and applicants from 5 to 10; • completed and published Universal Credit (UC) customer journey research. Some recommendations of the research have already been delivered through the enhancement of communications with tenants regarding UC, others have been incorporated into the draft Financial Inclusion Strategy 2023-2028 action plan; • continued to work with DfC in the preparation for the commencement of Move to UC; • completed a review of the Discretionary Housing Payment scheme in partnership with DfC and the advice sector. A number of policy changes have now been implemented which ensures we are maximising spend and helping more people than ever before to sustain their tenancy. As a result, we are also helping to prevent and alleviate homelessness. 	<p>The Housing Executive - Welfare reform</p> <p>Universal Credit Customer Journey Research report</p> <p>DHP Policy Document</p>

Workstream	Summary / Current Status	Further reading
<p>Tower Blocks</p>	<p>Our Tower Blocks Action Plan was approved by the Board and the Department in 2019. The Action Plan comprises a mixture of demolition, redevelopment and refurbishment. Demolition works have commenced at Monkscoole House in Rathcoole. Nine other blocks have been approved for demolition/redevelopment and rehousing/clearance activities are ongoing. We are also working on developing improvement proposals for a number of blocks.</p>	<p>Tower-block-strategy Tower Blocks Action Plan (nihe.gov.uk) Tower Blocks Update - Autumn 2022 (nihe.gov.uk)</p>

Strategic Priority 4

As the Strategic Housing Authority, we will work with our partners to deliver innovative housing solutions for our customers to help reduce poverty and improve health & well being

Workstream	Summary / Current Status	Further reading
<p>Community Cohesion Strategy</p>	<p>The Community Involvement Strategy 2018-2022 and Community Cohesion Strategy 2015-2020 are currently under review. We will continue to support communities through the Cohesion and Involvement funding streams. We continue to work in partnership and Service Level Agreements have been established with Supporting Communities Northern Ireland (SCNI), Northern Ireland Youth Forum, Disability Action and Rural Community Network. A Terms of Reference was established for the Central Housing Forum.</p>	<p>Community Cohesion Strategy Community Involvement Strategy</p>
<p>Community Safety Strategy</p>	<p>The Housing Executive has a dedicated Community Safety Team based in Belfast. This team works with locally based staff to provide a range of services to deal with community safety issues and anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>The Housing Executive’s Community Safety Strategy 2020-23 aims to make our communities safe and to tackle anti-social behaviour. We will do this by building on our three key aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • building community confidence; • ensuring local solutions; and • working together. <p>We work with other agencies, groups and tenants to deal with anti-social behaviour. Our new Community Safety Strategy builds on this work with our partners. It highlights the actions that we have taken in recent years to build better communities and ensure they are a welcoming place to live and visit.</p>	<p>Community Safety Strategy Community Safety Strategy launched</p>
<p>Good Neighbour Campaign</p>	<p>As part of the Housing Executive’s 50th anniversary, our Communications Team, in collaboration with the Community Safety Team ran a multi-channel campaign over the summer / autumn that highlighted to the media, the public and to our customers that our communities are attractive and safe places to live in.</p>	

Workstream	Summary / Current Status	Further reading
	<p>The objectives of the campaign were to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show that our estates are attractive and safe places to live; • Celebrate those living in our homes who make a difference in their community; • Challenge stereotypes associated with social housing; • Raise awareness of how we can support tenants to tackle low level anti-social behaviour; • Encourage tenants to take small steps to reduce low level anti-social behaviour. <p>The campaign shared Good Neighbour tips, promoted the range of ways that we tackle anti-social behaviour, and posted success stories from our Community Safety Strategy on our social media channels. The Facebook posts reached nearly 240,000 people, the videos nearly 70,000 and promoting the Community Safety Strategy had 6,500 impressions.</p>	
<p>Homelessness Strategy & Homelessness Services</p>	<p>The Homelessness Strategy 2022-27 was published on the 23rd March 2022 and over the course of 2022/23 the Housing Executive has worked on delivering the Year 1 Action Plan. The Homelessness Strategy is based on the following three objectives;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prioritise homelessness prevention; 2. Address homelessness by providing settled, appropriate accommodation and support; 3. Support customers to transition from homelessness into settled accommodation. <p>The Year 1 Action Plan contains 44 actions which include a number of actions relevant to enablers which are critical to the success of the Strategy. A Year 2 Action Plan is currently being developed and will guide delivery of the Homelessness Strategy during 2023/24.</p> <p>It is anticipated the Year 1 Annual Progress Report will be published in Q2 of 2023/24. This will provide an overview of the work and actions delivered during 2022/23 as part of the Homelessness Strategy. Additionally, the Year 2 Action Plan will be available on the Housing Executive website.</p>	<p>Homelessness Strategy 2022-27 Homelessness Strategy 2022-27 Year 1 Action Plan. Ending Homelessness Together Homelessness Strategy 2022-27 (nihe.gov.uk)</p>

Table continues

Workstream	Summary / Current Status	Further reading
<p>Fundamental Review of Allocations (FRA)</p>	<p>The Housing Executive has set up a Project to implement changes to the Housing Selection Scheme and social housing allocation process in Northern Ireland. The Project involves the implementation of 18 Proposals for Change which were agreed following the Department for Communities’ Fundamental Review of Allocations. The Project will also carry out further work to bring forward alternative approaches for the remaining two:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal 7 - the removal of Intimidation Points from the Housing Selection Scheme; and • Proposal 9 - the removal of Interim Accommodation Points. <p>Subject to funding the changes are being be delivered over a three year period in four key stages set out in the indicative timeline below. The implementation of these changes aims to ensure that our highly valued allocations scheme is modernised and continues to provide a robust framework for the assessment and allocations of social housing in Northern Ireland, building on the strengths of the existing Scheme to enable it to work better at responding to objective housing need.</p> <p>Some changes will have a visible impact on customers while others will be less customer facing, e.g. Proposals 12-14 relate to social landlords’ discretion in terms of difficult-to-let properties which will allow landlords to make best use of their stock. Several proposals involve changes to existing systems, new IT solutions and delivery of a Customer Applicant Portal.</p> <p>The Project stages and delivery of the proposals have been grouped based on a number of key factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Linked to customer/Waiting List impacts; - Due to systems or procedural changes required; - Or for good project management purposes in terms of the most effective delivery method. <p>A number of proposals are interdependent and must be implemented together e.g. proposals 5 and 15 related to areas of choice and offers which have been delivered in the first stage of implementation.</p> <p>Stage One</p> <p>The first group of changes were delivered in Stage One of the Project with the new rules coming into effect on 30th January 2023.</p>	<p>FRA report</p> <p>More information on the Fundamental Review of Allocations Implementation Project can be found on the Housing Executive’s website at: The Housing Executive - Apply for a home (nihe.gov.uk)</p>

Workstream	Summary / Current Status	Further reading
	<p>Proposal 1: Communication of the Housing Executive’s Housing Solutions and Support Service, providing independent, tenure-neutral housing advice.</p> <p>Proposal 5: The Introduction of a greater choice of areas for applicants in where they would like to be rehoused. All applicants now have the ability to choose as many or as few areas of choice as they wish and the automatic imposition of a greater housing area on statutory homeless applicants has ended.</p> <p>Proposal 15: An Applicant may receive two reasonable offers of accommodation. The number of Reasonable Offers which an Applicant can receive has reduced from three reasonable offers to two reasonable offers.</p> <p>Proposal 16: Social landlords may withdraw an offer of accommodation in specified circumstances.</p> <p>The other proposals for change will be implemented via a further three delivery stages. More information can be found on Housing Executive’s website.</p> <p>Areas of the Project which will have a visible impact on customers include a reassessment of all applicants on the Waiting List to ensure their housing needs points reflect their current housing circumstances under Proposal 8 and the alignment of the age criteria for children sharing with DWP criteria for help with housing Costs (Proposal 11). This exercise is planned during Stage 3 of the Project in 2024. The changes identified during reassessment will be implemented in the final phase of the project in Stage 4, alongside the introduction of a banding system. Applicants will be placed into bands based on their current point’s levels alongside others with similar levels of need. Applicants in each band will then be ranked based on their time on the Waiting List using their date of application. The introduction of banding, under proposal 10, is linked to high level Outcome 4 - Those in greatest housing need receive priority, with recognition of their time in need.</p>	

Table continues

Workstream	Summary / Current Status	Further reading
	<p>Stage 4 will be implemented mid-2025 and the Project will close at the end of the summer 2025. Benefits will be measured throughout the Project, however many are longer term beyond the life of the Project.</p> <p>A Communications and Stakeholder engagement plan is in place and the Housing Executive wrote to all households on the Waiting List, public representatives and key stakeholders to explain the changes. Transitional measures were introduced in the implementation approach to ensure that customers who had selected the wider general housing area and customers who had already received two reasonable offers would not be adversely impacted.</p> <p>The Project is working closely with Housing Associations in the implementation of the changes and has also introduced a Stakeholder Advisory Group to inform and advise the Housing Executive on the implementation of the changes to ensure the successful implementation of the proposals for change in a way which will achieve the best possible outcomes for customers and social landlords.</p>	
<p>Strategic Action Plan for Temporary Accommodation</p>	<p>The Strategic Action Plan for Temporary Accommodation 2022-27, including Year 1 actions, has been published. The Strategic Review of Temporary Accommodation project has formally ended and the focus has shifted to an implementation phase that seeks to deliver on the key priorities and actions from the Strategic Action Plan.</p> <p>Progress has been made on Year 1 actions, despite funding challenges and the diversion of project resources to support the Ukrainian Resettlement Scheme whilst dedicated staffing resources for the scheme were put in place.</p> <p>The actions for subsequent years will be developed through an iterative approach that takes account of progress of previous years' actions and changing priorities over the life of the Action Plan.</p>	<p>Strategic Review of Temporary Accommodation 2020 Homeless To Home: Strategic Action Plan for Temporary Accommodation 2022-27</p>
<p>Accessible Housing Register</p>	<p>The priority going forward is to build the pool of accessible stock information and to date 8,362 Housing Executive properties & 16,961 Housing Association properties have been assigned an AHR classification.</p> <p>Status: Work continues to build to collect AHR data.</p> <p>Disability Action are currently exploring a Private Sector model with Property Pal.</p>	

Workstream	Summary / Current Status	Further reading
<p>Building Safety</p>	<p>The Building Safety Department covers all aspects of statutory compliance and building safety and focuses on the management of risks in properties owned and managed by the Housing Executive with particular emphasis on high-risk residential buildings over 18 metres.</p> <p>The department, through active compliance management and continual assessment of risks around fire and structural safety, asbestos, Legionella, lifting equipment, electrical installations, gas safety checks and resident engagement identify and mitigate any risks to ensure the safety of residents who occupy our properties.</p> <p>As part of the preparation for the introduction of new Legislation following the introduction of the Building Safety Act in England, and as per the IRG Report Recommendation the Building Safety Team has undertaken to review the external facades against the new regulatory standards and in June 2022, commenced a critical review of the facades of the NIHE’s High Risk Residential Buildings. This is being facilitated via a research project with University of Ulster/FireSERT with the objective to determine the structural stability of the spandrel panels and their potential for external fire spread. The results of these assessment will inform the NIHE what action is to be taken with regards to the external wall systems.</p> <p>In conjunction with this the Building Safety Team has commissioned an specialist resource to complete a Fire Risk Appraisal of External Walls (FRAEW) in accordance with PAS 9980:2022 of the 4 Housing Executive High Risk Residential Buildings with cladding to assess the risk to occupants from fire spread and to determine whether remediation or other mitigating measures to address the risk are considered necessary.</p> <p>A programme of sprinkler has been developed for 23 of the NIHE’s High Risk Residential Buildings and a Business Case has been prepared and submitted to the Department for Communities for approval and it is hoped to commence on site in March 2024.</p>	

Table continues

Workstream	Summary / Current Status	Further reading
<p>Traveller Accommodation</p>	<p>During the past year the Housing Executive’s Irish Traveller Policy Unit (ITPU) has driven and overseen the implementation of a number of key actions throughout year one of the Strategy. A review has been completed for all Housing Executive owned sites. Progress has been made in the redevelopment of two sites. Research projects have been initiated to develop an accommodation needs assessment model, review rent and review of transitory living across the whole of Ireland. The ITPU has also sought to develop and review internal Housing Executive policies in order to improve services delivered to Irish Travellers in Northern Ireland.</p>	<p>Irish Travellers Accommodation Strategy 2021-2026</p>
<p>Rural Strategy & Action Plan</p>	<p>A Year 1 Annual Progress Report for the Housing Executive’s Rural Strategy and Action Plan 2021-25 ‘Reaching Rural’ was published in January 2023. Year 2 of ‘Reaching Rural’ was completed during 2022/23, with progress made against all actions in the Action Plan. We delivered a range of positive outcomes for our rural customers during Year 2, including: Work commenced on 71 new build social homes in rural areas helping to address social housing need and regenerate communities. We helped rural communities in 11 locations across Northern Ireland to examine the need for new social and affordable housing in their areas. Six prizes were awarded through our Rural Community Awards, recognising and showcasing the invaluable contribution volunteers are making in rural areas.</p>	<p>Reaching Rural - Rural Strategy 2021-2025 Rural Strategy & Action Plan Annual Progress Report 2021-2022</p>

Strategic Priority 5

As NI's largest landlord, we will engage with our customers to ensure they are at the heart of service improvements and our business delivery model

Workstream	Summary / Current Status	Further reading
<p>Customer Charter</p>	<p>We aim to provide excellent services for all our customers. Customer needs are at the centre of everything that we do, and our goal is to meet those needs to a high standard of quality and performance.</p> <p>Our Customer Charter and Service Standards help us to understand our customers' experiences and improve our services.</p> <p>Our Customer Charter sets out how we aim to treat our customers when they interact with us</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - in the office - by telephone - when they request information from us. - when they make a complaint <p>We publish our results each year.</p>	<p>https://www.nihe.gov.uk/my-housing-executive/advice-for-housing-executive-tenants/customer-charter</p>
<p>Older People's Housing Strategy</p>	<p>Our Older People's Housing Strategy 2021/22 – 2025/26 takes into account the changing demography of Northern Ireland, including our own tenant profile and aims to ensure the services and activities that the Housing Executive delivers, considers and meets the needs of our ageing population.</p> <p>The Strategy is set out under the following four key themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Planning for the future; - Promoting and maintaining dignity; - Providing housing advice for older people; and - Promoting participation. <p>We are in Year 3 of the plan and will provide regular updates against our objectives over the duration of the Strategy.</p> <p>We are confident that through our own expertise, and, working with a range of partners and stakeholders, we will achieve our objectives and improve housing related services for older people across Northern Ireland.</p>	<p>Older People's Housing Strategy Older People</p>

Table continues

Workstream	Summary / Current Status	Further reading
<p>Fundamental Review of the Private Rented Sector (PRS)</p>	<p>Sections 1-6 of the Private Tenancies Act commenced on 1 April 2023.</p> <p>A research report completed by Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH) on the Department's behalf was laid in the Assembly and published on 28th October 2022.</p> <p>CIH was also successful in the tender for research on Notice to Quit Exceptions. This work is ongoing.</p> <p>The Department launched a survey to call for views on payment options for tenants on 22 May 2023. We hope to be in a position to go to consultation on alarms and electrical safety by the end of June 2023.</p> <p>Energy Efficiency standards is a more complex piece of work and discussions are underway with regard to internal resourcing in order to be able to take forward.</p>	<p>https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ni/2022/20/contents/enacted</p> <p>https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/publications/rent-regulation-private-sector-northern-ireland</p>

Strategic Priority 6

Supporting our roles as both Strategic Housing Authority and NI’s largest landlord, we will be an employer of choice and deliver high quality services for all in NI’s increasingly diverse community

Workstream	Summary / Current Status	Further reading
<p>Annual Research Programme</p>	<p>The Housing Executive has a statutory responsibility to regularly examine housing conditions and need, and may also conduct or promote research into any matter relating to any of its functions. Work on a wide range of ongoing and one-off research projects continued in 2022/23. Key outputs included the second and final suite of Strategic Housing Market Analysis reports; an analysis of the standards and costs of developing social housing in Northern Ireland; a report commissioned for DfC to support policy development in relation to the provision of an intermediate rent product for Northern Ireland; and findings of surveys to improve understanding of the experiences of Housing Executive tenants in relation to Universal Credit, and measure the satisfaction of tenants living in social housing completed during 2017/18. Preparations have also been under way for House Condition Survey fieldwork, which is planned for spring/summer 2023.</p>	<p>Annual research programme</p> <p>The Housing Executive - Housing market analysis (nihe.gov.uk)</p> <p>Standards and costs of developing social housing in Northern Ireland</p> <p>Exploring the Provision of an Intermediate Rent Product for Northern Ireland</p> <p>Housing Executive Tenants and Universal Credit</p> <p>New Build Social Housing Satisfaction Survey</p> <p>The Housing Executive - Research (nihe.gov.uk)</p>
<p>Hate Harassment Toolkit</p>	<p>The Harassment Toolkit provides customers, staff, community groups, professionals and the general public with a wide range of information and advice about Hate Harassment. Hate incidents, whether or not they are hate crimes, are a form of anti-social behaviour and the Housing Executive will continue to be committed to dealing quickly and positively with any hate harassment within our estates.</p>	

Part 2 - Local Context

This local update is focused on the Housing Executive's achievements and performance during 2022/23 in relation to the Mid Ulster District Council area and looks forward to next year and the remaining Plan period to 2026, and working in partnership with the Council to meet our business objectives and assist the implementation of community planning goals. It should be read in conjunction with Part One – Strategic Context.

Mid Ulster District Council area has a population of 150,282 (Census 2021) with close to 70% of residents living in a rural setting. In terms of housing, the Housing Executive's [Commissioning Prospectus](#) sets out where the unmet housing need is within Mid Ulster District Council area, and the type and mix of homes required, which will be planned for and delivered through the 3 year Social Housing Development Programme, reviewed annually.

The Housing Executive will continue to work with the Council, through the Community Planning Partnership, to ensure that local housing needs are met and that housing investment is targeted where it is most needed.

['10 Year Community Plan for Mid Ulster'](#)

Over the past year



Children from St Patrick's Primary School in Dungannon who took part in the 'Let's Talk Race and Racism' project funded by a NIHE cohesion grant

Children have fun sharing cultures

Children at St Patrick's Primary School in Dungannon were full of smiles and cheer at a special event to celebrate cultural inclusion thanks to a grant from the Housing Executive.

P6 pupils were taking part in a project called 'Let's Talk Race and Racism', which explored diversity and encouraged respect for different cultures. The project, organised by the North West Migrant Forum, taught the children how to communicate better, create togetherness and to explore ways of dealing with racism.

On the last day of the project a special celebration of cultures was held which allowed children to try on costumes, perform dances from various nations and find out about food from different countries.

The Housing Executive's awarding of cohesion grant funding to this project helped to promote good relations, increase public awareness of cultures and the traditions of minority communities.

The goal was to support connections and relationships between existing and new communities and to build relationships of trust as children socialise with each other. The use of our Cohesion Fund allows the Housing Executive to support excellent work like this in our local schools.



NIHE staff who attended a Gardening Workshop in Swatragh, organised by Granaghan and District Women's Group and funded by the Housing Executive

Housing Executive helps gardeners grow

Herbs were the flavour of the day at a recent gardening workshop held by Granaghan and District Women's Group in Swatragh, funded by the Housing Executive.

The workshop, held at Granaghan Resource Centre, was one of three, funded by the Housing Executive's community involvement funding. The other two workshops were on growing winter greens and creating driftwood wall hangings.

The tutor provided tips on growing garden herbs like mint, lavender and parsley, and related their many uses. She also taught members how to dry herbs, create a bouquet garni and make different flavoured teas.

Sharon Crooks, the Housing Executive's Mid Ulster Area Manager said: "Gardening is one of those pastimes that can give a great deal of pleasure to many people. Gardening groups are so important to help combat social isolation and bring people from all walks of life who have common interests together.

We were delighted to be able to help these keen gardeners meet, nurture their growing skills and help them make the best use of their gardens, backyards or window sills."



Crannog Way, Dungannon (Choice HA)



Oaks Road, Dungannon (Radius HA)

In Mid Ulster in 2022/23, the Housing Executive:



Managed
3,835
social homes



Allocated
more than
270
homes



Completed
78
Disabled facilities
grants



Provided
over **1,044**
housing support places to
the most vulnerable through
the Supporting People
Programme



Paid out
£24m
in Housing Benefit



Completed
97.18%
of repairs
to customers'
satisfaction



Community
Grants
£16k
funding awarded



Community
Cohesion
£21k
funding awarded



Community
Safety
£25k
funding awarded



Energy
Efficiency
£2.10m
spend



Affordable
Warmth
483
installations



Affordable
Warmth Spend
£1.35m
spend



Supporting
People
£4.19m
spend



Disabled Facilities
Grants (DFGs)
£961k
approval value



Adaptations
£0.91m
spend



New Build
£6.02m
spend



New Build
Completed
15
homes



Under Construction
164
homes



New Build Planned
137
(2023 – 2026)



Waiting List
March 2023
2,212
applicants, **1,380** in
Housing Stress (62.4%)



NIHE House Sales
27
average selling price
£53,573

Housing Executive Spend

The past year has delivered significant housing investment for a wide range of services, and the 2022/23 public sector housing investment totalled £23.02m for Mid Ulster District Council.

Mid Ulster District Council 2022/23 Public Sector Housing Spend (£m)

£1.36m

Affordable Warmth and Boiler Replacement***

£6.02m

Investment New Build**

£0.06m

Community Development

£4.19m

Supporting People

£23.02m

£6.25m

Planned Maintenance incl Stock Improvements*

£0.18m

ERDF Retrofit Programme

£0.91m

Adaptations for Persons with a Disability

£0.43m

Grounds Maintenance

£2.31m

Response Maintenance

£1.31m

Private Sector Grants

Source: NIHE

Notes:

*Planned Maintenance work (Planned, Cyclical, and MS running costs) spend was £5.03m and Stock Improvement Spend was £1.22m.

**Investment in new build is the total cost of schemes starting in the programme year but which may be spent over more than one year.

***Affordable Warmth spend was £1.35m and Boiler Replacement spend was £13k.

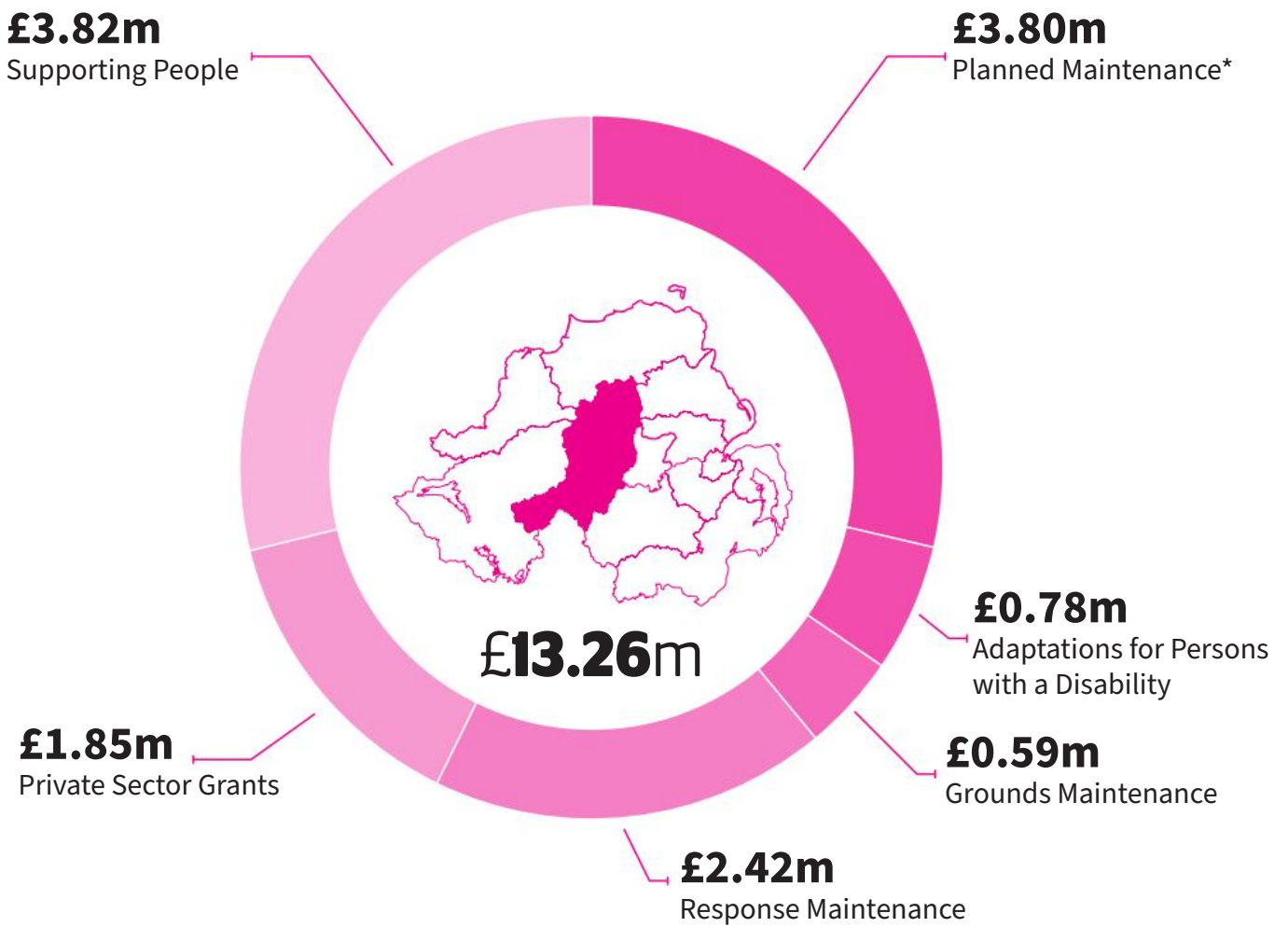
ERDF - European Regional Development Fund - funding to 'improve thermal efficiency' in NIHE Stock.

NB: 2022/23 expenditure figures in the table above are with NIAO for auditing at present. The audit is expected to complete late summer.

There is also a review of cost uplifts ongoing which may result in the maintenance spend being restated for 2022/23 before the audit is concluded.

The Housing Executive will continue to deliver significant housing investment across a wide range of services, with the planned 2023/24 public sector housing spend in Mid Ulster District Council totalling £13.26m.

Mid Ulster District Council 2023/24 Projected Public Sector Housing Spend (£m)



Source: NIHE

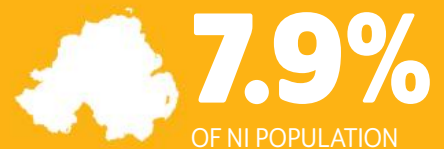
Notes:
*Planned Maintenance work (Planned, Cyclical, and MS running costs) projected spend is £3.80m.
Investment in new build and Community Development projected spend is not available.
Affordable Warmth and Boiler Replacement schemes are demand led and budget cannot be allocated.

Demographic Context

The **population** of Mid Ulster District Council area has increased by 8.4% from 138,590 on Census day 2011 to **150,282** on Census day 2021, according to NISRA



The district accounts for **7.9%** of the overall **Northern Ireland population** in 2021



The change in population in the Mid Ulster District Council area is mainly concentrated in the **65+ age group, with the older population increasing by 29%** over the period 2011 to 2021. In the same period, the working age population increased by only 4%



In the same period, average household size reduced from 2.88 to 2.76, while the number of households increased by 6,235 from 47,772 to 54,007 over the ten years 2011 to 2021. Though the need for small family accommodation remains strong, there will be a requirement to design and construct suitable accommodation for older persons.

The Housing Market

There is a projected **Housing Growth Indicator** (HGI) new dwelling requirement of 10,300 for the period 2016-2030 in Mid Ulster District Council area. The overall Northern Ireland requirement for the same period is 84,800

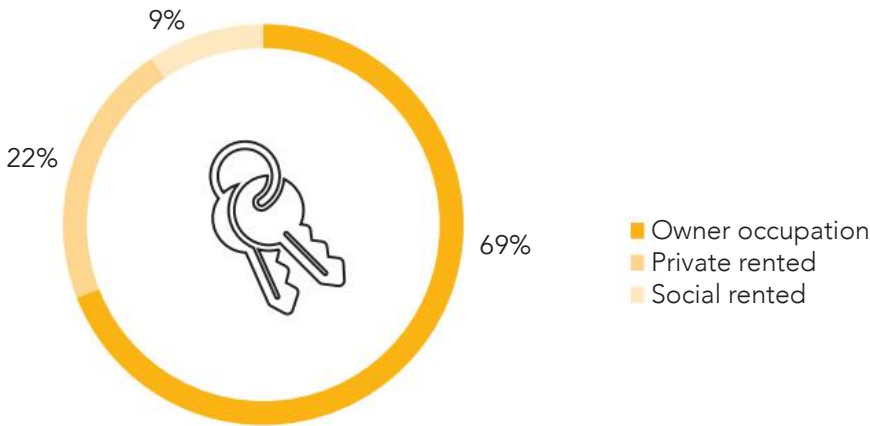


The HGI, along with the Housing Executive’s Housing Needs Assessment and Strategic Housing Market Analysis will inform the Council’s Local Development Plan on the need for additional land for the development of new housing.

Census 2021 reports that there were **54,007 households** in Mid Ulster District Council area, of these 69% were Owner Occupied, 22% Private Rented and 9% Social Rented. These figures include ‘vacants when last occupied’ within the three main tenure groups

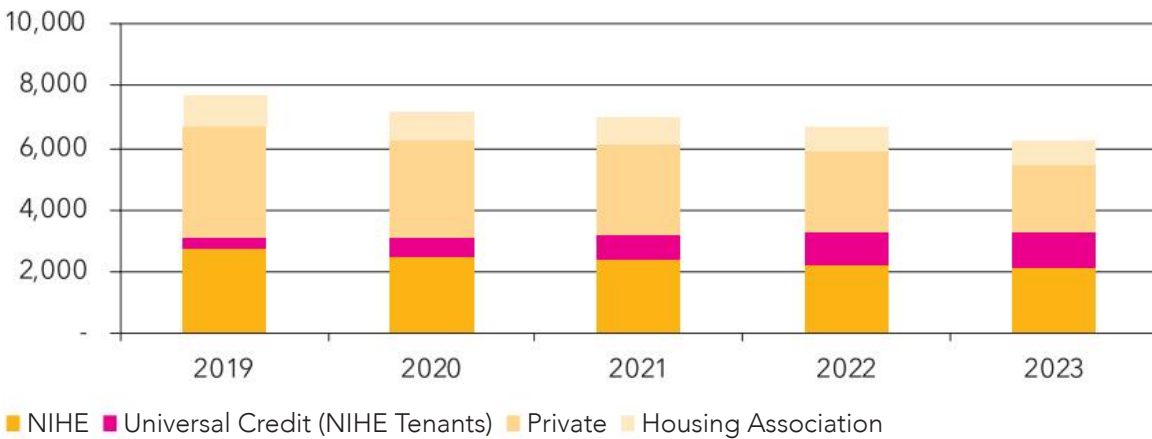


Tenure Breakdown



Source: Northern Ireland Census 2021

Housing Benefit/Universal Credit*



Source: NIHE & DfC

* Universal Credit refers to Housing Executive tenants receiving the Housing Cost element of Universal Credit.

Out of a total £470m spend across Northern Ireland during 2022/23, £24m in housing benefit was administered by the Housing Executive for the Mid Ulster District Council area (5% of total spend).

There were **1,154 Housing Executive tenants** receiving the **Housing Cost element of Universal Credit** in Mid Ulster District Council area at the end of March 2023



The following sections will discuss owner occupied, private rented and social rented sectors in more detail.

Owner Occupied Sector

Owner Occupation comprises 69% of the overall homes in the district (Census 2021).

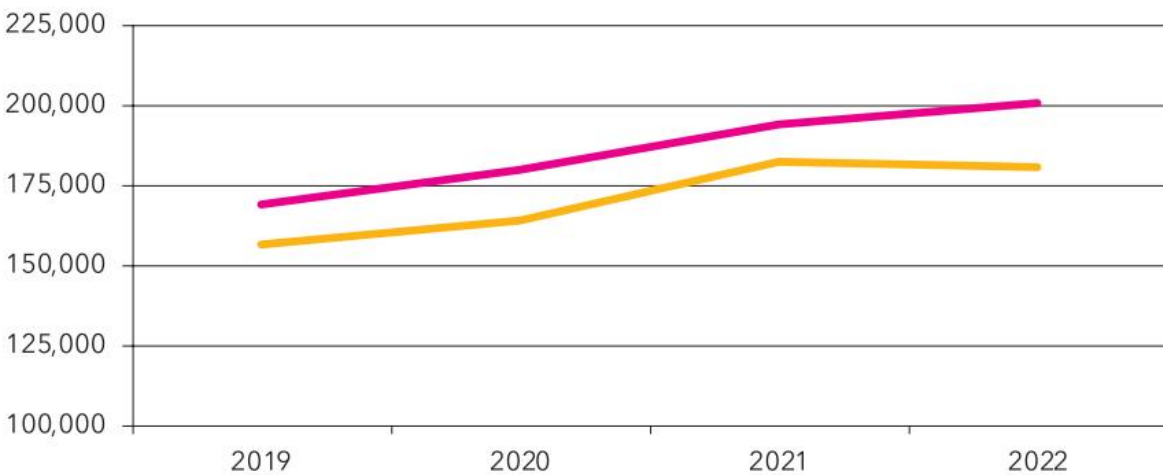
Ulster University state that the **average house price** in Mid Ulster District Council area in 2022 was £181,208 which represents a decrease of 1% on 2021 figures



£181,208

↓ 1%

Average Annual House Prices

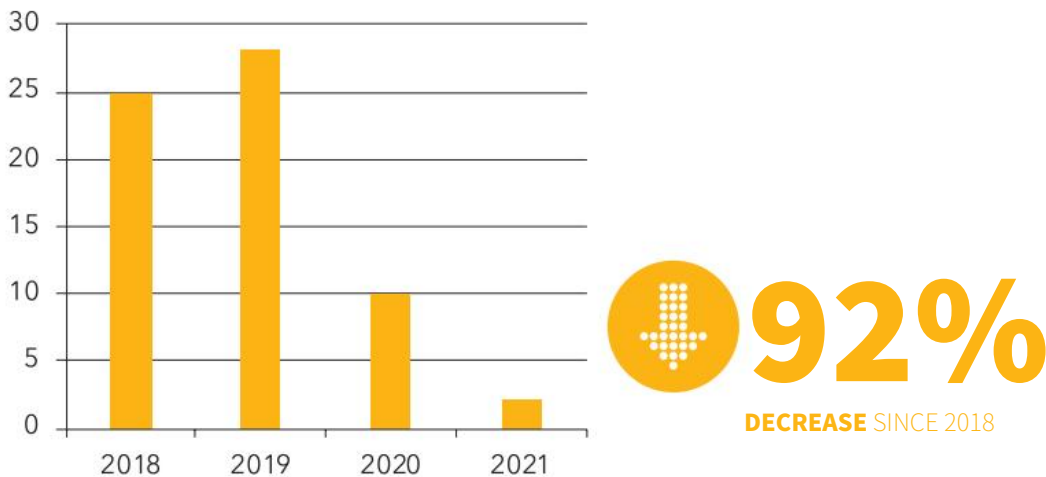


■ Mid Ulster Average House Price ■ Northern Ireland Average House Price

Source: Ulster University

During 2021, there were two repossessions in Mid Ulster District Council area. This represents a 92% decrease since 2018.

Repossessions



Source: Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service

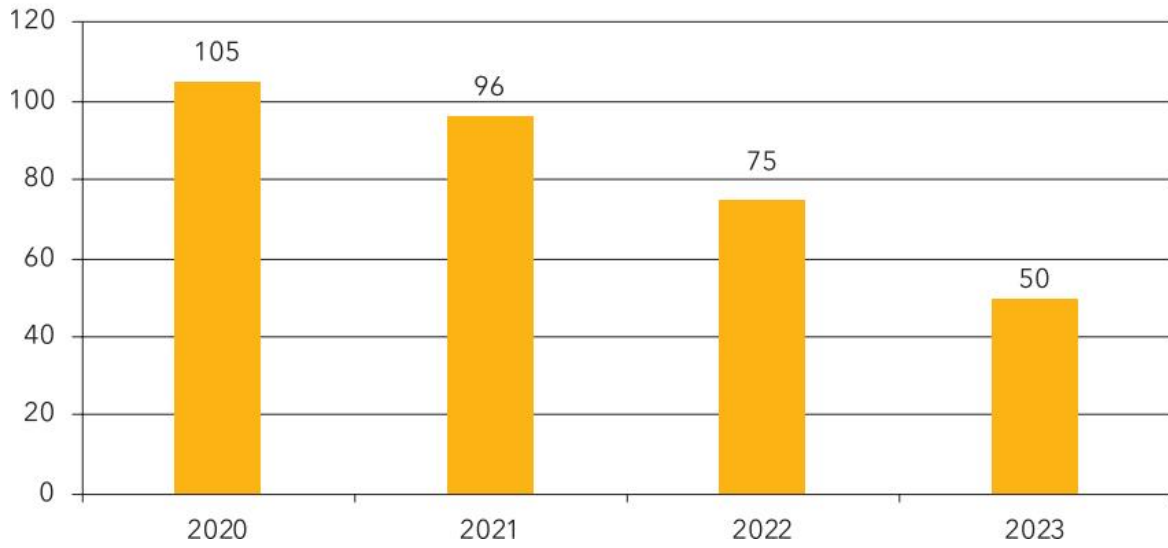
Demand for intermediate housing aimed at low-income households in Mid Ulster District Council area is estimated at 1,740 units between 2020 and 2035



Co-Ownership Housing Association had an active stock of 648 dwellings at March 2023, **50 of which were purchased** during 2022/23



New Co-Ownership Purchases



Source: Co-Ownership Housing Association

Private Rented Sector (PRS)

The Private Rented Sector comprises 22% of homes in Mid Ulster District Council area (Census 2021).

Average Weekly Private Sector Rent by Dwelling Type



■ Mid Ulster ■ Northern Ireland Average

Source: Ulster University

Mid Ulster District Council area falls within four broad rental market areas (BRMA) including Lough Neagh Upper, Lough Neagh Lower, South and South West.



The Local Housing Allowance for 2023/24 for **2 BEDROOM DWELLINGS** within the BRMA's is
£93.41 per week in Lough Neagh Upper
£90.96 per week in Lough Neagh Lower
£94.33 per week in South
£85.00 per week in South West



The Local Housing Allowance for 2023/24 for **3 BEDROOM DWELLINGS** within the BRMA's is
£102.17 per week in Lough Neagh Upper
£102.00 per week in Lough Neagh Lower
£102.81 per week in South
£95.33 per week in South West

DfC's **Landlord Registration scheme** identified 4,214 properties registered by 2,980 landlords in Mid Ulster District Council area at March 2023

4,214 
PROPERTIES REGISTERED

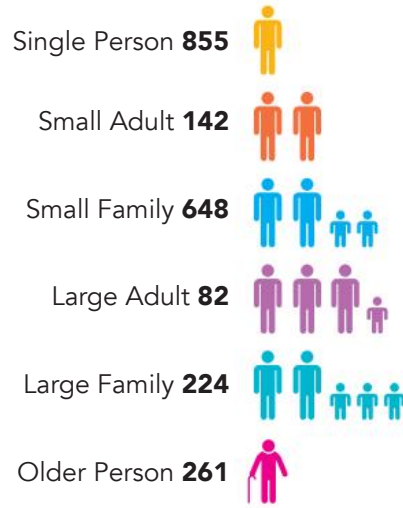
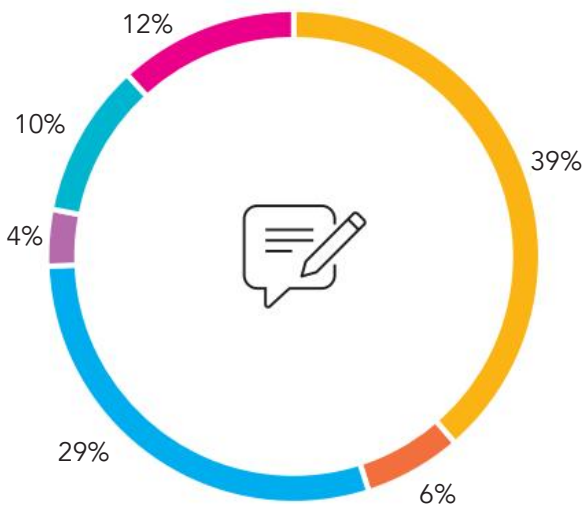
Social Housing Sector

The social sector share of the housing market in Mid Ulster District Council area was 9% (Census 2021).

27 Housing Executive properties were sold to tenants in Mid Ulster District Council area under the House Sales Scheme during 2022/23. The average selling price was £53,573, after discount.

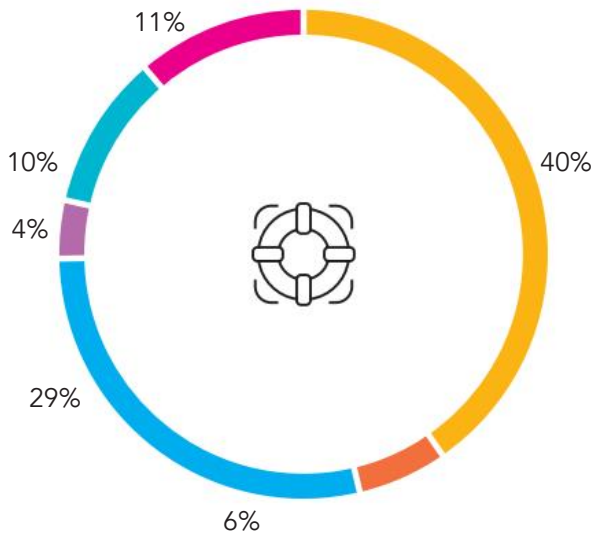
At March 2023, there were 2,212 applicants on the waiting list for Mid Ulster District Council area with 1,380 in housing stress. There were more than 270 allocations over the year. See Appendix 7 for area breakdown.

Waiting List Applicants

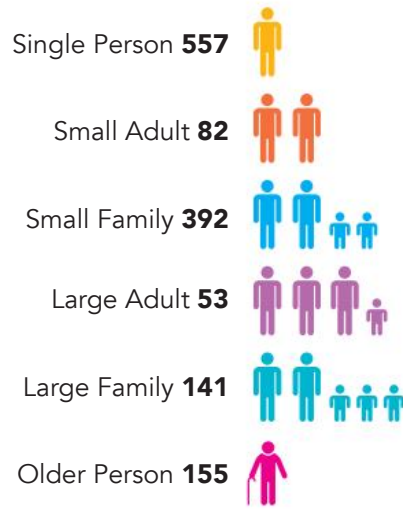


Source: NIHE, March 2023

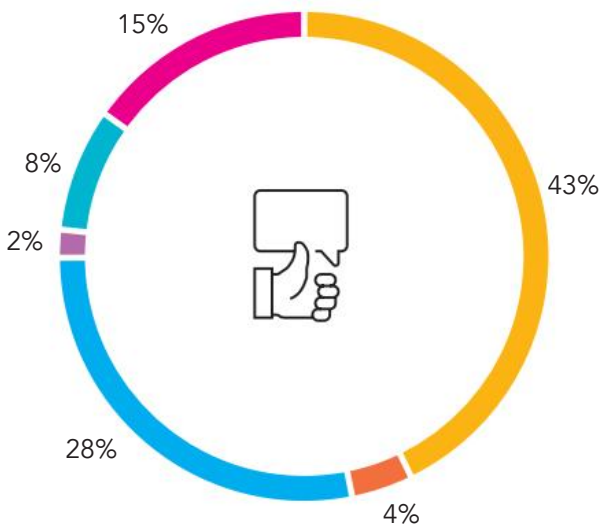
Applicants in Housing Stress



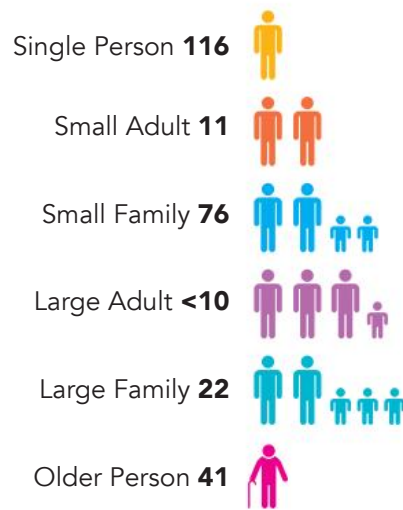
Source: NIHE, March 2023



Allocations to Applicants



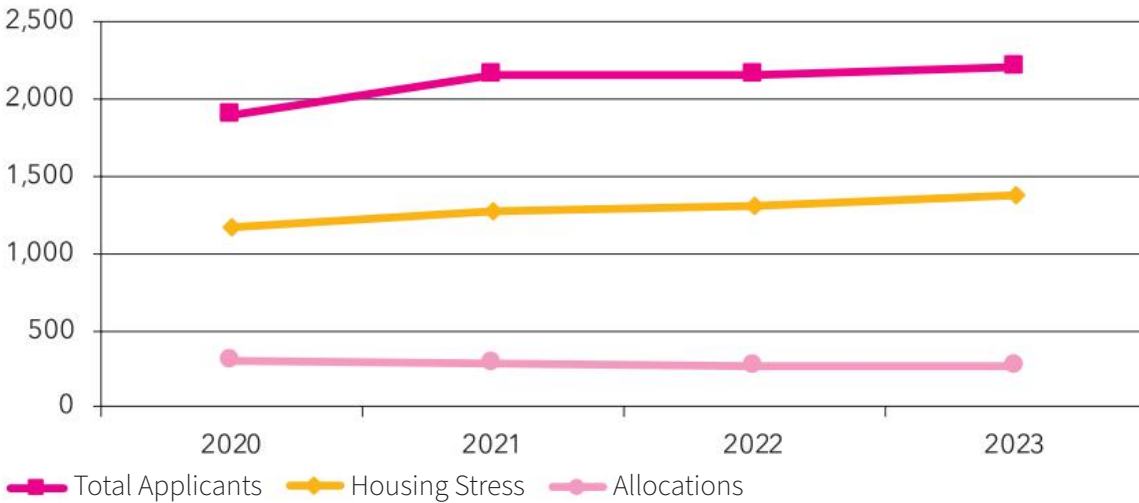
Source: NIHE, March 2023



Definition of Household Types

Single Person	1 person 16-59 years old	Large Adult	3 or more persons aged 16 or over with or without 1 child aged 0-15
Small Adult	2 persons 16-59 years old	Large Family	1 or 2 persons aged 16 or over, and 3 or more children aged 0-15, or 3 or more persons 16 or over and 2 or more children aged 0-15
Small Family	1 or 2 persons aged 16 or over, with 1 or 2 children	Older person	1 or 2 persons aged 16 or over, at least 1 over 60

Social Housing Waiting List Trends



Source: NIHE

The requirement for new social housing in Mid Ulster District Council area has increased between 2022 and 2023.

The **five-year assessment** for 2022-27 shows a need for 884 units in Mid Ulster District Council area. Refer to Appendix 2, which shows that the projected housing need is concentrated in Dungannon 1 Housing Need Assessment Area, Coalisland and Magherafelt



884

projected housing need

To address social need, the Housing Executive’s three-year Social Housing Development Programme (SHDP) has 137 housing units planned for 2023/24 to 2025/26.

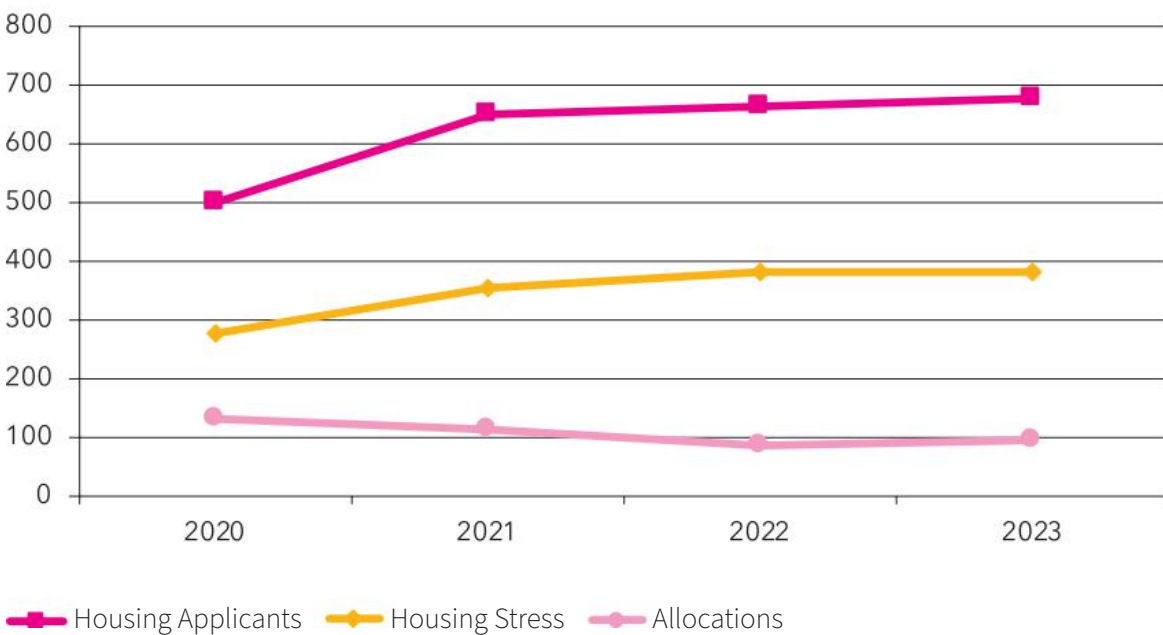
During 2022/23, 15 homes were completed across Mid Ulster District Council area and 164 units were under construction at end of March 2023. See Appendix 3 for details of the programme, completions and on-site schemes.

Rural Areas

House and land prices, land availability and rates of development may make the first steps into owner occupation more difficult for many young rural households within the Mid Ulster District Council area. The tendency for owner occupation in rural areas will also result in limited opportunity for the private rented sector to offer affordable accommodation due to a more competitive housing market.

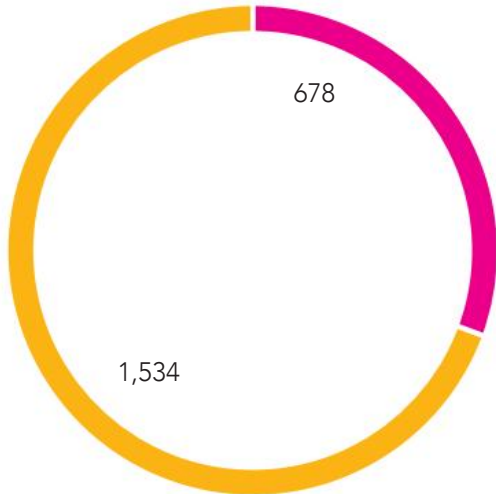
The Housing Executive will continue to work with rural communities to identify hidden or 'latent' housing need through rural housing needs tests. These rural locations will be determined following the annual review of the Housing Need Assessment and consideration is also given to requests from community representatives. During 2022/23, a rural housing needs test took place in Draperstown with a reasonable level of interest received. The test has resulted in a small number of applicants in housing stress added to the waiting list for the area.

Rural Housing Waiting List Trends

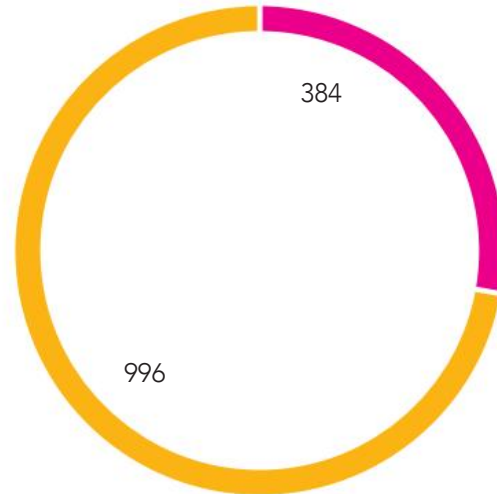


Source: NIHE

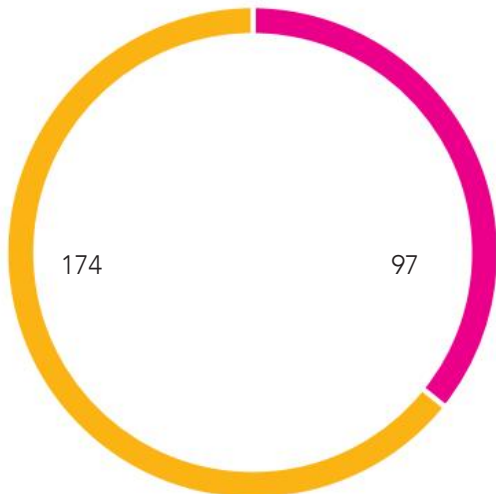
Waiting List Applicants 2023



Applicants in Housing Stress 2023



Allocations to Applicants 2023



- Mid Ulster Rural
- Mid Ulster Urban

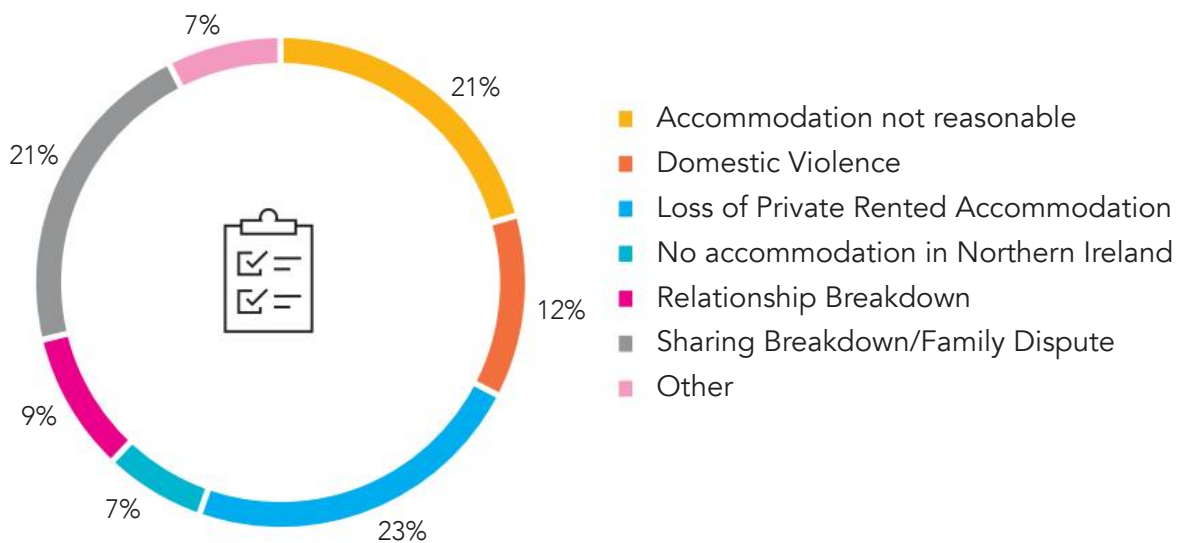
Source: NIHE, March 2023

Homelessness

The number of households presenting and accepted as homeless in Mid Ulster District Council area increased between March 2022 and March 2023 with 749 presenters and 466 acceptances at the end of March 2023, see Appendix 5.

There are a range of temporary accommodation options available in Mid Ulster District Council area. During 2022/23, the Housing Executive made 213 placements, which included 69 placements into voluntary sector hostels, 53 to Hotels/Bed and Breakfast, 50 to private single let properties and 32 placements to leased properties.

Reasons for Homelessness



Source: NIHE, March 2023

Specialised Housing and Housing Support Services

Accessible Housing

Within Mid Ulster District Council area, there is an **identified social housing** need at March 2022 for **32 wheelchair units**



Adaptations

During 2022/23, the Housing Executive spent **£0.91m on adaptations** to their properties in Mid Ulster District Council area.
See Appendix 4



Disabled Facilities Grants

During 2022/23, the Housing Executive approved **89 Disabled Facilities Grants** for private sector dwellings and completed 78. The approval value in Mid Ulster District Council area in 2022/23 was £961k.
See Appendix 4



Irish Travellers

A scheme to upgrade the 16 amenity units at the Housing Executive Irish Traveller serviced site at An Tearnann, Coalisland is due to commence.

A full review of the site is scheduled to commence upon completion of scheme.

NIHE are seeking to develop a new site in Mid Ulster District Council area after identifying a need for two additional pitches.

Supporting People

The Housing Executive, through the Supporting People Grant, funds 48 Housing Support Services across Mid Ulster District Council area at a cost of £4.19m, providing housing support to 1,044 clients per year.

Community Planning

Launched in May 2017, the '10 year plan for Mid Ulster' sets out a vision for the area as: 'a welcoming place where our people are content, healthy and safe; educated and skilled; where our economy is thriving; our environment and heritage are sustained; and where our public services excel'. The plan identifies 15 outcomes encompassed in five themes and associated outcomes which reflect the needs and aspirations of all citizens.

Following the Mid Ulster Community Plan Review 2021, the Economic and Infrastructure themes merged but the outcomes have remained the same. The outcome 'we will enjoy increased access to affordable quality housing' has moved from infrastructure into Theme 4 – Vibrant and Safe Communities. These adjustments are set out in Appendix 1.

Our role

As a statutory partner in the Community Planning process, Housing Executive Place Shaping staff attend quarterly Strategic Partnership Board meetings. Under Theme 4: Vibrant and Safe Communities, we take a lead role on the Mid Ulster Housing Forum and on the delivery of the housing related action 'Support the provision of social and affordable homes to address housing need and demand in Mid Ulster.' Associated sub-actions include the development of a set of principles for new social housing in Dungannon Town Centre, the organisation of a housing conference for Mid Ulster and the subsequent development of a Housing Action Plan for Mid Ulster.

The HIP themes have been developed to complement Community Planning themes. Therefore, within this document our housing actions are aligned against outcomes within the Community Plan (see Appendix 1).

Mid Ulster Housing Conference

The Housing Conference 'Starting the conversation on housing supply in Mid Ulster' took place on 12th June 2023 and included presentations on the draft Housing Supply Strategy, social / intermediate housing need & supply

in Mid Ulster, a review of the local housing market and an update on the progress of Mid Ulster Local Development Plan. The event was well received by a range of stakeholders and providers across the residential sector who had the opportunity to participate in focused discussions on the challenges and opportunities for increasing housing supply in Mid Ulster. The feedback will be reviewed and updated by Mid Ulster Housing Forum before follow up actions are agreed.

Local Development Plan

Work has commenced on the Mid Ulster District Council Local Development Plan (LDP). The LDP is produced in two stages – the first being the Plan Strategy followed by the Local Policies Plan. The plan will be used to inform decisions through its policy framework and land use proposals guiding these development decisions within the District up to 2030.

The draft Plan Strategy was submitted to the Department for Infrastructure on 28th May 2021.

The Local Policies Plan, prepared after the Plan Strategy is adopted, will contain site specific designations.

Once both documents of the LDP are adopted, the final and adopted LDP will replace the extant development plans for the council area (previously produced by the Department of the Environment) including the Cookstown Area Plan 2010, Dungannon and South Tyrone Area Plan 2010 and the Magherafelt Area Plan 2015.

As the statutory development plan, the LDP is the main policy vehicle to influence housing in the district for 15 years. It is therefore appropriate that the Community Plan and Housing Investment Plan (HIP) are considered in the preparation of the LDP.

The LDP will address the amount of land needed for housing across the district, in addition to setting out housing policy and objectives. When ratified, the LDP will be the statutory document for assessing future planning applications for housing.

Local outcomes against Strategic Priorities and Community Planning objectives

Strategic Priority 1

Taking the lead role as the Strategic Housing Authority, we will work with our partners to increase social housing supply to help meet identified need

Objective(s) achieved ■ Partially achieved ■ Remains outstanding ■

2022/23 Plan	2022/2023 Progress	Plans 2023-26	Community Plan Reference
Oversee development of SG Target for Mid Ulster social homes			
Implement 71 Strategic Guideline target for starts (Urban and Rural).	33 units achieved in Mid Ulster District Council (MUDC). 164 units on-site in MUDC at 31 March 2023.	2023/24 - 72 SG target 2024/25 - 72 SG target 2025/26 - 74 SG target (urban and rural).	4D
Wheelchair Standard Accommodation target of 10% for general needs new build			
Ensure the 10% wheelchair target is met for all general needs new build.	Ensure the 10% wheelchair target is met for all general needs new build. Eight wheelchair units were onsite at March 2023.	Ensure the 10% wheelchair target is met for all general needs new build.	2C 3B 4A 4D
NIHE will carry out an annual five year projected social housing need assessment for the Council area			
Carry out housing need assessment projecting need for 2022-27.	HNA completed for MUDC – projected need of 884 units for 2022-27, see Appendix 2. This is a 13% increase from the previous assessment.	Annual HNA will be carried out for MUDC to project need over the periods 2023-28, 2024-29 and 2025-30.	4D
Meet Intermediate housing demand (SHMA)			
Completion of the Mid-Western Area SHMA report, approval by internal and external PAG and Board, publication in summer 2022 and further Insight event scheduled for November 2022.	Mid-Western Area SHMA report completed and published, including 15 year intermediate housing requirements by Council area and Housing Market Area, as well as NI level summary report. NIHE Insight event took place in March 2023.	Continue to monitor the Mid-Western Area SHMA report and instigate review if necessary.	4D

2022/23 Plan	2022/2023 Progress	Plans 2023-26	Community Plan Reference
Deliver Co-Ownership			
<p>Funding of £145m was allocated to Co-Ownership for 20/21-23/24 to deliver 4,000 shared ownership homes across NI.</p>	<p>In 2022/23 there were 50 properties purchased through Co-ownership in MUDC, out of a total 715 across NI.</p>	<p>The current allocation of funding is £145m for the period 2020/21 to 2023/24 to deliver 4,000 Co-Ownership homes across NI. Future funding arrangements will be agreed between the Department for Communities and Co-Ownership.</p>	<p>4D</p>
Carry out Site Identification Studies			
<p>Site Identification Studies (SIS) for the Loup, Clady / Innishrush/Portglenone, Lissan and Moneyneany have been programmed to take place during 2022/23. Further SIS will be completed as identified.</p>	<p>Within MUDC during 2022/23, Place Shaping was working in partnership with Apex HA on progression of the Coalisland and Donaghmore SIS's. The Loup, Clady / Innishrush/ Portglenone, Lissan and Moneyneany SIS's have been re-programmed.</p>	<p>A review of the SIS selection process is planned for the coming year.</p>	<p>4D</p>

Strategic Priority 2

As NI's largest landlord, we will help NI meet its emissions targets, address the impact of climate change and help sustain and protect our environment for future generations

Objective(s) achieved ■ Partially achieved ■ Remains outstanding ■

2022/23 Plan	2022/2023 Progress	Plans 2023-26	Community Plan Reference
Implement the Energy Efficiency Programme			
2022-25 Energy Efficiency Programme includes 1,436 units at a cost of £6.70m.	NIHE's 2022/23 Energy Efficiency Programme provided 469 units in MUDC at a cost of £2.10m.	Planned 1,619 units at an estimated cost of £5.80 million in MUDC.	3B 4C 4D
Implement the Affordable Warmth Scheme			
Funding of £16m is available for 2022/23 across NI (subject to budget allocation).	In MUDC, 483 measures were carried out to 274 private properties under the Affordable Warmth Scheme in 2022/23, at a cost of £1.35m.	NIHE will implement the Affordable Warmth scheme. Funding of £14m is available for 2023/24 across NI (please note this figure reflects opening 2023/24 budget allocations and could be subject to change following future monitoring round outcome).	3B 4C 4D
Implement Boiler Replacement Scheme			
Budget of £2m for 2022/23 across NI (subject to budget allocation).	In MUDC, 22 properties had boilers replaced at cost of £13k.	NIHE will implement the Boiler Replacement scheme with a budget of £0.148m for 2023/24 across NI (please note this figure reflects opening 2023/24 budget allocations and could be subject to change following future monitoring round outcome).	3B 4C 4D

Table continues

2022/23 Plan	2022/2023 Progress	Plans 2023-26	Community Plan Reference
Increase membership of Oil Savings Network			
Continue to increase membership of Oil Savings Network during 2022/23.	<p>Nine Oil Savings Network clubs operate throughout the district. The clubs are located in Augher, Aughnacloy, Caledon, Clogher, Cookstown, Dungannon, Fivemiletown, Magherafelt, and Maghera.</p> <p>8,500+ orders in the 12 months up to March 2023, with 2.3m litres of home heating oil delivered across NI, 272,650 litres (12%) of this in MUDC.</p>	Continue to increase membership of Oil Savings Network.	3B 4C
Deliver Heritage in Housing Programme			
It is hoped projects that were offered funding support and were unable to complete as planned in 2021/22 will be delivered in 2022/23, subject to budget allocation.	The NIHE Heritage in Housing programme is tailored to support ongoing Heritage Lottery Funded Townscape Heritage Initiative projects of which there are none remaining for MUDC.	No projects planned at current time.	1C 4C 4D

Strategic Priority 3

As NI's largest landlord, we will invest around £1,700m (over the next three years) into our local economy, through our housing services, construction activity, and employment opportunities and through our support for the health, voluntary and community sectors. In the same period we will process circa. £1,148m in Housing Benefit across public and private housing tenures

Objective(s) achieved ■ Partially achieved ■ Remains outstanding ■

2022/23 Plan	2022/2023 Progress	Plans 2023-26	Community Plan Reference
Deliver the Supporting People Programme			
£4.17m has been approved to deliver the Supporting People Programme for 2022/23 (Appendix 5).	£4.19m was spent delivering the Supporting People Programme for 2022/23. 35 accommodation based services for 493 service users. 13 floating support schemes for 551 service users.	£3.82m has been approved to deliver the Supporting People Programme for 2023/24, see Appendix 5.	2C 3B 4A 4D
Deliver planned investment and maintenance to NIHE stock			
Funding for NIHE planned maintenance schemes for MUDC in 2022/23 is estimated at £4.12m.	In 2022/23, NIHE spent £5.03m on planned maintenance schemes in MUDC, see Appendix 4.	Funding for NIHE planned maintenance schemes for MUDC in 2023/24 is estimated at £3.80m, (details see Appendix 4).	4D
Deliver elemental / response improvements to NIHE stock			
Funding for NIHE stock improvement work for MUDC in 2022/23 is estimated at £0.91m, for details see Appendix 4. NIHE will complete response maintenance repairs within the required target time and to customers' satisfaction.	In 2022/23, NIHE spent £1.22m on stock improvement work. 84.6% of NIHE response maintenance repairs in NI were completed within the required target time.	The stock improvement programme for MUDC in 2023/24 has encountered delays due to a number of procurement issues. NIHE will complete response maintenance repairs within the required target time.	4D

Table continues

2022/23 Plan	2022/2023 Progress	Plans 2023-26	Community Plan Reference
	97.18% of repairs were carried out to customers' satisfaction in MUDC.	NIHE will carry out response maintenance repairs to customers' satisfaction.	
Administer DfC Areas at Risk, SPOD and Neighbourhood Renewal funding			
DfC hopes to continue to fund Areas at Risk, SPOD and Neighbourhood Renewal programmes for 2022/23.	<p>£480k Neighbourhood Renewal funding was received by groups in MUDC during 2022/23. £114k of this amount was cross council funding shared with Fermanagh and Omagh District.</p> <p>Additionally, further Neighbourhood Renewal funding of £2,565 was received for Fuel and Energy Costs as part of a DfC cost of living exercise.</p>	DfC hopes to continue to fund Areas at Risk, SPOD and Neighbourhood Renewal programmes for 2023/24.	<p>1A</p> <p>1C</p> <p>1D</p> <p>3B</p> <p>4C</p> <p>4D</p>
Implement Social Enterprise Plus Strategy			
<p>DfC will continue to invest in social enterprise growth to increase sustainability in the broad community sector.</p> <p>Funding for social enterprise currently under review.</p>	<p>During the COVID-19 Pandemic the funding programme for Social Enterprise was frontloaded and two years funding was awarded between 2021 and early 2022. From March 2022 onwards there was no spend as there was a midterm review of the strategy to take cognisance of changing environment and Government Policy.</p>	<p>As part of a midterm review, a further round of funding is planned totalling £200,000 for 2023/24 financial year. Following review of the Tenant and Customer Services Board Paper in Jan 2023, it was recognised that a small sum of £50k was allocated on top of the 23/24 budget of £150,000. This review included the 4 elements below of being of particular interest;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost of living crisis • Climate change • The Introduction of Social Value in Public Sector Procurement • Post-COVID-19 Recovery 	<p>1A</p> <p>1B</p> <p>1C</p> <p>2A</p> <p>2B</p> <p>2C</p> <p>3B</p> <p>4C</p>

Table continues

2022/23 Plan	2022/2023 Progress	Plans 2023-26	Community Plan Reference
		<p>The Social Enterprise Team continue to engage with those social enterprises within our communities in the development of new and existing enterprises.</p>	

Strategic Priority 4

As the Strategic Housing Authority, we will work with our partners to deliver innovative housing solutions for our customers to help reduce poverty and improve health & well being

Objective(s) achieved ■ Partially achieved ■ Remains outstanding ■

2022/23 Plan	2022/2023 Progress	Plans 2023-26	Community Plan Reference
Transform model of homelessness provision towards prevention			
Homelessness Strategy 2022/27 – Completion of Action Plan.	Homelessness Strategy 2022-27 Year 1 Action Plan contains 44 actions which include a number of actions relevant to enablers which are critical to the success of the Strategy. It is anticipated the Year 1 Annual Progress Report will be published in the summer of 2023/24. This will provide an overview of the work and actions delivered during 2022/23 as part of the Homelessness Strategy.	A Year 2 Action Plan is currently being developed and will guide delivery of the Homelessness Strategy during 2023/24. Additionally, the Year 2 Action Plan will be available on the Housing Executive website.	3B 4C 4D
Monitor impact of FRA on discharge of homelessness duty			
It remains vital that the NIHE considers the impact of the Fundamental Review of Allocations as any decision to discharge our statutory homelessness duty to the private rented sector will significantly influence support available for those living in this sector.	Continued to engage with Homelessness colleagues on Tenure neutral discharge (Proposal 4).	Tenure neutral discharge (Proposal 4) is a longer term proposal with a planned implementation early to mid-2025.	3B 4C 4D

Table continues

2022/23 Plan	2022/2023 Progress	Plans 2023-26	Community Plan Reference
Develop the Housing Solutions and Support approach and conduct peer review			
<p>Continue to develop approach, including through potential staff accreditation.</p> <p>Procure an appropriate organisation to conduct reviews to benchmark the NIHE Housing Solutions service, identify good practice and areas for improvement based on 2022 scoping review.</p> <p>Ensure information is readily available across all tenures to meet the needs of a housing options service. Contribute to the delivery of the DfC Housing Supply Strategy.</p>	<p>The Housing Solutions approach is utilised for all customers who contact the NIHE with a housing issue. This continues to be embedded across the organisation through the delivery of training to new staff on the approach. On an ongoing basis, CIH professional qualifications are promoted for all Housing staff.</p> <p>Scoping review has been utilised to inform internal review of Housing Solutions and support service.</p> <p>Scoping exercise complete to develop specification of IT systems to support delivery of Housing Solutions service.</p>	<p>Review the Housing Solutions and Support approach/ model.</p> <p>Explore the potential of accreditation of staff in the respect of the delivery of the delivery of housing options/ solutions.</p> <p>Contribute to scoping and specification of IT system to support delivery of housing solutions service.</p>	<p>4D</p>
Facilitate Community Safety projects through funding and continue to partner on Anti-Social Behaviour Forum & Policing and Community Safety Partnerships			
<p>We will continue to implement our Community Safety Strategy 'Working Together For Safer Communities' supported by our annual action plan.</p>	<p>Our strategy supports working together with a range of partners across statutory, voluntary and community sectors.</p>	<p>We will continue to implement our Community Safety Strategy 'Working Together For Safer Communities' supported by our annual action plan.</p>	<p>4A 4B 4C</p>

Table continues

2022/23 Plan	2022/2023 Progress	Plans 2023-26	Community Plan Reference
<p>NIHE will continue to assess funding applications and fund appropriate initiatives that address community safety issues in NIHE estates, where budget is available.</p> <p>NIHE will continue to partner on ASB Forum and a designated agency in the PCSPs and will deal with reported cases of ASB including hate harassment in its estates.</p> <p>NIHE will continue to implement the HIPA scheme.</p>	<p>During 2022/23, £25k was awarded for two projects within MUDC, Mid Ulster Agewell Partnership and NI MACS who developed a pilot scheme for the district.</p> <p>During 2022/23, NIHE dealt with 108 cases of ASB within MUDC. Local office staff continue to work with statutory partners in addressing ASB issues and attend the ASB Forum with PSNI, Council and Department of Justice to discuss cases of common concern.</p> <p>During 2022/23 there were two Hate Incident Practical Action scheme (HIPA) incidents actioned in MUDC.</p>	<p>NIHE will continue to assess funding applications and fund appropriate initiatives that address community safety issues in NIHE estates, where budget is available.</p> <p>NIHE will continue to partner on the ASB Forum. NIHE Area Managers will continue to attend their respective PCSP meetings.</p> <p>NIHE will continue to implement the HIPA scheme.</p>	
Raise awareness and promote diversity and integration through Community Cohesion Strategy			
<p>NIHE will implement its Community Cohesion Strategy via its estate based cohesion programmes that raise awareness and promote diversity and integration.</p>	<p>NIHE continues to engage at a strategic and local level to deliver programmes that raise awareness and promote diversity and integration.</p>	<p>The Community Cohesion Strategy is under review with S3 Solutions and it will be going out for consultation.</p>	<p>4A 4B 4C</p>
Promote good relations and continue to fund SCNI			
<p>NIHE will promote Good Relations across the five themes of Communities in Transition, Segregation/Integration, Interfaces, Race Relations and Flags, Emblems and Sectional Symbols.</p>	<p>Community Cohesion funding of £21k was spent on eleven projects.</p>	<p>We will continue to support a community led approach across the five cohesion themes of Communities in Transition, Segregation/Integration, Interfaces, Race Relations and Flags, Emblems and Sectional Symbols.</p>	<p>4A 4B 4C</p>

Table continues

2022/23 Plan	2022/2023 Progress	Plans 2023-26	Community Plan Reference
Continue to work with groups to ensure we give the best outcomes for our communities.	<p>NIHE staff work in partnership with SCNI to train and provide assistance to 45 Community Groups within the Housing Community Network (HCN) structure in MUDC.</p> <p>The Good Relations Officer meets the estate based groups on a regular basis and participates in Housing Community Network and Inter-agency meetings.</p>	We will continue to work with communities to develop groups in under-represented areas and develop capacity of existing groups.	
Administer community grants and HCN funding			
The Community Grants 2022/23 budget has been agreed as £20,000 per Area Office. Funding of £2,077 per area for HCN is also available.	Over £16k was spent on Community Grants during 2022/23.	<p>We will review the effectiveness of the existing Community Grants Programme and ensure resources are targeted to most effective activities.</p> <p>We will seek potential new funding streams.</p>	4A 4B 4C
Continue to monitor implementation of Community Involvement Strategy Action Plan			
The action plan will incorporate new ways of supporting and engaging our communities to reflect the ongoing restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.	New ways to support our communities were developed to reflect the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 Pandemic. Digital capacity was expanded and tablets disseminated within the Central Housing Forum and working groups. Community grants also supported digital inclusion initiatives.	Our focus will be on delivering sustainable communities committed to reducing our carbon footprint. A targeted effort will be put on reducing poverty and improving health and wellbeing.	4A 4B 4C

Table continues

2022/23 Plan	2022/2023 Progress	Plans 2023-26	Community Plan Reference
Identify hidden rural housing need			
<p>NIHE will continue to work with rural communities to identify hidden rural housing need.</p> <p>Ardboe, Clady, The Loup, Drumullan, Ballymaguigan, Creagh, Lissan and Moneyneany have been added to the 2022/23 programme for testing.</p>	<p>During 2022/23, a rural housing needs test took place in Draperstown with a reasonable level of interest received. The test has resulted in a small number of applicants in housing stress added to the waiting list for the area.</p> <p>Moneyneany was not the subject of a test during the past year because of the settlement's proximity to Draperstown.</p>	<p>Ardboe, Moortown, Ballinderry, Clady, Innishrush, Tamlaght and The Loup are included in the 2023/24 programme for testing.</p> <p>Drumullan, Coagh, Ballymaguigan, Creagh, Lissan and Churchtown are included in the 2024/25 programme for testing.</p> <p>NIHE will continue to work with rural communities to identify hidden rural housing need.</p>	<p>4D</p>
Rural Community Awards			
<p>NIHE hopes to offer the Rural Community Awards on an annual basis.</p>	<p>The 2022 Rural Community Awards were presented in March 2023 at an awards event in Dungannon to the winning community groups and individuals. Sammy Wilson from Donaghmore Horticultural Community Association received the Community Champion South Region award.</p>	<p>We will continue to develop and deliver the Housing Executive Rural Community Awards Competition annually.</p>	<p>1C 4C</p>

Strategic Priority 5

As NI's largest landlord, we will engage with our customers to ensure they are at the heart of service improvements and our business delivery model

Objective(s) achieved ■ Partially achieved ■ Remains outstanding ■

2022/23 Plan	2022/2023 Progress	Plans 2023-26	Community Plan Reference
Through Community Planning, promote housing-led regeneration			
Promote housing led regeneration through master planning proposals in urban and village centres.	NIHE will continue to work with the Council through the Community Planning process.	Promote housing led regeneration through master planning proposals in urban and village centres.	1A 1C 1D 3B 4C 4D
Development of Private Rented Sector Access Scheme (PRSAS)			
There is currently no budget availability in 2022/23 for a PRSAS as the homeless budget is already short of funding on a number of key priority areas. However the development of a scheme that will provide support for those seeking to access or maintain private rented accommodation will continue to be a priority for NIHE.	Funding has been supplied to a number of small initiatives that facilitate those accessing accommodation in the private rented sector. However there has not been sufficient budget availability to commission the development of larger scale PRSAS.	We do not have a confirmed homeless budget for 2023/24 and early indications from the Department for Communities are that there are likely to be major budgetary pressures which will greatly impact upon existing services and commissioning of new services such as a PRSAS.	3B 4C 4D
Administer Disabled Facilities Grants			
NIHE has funding of approximately £12.75m for DFGs for the private sector in 2022/23 across NI.	NIHE approved 89 DFGs for private sector dwellings and completed 78.	NIHE have funding of approximately £13.71m for DFGs for the private sector in 2023/24 across NI.	2C 3B 4A 4D

Table continues

2022/23 Plan	2022/2023 Progress	Plans 2023-26	Community Plan Reference
The funding for MUDC in 2022/23 is £0.56m.	The approval value in MUDC in 2022/23 was £961k.	The funding for MUDC is £1.34m in 2023/24.	
Approval of Discretionary Grants			
Funding of discretionary grants will continue in 2022/23.	Discretionary grant approval in 2022/23 was £52k, Appendix 4.	Funding of discretionary grants will continue in 2023/24.	3B 4C 4D
Approval of repair grants			
NIHE will issue repair grants as required.	There were 25 repair grants approved in 2022/23, with an approval value of £67k, Appendix 4.	NIHE will issue repair grants as required.	1E 4D

Strategic Priority 6

Supporting our roles as both Strategic Housing Authority and NI’s largest landlord, we will be an employer of choice and deliver high quality services for all in NI’s increasingly diverse community

Objective(s) achieved ■ Partially achieved ■ Remains outstanding ■

2022/23 Plan	2022/2023 Progress	Plans 2023-26	Community Plan Reference
Develop and implement a new Customer Support & Tenancy Sustainment Strategy			
Implement Action Plan 2019-24 through a combination of internal projects and grant awards.	<p>Updated Tenancy Sustainment Action Plan 2022-2024 approved in October 2022. It contains 18 specific actions, a number of which have been commenced e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver a flexible model of Intensive Tenancy Sustainment Support for new and existing tenants with highly complex circumstances. • Review feasibility of funding / partially funding Tenancy Starter Packs to ensure continuous and consistent provision for our tenants being rehoused from homelessness who require basic household items/ appliances. <p>Given the scale of actions, an additional resource requirement has been identified and approved, with recruitment due to commence imminently.</p>	<p>Prioritisation of actions in the Plan is subject to the appointment of a dedicated team. To be undertaken Q1 of 2023/24.</p> <p>Development of plans beyond year 1 are subject to the appointment of dedicated team. As above.</p> <p>Target 2023/24 – Award circa £1.56 million to voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector – inclusive of award fund uplift to tackle cost of living.</p> <p>Target 2024/25 – Award circa £780k to VCSE sector.</p> <p>Conduct evaluation of the STFP 2021-24.</p> <p>Target 2025/26 – Award circa £780K to VCSE sector.</p>	<p>4B 4C</p>

2022/23 Plan	2022/2023 Progress	Plans 2023-26	Community Plan Reference
	<p>The Sustaining Tenancies Funding Programme 2021-24 has awarded funding to 36 tenant-focused projects. Project delivery and monitoring is ongoing. To assist with impact reporting, an Outcomes Measurement project has been implemented and is running in tandem with funding programme.</p> <p>As the award fund for the current programme (£1.54 million) has been fully allocated, a business case for a new programme for the period 2023-26 is being progressed. In 2023 it is proposed that our key funding priority will be supporting tenancy resilience of Housing Executive tenants in the context of high and rising living costs.</p>	<p>Prepare case for new programme of funding.</p>	
Tenancy Sustainment			
<p>Report on the number of tenancies lasting less than 12 months against a baseline of 86% sustainment rate.</p>	<p>The sustainment rate of tenancies beyond 12 months continues to exceed the baseline rate. As of December 2022, the sustainment rate over the preceding 12 month period was 89%.</p>	<p>We will continue to report on the number of tenancies lasting less than 12 months against a baseline of 86% sustainment rate (subject to confirmation of this target).</p>	<p>4B 4C</p>
Continuous Tenant Omnibus Survey			
<p>Monitor tenants' satisfaction through the Continuous Tenant Omnibus Survey (CTOS).</p>	<p>The 2022 survey found that 78% of tenants were satisfied with the overall service provided by NIHE.</p>	<p>Continue to monitor tenants' satisfaction through the CTOS.</p>	

Table continues

2022/23 Plan	2022/2023 Progress	Plans 2023-26	Community Plan Reference
Rent collection, arrears and reporting of fraud			
<p>Maximise rent collection to reinvest and improve services.</p> <p>Manage arrears as effectively as possible to maximise income.</p> <p>Monitor and reduce tenancy fraud and continue to report statistics to DfC.</p>	<p>NIHE collected 99.94% of rent at March 2023.</p> <p>Arrears decreased by £3k during 2022/23.</p> <p>Statistics reported quarterly to DfC.</p>	<p>Maximise rent collection to reinvest and improve services.</p> <p>Manage arrears as effectively as possible to maximise income.</p> <p>Continue to report Tenancy Fraud statistics to DfC. Monitor and reduce tenancy fraud.</p>	<p>4D</p>
Continue to work with DfC on the move to UC and working to mitigate the impacts of Welfare Reform			
<p>In 2022/23 NIHE will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> communicate with staff, tenants and housing applicants to provide advice and assistance on the impacts of welfare reform; continue to carry out research to help the business plan how to deal with the impacts of welfare reform; assist DfC and DWP deliver the processes necessary to implement welfare reform and associated mitigations; continue to work with DfC as a trusted partner for the Move to UC; and continue to promote and target financial inclusion services to those tenants who are financially impacted by welfare reform. 	<p>NIHE has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> communicated with staff, tenants and housing applicants to provide advice and assistance on the impacts of welfare reform; continued to carry out research to help the business plan how to deal with the impacts of welfare reform; assisted DfC and DWP deliver the processes necessary to implement welfare reform and associated mitigations; continued to work with DfC as a trusted partner for the Move to UC; and continued to promote and target financial inclusion services to those tenants who are financially impacted by welfare reform. 	<p>NIHE will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> communicate with staff, tenants and housing applicants to provide advice and assistance on the impacts of welfare reform; assist DfC and DWP deliver the processes necessary to implement welfare reform and associated mitigations; continue to work with DfC as a trusted partner for the Move to UC; and continue to promote and target financial inclusion services to those tenants who are financially impacted by welfare reform. 	<p>4D</p>

Table continues

2022/23 Plan	2022/2023 Progress	Plans 2023-26	Community Plan Reference
Finalise and implement Voids Reset Plan			
<p>Progress in implementing the Voids Action Plan 2019-2022 was suspended in 2021 due to the ongoing service impact due to the pandemic. In 2022/23, the plan is to gain Executive Team approval for Reset and implement Year 1 actions.</p>	<p>The content and approval of the reset plan was held given the residual impact of COVID-19 and the impact of contractor issues on void performance. It is proposed that the reset plan will be developed and approved in Q1 of 2023/24.</p> <p>NIHE actionable voids at March 2023 were 0.44% of total stock in MUDC area.</p>	<p>Subject to development of reset plan.</p>	<p>1C 4D</p>

Appendices

Appendix 1

Community Plan themes and outcomes

For further details please refer to: [‘10 Year Community Plan for Mid Ulster’](#).

Theme	Outcome	Reference
Theme 1 – Economic Growth & Infrastructure	We prosper in a stronger and more competitive economy.	1A
	We have more people working in a diverse economy.	1B
	Our towns and villages are vibrant and competitive.	1C
	We are better connected through appropriate infrastructure.	1D
	We will increasingly value our environment and enhance it for our children.	1E
Theme 2 – Education and Skills	Our people are better qualified and more skilled.	2A
	We give our children and young people the best chance in life.	2B
	We are more entrepreneurial, innovative and creative.	2C
Theme 3 – Health and Wellbeing	We are better enabled to live longer healthier and more active lives.	3A
	We care more for those most vulnerable and in need.	3B
	We have better availability to the right health service, in the right place at the right time.	3C
Theme 4 – Vibrant and Safe Communities	We are a safer community.	4A
	We have a greater value and respect for diversity.	4B
	We have stronger communities with less disadvantage and poverty.	4C
	We enjoy increased access to affordable quality housing (infrastructure).	4D

Appendix 2

Social Housing Need by Settlement 2022-27

Settlement	Social Housing Need 2022-27
Cookstown North	39
Cookstown South	85
Dungannon 1	283
Dungannon 2	35
Magherafelt	110
Coalisland	135
Maghera	27
Ardboe/Moortown/Ballinderry	11
Aughnacloy	3
Ballygawley	11
Ballyronan	1
Bellaghy	8
Benburb	1
Cappagh	2
Castlecaulfield	6
Castledawson	26
Donaghmore	19
Draperstown	16
Fivemiletown	1
Granville / Brantry	2
Gulladuff	3
Killyman / Laghey	2
Lissan / Dunamore	2
Moneymore	6
Moy	28
Pomeroy	5

Table continues

Settlement	Social Housing Need 2022-27
Stewartstown	9
Swatragh	7
Tullyhogue	1
Total	884

Source: NIHE

Housing need has currently been met in: Ackinduff / Sheers Place, Augher, Ballymaguigan, Ballyronan, Bush, Caledon, Clogher, Coagh/ Lisnahull, Cookstown Rural Cottages, Innishrush, Knockloughrim, Loup, Magherafelt Rural, Mountjoy, Moygashel, Newmills, Sandholes, The Rock, Tobermore and Upperlands. This will be kept under annual review.

Appendix 3

Social Housing Development Programme

For further details check the [Social Housing Development Programme](#) and the [Commissioning Prospectus](#).

Schemes completed April 2022 – March 2023

Scheme Name	Units	Client Group	Housing Association	Theme
Molesworth Plaza, Molesworth Street, Cookstown***	15	General Needs	Clanmil	Urban
	15			

Source: NIHE

* (T) Transfer Scheme built on NIHE land **ESP - Existing Satisfactory Purchase *** OTS - Off the Shelf

Schemes on-site at March 2023

Scheme Name	Units	Client Group	Housing Association	Theme
Killymeal Road Phase 2, Dungannon	54	General Needs	Apex	Urban
Mullaghmore Road, Dungannon	28	General Needs	Choice	Urban
Crannog Way, Dungannon	49	General Needs	Choice	Urban
15-17 Oaks Road, Dungannon	29	General Needs	Radius	Urban
Dungannon Rehabs**	4	General Needs	Apex	Urban
	164			

Source: NIHE

* (T) Transfer Scheme built on NIHE land **ESP - Existing Satisfactory Purchase *** OTS - Off the Shelf

Schemes programmed 2023/26

Scheme Name	Units	Client Group	Housing Association	Onsite Year	Theme
Ballygawley Road, Dungannon	45	General Needs	Ark	2023/24	Urban
85/101 Church Street, Cookstown	15	General Needs	Connswater	2023/24	Urban
Moneymore Road, Cookstown***	5	General Needs	NB Housing	2023/24	Urban

Table continues

Schemes programmed 2023/26

Scheme Name	Units	Client Group	Housing Association	Onsite Year	Theme
Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt	15	General Needs	Arbour	2023/24	Urban
Leckagh Cottages, Magherafelt*(T)	9	General Needs	TBC	2023/24	Urban
Killowen Drive, Magherafelt*(T)	18	General Needs	TBC	2023/24	Urban
38/42 Garden Street, Magherafelt	18	General Needs	Clanmil	2023/24	Urban
High Street, Draperstown	6	General Needs	Rural	2023/24	Rural
Stewartstown Marker	6	General Needs	Rural	2024/25	Rural
	137				

Source: NIHE

* (T) Transfer Scheme built on NIHE land **ESP - Existing Satisfactory Purchase *** OTS - Off the Shelf

Appendix 4

Maintenance Programme, Grants and Adaptations information

Schemes completed April 2022 – March 2023

Work Category	Scheme	Units
External Cyclical Maintenance	Coalisland/ Gortgonis	1
	Stewartstown/ Pomeroy	40
	Coalisland	90
	Lisnahull, Dungannon	104
	Aughnacloy/ Clogher	113
	Fivemiletown	93
	Beechway/ Ratheen Avenue, Cookstown	72
	Gortalowry/ Cooke Crescent, Cookstown	20
Double Glazing	Mid Ulster Double Glazing	93
Fence Painting	Glenelly Villas Fence Painting	116
	Dungannon Fence Painting	37
Revenue Replacement Kitchen	Mid Ulster Revenue Kitchens	25
Revenue Replacement Bathroom	Moneymore/ Parkview/ Ardstewart	11
	Millburn Park/ Close, Cookstown	2
Revenue Replacement BKR	Ballygawley/ Fivemiletown	18
	Cookstown/ Pomeroy/ Stewartstown	6
	Mid Ulster BKR	57
	Maghera/ Gulladuff/ Bellaghy	68
Heating Installation	Clogher/ Fivemiletown	2
	Leckagh/ Greenvale, Magherafelt	44
	Augher/ Aughnacloy/ Ballygawley	20
	Magherafelt/ Castledawson (Gas)	96
	Maghera/ Magherafelt/ Castledawson	97
	Cookstown South Phase 2	52

Table continues

Schemes completed April 2022 – March 2023

Work Category	Scheme	Units
	Cookstown South Phase 1	69
	Castlecaulfield/ Donaghmore/ Newmills	36
		1,382

Source: NIHE

Note: Some schemes may start and complete in year.

Schemes activity and expected completions up to 31 March 2024

Work Category	Scheme	Units
External Cyclical Maintenance	Coalisland	98
	Lisnahull, Dungannon	25
	Fivemiletown	16
	Beechway/ Ratheen Avenue, Cookstown	118
	Gortalowry/ Cooke Crescent, Cookstown	156
	Ashgrove/ Greenvale/ Tobermore, Magherafelt	111
	Leckagh Drive/ Walk, Magherafelt	110
Double Glazing	Mid Ulster Double Glazing	7
Fence Painting	Mid Ulster Fence Painting	185
	Dungannon Fence Painting	434
Heating Installation	Magherafelt/ Castledawson (Gas)	7
	Maghera/ Magherafelt/ Castledawson	1
	Cookstown South Phase 2	16
	Castlecaulfield/ Donaghmore/ Newmills	20
	Cookstown North 15 year Heating	43
Total		1,347

Source: NIHE

Definition of Work Categories	
BKR	Bathroom Kitchen Rewiring.
External Cyclical Maintenance	Work to the external fabric of a dwelling and its immediate surrounding area.
Heating Installation	Replacement of solid fuel or electric heating.
Revenue Repair/Replacement	Repair or replacement of obsolete internal elements, e.g. sanitary ware and kitchen units.
Double Glazing	Replacement of single glazed with double glazed units.
Fence Painting	Fence painting which traditionally was an element within the External Cyclical Maintenance (ECM) programme.

Grants Performance 2022/23

Grant Type	Approved	Approval Value £k	Completed
Mandatory Grants			
Disabled Facilities Grant	89	961	78
Repairs Grant	25	67	25
Discretionary Grants			
Replacement Grant	0	0	<10
Renovation Grant	<10	37	16
Home Repair Assistance Grant	<10	15	<10
Total	-	1,080	-

Source: NIHE

There may be a discrepancy in calculation due to rounding.

Please note that figures less than 10 have been listed as <10 in compliance with Data Protection requirements.

Adaptations to Housing Executive stock in 2022/23

Type of Adaptation	Adaptations 2022/23	Actual spend 2022/23 £m
Adaptations for Persons with a Disability (APD's) Starts*	<10	0.49
Adaptations for Persons with a Disability (APD's) Completions*	<10	
Lifts**	<10	0.05
Showers**	43	0.15
Minor APD repairs***	223	0.21
Total	-	0.91

Source: NIHE

*Some Adaptations for Persons with a Disability (APD's) may start and complete in year.

**Lifts & showers are also included in Planned Maintenance in Finance Chart in Local Context.

***Minor ADP repairs are also included in Response Maintenance in Finance Chart in Local Context.

There may be a discrepancy in calculation due to rounding.

Please note that figures less than 10 have been listed as <10 in compliance with Data Protection requirements.

Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG's)

Year	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Approved	88	107	80	76	89
Funding (£k)	882	817	892	826	961

Source: NIHE

Appendix 5

Supporting People Information and Homelessness

Supporting People

Type of Service	Client Group	No. of providers	No. of schemes	Max. no of services users	Actual payments 2022/23 (£k)	Budget 2023/24 (£k)
Floating Support Services	Disability	1	1	18	81	77
	Homeless	6	8	216	653	618
	Older People	3	3	225	318	301
	Young People	1	1	92	291	276
	Sub Total**	**	13	551	1,343	1,272
Non Floating Support Services	Disability	6	12	122	1,589	1,375
	Homeless	3	3	51	824	780
	Older People	4	17	301	117	114
	Young People	2	3	19	317	276
	Sub Total**	**	35	493	2,847	2,545
Grand Total*		**	48	1,044	4,190	3,817

Source: NIHE

* There may be a discrepancy in calculation due to rounding.

** Some providers supply both accommodation based and floating support services.

Homelessness

Year	No. of Homeless Presenters	No. of Homeless Acceptances	Households Placed in Temporary Accommodation*
2018/19	843	542	107
2019/20	669	388	107
2020/21	659	362	237
2021/22	685	419	201
2022/23	749	466	213

Source: NIHE

* Applicants may have multiple placements over the period.

Appendix 6

Housing Executive Local Stock at March 2023

Sold Stock in bold

Common Landlord Area	Bung (i)	Cottage	Flat	House	Mais (ii)	Total	Void *
Dungannon 1	86	0	99	317	0	502	2
	50	0	26	698	0	774	
Dungannon 2	37	0	15	87	0	139	
	10	0	3	282	0	295	
Moygashel	13	5	10	42	0	70	1
	13	17	0	248	0	278	
Coalisland	47	1	17	224	0	289	6
	16	10	1	342	0	369	
Ackinduff / Sheer's Place	8	0	0	23	0	31	0
	32	4	0	23	0	59	
Augher	8	0	4	21	0	33	0
	2	0	0	44	0	46	
Aughnacloy	19	0	0	26	0	45	0
	3	0	0	88	0	91	
Ballygawley	22	2	8	18	0	50	0
	19	1	0	58	0	78	
Benburb	2	0	0	3	0	5	0
	24	4	0	28	0	56	
Bush	9	0	0	16	0	25	0
	18	0	0	71	0	89	
Caledon	27	4	1	31	0	63	0
	36	40	1	38	0	115	
Cappagh	6	0	0	3	0	9	0
	18	0	0	19	0	37	

Sold Stock in bold

Common Landlord Area	Bung (i)	Cottage	Flat	House	Mais (ii)	Total	Void *
Castlecaulfield	7	4	2	4	0	17	0
	16	29	2	69	0	116	
Clogher	15	1	11	32	0	59	2
	7	4	3	46	0	60	
Donaghmore	22	1	0	19	0	42	0
	15	15	1	131	0	162	
Fivemiletown	60	0	8	41	0	109	0
	25	0	0	134	0	159	
Granville / Brantry	21	0	0	6	0	27	0
	54	2	0	64	0	120	
Killyman / Laghey	5	3	0	16	0	24	0
	27	11	0	90	0	128	
Mountjoy	13	0	0	18	0	31	0
	55	4	0	47	0	106	
Moy	24	0	3	31	0	58	0
	12	3	1	145	0	161	
Newmills	8	0	0	7	0	15	0
	7	0	0	58	0	65	
Dungannon District Total	459	21	178	985	0	1,643	11
	459	144	38	2,723	0	3,364	
Cookstown North	51	0	63	161	11	286	2
	23	0	17	386	9	435	
Cookstown South	52	0	57	210	0	319	2
	47	2	7	553	0	609	
Ardboe/Moortown/ Ballinderry	14	0	0	36	0	50	0
	12	0	0	94	0	106	
Ballyronan	4	0	0	4	0	8	0
	13	0	0	38	0	51	

Table continues

Sold Stock in bold

Common Landlord Area	Bung (i)	Cottage	Flat	House	Mais (ii)	Total	Void *
Drumullan	2	0	0	6	0	8	0
	6	0	0	10	0	16	
Dunamore/Orritor	0	0	0	4	0	4	0
	9	0	0	33	0	42	
Finnobar / Coagh / Lisnahull	16	0	0	25	0	41	0
	2	0	0	55	0	57	
Loup	4	0	0	6	0	10	0
	1	0	0	10	0	11	
Moneymore	20	0	3	39	0	62	1
	36	0	1	123	0	160	
Pomeroy	27	0	0	26	0	53	0
	22	0	0	45	0	67	
Rock	6	0	0	4	0	10	0
	7	0	0	16	0	23	
Sandholes	1	0	0	8	0	9	0
	1	4	0	17	0	22	
Stewartstown	10	0	6	54	0	70	1
	3	0	2	95	0	100	
Tullyhogue	8	0	0	25	0	33	0
	6	0	0	49	0	55	
Tynure / Lissan / Dunman	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	25	0	25	
Rural Cottages	0	9	0	0	0	9	0
	8	141	0	4	0	153	
Cookstown District Total	215	9	129	608	11	972	6
	196	147	27	1,553	9	1,932	
Magherafelt	149	0	61	224	5	439	0
	85	0	17	697	5	804	

Table continues

Sold Stock in bold

Common Landlord Area	Bung (i)	Cottage	Flat	House	Mais (ii)	Total	Void *
Maghera	127	0	21	90	0	238	1
	97	0	11	367	0	475	
Bellaghy	24	0	2	23	0	49	0
	15	0	0	123	0	138	
Castledawson	53	0	4	47	0	104	0
	49	0	2	136	0	187	
Draperstown	28	0	9	33	0	70	0
	41	0	5	134	0	180	
Tobermore	19	0	0	28	0	47	0
	14	0	0	69	0	83	
Ballymaguigan	2	0	0	3	0	5	0
	18	0	0	9	0	27	
Carmean	4	0	0	0	0	4	0
	6	0	0	0	0	6	
Clady	19	0	0	11	0	30	0
	7	0	0	65	0	72	
Creagh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	8	0	0	19	0	27	
Culnady	4	0	0	11	0	15	0
	0	0	0	17	0	17	
Curran	1	0	0	4	0	5	0
	1	0	0	8	0	9	
Desertmartin	5	0	4	15	0	24	0
	9	0	0	28	0	37	
Fallahogey	1	0	0	5	0	6	0
	8	0	0	5	0	13	
Gulladuff	9	0	0	14	0	23	0
	3	0	0	31	0	34	

Table continues

Sold Stock in bold

Common Landlord Area	Bung (i)	Cottage	Flat	House	Mais (ii)	Total	Void *
Innishrush	2	0	2	6	0	10	0
	0	0	0	17	0	17	
Kilross	7	0	0	0	0	7	0
	11	0	0	0	0	11	
Knockloughrim	6	0	0	3	0	9	0
	22	0	0	18	0	40	
Lisnamuck	3	0	0	0	0	3	0
	1	0	0	10	0	11	
Longfield	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
	0	0	0	24	0	24	
Moneyneany	8	0	0	4	0	12	0
	8	0	0	22	0	30	
Portglenone	2	0	0	5	0	7	0
	8	0	0	21	0	29	
Rural Cottages	0	25	0	0	0	25	2
	2	126	0	2	0	130	
Swatragh	7	0	0	15	0	22	0
	8	0	0	51	0	59	
Tamlaght	10	0	0	2	0	12	0
	12	0	0	5	0	17	
Tullyherron	6	0	0	4	0	10	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Upperlands	11	0	2	30	0	43	0
	3	0	0	57	0	60	
Magherafelt District Total	507	25	105	578	5	1,220	3
	436	126	35	1,935	5	2,357	
Mid Ulster Total	1,181	55	412	2,171	16	3,835	20
	1,091	417	100	6,211	14	7,833	

Source: NIHE

*Of the total stock these properties are void and do not include properties for sale or demolition.

(i) Bungalow (ii) Maisonette.

Appendix 7

Applicants and Allocations at March 2023

	Applicants (Total)	Applicants (HS)	Allocations
Dungannon 1	611	384	39
Dungannon 2	58	44	30
Moygashel	14	<10	<10
Coalisland	175	124	26
Ackinduff / Sheer's Place	<10	<10	<10
Augher	<10	<10	<10
Aughnacloy	28	18	<10
Ballygawley	24	14	<10
Benburb	<10	<10	0
Bush	<10	0	<10
Caledon	<10	<10	<10
Cappagh	<10	0	0
Castlecaulfield	11	<10	<10
Clogher	14	<10	<10
Donaghmore	26	16	<10
Fivemiletown	33	12	<10
Granville/Brantry	<10	<10	<10
Killyman/Laghey	<10	<10	0
Mountjoy	<10	<10	<10
Moy	46	38	<10
Newmills	12	<10	<10
Dungannon District Total	1,102	695	141
Cookstown North	127	79	43
Cookstown South	258	167	<10

Table continues

	Applicants (Total)	Applicants (HS)	Allocations
Ardboe / Moortown / Ballinderry	26	16	<10
Ballyronan	10	<10	0
Drumullan	<10	<10	0
Dunamore / Orritor	<10	<10	0
Finnobar / Coagh / Lisnahull	<10	<10	<10
Loup	<10	<10	<10
Moneymore	18	11	<10
Pomeroy	13	<10	<10
Rock	<10	0	0
Sandholes	<10	<10	0
Stewartstown	23	16	<10
Tullyhogue	<10	<10	<10
Tynure / Lissan / Dunman	0	0	0
Cookstown Rural	<10	<10	0
Cookstown Total	502	315	62
Magherafelt	291	192	22
Maghera	118	70	11
Bellaghy	31	18	<10
Castledawson	48	30	<10
Draperstown	53	25	10
Tobermore	12	<10	<10
Ballymaguigan	<10	<10	<10
Carmean	<10	<10	<10
Clady	<10	<10	0
Creagh	0	0	0
Culnady	0	0	<10
Curran	<10	0	0
Desertmartin	<10	<10	0

Table continues

	Applicants (Total)	Applicants (HS)	Allocations
Fallahogey	0	0	0
Gulladuff	10	<10	<10
Innisrush	0	0	0
Kilross	0	0	0
Knockloughrim	0	0	0
Lisnamuck	0	0	0
Longfield	<10	<10	0
Moneyneaney	0	0	0
Portglenone	<10	<10	0
Magherafelt Rural	<10	<10	0
Swatragh	11	<10	0
Tamlaght	<10	<10	<10
Tullyherron	<10	<10	0
Upperlands	<10	<10	<10
Magherafelt District Total	608	370	68
Mid Ulster Total	2,212	1,380	-

Source: NIHE

NB: Household Composition is recorded on our systems at the point of application and may not reflect the current composition of the household.

Please note that where there are less than 10 applicants or allocations, they have been listed as <10 in compliance with Data Protection requirements.

Appendix 8

Management Team contact details

Landlord Services		
All enquiries 03448 920 900		
After Hours Homelessness 03448 920 908 (Mon-Fri after 5pm and weekends)		
Office	Contact	Contact Information
Cookstown Office, 15 Morgans Hill Road, Cookstown, BT80 8HA		cookstown@nihe.gov.uk
Magherafelt Office, 3 Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt, BT45 6BP		magherafelt@nihe.gov.uk
Dungannon Office, 6 Ballygawley Road , Dungannon, BT70 1EL		dungannon@nihe.gov.uk
South Region Manager	John McCartan	john.mccartan@nihe.gov.uk
Mid Ulster Area Manager	Sharon Crooks	sharon.crooks@nihe.gov.uk
Assistant Area Manager	Emma Cassidy	emma.cassidy@nihe.gov.uk
Housing Solutions Team Leader	Siobhan McSwiggan	siobhan.mcswiggan@nihe.gov.uk
Patch Team Leader	Chris Convery	christopher.convery@nihe.gov.uk
Accounts Team Leader	John Hagan	john.hagan@nihe.gov.uk
Temporary Accommodation Team Leader	Kiera McMullan	kiera.mcmullan@nihe.gov.uk
Lettings Managers	Mairead Quinn Louise Smyth	mairead4.quinn@nihe.gov.uk louise.smyth@nihe.gov.uk
Maintenance Manager	John McArthur	john.mcarthur@nihe.gov.uk

Regional Services		
All enquiries 03448 920 900		
Office	Contact	Contact Information
Land and Regeneration Services 2 Adelaide Street, Belfast, BT2 8PB	Ailbhe Hickey Assistant Director (A)	ailbhe.hickey@nihe.gov.uk
Central Grants 2 Adelaide Street, Belfast, BT2 8PB	Emma Stubbs Assistant Director - Private Sector Investment & Sustainable Development	emma1.stubbs@nihe.gov.uk
Place Shaping South Marlborough House, Central Way, Craigavon, BT64 1AJ	Sinead Collins Head of Place Shaping	sinead.collins@nihe.gov.uk
Development Programme Group 2 Adelaide Street, Belfast, BT2 8PB	Roy Baillie Head of Development Programme Group	roy.baillie@nihe.gov.uk
Supporting People 2 Adelaide Street, Belfast, BT2 8PB	Alistair Mawhinney Assistant Director	alistair.mawhinney@nihe.gov.uk

Appendix 9

Glossary

Affordable Housing	Affordable housing is: a) Social rented housing; or b) Intermediate housing for sale; or c) Intermediate housing for rent, that is provided outside of the general market, for those whose needs are not met by the market. Affordable housing which is funded by Government must remain affordable or alternatively there must be provision for the public subsidy to be repaid or recycled in the provision of new affordable housing.
Affordable Housing Fund	Administered by DfC, this finances an interest-free loan to housing associations, to fund the provision of new affordable homes and the refurbishment of empty homes.
Areas at Risk	This programme aims to intervene, by working with residents, in areas at risk of slipping into social or environmental decline.
Building Successful Communities (BSC)	Carried out in six pilot areas; this uses housing intervention to regenerate areas and reverse community decline.
Community Asset Transfer (CAT)	CAT provides for a change in management and/or ownership of land or buildings, from public bodies to communities.
Community Cohesion	Cohesive communities are communities where there is a sense of belonging, and there are positive relationships within the community, regardless of background.
Continuous Tenant Omnibus Survey (CTOS)	CTOS is an assessment of the attitudes of Housing Executive tenants.
Department for Communities (DfC)	A government department in Northern Ireland, which came into effect in May 2016 and replaced the Department for Social Development (DSD).
Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)	A grant to help improve the home of a person with a disability who lives in the private sector to enable them to continue to live in their own home.
Discretionary Grants	Renovation, Replacement or Home Repair Assistance grants are grants that the Housing Executive may approve applications for assistance.

Equity Sharing	Equity sharing allows social housing tenants to buy part of their dwelling (starting at 25%). The remaining portion is rented from the Housing Executive or a registered housing association.
Floating Support	This support enables users to maintain or regain independence in their own homes. Floating support is not tied to the accommodation but is delivered to the individual users.
Fuel Poverty	A household is in fuel poverty if, in order to maintain an acceptable temperature throughout the home, they would have to spend more than 10% of their income on all household fuel.
Full Duty Applicant (FDA)	A Full Duty Applicant is a person to whom the Housing Executive owes a duty under Article 10 (2) of the Housing (NI) Order, 1988, to 'ensure that accommodation becomes available for his/her occupation'.
Home Energy Conservation Authority (HECA)	The Housing Executive is the HECA for Northern Ireland.
House in Multiple Occupation (HMO)	HMO is a house occupied by more than two qualifying persons, being persons who are not members of the same family.
House Sales Scheme	The House Sales Scheme gives eligible tenants of the Housing Executive the right to buy their property at a discount.
Household Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single person - 1 person 16-59 years old • Older person - 1 or 2 persons aged 16 or over, at least 1 over 60 • Small adult - 2 persons 16-59 years old • Small family - 1 or 2 persons aged 16 or over, with 1 or 2 children • Large family - 1 or 2 persons aged 16 or over, and 3 or more children 0-15, or 3 or more persons 16 or over and 2 or more children aged 0-15 • Large adult - 3 or more persons aged 16 or over with or without 1 child aged 0-15
Housing for All	Having met the Together Building a United Community (TBUC) commitment of delivering 10 shared schemes, commitment will be continued through the Programme for Government to support the delivery of 200 units annually, through the Shared New Build Programme, re-branded as 'Housing for All'.
Housing Growth Indicators (HGI)	Figures contained in the Regional Development Strategy, to estimate the new dwelling requirement for council areas and the Belfast Metropolitan Urban Area for 2016-2030.
Housing Market Area	A housing market area is the geographic area within which the majority of households move, work and live.

Housing Market Assessment (HMA)	This is an evidence base for housing and planning policies, which examines the operation of housing market areas, including the characteristics of the housing market, how key factors work together and the potential housing need and demand on a cross tenure basis.
Housing Needs Assessment (HNA)	This is an assessment of local housing needs, primarily in relation to general needs social housing and wheelchair accessible accommodation.
Housing Stress	Applicants, on the waiting list, who have 30 points or above are considered to be in housing stress.
Intermediate Housing	Intermediate Housing currently consists of shared ownership housing provided through a registered housing association (e.g. Co-Ownership Housing Association) and helps eligible households who can afford a small mortgage, but cannot afford to buy a property outright. The property is split between part ownership by the householder and part social renting from the registered housing association. The new definition of affordable housing includes both intermediate housing for sale and intermediate housing for rent.
Landlord Registration scheme	Under the Landlord Registration Scheme Regulations (NI) 2014 all private landlords must provide accurate and up to date information about themselves and their properties to the Registrar.
Rural Housing Needs Test	Rural Housing Needs Test is a housing needs survey carried out in a rural area to assess any potential hidden need.
Mandatory Grants	Disabled Facilities Grants and Repair Grants are grants where the Housing Executive shall approve applications for assistance.
Neighbourhood Renewal	Government departments and agencies working in partnership to tackle disadvantage and deprivation.
NIFHA	Northern Ireland Federation of Housing Associations.
NISRA	Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency.
Oil Savings Network Scheme	Oil Savings Network is designed to help consumers reduce their costs by purchasing oil orders in bulk, as part of a group.
PCSPs	Policing and Community Safety Partnerships.
PPS	Planning Policy Statement.
PRSAS	Development of Private Rented Sector Access Scheme is a scheme which has direct contact with both a prospective tenant who is homeless or insecurely housed and a private sector landlord, and which assists both parties in establishing a tenancy.

Repossession	Repossession is where a court order has been granted ordering a debtor to hand back a property to a creditor where the property was either used as collateral (for a mortgage, loan or an unsecured debt or loan which has been secured by an order charging land) or rented or leased in a previous contract between the creditor and the debtor.
Supporting Communities Northern Ireland (SCNI)	Supporting Communities Northern Ireland provides training and funding for community groups.
Shared Housing	These are communities where people choose to live with others, regardless of their religion or race, in a neighbourhood that is safe and welcoming to all.
Site Identification Study (SIS)	A Site Identification Study is a report which examines all undeveloped lands within a settlement which has consistent unmet housing need. The study, which is prepared by the Housing Executive's Regional Place Shaping Teams, seeks to identify potential sites for the future development of social and intermediate housing.
Social Housing Development Programme (SHDP)	The SHDP provides grant funding to housing associations to build social housing. The programme is managed by the Housing Executive on a three-year rolling basis.
Social Enterprise	Social enterprises are businesses with primarily social objectives whose profits are reinvested to achieve these objectives in a community.
Social Rented Housing	Social Rented Housing is housing provided at an affordable rent by the Housing Executive and registered housing associations; that is, housing associations, which are registered and regulated by DfC as a social housing provider. Social rented accommodation is offered in accordance with the Common Selection Scheme, administered by the Housing Executive, prioritising households who are living in insecure or unsuitable accommodation.
Small Pockets of Deprivation (SPOD)	SPOD is a delivery vehicle for neighbourhood renewal.
Supported Housing	A term used to describe a range of both long and short-term accommodation provided for people who need an additional level of housing related support, to help them lead an independent life.
Supporting People Programme	The Supporting People Programme is designed to provide housing related support, to prevent difficulties that can typically lead to hospitalisation, homelessness or institutional care, and can aid a smooth transition to independent living, for those leaving an institutionalised environment.

<p>Temporary Accommodation</p>	<p>The Housing Executive provides temporary accommodation in the form of Housing Executive hostels, voluntary sector hostels, leased premises (Dispersed Intensively Managed Emergency accommodation – DIME), single lets and non-standard accommodation (B&B/hotel) as and when required. B&Bs and hotels are used, when no other options are available, for a short duration.</p>
<p>Tenancy Deposit Scheme</p>	<p>When a tenant rents a property from a private landlord, they will usually pay a deposit. The private landlord must protect the deposit under the Tenancy Deposit Scheme. This scheme makes sure a tenant gets their deposit back when they move out if they have looked after the property and paid their rent.</p>
<p>Universal Credit</p>	<p>Universal Credit is a payment for people over 18, but under State Pension age that are on a low income or out of work. It includes support for the cost of housing (rent), children and childcare, as well as financial support for people with disabilities, carers and people too ill to work.</p>
<p>Welfare Reform</p>	<p>The term Welfare Reform is used to cover a wide range of changes to the social security (benefits) system. The main reforms that the Housing Executive have been involved with have included changes to Local Housing Allowance for Housing Benefit claimants living in the private rented sector, Universal Credit, Social Sector Size Criteria (Bedroom Tax) and the Benefit Cap.</p>

Housing
Executive

Minutes of Special Meeting of Mid Ulster District Council held on Monday 25 September 2023 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon and by virtual means

Chair	Councillor Molloy
Members Present	Councillors Bell*, Black*, Brown*, J Buchanan, W Buchanan, F Burton*, Cahoon, Carney*, Corry*, Cuthbertson, Gildernew, Graham*, Groogan*, Johnston*, Kelly*, Kerr, Mallaghan, McAleer*, McConnell, McFlynn*, McLean*, McLernon, McNamee*, D McPeake*, S McPeake*, McQuade*, Milne*, Quinn* and Robinson
Officers in Attendance	Mr McCreesh, Chief Executive Mr Tohill, Strategic Director of Corporate Service and Finance (SD: CS&F) Mr Black, Strategic Director of Communities and Place (SD: C&P)** Mr McGuckin, Head of Strategic Services and Engagement Mr O'Hagan ICT Mrs Forde, Committee and Member Services Manager Ms Kate Keys, Marketing and Communications Manager**

* Denotes Members present in remote attendance

** Denotes Officers present by remote means

The meeting commenced at 7 pm.

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

SC011/23 Notice of Recording

Members noted that the meeting would be webcast for live and subsequent broadcast on the Council's You Tube site.

SC012/23 Apologies

Councillors Martin, McElvogue, Monteith, Varsani and Wilson

SC013/23 Declarations of Interest

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

SC014/23 Chair's Business

None

The live broadcast concluded 7.04 pm

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.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor McLernon and

Resolved That items SC015/23 to SC015/23 be taken as confidential business.

Matters for Decision

(i) Annual Accounts for 12 months ended 31 March 2023

SC016/23 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 7.25 pm.

Chair _____

Date _____

Annex A - Introductory Remarks from Chairperson

Good evening and welcome to our meeting of Mid Ulster District Council in the Chamber, Dungannon whether you have joined us remotely or in the Chamber.

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 – apologies and then a roll call of members in attendance.

Minutes of Meeting of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 28 September 2023 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon and by virtual means

Chair	Councillor Molloy
Members Present	Councillors Bell*, Black, Brown, J Buchanan, W Buchanan, F Burton, J Burton, Cahoon, Carney*, Clarke, Corry, Cuthbertson, Forde, Gildernew, Graham, Groogan, Johnston, Kelly, Kerr, Mallaghan, McAleer, McElvogue, McFlynn, McGuigan, McLean, McLernon, McNamee*, D McPeake, S McPeake, McQuade, Milne*, Monteith, Quinn, Robinson, Totten* and Varsani
Officers in Attendance	Mr McCreesh, Chief Executive Mr Black, Strategic Director Communities and Place (SD:CP) Ms Campbell, Strategic Director of Environment (SD: Env) Ms Canavan, Strategic Director of Organisational Development Strategy and Performance (SD: ODSP) Mr Tohill, Strategic Director of Corporate Service and Finance (SD: CS&F) Mr McGuckin, Head of Strategic Services and Engagement (HoSSE) Mr McKeown, ICT Mrs Forde, Committee and Member Services Manager
Others in Attendance	Representatives from DfI Colin Woods - Transport and Road Asset Management Deputy Secretary Daniel Healy – Western Divisional Roads Manager Lesley Maxwell – Section Engineer Mid Ulster South Conall McKee – (Acting) Section Engineer Mid Ulster North

* Denotes Members present in remote attendance

** Denotes Officers present by remote means

The meeting commenced at 7 pm.

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

C158/23 Notice of Recording

Members noted that the meeting would be webcast for live and subsequent broadcast on the Council's You Tube site.

C159/23 Apologies

Councillor Wilson, Martin

The Chair, Councillor Molloy advised there would be a change in agenda order and that the Department for Infrastructure Annual Report 2023 would be taken prior to Chair's Business.

C160/23 Declarations of Interest

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

C161/23 Deputation: Department for Infrastructure Annual Report 2023

The Chair welcomed Mr Woods and Mr Healey, representatives of Department for Infrastructure who were in attendance to present the Department's Annual Report 2023.

Mr Woods gave an overview of the strategic context of the budgets the department had to work with in and advised that it was down 14% to £523m, but what was needed was £690m and it was more than challenging to meet the difference. He referred to the consultation that had taken place in previous months regarding what the Department could do to save money for example switching off street lights. Mr Woods stated that the significant lack of budget meant that what could be delivered was limited and repairing was now the highest priority. He stated that usually the capital budget brought good news but it also had a shortfall of £146m thus limiting major projects. He said it was a glum picture but commended Mr Healey and his team for their delivery on the ground with such a limited budget. He concluded stating that the Department were looking towards a transport strategy and encouraged all to respond as they try to work towards the Climate Change Act and net zero targets.

Mr Healey spoke of the budget challenges he and his team were facing but drew attention to the detail listed within the annual report on the achievements on projects that had been delivered. Speaking with regard to the 14% reduction in resource budget provided by the Secretary of State he said there was a great disparity between what was allocated and what was required as outlined in the NI Audit report. Mr Healey advised that with the Assembly not sitting no late application of funding would be received by the Department and with out any additional money work was severely restricted. He said the section was doing the best they could to keep roads safe but it was more expensive to maintain than replace.

Mr Healey drew attention to completed works during 2022/23 as outlined in the report and advised that major road improvement schemes such as the A5 were moving through statutory processes as was the A29 Cookstown bypass. Mr Healey drew attention to the completed and proposed Active Travel Schemes as listed in the report and thanked Council for their input into them. In relation to grass cutting he said most areas had had two cuts over the period outlined and reminded Members of

the change of policy to encourage biodiversity. He also outlined roads maintenance, local transport plan and green active travel plans.

Mr Healey concluded saying that whilst Members brought forward good ideas there was recognition that the budget was not there to deliver but as always his section endeavoured to provide eventually.

The Chair, Councillor Molloy welcomed the statutory engagement and stated that all Members as well as constituents work with Dfl representatives on a daily basis and appreciated the good working relationships enjoyed.

Councillor Cuthbertson thanked the team and in particular thanked Mr Graham on the delivery of works at the Bush Road crossroads. He also requested that an update be provided to him on the Stangmore park and ride. He concluded by welcoming the traffic restraints on the M1 between junctions 13 and 14 and said there was great concern over the issues at the stretch of road and asked if any works had been completed.

Councillor Burton thanked the team for the delivery of scheme at Main Street, Caledon and extended particular thanks to Lesley Maxwell. She also expressed thanks for the footpath provision on road to Round Lake at Fivemiletown, and the active travel scheme delivered at Eglisish and said she would welcome such a scheme at Aughnacloy. Councillor Burton raised the issue of trees falling and spoke of a presentation to Environment Committee by a lady whose father had been killed by a tree. She said that the issue had been raised continually, she had also had to telephone emergency services on a number of occasions when large branches had fallen onto roads, that the issue of trees had also been raised at NILGA and called on Dfl to utilise their powers in relation to same in asking people to maintain their trees. With regard to the M1 between junction 13 and junction 14 Councillor Burton concurred with Councillor Cuthbertson and said that all should be done to ensure it was safe.

In response Mr Healey stated that checks had been carried out on the M1 and that all road checks and barrier assessments had met with requirements.

Councillor Forde thanked the team and Mr Graham in particular and said whilst at times there was long wait times Dfl did endeavour to deliver.

Councillor Kerr concurred with Councillor Burton's comments with regards to unkept trees and said he too remembered Helen's presentation and she had shared that her father had been killed by a fallen tree. He requested Dfl to remind utility companies about the standard required for reinstatement works and said that there were many road defects due to poor workmanship following works by utility companies and that it was better to get the job done right first time.

Councillor Brown spoke of a standard request for a bypass between Moneymore and Cookstown.

Mr Healey in response said it would be incorporated into the local development plan, that there was an awareness of the old route planned and eventually it would be taken forward.

The Chair, Councillor Molloy highlighted the requirement of a bypass at Dungannon and Moy and said an overarching strategy was required.

Councillor Clarke welcomed the planned footpath out to the Loup. He also spoke of rural roads flooding due to outlets at for example bridges becoming overgrown. He said at times too grit washed into hollows blocking drains and said often it would not take more than a man with a shovel to clear but uncleared they posed a real danger.

Councillor S McPeake thanked the team for the report and in relation to Active Travel scheme said that he had worked with DfI, was aware there were issues of ownership and said he did not see the scheme listed in the forward plan and sought reassurance it would not fall off the agenda.

In response Mr Healey stated that issues of ownership took a long time to resolve but schemes may be delayed but would not be let slip.

Councillor Varsani acknowledged the difficulties faced by DfI in budgetary restraints but highlighted a legacy issue with a fence at Edendork which had fenced off whereby former railway lines were located and had not been maintained. She said the issue had moved between Council and DfI for a long period of time but no one took responsibility. Councillor Varsani said a piece of work needed to be completed over such longstanding issues as it was not good enough for constituents to be told no one was responsible.

In response Ms Maxwell advised she had received an email from Council and had responded to say that DfI were not responsible as they did not own the ground and thus did not maintain boundary fences. She said there was a lane with access to private houses, so the responsibility of maintenance was that of the land owner and it was clearly private.

Councillor Varsani said the land was apparently owned by railways.

Councillor McFlynn thanked the team particularly in relation to active travel scheme. She welcomed the LED lighting schemes and said it was her hope it would benefit the environment. She asked if DfI were prepared for the winter period ahead and also highlighted that debris needed removed from some footpaths particularly in Moneymore area. Councillor McFlynn concluded thanking the team for the recent DEA meetings.

The Chief Executive from an officer perspective said that at times Council and DfI had disagreed but ultimately worked for the greater good and supported strategic projects. He said that the district brings £2bn to the NI economy and it needed to be supported with decent infrastructure and if a level playing field applied more money would be generated. He said the bypasses would make the navigation of HGV lorries through the district easier and reminded the meeting that council were committed to supporting bypasses and had advised that a planning team of experts

would be committed to the project that collectively could be delivered when the transport plan is issued.

With regard to active travel the Chief Executive reinforced that Council was supportive of schemes and would be prepared to commit and contribute to get projects delivered.

The Chair, Councillor Molloy thanked the Department for Infrastructure team for their presentation.

Representatives of Department of Infrastructure left the meeting at 7.50pm.

C162/23 Chair's Business

The Chair, Councillor Molloy addressed the meeting and said, "A few things for this evening's Chair's business – firstly welcome back to the first full Council meeting after the August break. It's good to get back into the usual routine again! It has been a busy time for me since the last Council meeting. As you know, summer is a time when events come thick and fast, and this year has been no exception. I travelled across our district, attending our Town Centre Saturdays, Lumarina and Maghera Walled Garden. As always, these events were excellently run by our officers and thousands of residents and visitors enjoyed the entertainment. Sport featured heavily also, and I was delighted to attend the All-Ireland Road Bowls and the Confederations Cup Festival, as our district played host to sports people from across the country, indeed the world!

There certainly has been an international feel to the past month in particular as we welcomed several visitors of note to the district, including the US Special Envoy for Economic Affairs, Joe Kennedy the third, and Joao Paulo Da Costa Rangel, the Ambassador of Timor Leste. I also had the pleasure of attending a reception at the Chinese Consulate in Belfast, hosted by the Chinese Consul General, Madam Zhang to mark Chinese National Day. Making international connections is vitally important for stretching the name of Mid Ulster to promote tourism and trade, thus bringing in significant spend for the local economy. Closer to home, I have recently been able to acknowledge many of the individuals, groups and organisations making a difference in our community, including the RVH Liver Support Group at a recent reception I held, and at the Civic Awards last week in the Burnavon and again on Tuesday on the Hill of The O'Neill.

Speaking of community projects that make a difference, I was privileged to be invited to several new openings since our last Council meeting, including the opening of a new community hub, gym and changing room development at Dungannon Thomas Clarke's GAA Club. I'm delighted that the Council has been able to support this modern community centre and sports facility that will deliver significant social value and community impact in Dungannon, Ballysaggart and the wider area. Not only will Thomas Clarke's club benefit from the new premises, so will residents and other community and sporting organisations too. I would also take the opportunity to extend congratulations to Councillor McQuade who played on the Tyrone Masters team.

Myself and the Deputy Chair, Councillor Graham also attended a smaller but no more significant event for the local community, when we were invited to the opening of Newmills Wildlife Gardening Club River Trail and Phone Box Lending Library. The weather was kind to us and it was fantastic to see how this group's vision for the Garden is growing and providing a focal point for the community of Newmills.

I appreciate we have notice of motion on our agenda tonight regarding the current state and the future of Lough Neagh which has been very much in the public eye in recent weeks, however can I just say briefly. The future of the Lough does not stand alone, to address the Lough we must address many issues; our network of rivers and waterways, our sewage and wastewater process and infrastructure, our agricultural and aquaculture practices, our place as consumers, manufacturers and producers. Collectively and individually we all bear responsibility but what is undisputed is the fact that we need urgent action to save our lough for future generations.

Unfortunately I finish on a very sad note, I wish to send the Council's sincere sympathies and condolences to the parents, family and friends of nine-year-old Ronan Wilson, of Kildress who was tragically killed in a road traffic incident this weekend past. May the support of our community comfort them at this time."

The Chair, Councillor Molloy invited Councillor Mallaghan to speak.

Councillor Mallaghan said he had received a letter from Carol Doey regarding mental health issues and the lack of services due to the Assembly not sitting. Councillor Mallaghan read the letter as follows.

'I opened the Hub in Cookstown 11 years ago to enable people who were struggling in our local community. Struggling with mental health issues, we all know Mental health is a large umbrella with many different spokes. Loneliness, no sense of belonging, anxiety, fear of the future, suicidal thoughts, paranoia, bi polar, PTSD, fear of growing old and the rest of the spokes, despite the enormity of it all we coped and managed to provide qualified counsellors and self help groups and workshops enabling the people to build their confidence and acknowledge their worth, not an easy task when you are a self sustaining charity. I was always adamant to bring in our own money and not depend of funding, and we managed that very well too.

Last Winter we had Tuesday and Thursday soup days (Free to everyone) Drawing people in who were struggling financially and with loneliness, we were inundated, it was a very rewarding event, wood burning stove, fresh soup and rolls, tea and biscuits. All of the above cost us nothing but our time and electric, the rest was donated. I believe if you work from your heart and not your pocket an abundance of what you need comes around, and it did from local businesses, and the ordinary citizens of our town. I feel blessed and I never asked for one item, when they saw the advertisement they came in their droves.

So why am I writing this for you to read? (Well I hope you read it to here) These past couple of months our counselling service has went through the roof, e.g. yesterday 22nd August we had 3 counsellors, (1 is a resident counsellor) the other two come as we need them (they're never not busy) we had five clients in 2 with

very complex issues, the other 3 moderate to severe issues, we have 5 qualified counsellors on our books and The Hub pay all the counsellors from our own money pot, and we even manage that, until now that is.

Before you delete, I am not looking your money. I am begging and I mean begging you to bring this letter to the attention of the local councillors/MLA's at your next council meeting. (I am assuming this will be the 1st Tuesday in September) We need a working Government, yesterday... the statistics for Suicides in NI can be found on nisra.gov.uk website... it's grim reading....I have to say Mid Ulster is the poor cousin of Derry/Londonderry and Belfast. 1 death through suicide in Mid Ulster = 100 in Belfast because of the Size of the Council Area, so when you read the statistics it looks like we have not many compared to the city, but that's far from the truth. The ripple effect in our communities is huge when a death through suicide happens. Our NHS has crumbled....not crumbling but crumbled. We as a charity are brilliant as the first stepping stone to getting clients the help they need, we are qualified in QPR (Question, Persuade and Refer) a Mental Health course we completed, we would then be their first port of call, we also paid for the course to be held in the Hub for others to have this vital knowledge. I believe if we get a person at the first thoughts of suicide they can be saved. We work closely with S.T.E.P'S in Draperstown who are another amazing organisation working with those affected by poor Mental health, they also visit schools and businesses educating all about their mental health. Both our organisations have waiting lists...this causes me sleepless nights. I realise I am not responsible for the deaths from suicide, but I have a responsibility to try to prevent them.

My request: the process of building peace is certainly not easy, we have come such a long way. Is there anyone willing to step out of their comfort zone and get Stormont up and running. Freeze the issues that you can't agree on and take them up when you have halved the suicides in Mid Ulster and the rest of NI. I expect a couple of you to laugh at my naivety, a couple to ignore and move on to AOB, but I know there'll be a couple wishing they had the courage to 'Go for it'. I do what's right and not what's easy, and there are people who don't like me for that, that does not bother me anymore, the truth of the matter is that you always know the right thing to do. The hard part is doing it. If you save one person from dying through suicide then you'll have done the right thing.

Thank you for your time, Carol Doey'

Councillor Mallaghan reflected that the letter was lengthy and he was not into finger pointing but the letter was an example of the struggles people were facing. He said that GP's are reducing their services and libraries were unable to buy new books, Department for Infrastructure had just advised they can't deliver what they need to, schools were in dire straits and whilst Stormont could not fix everything it would be a start. He said the British government had no difficulty finding money when they wanted to but tonight he felt it was important to bring the real struggles that people are facing, as eloquently penned by Carol to the chamber.

The Chair, Councillor Molloy thanked Councillor Mallaghan and said that the work of Cookstown Hub and the facts Carol spoke of was replicated across many groups and was indicative to how many people are struggling. He concluded that whilst

Councillor Mallaghan was only but highlighting the letter groups and people needed support.

Councillor Cuthbertson spoke of the adoption of the public realm works in Dungannon town. He highlighted that there was continuous defects arising and if action was not taken soon the complete Market Square would need redone. Councillor Cuthbertson proposed that Council set up a Dungannon DEA meeting to discuss adoption of Public Realm works; Department of Infrastructure and Department for Communities also to be invited to discuss way forward.

Resolved That Council set up a Dungannon DEA meeting to discuss adoption of Public Realm works; Department of Infrastructure and Department for Communities also to be invited to discuss way forward.

Councillor Kerr spoke of Electric Ireland consumers in the district and said that following a recent disruption in service for which constituents were entitled to compensation it had not been forthcoming from the company. Councillor Kerr stated he felt it was for Council to support these constituents and proposed that Council write to Electric Ireland to (i) request a meeting to discuss interruptions in service; and (ii) to ascertain reasons for delays in compensation for customers and seek immediate payments of same.

Councillor McLernon concurred and said that many customers of Electric Ireland would be shocked to learn of the recent profits announced and supported Councillor Kerr's proposal.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

Resolved That Council write to Electric Ireland to (i) request a meeting to discuss interruptions in service; and (ii) to ascertain reasons for delays in compensation for customers and seek immediate payments of same.

Councillors Burton and Cuthbertson left the meeting at 8.00pm

Matters for Decision

C163/23 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in "Open Business" at the Council Meeting held on 27 July 2023

Proposed by Councillor McAleer
Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Council held on Thursday 27 July 2023 (C134/23 – C148/23 and C157/23) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated were considered and adopted.

C164/23 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Planning Committee Meeting held on 1 August 2023

Proposed by Councillor D McPeake
Seconded by Councillor S McPeake and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on Tuesday 1 August 2023 (P079/23 – P085/23 and P089/23) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, subject to the foregoing were considered and adopted.

C165/23 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Planning Committee Meeting held on 5 September 2023

Proposed by Councillor D McPeake
Seconded by Councillor S McPeake and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on Tuesday 5 September 2023 (P090/23 – P096/23 and P101/23) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, subject to the foregoing were considered and adopted.

C166/23 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on 7 September 2023

Councillor McElvogue drew attention to PR143/23 Corporate Performance Improvement Plan (PIP Plan) 2023-2024: Northway Mushroom Plant and requested that all information held by Council regarding the plant be made available to the community. He stated that the odour was disrupting rural life and told how a youth football match could not be played as the odour was so bad.

The Chief Executive said the matter would be referred back to officers.

Councillor Robinson referring to Councillor McElvogue’s request proposed that the Chief Executive, SD: C&P and Senior Officers meet with the party leaders initially to discuss ongoing odour issues and subsequently meet with Northway Residents Group.

Councillor Robinson also spoke of ongoing dog attacks on sheep and said that some farmers had been in contact with the Council but the matter was moving at a slow pace. He proposed that the Chief Executive, SD: CP meet with party leaders to discuss attacks on sheep in the Clogher Valley and subsequently meet with local farmers to discuss issue.

Councillor McElvogue seconded the proposals.

The Chief Executive said he would be happy to meet with Members initially and stated that Council had to adhere to statutory processes.

Councillor Robinson asked if the meetings could take place as soon as possible.

Councillor Monteith said the local DEA Members should be invited.

Councillor Robinson concurred.

Councillor Mallaghan suggested that the way forward would be to meeting with DEA Members and the relevant committee.

Councillor McLean concurred.

Proposed by Councillor Robinson
Seconded by Councillor McElvogue and

Resolved: That Chief Executive, SD: C&P and Senior Officers meet with the Clogher Valley DEA Members and Environment Committee initially to discuss ongoing odour issues and subsequently meet with Northway Residents Group.

Proposed by Councillor Robinson
Seconded by Councillor McElvogue and

Resolved That Chief Executive, SD: CP meet with Clogher Valley DEA Members and development Committee to discuss attacks on sheep in the Clogher Valley and subsequently meet with local farmers to discuss issue.

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake
Seconded by Councillor McAleer and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee held on Tuesday 7 September (PR134/23 – PR148/23 and PR160/23) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated were considered and adopted.

C167/23 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Environment Committee Meeting held on 12 September 2023

Councillor Kerr drew attention to E179/23 in relation to health and safety matter and said he would like to raise the matter in confidential business.

The Chair, Councillor Molloy noted the request.

Proposed by Councillor B McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor Varsani and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Environment Committee held on Tuesday 12 September (E165/23 – E187/23 and E207/23) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated were considered and adopted.

C168/23 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Development Committee Meeting held on 14 September 2023

Proposed by Councillor Corry
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Development Committee held on 14 September 2023 (D122/23 – D137/23 and D143/23) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated were considered and adopted.

C169/23 Conferences, Seminars and Training

The HoSS&E sought approval for the previously circulated report on conferences, seminars and training as outlined in Appendix A and B of the report.

Resolved That approval be given to submitted requests for conferences, seminars and training as outlined at Appendix A and B to the report.

Matters for Information

C170/23 Consultations

Members noted consultations received for attention of Council.

Councillor Corry proposed that Council respond to The Executive Office: Consultation on a Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Women and Girls & Foundational Action Plan

The Chair, Councillor Molloy seconded the proposal and drew attention to the imminent closing date.

The Chief Executive suggested delegated authority be granted to officers to respond.

Resolved That Council grant delegated authority to officers to respond to: The Executive Office: Consultation on a Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Women and Girls & Foundational Action Plan

Councillor Varsani spoke of the All Ireland Strategic Rail Review and sought confirmation that Council had responded reiterating the need to extend the rail network through the Clogher Valley.

The Chair, Councillor Molloy stated Council had responded and the Chief Executive said he would reflect on the additional wording.

C171/23 Correspondence

Members noted update on correspondence received for attention of Council.

Councillor Cahoon drew attention to correspondence from Pageant Master 80 D Day 2024 and said she would encourage Council to participate in the event.

The Chair, Councillor Molloy said it would be referred to the relevant Committee.

Resolved That Pageant Master 80 D Day 2024 be referred to Development Committee regarding Council's participation in a planned event to mark 80 D Day 2024. Refer to <https://www.d-day80beacons.co.uk/>

Councillor McAleer drew attention to correspondence from Newry Mourne and Down District Council in relation to reduction in minimum age for voting and proposed that Council continue to support the NMDDC and send letters as requested.

Councillor Mallaghan seconded the proposal.

Proposed by Councillor McAleer
Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan and

Resolved That Council having previously supported Newry, Mourne and Down District Council in relation to the notice of motion - Reduction in Voting Age write to the political parties named to call for their commitment to reduce the voting age to 16.

C172/23 Notice of Motion

Councillor Quinn speaking on the motion said, "Where do we start with this motion? Indeed how do we begin to talk about Lough Neagh, and why is it important? In any discussion about this Island, whether its mythology, history, culture or the present day, you simply cannot do it without talking about Lough Neagh. From the moment that Finn McCool created it (and coincidentally The Isle of Man) or if you prefer the more tragic origin story of Echaoid the Lough Sprang from a well, regardless 'The Lough' has played its part in many of the great stories of Ireland. Indeed our Red hand on our coat of arms is tied to one such story. Its mystic and majesty have inspired songs, stories, works of art and even Nobel Laurates like Seamus Heaney.

More importantly the Lough has played its part in the life of everyone in this chamber. If you are like me, my family have lived on the lough shore for countless generations, fishing and farming the land and while we may not do much of that now, it's only by those practices that many of us are here today. Sadly the story of Lough Neagh today is not one of joy, but one of shame. The Lough, is dying. I don't say that to get a reaction or stir up a story, it is a simple fact and indeed according to some experts in the media, the Lough may be dead already. The once familiar sight of our fisherman on the lough is dwindling and the summers of seeing tornados of

Lough Neagh Fly will soon just be another story we can tell our grandchildren about, who won't believe a word of it.

The scourge of Blue/Green algae is just one of the many symptoms of a deadly sickness that is cast over the entire water system, fuelled by slurry and waste water being dumped into our rivers. It is poisoning the water, sucking oxygen as it dies, killing fish on its way. We have Zebra mussels cleaning the water and killing the larva of the Lough Neagh Fly. Our fish are getting fewer and the ones that we have are getting smaller, our fishermen are finding it harder to make a living. The Lough has increased 1 degree over the last 10 years because of Global warming,

And the biggest problem of all, we have at least 20 different bodies all arguing over who they can pass the buck to when it comes to the Lough. If there ever was a more apt example of "Nero fiddled while Rome burned" then it's Lough Neagh, only Nero's part is being played by Stormont, Westminster, the civil service and indeed many if not all political parties. We also have the extraordinary situation where our greatest natural asset is owned by a Lord over in England. Owing to the fact that an English King several 100 years ago gave away our land as a reward.

While all these departments and lords argue over who is to blame, we can, one very prominent scientist Les Gornall tell me, "The Lough is dead, we have 8 years or less to save the eel from extinction and maybe 10 to stop Lough Neagh turning into an open sewer." Lough Neagh provides 40% of our drinking water, do we want to continue that from an open sewer? Les went on to say if the Lough Neagh fly are gone, they will be replaced, quite possibly by Mosquitoes and it will be Zika carrying kind given the effects again of Climate change. So if that's not enough to scare people into action, just know that the Lough was home to 20,000 different types of plants and animals, 1 in 6 of which now face extinction. Even if we start today, it will take 21 years for the Lough to recover.... 21 years is a long time, but it's better than not recovering at all.

Our motion tonight can be the start of that recovery. It's quite simple we need an interdepartmental group to set up along with our local councils to deal with the overall management of the lough. Call it a taskforce if you will but if we are going to start a recovery, we need a plan and it needs buy in from all stakeholders. We need an independent environmental protection agency that can punish those found guilty of destroying our countryside, including, as extraordinary as it is, Northern Ireland Water. We also need tougher penalties for those found guilty. Last year we saw thousands of fish killed because of slurry in the River Torrent, not one fine has been handed out, despite NIEA telling me they know the source last year.

Lough Neagh has been the centre of this nation's history. Let's make sure the Lough itself doesn't become just a story that falls into a memory. I work in Health and Safety, there you are charged with allowing those working for you to return home in the same state as they arrived. Well we have been charged with looking after our environment, let's make sure the Lough can go back to what it was a 100 years ago and that preserve it for future generations

Councillors Quinn, moved the motion:

Over recent months we have seen a concerning rise in Blue/Green Algae in Lough Neagh which has affected local wildlife as well as local businesses right across the Lough. All this combined with serious access issues and a perceived lack of action from Governmental bodies, this council calls for; An Interdepartmental Group to be set up by DAERA and Department of Infrastructure in conjunction with local Councils to deal with the overall management of Lough Neagh. Council to reaffirm its position that Lough Neagh should be in public ownership as it is of such strategic importance to the whole of Ireland. Ramsar Secretariat and Environmental Protection Agency be invited to present to Council on the deterioration of Lough Neagh. Council to write to the secretary of state calling on him to ensure the Loughs Environmental and Economic sustainability is given the due care and consideration needed to protect for future generations.

Councillor D McPeake seconded the motion and spoke of the current situation at the Lough which has come to public attention. He said that living close to the Lough he could smell the odour from the blue/green algae and people in the community who never spoke of the Lough were asking of him what was going on. He said it was mind boggling that so many people and agencies had a little piece of authority at the Lough but no one had responsibility. Councillor D McPeake said that at first the community was told that the algae would fade and even if it did it should not be allowed to fade from memory. He also said the significance of the motion was such that two different parties and one independent Member had come together to bring the motion to the chamber.

Councillor Kerr said he welcomed the fact that differences could be put aside to deal with what was an environmental catastrophe resulting from climate change, nutrients on the lough bed and changes to the eco system. He highlighted that some species of fish were fading due to lack of oxygen in the water. He also highlighted that NI Water had been permitted to dump sewerage into Lough Neagh from which drinking water is sourced. He said that Lough Neagh needed to come into community ownership and that an all Ireland resolve is required. Councillor Kerr spoke of the impact of the current situation on livelihoods together with the health and wellbeing of local people. He concluded that he supported the motion as the lough was of significant importance and previous negligence had been documented by national media.

Councillor Brown speaking on the Lough said, "Last week, representatives from Sinn Fein, the DUP, UUP and Alliance all met with DAERA officials. Collectively all parties agreed on way forward in terms of scrutiny and urged that they get on with the job. The SDLP has opted not to be part of the Executive when it is reformed, so was not part of the discussion. Let's be honest, there are nearly one hundred and seventy examples of this algae across Northern Ireland, Lough Neagh may be the focus but there's a wider issue. This is a complex and long-term problem therefore suggesting a 'time bound strategy' is not realistic, and what will seek to be a clever headline, will not serve users of the lough well in the long run. We are in favour of an interdepartmental group being established with the key stakeholders to coordinate these matters.

The DUP is committed to protecting our environmental heritage because that's what our children and grandchildren will inherit. Protecting our natural assets will be key to

Northern Ireland's success for generations to come. Lough Neagh is one of the crown jewels. However, we are concerned it has been allowed to decline over many years. There are many factors to consider, and our focus now must be on addressing the problems and ensuring they are dealt with permanently.

However I'm not convinced public ownership is the solution to all problems, indeed if we look at some examples of public ownership, Northern Ireland Water is a Government Owned Company, yet over the last five years it was found to have almost 600 instances of releasing pollutants into waterways. Rather than focusing on ownership, we instead need a partnership between the public sector and the private sector that will significantly improve the environment.

My colleagues who were DAERA Ministers advanced a province-wide soil survey of every field in Northern Ireland. This commenced two years ago and is well underway with County Down complete and County Fermanagh well advanced. This is a four-year project costing approximately £40m. At the end of this process, farmers will know the soil analysis of their fields and will be able to make better informed decisions as to whether fertilisers are needed. There needs to be working together. The key stakeholders will remain the same. A better management plan is therefore urgently required at this stage, rather than prolonged negotiations over future ownership. We have not supported the creation of an independent Environmental Protection Agency. There are multiple of layers of government and governance already in place in Northern Ireland, and they must be fit for purpose and providing a coordinated approach, rather than rushing to creating a new forum – it reminds me of the saying 'if you can't do something, at least be seen to be doing something'. This approach is not good enough for the DUP:

In the last Assembly, DUP Ministers introduced many environmental policies including: ground-breaking Climate Change legislation with balanced protections for agriculture; delivered £13.5m for projects to deliver for habitats, species and improved water and air quality through the DAERA Environment Fund; and tackled pollution in hotspot areas using targeted policies, capital support and more meaningful enforcement action. However, we recognise much more needs to be done, but our focus is on action not playing around with structures and governance.

Whilst we support the creation of an interdepartmental team to coordinate the Lough issues, we are not convinced about the call for public ownership therefore we will abstain on the motion.”

Councillor McLernon speaking in favour of the motion said that the issue of the Lough had come to the fore and the need for public ownership was greater now than ever. She said Sinn Féin were on record for saying that the Lough should be in public ownership and spoke of how a perfect storm of scientific environmental and ecological significance had taken place. Councillor McLernon spoke of the ongoing neglect which was impacting the fishing and tourism industry and that the ecological crisis highlighted a change of behaviour was needed. She said that the absence of the Assembly was not helping and now more than ever people needed government. She concluded that she hoped all would support the motion.

Councillor Johnston highlighted to Councillor Brown that the SDLP were not in the meeting mentioned and it was rich of him to dig at them when the DUP would not go into Government. Councillor Johnston speaking on the motion said that "Once again, I find myself speaking on an issue that in theory should unite all parties. This is not an orange or green issue, or yellow for that matter, it's a blue algae issue and its slowly killing Lough Neagh. Given the catastrophic state of Lough Neagh, its feeder rivers such as Mayola, the river that defines my own DEA and the lower Bann, it is essential that an interdepartmental group be set up as a matter of urgency so that solutions can be sought, assessed, and implemented where deemed feasible. In the absence of an assembly, which would be our first port of call under normal circumstances, it is incumbent on the departments of DAERA and DfI to work in conjunction with the local councils and act immediately. Mistakes have been made by both departments, granted under ministerial direction but what is important now is that we work collaboratively to fix the mess that has been allowed to develop. Thanks to the various campaign groups, made up of those who are passionate about our lough, everyone here now knows the causes of the blue green algae: Climate change, which we must learn to live with; Too many nutrients caused largely by an intensified farming policy that lacked regulations to safeguard our waterways; and Zebra mussels an invasive species that have filtered the water, increasing the clarity and the reach of the sun's rays, resulting in rampant blue green algae growth, which of course is toxic.

Who is affected? Everyone is the very simple answer. We are all impacted in some way. I support fully the call for Council to write to the Secretary of State calling on him to ensure that the Lough's Environmental and Economic sustainability is given the due care and consideration needed to protect it for future generations. Given the Secretary of State's keenness to intervene in budgetary matters in a blatant attempt to push the DUP back into government, punishing ordinary people, often our most vulnerable, perhaps he could, and despite his parties lack of green credentials, spare a thought for the consequences of inaction in relation to Lough Neagh. He will leave post soon, it may not matter to him but it matters to all of us in this chamber. With no action, the lough will become the largest septic tank on these islands another epic failure in a litany of failures. He might also want to put purchasing Lough Neagh top of his agenda for his next cabinet meeting. Lough Neagh must come under public ownership. The days of the absentee landlord generating an income from our 'stolen waters' as referred to by TM Healey, who wrote extensively on the matter of ownership of Lough Neagh; must be brought to an end. Time for the British to repay an outstanding debt and right a great wrong by returning Lough Neagh to the people whose livelihoods depend upon its wellbeing; those who live on its shores; those who cherish it; not someone whose only interest is its financial worth, who has taken much and given little. That said taking on responsibility for the laughs bed and shores will require commitment from the public purse. Ultimately there's a price to be paid by us all.

It is a great shame that opportunities to take ownership were missed as in 2014, and although it may well have been well intentioned by the then Minister for Agriculture M O'Neill, the working group she commissioned did not deliver consensus (unsurprisingly) on public ownership. The one issue that the report did have consensus on was the need for an improved management structure to be put in place - which of course, as often is the case here, was never implemented. This did

have the potential to avert the crisis we face today. Then of course we had no government for 3 years. Decisions by Edwin Poots have exacerbated the crisis as he boasted of being freed from the shackles of the EU - allowing him to reduce the would be penalties imposed on those irresponsible farmers who polluted the rivers. I should remind you that not all farmers are irresponsible and in some ways DAERA share fault as they haven't provided alternative disposal options for excess slurry. An interdepartmental group would, we would hope, pick up on the consequences of such an irresponsible policy on our rivers and our lough.

One would assume with all the knowledge we have in relation to climate change, that officials would be falling over themselves to protect and preserve the largest freshwater lake in Ireland and indeed the British isles. Must we follow the Scottish example where the various stakeholders have had to lead the way in the rewilding of the Scottish highlands, since 2021. It is only now that the Scottish government, eventually seeing the out workings of these groups perseverance and dedication to their surrounding environment; that they now take an interest. We don't have the 2 years it took for the Scottish government to pay catch up. We need immediate action, not talk, or talks about talks, just immediate action. We have witnessed how the love of our lough has inspired the various campaign groups, and of course we all have a part to play - either individually or in our communities in ensuring the sustainability of our environment and in particular our lough.

Here in NI we are well used to waiting for the gears of government to grind into action but in the absence of government the agencies tasked with responsibility must act now. Not to do so will lead to the permanent demise of our much-loved lough. I would ask that we put our divisions aside and present a united front in this mammoth battle for the survival of Lough Neagh. If not for ourselves then for the next generation that will share this place we all call home.”

Councillor Graham stated that the issue of the Lough should not be about political point scoring, she said much work was required such as improved woodland buffer zones and that all stakeholders needed to be monitored. Councillor Graham stated that public ownership of the Lough may not fix the problems but the matter could be looked at in the future. Councillor Graham concluded that the UUP would support the motion.

The Chair Councillor Molloy said that the current situation of Lough Neagh was an important issue which would impact for generations to come. The Chair called for a vote on the motion.

For	26
Abstained	9

The Chair, Councillor Molloy declared the motion carried.

Councillor Quinn thanked Members for their support reiterating the comments that it was significant that three Members from different parties had come together to bring the motion. He said it was a shame the DUP had abstained as he recalled them supporting the New Decade New Approach Agreement in 2020 and surely they

could sign up to this. He said the issues won't be solved next week but the motion would be a starting point.

C172/23 Notice of Motion

Councillor Groogan moved the motion –

That this Council: notes with concern that the ongoing cost of living crisis and British Government imposed cuts is exacerbating poverty and financial pain on people in the community; believes that targeting objective need is fundamental to tackling poverty and inequality; further believes what is required is a living wage economy and a fair social security system that targets resources where they are most needed and ensures people have a minimum essential standard of living; recognises that the current social security system, particularly Universal Credit, is not fit for purpose, not properly funded and is failing people; further recognises that those who rely on Universal Credit are incredibly vulnerable to changing circumstances often beyond their control, such as loss of employment, illness, increased caring responsibilities; and family breakdown; Endorses the Guarantee our Essentials campaign which seeks to ensure everyone can afford the essentials in hard times; And calls on the British Government to introduce an Essentials Guarantee which would ensure, at a minimum, Universal Credit/legacy benefits, would protect people from going without essentials.

Speaking on the motion Councillor Groogan said that, “the Social security system is supposed to act as a safety net when people lose their jobs, find themselves unable to work or when their income is too low or their hours undependable. The reality however is that years of Tory austerity, successive cuts and freezes to benefits, wages not keeping pace with inflation, along with the soaring price of food, fuel, energy and housing costs has left many people unable to meet their most basic needs. While the cost of living crisis has stretched most people's household finances there can be no doubt that those who have the least have been disproportionately impacted. When individuals and families have insecure or insufficient income to meet their basic needs then they have little or no resilience to income shocks, unexpected bills or price increases. This can impact on mental and physical health, educational outcomes, employment opportunities and can drive people into destitution and/or debt often at high cost/risk.

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation have stated that inadequate social security is the main driver of food bank need. One off payments while helpful in the short term are not the solution. They do not provide people with the certainty they need when trying to make ends meet on a weekly basis. Nor do the well documented problems within Universal Credit such as the 5 week wait for the first payment, the policy decision to limit support to 2 children in a family and the challenging rules around assessment periods for people with fluctuating hours and wages. People deserve to be part of a living wage economy which renders addition financial support unnecessary. And people who are unable to work deserve a fair social security system that ensures, as a minimum, their essential needs are met. This is key to addressing poverty and achieving a more equal society.

Councillor Groogan concluded by calling on the DUP to get back around the Executive table in order that those who need it most can be supported and a more human approach is adopted.

Councillor Varsani seconded the motion stating that all were well aware of the issues.

Councillor McLean on a point of clarity asked if the motion was as tabled in item 16 of the agenda.

The Chair, Councillor Molloy said it was.

Councillor Monteith pledged his support for the motion and said the issue had been raised many times and that he personally had raised the fundamental crisis people were experiencing with their income. He said that people were struggling to maintain a family, a home and should be able to do it with human dignity. He said that food banks had become the norm and the situation was such that public money was being used to support people who cannot afford to buy food. He highlighted it as the evident of the move to the right by the British government and that many speeches from the Tory party were far right fascism. He said the Labour party too was moving right and that all the initiatives they said they would overturn they are moving away from such as the two child rule. He said that the situation in the six counties highlighted the suffering and that no one should forget what partition has done to impoverish people. He said that previous strategies had not worked well such as areas of deprivation as people should be targeted for help not areas as it was people who were poor. Councillor Monteith highlighted the issue of rent control or lack thereof and also how the six county administration had rubber stamped the introduction of universal credit. He further stated that the impact of current political situation should not be forgotten and how dare those in authority say that people should work harder or longer when they were the very ones who bailed out the banks. He said big business and multinationals profits were private but their losses were socialised and the public were called on to keep them going. Councillor Monteith said better could and should be done and concluded by welcoming the motion and said the issue should not be shied away from.

Councillor Cahoon speaking on the motion said, "The cost of living crisis is compounded by two unique costs in Northern Ireland. First, the Protocol. In 2020 NI spent £13.2 billion on purchases from GB, amounting to 65% of NI purchases outside of NI. As a fully integrated part of the United Kingdom economy, we benefited from all the economies of scale associated with being part of a tightly integrated market of nearly 70 million consumers which had a beneficial downward impact on prices. The imposition of a border in the Irish Sea has made sending goods to NI more expensive and resulted in our being rendered a less integrated part of the UK economy and, as such, less able to access the economies of scale in the context of which there must necessarily be an upward pressure on prices. One would expect these to increase as the parts of the Protocol that were implemented are replaced with the Windsor Framework, which while less disruptive than the Protocol as initially conceived, is more disruptive than the Protocol as implemented to date. Although the DUP has welcomed the fact that the Windsor Framework is better than the Protocol as initially conceived, we have not approved it because it

does not address the fundamental economic and constitutional problems caused by the Protocol. We continue to argue for the full reintegration of Northern Ireland in the UK single market for goods, which would remove any basis for additional cost of living pressures in NI.

Second, the UK Government decision to fund Northern Ireland below its own definition of need. On 1 April 2022 we crossed a sorry line when for the first time the UK Government began to fund Northern Ireland through the Block Grant below its own definition of need. People often talk about the need to reform the Barnett Formula which makes it sound like we need to go away and undertake a major piece of research to recalibrate Barnett which will probably take years and inevitably run out of momentum in the proverbial long grass. This is NOT true. In addition to the Barnett Formula, which allocates monies to Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland on a proportionate per head of population basis to England, the Government already has an additional formula to adjust this for need, the Holtham Formula.

The Holtham Formula was devised on the basis that rather than each part of the UK receiving the same public monies, each should receive the funding necessary to ensure broadly comparable public services. It was developed in 2009-10 in response to particular funding challenges facing Wales but it was impossible to establish what Wales should receive on the basis of its needs apart from a broader UK assessment of need. The resulting Holtham Formula is, therefore, a UK formula, applying to Northern Ireland, as much as Wales. In 2012 the UK Government effectively embraced the Holtham Formula when it issued a joint statement with the Welsh Government in which it acknowledged the risk of Welsh funding falling below need at some point in the future if funding continued to be allocated just on the basis of the Barnett Formula. The UK Government said that when this risk looked more imminent it would introduce a Barnett floor below which the Block Grant allocation for Wales could not fall, based on the Holtham Formula's definition of need for Wales.

In 2016 the UK Government determined that it was time to intervene from the 2017-18 financial year, and since then the Barnett Formula has been adjusted by the Holtham Formula so that funding in Wales does not fall below what has become the UK Government's definition of need. This comprises of two elements: First, a 5% uplift to apply until such a time as funding falls to the Holtham definition of need, £115 spent per head of population in Wales for every £100 spent in England. Second, a needs adjustment to the Holtham definition of need once funding reaches £115 per head so it cannot fall below need.

Funding decisions for Wales for the current spending review period are informed by two key variables: the Holtham definition of need at £115 and the UK Treasury Block Grant Transparency average spend figure for the spending review period which is £120. In this context the benefit to Wales of the 5% uplift since 2017-18 is thought to be in the region of £1 billion, all spent while Welsh spend per head has been above need.

Northern Ireland faces additional challenges to Wales and so, according the Holtham Formula, we need to spend £124 for every £100 in England in order to enjoy comparable services. The UK Treasury Block Grant Transparency document, however, shows that our average level of spend per head for the current spending

review period is £121. This means that for each of the three years of the current spending review period, we are underfunded by £3 per head. That computes to underfunding of: £322 million in 2022-2023; £341 million in 2023-2024; £358 million in 2024-2025, This amounts to over £1.2 billion. The DUP argues, and continues to argue, that once the UK Government embraced a UK definition of need and began to intervene to ensure that funding in one part of the UK did not fall below need in 2017-18, it created a situation in which it was duty bound to similarly intervene to adjust the Barnett allocation through the Holtham Formula, so that public spending did not fall below need in any part of the UK.

To make matters worse we are being required to not receive any Barnett consequential this year to pay back the over-spend last year, but, crucially, this is an overspend (originally defined at £297 million but recently reassessed to £257 million) is less than the £322 million we were underfunded in that year. We are calling for the introduction of an immediate needs adjustment to £124, in line with Holtham, backdated to 1 April 2022, and compensation for the failure to be afforded the uplift that Wales now enjoys.

Rather than simple platitudes, these are the real things we want to happen to improve the financial landscape for families: Deliver 30 hours free childcare per week; Fair access to pre-school places; Financially support hard-pressed families with an Energy Support Payment; Deliver Energy Efficiency schemes to support better-insulated homes; Support calls for a Windfall Tax on energy firms; and make going green affordable to homes in Northern Ireland”

Councillor Quinn said that the SDLP were happy to support the motion and stated that universal credit was punishing hard working families and concurred with Councillor Monteith’s point in the government’s move to the far right. He said that hard working families were being destroyed and spoke of the introduction to the living wage in 2016 and said that universal credit was now £35 less than people needed to live on. He reflected that the cost of living crisis was deepening and that he recently had a friend who was in hospital send him photographs of food banks being advertised.

Councillor Graham said she would keep her comments brief and stated that the UUP would support the motion.

The Chair, Councillor Molloy noted the unanimous support for the motion and declared it carried.

Councillor Groogan thanked everyone for supporting the motion and said all must look after the vulnerable.

The live broadcast concluded at 8.55 pm.

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.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Burton

Resolved That items C173/23 to C184/23 taken as confidential business.

Matters for Decision

- (i) Council Confidential minutes of meeting held on 27 July 2023
- (ii) Planning Confidential minutes of meeting held on 1 August 2023
- (iii) Planning Confidential minutes of meeting held on 5 September 2023
- (iv) Policy & Resources Confidential minutes of meeting held on 7 September 2023
- (v) Environment Confidential minutes of meeting held on 12 September 2023
- (vi) Development Confidential minutes of meeting held on 14 September 2023
- (vii) Document for Sealing – Purchase of Cornmill Carpark (PHI001-0076)
- (viii) Document for Sealing – Lease at Moy – MUDC and Sean Cavanagh & Co Ltd (ENV001-0045)
- (ix) Document for Sealing – Connecting Pomeroy WP5 Pomeroy Forest Trail Development (Ref MUDC/TS/C/2018/007)
- (x) Document for Sealing – Manor Park Moneymore Appointment of Contractor – (Economic Operator) (Ref MUDC/TS/C/2022/004)
- (xi) Document for Sealing – Appointment of an Integrated Consultancy Team for MUSA Capital Project (Ref MUDC/TS/C/2021/008)

C056/23 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 9.00 pm.

Chair _____

Date _____

Annex A - Introductory Remarks from Chairperson

Good evening and welcome to our meeting of Mid Ulster District Council in the Chamber, Dungannon whether you have joined us remotely or in the Chamber.

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 – apologies and then a roll call of members in attendance.

Minutes of Meeting of Planning Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Tuesday 3 October 2023 in Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon and by virtual means

Members Present

Councillor S McPeake, Chair

Councillors Black (5.10 pm), J Buchanan, Carney, Clarke, Cuthbertson*, Graham, Kerr, Mallaghan, Martin*, McConnell, McFlynn*, D McPeake*, Robinson, Varsani

Officers in Attendance

Dr Boomer, Service Director of Planning (SD: PI)
 Mr Bowman, Head of Strategic Planning (HSP)**
 Ms Donnelly, Council Solicitor
 Ms Doyle, Head of Local Planning (HLP)
 Mr Marrion, Senior Planning Officer (SPO)
 Ms McCullagh, Senior Planning Officer (SPO)**
 Mr McClean, Senior Planning Officer (SPO)
 Ms McKinless, Senior Planning Officer (SPO)
 Ms Mhic Iomhair (Planning Officer) (PO)
 Ms Carson (Trainee Planner) (TP)
 Mr O'Hagan, Head of ICT
 Mrs Grogan, Committee & Member Services Officer

Others in Attendance

Councillor B McGuigan*** Councillor Quinn***

LA09/2022/0525/F	Mr Tom Stokes*** Mrs Emma McIlwaine*** Mr Damien Broderick*** Mr Jason Taggart*** Mr Conor O'Hara
LA09/2022/1243/F	Mr Jim Maneely Mr Eamonn Loughrey
LA09/2022/1268/F	Mr Thomas Bell Mr Ryan Dougan Dr Phil Hull***
LA09/2023/0371/F	Mr Paul Hamill***
LA09/2023/0478/RM	Mr Russell Finlay
LA09/2022/0398/F	Mr Joe Diamond
LA09/2022/1625/F	Mr Ryan Dougan Mr Richard Agus
LA09/2022/1625/F	Mr Danny Quinn
LA09/2022/1359/O	Mr Chris Cassidy
LA09/2020/0992/O	Mr Chris Cassidy
LA09/2022/1367/F	Mr Martin Kearney

* Denotes members and members of the public present in remote attendance

** Denotes Officers present by remote means

*** Denotes others present by remote means

The meeting commenced at 5.01 pm

P101/23 Notice of Recording

Members noted that the meeting would be webcast for live and subsequent broadcast on the Council's You Tube site.

P102/23 Apologies

Councillor McElvogue.

P103/23 Declarations of Interest

The Chair, Councillor S McPeake reminded members of their responsibility with regard to declarations of interest.

None.

P104/23 Chair's Business

The Head of Local Planning (HLP) drew members attention to previously circulated addendum and referred to letter from MUDC to Strategic Planning Directorate seeking response to request for further clarification and advised that if any member had any questions they could liaise with the Head of Strategic Planning (HSP) as this as this was his remit.

The HSP provided members with a quick summary of the letter which was sent to the Department on 22 September 2023 and advised that the letter was issued as a reminder which was still awaiting a response.

The HLP referred to letter addressed to SD: Planning from NIEA advising that a decision had been taken from them to temporarily pause the issuing of ammonia planning advice back in May which has now been lifted. This clarification received from NIEA has asked case officers to look at their case lists to see if there is any outstanding responses from NIEA where there are ongoing cases and received a response to date to issue a reconsultation to NIEA to make sure everything is ok and whether there were any further points they wish to raise in response to any of the applications.

Dr Boomer, Service Director of Planning (SD: PI) entered the meeting at 5.06 pm.

The SD: PI also referred to the below applications which were on the agenda for determination and sought approval to have the following applications deferred/withdrawn from tonight's meeting schedule for an office meeting –

Agenda Item 5.5 – LA09/2022/1359/O - Site for dwelling and domestic garage at approx 105m NW of 25 Brackagh Road, Desertmartin for Seamus Diamond

Agenda Item 5.6 - LA09/2022/1367/F - Two storey dwelling and garage at 10m N of 56 Quarry Road, Knockcloghrim for Gerard Ward

Agenda Item 5.11 – LA09/2023/0622/O – Dwelling and garage (infill site) at 30m NW of 39 Rocktown Road, Bellaghy for Samuel Arrell

Agenda Item 6.2 - LA09/2020/0992/O - Dwelling and domestic garage at Site 150m W of 115 Clonavaddy Road, Aghnagar, Cappagh, Dungannon for Plunkett Nugent

Agenda Item 6.6 - LA09/2022/0398/F - 2 dwellings within existing Mullinderg Housing Development at approx. 20m NE of 8 Moneyneany for Corramore Construction (withdrawn)

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

Resolved That the planning applications listed above be deferred/withdrawn for an office meeting / further consideration.

Matters for Decision

P105/23 Planning Applications for Determination

The Chair drew Members attention to the undernoted planning applications for determination.

LA09/2022/0525/F 1 Class B3 Industrial Warehouse to operate as metal fabrication/preparation/coating and galvanising plant. Development to new right-hand turn access provision from Sandholes Road and associated car parking, servicing, infrastructure and site works at lands to the rear of E of 20 Sandholes Road, Cookstown for LCC Group Ltd

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2022/0525/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2022/0525/F be subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2022/0667/F Relocation of previously installed flood lighting poles around the racetrack at lands at 48 Cookstown Road, Moneymore for Railway Karting

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2022/0667/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn
Seconded by Councillor Robinson and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2022/0667/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2022/1243/F **Extension of existing carriageway service area, including demolition of existing supermarket and PFS and construction of new PFS with shop, deli with hot food provision, seated dining area, drive thru facility, stores, sanitary and staff welfare facilities. Redevelopment of existing forecourt to provide new fuel pumps, canopy, underground storage tanks with public carparking, HGV parking, bunkering facilities and carwash area at 31-32 Glenshane Road, Maghera for James Molloy**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2022/1243/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor D McPeake
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2022/1243/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

Councillor Black entered the meeting at 5.10 pm.

LA09/2022/1268/F **Fridge Recycling Plant, associated yard area, landscaping, weighbridge, nitrogen dioxide silo, parking, access (insitu) and ancillary site works (amended description) at lands approx. 39m N of 52 Creagh Road, Toomebridge for Enva Northern Ireland Ltd**

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2022/1268/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor D McPeake
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2022/1268/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2022/1359/O **Site for dwelling and domestic garage at approx. 105m NW of 25 Brackagh Road, Desertmartin for Mr Seamus Diamond**

Agreed that application be deferred for an office meeting earlier in meeting.

LA09/2022/1367/F **Two storey dwelling and garage at 10m N of 56 Quarry Road, Knockloughrim for Gerard Ward**

Agreed that application be deferred for an office meeting earlier in meeting.

LA09/2022/1607/F Upgrade works of existing agricultural access to provide alternative access and egress for commercial vehicles and staff/visitor cars to Agri development hub (LA09/2018/1213/O) at 170m NE of Annaghbeg Road/Tamnamore Road Junction, Tamnamore, Dungannon for Capper Trading Ltd

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2022/1607/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Robinson
Seconded by Councillor Varsani and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2022/1607/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2023/0324/F Two storey dwelling with driveway at 15 Oaks Road, Dungannon for Radius Housing Association

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2023/0324/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Varsani
Seconded by Councillor McConnell and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2023/0324/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2023/0371/F Aggregate bagging facility to include production building, enclosed loading hopper, enclosed storage bins, storage silos, enclosed blending area, aggregate elevator, electrical switch-room and all associated ancillary works (part retrospective) at FP McCann Ltd, Knockloughrim Quarry, Magherafelt for FP McCann Ltd

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2023/0371/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor D McPeake
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2023/0371/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2023/0478/RM Dwelling and garage at 60m NW of 55 Annaghmore Road, Castledawson for Alvin McMullan

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2023/0478/RM which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke

Seconded by Councillor D McPeake and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2023/0478/RM be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2023/0622/O Dwelling and garage (infill site) at 30m NW of 39 Rocktown Road, Bellaghy for Mr Samuel Arrell

Agreed that application be deferred for an office meeting earlier in meeting.

LA09/2023/0695/F Portal framed electrical switch room with brick and cladding finishes and a under void for cable access at Moy Park, Dungannon Proteins, 152 Killyman Road, Dungannon for Mr Ian Warnock

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2023/0695/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Varsani
Seconded by Councillor McConnell and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2023/0695/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2023/0801/F Retention of domestic garage and store at 25m W of 76 Gortgonis Road, Coalisland for Mr Tony Canning

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2023/0801/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2023/0801/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2020/0729/F Site for 5 detached dwellings and garages at 40m W of 16 Annaghmore Road, Coalisland for Mr Conor Tennyson

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2020/0729/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn
Seconded by Councillor Robinson and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2020/0729/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2020/0992/O Dwelling and domestic garage at Site 150m W of 115 Clonavaddy Road, Aghnagar, Cappagh, Dungannon for Plunkett Nugent

Agreed that application be deferred for one month.

LA09/2020/1098/F Retention of existing structure to outdoor drinks area at Regans Bar, 19 Hall Street, Maghera for Bernard Regan

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2020/1098/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor D McPeake
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2020/1098/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2021/1653/F Extension of facilities, provision of workshop, access to public road to replace existing substandard access, adequate parking, associated site works and landscaping at immediately E of 19 Annagh Road, Lungs, Clogher for Malcolm Keys

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2021/1653/F which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Robinson
Seconded by Councillor Graham and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2021/1653/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2021/1772/O Dwelling, domestic garage and associated works at lands approx. 30m S of 29 Tullyglush Road, Ballygawley for Mr Liam Farrell

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2021/1772/O which had a recommendation for approval.

Proposed by Councillor McConnell
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2021/1772/O be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

LA09/2022/0398/F 2 dwellings within existing Mullinderg Housing Development at approx. 20m NE of 8 Moneyneany for Corramore Construction

Agreed that application be withdrawn earlier in the meeting.

LA09/2022/1625/F Alteration to approved egress point (LA09/2018/0777/F) to include for access to existing factory at 116 Deerpark Road, Toomebridge for Neil Savage

Members considered previously circulated report on planning application LA09/2022/1625/F which had a recommendation for approval.

The Chair advised the committee that requests to speak on the application had been received and invited Mr Quinn to address the committee in the first instance.

Mr Quinn thanked the committee for allowing him to address the meeting this evening. He advised that the school community appreciated the opportunity to highlight their ongoing concerns relating to the implementation to access the existing SDC factory adjacent to the school as outlined within the deferred consultation report on 2 March 2023. The Board of Governors of the school request that due consideration is given to the school's unique situation and the negative impact it will have on environment for pupils, parents, grandparents and the wider community who use the Deerpark Road frequently. Recognition is given to SDC wanting to maximise their productivity and therefore the movement of HGV's on and off the site as rapidly as possible. It is regrettable that the school did not object to the planning application in 2018, but this was done in good faith which has now enabled SDC to adjust the scope of their work. Other concerns have been raised continually and are documented contrary to MRA Transport Planning Report dated 27 June 2023. The school has been explicit in the evidence in the SW survey dated 29 March 2023, currently the majority of the vehicles pass Anahorish Primary School. While MRA claim the new A6 has enabled a reduction in traffic passing the school, this is neither enforceable or realistic as HGV traffic is unchanged. The school community has already cited the need for joined up thinking and collaboration in the interest for all including the footpath outside the school that has been approved by DfI and future involvement in the safer route to schools and programmes involving walking and cycling. Mr Quinn said as Principal of the school, he had a duty of care to the children, parents, grandparents, staff and all other personnel who access his school, the reason for his presence at this meeting here tonight was primarily safety. On behalf of the pupils at Anahorish Primary School he implored the planning committee to make a site visit during peak times of the school day to ensure a huge picture of the reality of this application so any decision reached can be done so on first-hand experience and local knowledge. Looking forward the school community wishes to work collaboratively with SDC, their neighbours to ensure the safety and well-being of the children, their families and the wider community.

The Chair invited Mr Dougan and Mr Agus to address the committee.

Mr Dougan advised that he welcomed the recommendation summary by the case officer and was keen not to duplicate the summary what was already alluded to but had a few salient points to highlight. This application was presented to committee with a recommendation to approve in March this year, the application was deferred

for an office meeting after which the applicant had volunteered proposals to elevate concerns raised by the adjacent school regarding the perceived vehicle movements. Notably the amended proposals and incorporated change to create a 'left in, right out' only vehicle movement which represented betterment for the school. DfI responded to the initial application submission with no objections on the 14 February and upon receipt of amended proposals, were reconsulted on two further occasions and responded to both on 9 May and 5 September 2023 with no objection. Mr Dougan concluded by saying that the key consultee DfI Roads having robustly assessed the amended proposals on behalf of the school, remain with no objections to the proposal and would respectfully request that members support the recommendation to approve the application this evening.

Mr Agus from MRA Partnership advised that he had been assisting Mr Dougan on the application, specifically advising and assisting on road safety matters. Mr Agus advised that this proposal was not generating any more traffic at SDC, the application is responding to the changes in the public road. To access the current access from the A6, HGV's currently have to drive onto oncoming traffic and indeed such a difficult manoeuvre, that many registered HGV drivers continue to approach from the Hillhead Road as before, passing the school and this new access addressed this issue enabling more vehicles to avoid passing the school. To address the concerns of the school, this has been reorientated to left in, right out, a line for A6 traffic and further reduce traffic passing the school and all the traffic that doesn't currently pass the school has been done so because of the A6 and this would reduce it further, but cannot remove it completely as SDC has plants on both sides of the school. DfI has given this application considerable attention and scrutiny prior to offering no objection.

Dr Boomer, Service Director of Planning (SD: PI) said that obviously that this was an alteration to improve an egress point and advised that there was an existing access point here. In terms of movement there would be nothing to stop traffic coming out of that access point and whilst he appreciated the site to some degree, is divided by buildings, it still could be re-orientated to change its traffic movement without necessarily needing a planning permission. The SD: PI said that we were not talking about adding a new risk but changing an existing access. He appreciated that road safety issues when next to a school could be quite emotive and it was reasonable for the Principal to try to do everything he could in order to ensure that it was as safe as possible. He cautioned members on attending a site visit to determine whether the access was safe as it is wisest to follow the advice which we are being given from the roads authority who consider that it is safe access. For the committee to disagree something else without clear evidence, could result in a planning appeal, which the permission may consider as unnecessary because we did not actually have evidence that it was dangerous or worsening the situation. Whilst he appreciated the concerns of the parents, discussions had taken place at length to establish whether it was safe. The committee should also note that Roads Service is telling Council the access is safe, the applicant is agreeable to putting signage to encourage traffic leaving the site to travel away from the school. The SD: PI's advice to members would be that whilst he appreciated the very emotive issue which has been given, we do need to have full regard to the technical expertise in which we are being provided with by the road engineers.

The Chair referred to comment regarding "right turn out, left turn in" and enquired if this was going to be signposted.

Mr Dougan agreed that this would be the case and would be happy as it was his understanding that there has been a suggested condition applied to the permission.

Councillor McFlynn enquired if it was known what times Roads Service officials visited the site and whether they were there during peak times of the school day.

The SD: PI stated that this information was not known but felt that as this was a factory why would SDC be moving vehicles when officials arrived. Roads Service has assumed the movements of vehicles during these peak times and they were saying that in their opinion everything was up to standard.

Councillor McFlynn enquired from Mr Quinn (Principal) where parents park when they are dropping off and lifting children, do they lift the children at the carpark inside the school or park on the roadside.

Mr Quinn advised that a number come to the carpark and some out on the road as the carpark inside the school is not large enough to deal with the capacity but were currently looking to address this issue.

The SD: PI said that it was his understanding that Mr Quinn was looking to address the parking issue with an application for layby parking facilities.

Councillor Graham enquired what more Mr Quinn wanted SDC to do to make the school happy.

Mr Quinn said that the school community would like SDC to use their existing entrance going in and had liaised with SDC regarding the new adjustments they made. He referred to site splays up at the school and said that he wished to have these moved further from the school and had asked many times for this to be done but it has never happened. He felt that things were hard to control when the signs were not always followed.

Councillor Mallaghan said that given the fact that Roads Service had no concerns, the committee was left in a difficult position as this was two neighbours who were in dispute over this situation, but as a planning authority we would have to follow the advice from the statutory authority on this and proposed to proceed with the recommendation.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor Carney and

Resolved That planning application LA09/2022/1625/F be approved subject to conditions as per the officer's report.

P106/23 Receive Report on Dfl Notice of Opinion – Lough Neagh

The Head of Strategic Planning (HSP) presented previously circulated report to advise members of further correspondence received from Dfl on the 29 August 2023 relating to its recent Notice of Opinion to approve an application which seeks the non-compliance with conditions number 07 and condition number 12 of planning approval LA03/2017/0310/F.

Dfl had previously invited requests for an opportunity to appear before and be heard by the Planning Appeals Commission, or a person appointed by the Department for the purpose of a hearing, in writing, within 8 weeks from the date of service of the Notice.

The HSP referred to item on addendum in relating to correspondence received today advising that Friends of the Earth wish to participate in a PAC hearing regarding this development (LA03/2021/0940/F).

The HSP went through the points that Planning has raised with Dfl.

The Chair enquired if members had an opportunity to read in its entirety the Friends of the Earth correspondence.

The Chair referred to Item 7 where the group has indicated that they have already received a formal request for a hearing and felt if there was to be any change in that there may be legal implications.

The SD: PI advised that this was an interesting email which arrived this morning which he did not see until 3.30 pm. Obviously, Friends of the Earth became aware that Councillors had raised a whole series of issues and asking for reassurance at the last meeting and as he was not an ecologist, he could not provide that assurance. What Friends of the Earth are clearly trying to do by sending an email this morning was to get a chance to speak at the public enquiry on the basis of this Council asking for one and clearly if it was felt that we didn't have satisfactory answers to our questions, then we can stick with that position. The SD: PI felt that it was interesting that the Department had declined an invitation to attend the meeting which in his opinion was not good practice in terms of engagement or appropriate respect towards members of the Council who were clearly looking to engage in dialogue in a meaningful way. In referring to the end of the letter felt it wasn't as simple as Friends of the Earth saying that by extending it the Department will be doing something illegal, they sent us the consultation, they sent us a date for the consultation, we responded and because of the nature of our response, the Department extended the consultation period. The SD: PI said that he would be somewhat shocked that any court concluded that it was time bound because Council had written in there couldn't be further discussion to avoid a public enquiry. Friends of the Earth go through a lot more detail on what he would have answers to and clearly looked at the letter Council had sent and clearly picked up on the things in which members were questioning i.e. what's the impact of the huge barges, what's the impact of disturbance if more is taken out, impact on bird life, ornithology. He said that it didn't take a genius at this moment in time to realise Lough Neagh was very emotive in terms of the green algae and Friends of the Earth are raising other issues regarding the Lough as a whole, governance of the Lough, whether there were ever proper ecology baselines, contamination, bacteria, was habitat properly met, issues like that where lawyers could argue about and try to attempt to give members a definite answer on that, a lot of issues has been raised which they wish to raise themselves at the public enquiry. The SD: PI felt that it was useful to bring to members attention but equally felt that some of the local industries in the area like sand extraction and concrete operators also get their opportunity to speak on the matter.

The Chair advised that a request from Lough Neagh Sand Traders had been received and invited the representatives to address the committee.

Mr Andrew Scurfield advised that he was an agent for Lough Neagh Sand Traders and his submission seeks to provide clarification as appropriate to the points raised by the Council to the Department for Infrastructure (“DFI”) in its letter of 10th August 2023. He hoped that the Planning Committee will consider these helpful and remove any concerns they had expressed at the previous meeting on 1st August 2023. He advised that he has been the agent for the Applicant since the grant of the original planning permission (“the OPP”) which permits the extraction of sand from Lough Neagh until 2032 and also for this present Section 54 Application (“the S54”) before the DFI, to seek modification of 2 (only) conditions pertaining to the ability to replace barges with a modern equivalent and to allow the standard working day for the barges to be the same throughout the whole year. It is important to set out at the outset that the present S54 before the Planning Committee does not seek to amend in any way the extant OPP in relation to:

- the actual act of extraction,
- the volume of sand permitted per annum,
- the total amount of sand permitted to be extracted over the life of the planning permission or,
- the location from which it is extracted or the life of the planning permission itself.

Mr Scurfield stated that these remain the same and governed by the main planning permission and was tested at public enquiry and was assessed not to have a reason to not grant planning permission. This is not a fresh planning application looking to revisit all that, only seeking an amendment on 2 conditions:

1. To provide flexibility to allow barges to be changed as a lot of the fleet has been aging in the terms of Lough Neagh and in order to replace those barges the condition as outlined would only allow you to provide like for like. Some of these barges is 50 years old and just not possible so basically the revised condition allows flexibility but end up with a newer vessel with lesser emissions and lesser noise emissions;
2. DFI are not proposing that unrestricted nighttime working and wished to make that clear and for most of the year operations are provided/permitted to work from 6 am to 6 pm. There was insufficient information in the original statement and environmental assessment to allow hours of darkness working. The revised NIEA and revised appropriate assessment that was tested by NIEA and Shared Environment Services (SES) determined that there was sufficient information to allow operations to occur within what would be normal operating hours throughout the entirety of the year so that November, December, January and February would be added to that list. In order for them to reach that finding there would have to be no adverse effect on the integrity of the European side and could not reach that conclusion and recommendation if that were not the case.

Mr Scurfield advised that one of the other matters that has been raised and touched upon was the enforceability of how do we know where the barges are during the night, he said that GPS trackers are attached to each and every vessel, they live report every minute of their movement, if there is extraction outside the area, DFI receive an email directly from the software operator so they are made aware immediately. On top of this INST provide fortnightly summary reports and monthly tonnages so everyone can be sure that everything is being operated accordingly. He

suggested that this was the most regulated form of extraction in the island of Ireland. The Council's Chief Executive provided a no objection response to this application subject to all the appropriate assessments and the natural environment being carried out, he would agree this is the case as NIEA and SES both found no reason to refuse the application.

Mr Scurfield asked members to support DfI's recommendation to allow this to pass without a need for a public hearing. He advised that he was not aware of Friends of the Earth's response as it came at the very last minute and was a little blindsided by that but would say that most of the matters from what he could understand are outside of the planning application and the parameters of what was being looked at and said that as everyone accepts the algae is a substantive issue and the anthropogenic matters which were being referenced was all outside of the bounds of the planning application put forward and simply limited to hours of operation and changes of barges.

The SD: PI said that it got quite complex when there is a change of condition, legally if it went to public enquiry, planning appeals commission does have the opportunity to reassess the application afresh. There has been notes where someone challenged a planning appeal on a condition on a notion that it's unreasonable and the PAC concluded that if it was unreasonable that it cannot be imposed and no longer the means to grant that planning permission. He said that theoretically shocked if PAC took that view in this instance but would equally wrong of him to advise members that it was absolutely limited to the conditions. The SD: PI referred to what was in front of members tonight despite that wider legal interpretation, is that can bigger boats be put on the Lough and hours of operation at different times and not the whole effect. He said that it was important to ask why this was felt necessary in the first place and was obviously imposed by the Planning Appeals Commission when dealing with the public enquiry with agreement with the parties.

In response to SD: PI, Mr Scurfield advised that with the initial submission and predominantly the bird analysis this was undertaken in exclusively daylight hours for the original environmental statement, there was a gap given that in the winter months there is usually 1½ to 2 hours which were normal operating hours when the barges would have been returning to the quays. The commissioner felt that there was a gap in that analysis and he recommended the restricted hours in daylight working in November, December, January and February which was the normal operating hours in which Lough Neagh Sand Traders accepted and operated those conditions with a view to the fact they had to go away and plug that information gap in order that either NIEA or SES could arrive at a position where they could say that there would be no harm done to the designated site so this was why it was imposed in the first instance. This has been revisited all for ostensibly commercial reasons because the normal operating hours of a business throughout the rest of the year is 6am to 6pm. In response to comment relating to the barges, Mr Scurfield advised that the Department was alerted before the issue of the planning consent and unfortunately to ask someone to replace a vessel with a like for like when a vessel is 50 years old was going to be unworkable, but they stuck to their guns and this is why this is requested as well.

The SD: PI said that his staff would be interested in the issue of enforcement and enquired could it not be the case that someone could switch of a tracker and also for third party sand traders who do not operate with trackers but still extract. The SD: PI

felt that the representatives were asking the committee to trust them and dispute what the Department alluded to in their correspondence, his experience is that they intend to push all the enforcement matters to this Council and when we contact them, they tend not to respond to us. He enquired how do you stop barges going out over night and extracting in areas where they shouldn't be permitted.

Councillor McConnell left meeting at 8.06 pm and returned at 8.08 pm.

Mr Scurfield advised that there are trackers built into the system in a very sophisticated way and if these were tampered with or the device goes down, it would alert Seatrack or the relevant sea company responsible and also the Department that a particular tracker on one of the vessels has gone down which is instantaneous. Mr Scurfield stated that protocol within Lough Neagh Sand Traders which has the overarching Section 76 above it, basically says that the operator will stand down the vessel until the tracker has been repaired and operational again. Section 76 relates to a legal agreement which brings in the 5 operators and if one of those operators is in breach of the operations, then consideration is that all the operators are in breach and therefore the potential for infighting amongst the parties where one party could be potentially be suing the other for loss of earnings and was beyond the pilots of the barges to disarm a tracker unit without alerting someone. In relation to pirates of the Lough, Mr Scurfield advised that these were third party operators and could not speak on that matter, but most definitely do not have trackers and could not benefit from planning permission either as the planning permission was specific to routes which enable the sand only to be landed at the 8 controlled quays which was deliberately structured by the Department to ensure that any third party operators could not wilfully operate.

The SD: PI said as the committee know it's not against the law to do something without planning permission, but against the law to break an enforcement notice and whilst there may be activities which do not benefit from planning permission, it doesn't necessarily mean that the enforcement notice has been breached as this is fairly clear in regards to the areas and asked what level of governance exists to deal with that. As this area is under private ownership of Lord Shaftsbury Estates, Lough Neagh Sand Traders were extracting under licence and enquired what governance exists to deal with extraction by other parties If there is other extraction activity taking place on the Lough under private control why is there not proper governance to sort this out and why are such matters left to the planning authority. The SD: PI stated that if he was a licenced trader, he would like to see an injunction served when other people were operating without a licence.

Mr Scurfield said that he wasn't entirely sure that this was pertinent to this application but agreed that the bed of the Lough was in private ownership but would dispute whether the Lough is not open to all and would understand that private matters has been taken in little or no success in similar vein to other enforcement action.

Councillor Kerr wished to share his disappointment that the Department declined the invitation and felt that they must be living under a rock because Lough Neagh is very prominent in the local and national media at present and was aware that Al Jazeera was visiting Lough Neagh this week. The member was also aware of Chinese State Media sending a team over as it has a huge significant interest, not only to Ireland but to whole of the world. The member said that his opinion would be to strongly

oppose to the amendments to the relaxation of the applications and when reading through the letter there seems to be hugely contradictory statements coming from NIEA regarding survey work. The member said that he was aware that himself, Sinn Fein and SDLP had taken a motion last week to Council to try and address what was happening on the Lough but due to contradictory work on the survey regarding the environmental impact assessment, he would be very reluctant and had huge reservations regarding the relaxation and amendments to the conditions.

Councillor Varsani said that we are all cognisant of the fact that sand is such an important aspect of industry, an important ingredient and there was a need to separate issues and we will endeavour to do our best on that. The member reminded everyone that issues had been raised on these particular variations on planning before all the media had got interested in the Lough and felt that it was important that we are all cognisant and not mixing up our passion for the Lough in which we all have and what our remit is in terms of what we are being asked to do in considering these variations. The member stated that reassurance was given that everything was very high tech and all kinds of monitoring was being carried out and yet there has apparently been approximately 46 planning breaches within the space of 2 years. The member referred to letter from Council dated 15 September 2023 to the Department advising that the Council is of the view that the Department has been unwilling to work with Council in proactively investigating alleged breaches in relation to extraction from the Lough demonstrated by the fact that the Council is currently investigating such alleged breaches itself. The member referred to the letter from Friends of the Earth which arrived quite late but had touched on an issue which Council had raised in their initial questioning in that we don't think there has been robust research carried out on the impact of on birds and wildlife as does not still see enough evidence of that. The member said that it was her understanding that there would be a condition on bats and otters in relation to this as well, but did not see any information particularly to nocturnal species, but if there was some information she would be happy to look at that. In conclusion, Councillor Varsani felt that there were still a lot of unknowns here and although happy to read over the knowns, would be very interested in the unknowns at this point.

Councillor Black concurred with Councillor Varsani's comments and said there was a need to separate the issues which were in front of members here and as a committee we did write down the queries and concerns which we had which were fed back to the Department, who had an opportunity to address them in which they had. The member did feel however that the Department's response has gone some way to deal with the concerns and addressed quite a number of them. He referred to SD: PI previous comments and advised that there were two points in front of members tonight to consider and if we look at them in turn. Firstly, the issue in relation to the barges and what he was picking up from what he had read and presentation given tonight was that being asked to replace barges with like for like barges which is 50 years old, this is not practical and impossible to actually do and in addition to the new barges being replaced, this could actually be more environmentally friendly which could be an improvement on what the current position is. The member felt that there was a need for this to be noted and something that the committee needed to be paying attention to as in the long run it could be something that could improve the situation. Secondly, in regard to the hours of trading, there was some mention of trading during the night and felt that this was not something that was before us extending the trading hours from 6am to 6pm, it was his understanding that this was through the winter months because of darkness

setting in to provide more leeway to do that because of restriction in daylight during that time of year. However, whilst there is an extension of time that this can be done, there is an overall restriction that remains in place with the overall regard to the amount of sand that can actually be extracted from the Lough during any year. Whilst there are concerns regarding the intensification of the process here, the overall restriction remains unchanged and there can't actually be any more sand pulled out from the Lough even with the extension of time, should that be granted which also has to be considered as a committee with any decision that is made. It was his understanding that these extended hours has been considered by NIEA and SES and they have not presented any concern with regard to this direction of travel and was cognisant of the comments made regarding a previous application that was before us tonight that we need to bear heed to the specialist bodies with Road Service being the example on that occasion. He said that there are other bodies which are before us on this occasion and as a committee should we being going against the advice in which we were receiving from the external consultees which we also need to bear in mind. In regard to enforcement and whilst there will be no set of circumstances that are infallible, he felt what was said tonight goes some way in trying to address the concerns and in some way making enforcement easier should there be breaches and if trackers are not in play, it actually demonstrates the breaches of a condition and therefore easier to take enforcement action should it be required. The member felt that Lough Neagh Sand Traders could only do what was actually practically possible for them and were trying to put something in front of committee to make it easier to monitor the situation. In conclusion, the member felt that these were some points the committee needed to bear in mind in regards to what the committee decides here tonight.

Councillor Clarke advised that concerns were raised at the last meeting with a lot of things emerging into the public domain in the meantime and felt that this should not be used as a pressure on Council to make a decision in certain ways because we should proceed on what we are concerned about, and our concern was about the removal of two conditions. The member felt that nothing has been added here tonight to convince him otherwise and bodies that have been involved and have responsibility for the Lough have probably been seen to be not that efficient at doing what they are supposed to be doing and felt that there was a need to be careful where Council take their direction and information from. The member referred to this current stage and the debate that has taken place, he had noted that the application to remove the conditions had not been made, we would not be in the position we are in now and only reacting to an application, but this was no justification to let this go as Council has set out on a course which has to be continued with. The member said at the time Council did not know that this would open things up and it was his understanding that this has be progressed on from what was proposed to do initially.

Councillor McFlynn advised that a lot of questions, queries and discussion has taken place since the summertime when the blue algae appeared on Lough Neagh and whilst listening carefully to all the comments from the committee here tonight, her major issue is that the planning application originally approved was done so with these conditions on it to protect the Lough. The member said that industry could still continue on but she could not support the conditions be removed at this stage and a lot more discussion needed to take place on what was actually happening on our Lough and the effects all this industry is having. The member said that members and officers here tonight had spoken openheartedly on the issue and her opinion

would be that there was a whole lot more discussion needed before those conditions were taken off.

The SD: PI said that it was really important for members to remind themselves on what the decision that was being made, whether as a Council we will call for hearing looking into issues raised by the application. He said that we are not the authority which will be deciding on the outcome of the application as this was the remit of the Department. The SD: PI referred to similar matter which related to Upperlands and our experience was that the Department evaded our questions and felt that this will be the same scenario. The Department will request we demonstrate the harm caused by the application. The SD: PI stated that extraction on the Lough will carry on regardless of the proposed alterations the conditions. His main concern was that more intensive extraction will impact on sediment in lake which could lead on to further impacts. The traders had indicated the permission was time limited, which meant there would be opportunity for further research on impacts before a further permission would be granted. The SD: PI felt that there was a need for further research and a more joined up government around the lake to ensure that proper dialogue takes place with DfI, DAERA and Shaftbury's Estate etc. as this was not just about the lake but about future of the basin. The SD: PI concluded by saying that this was not a healthy time in government as currently there was a culture of continuously passing the buck and from a planning professional viewpoint this was not helping to resolve issues.

Councillor Varsani said it may be useful to re-read a little paragraph from Council's letter from 10th August when we talk about evidence, it was also the absence of evidence that we need to concern ourselves with especially in regard to one of the most important habitats in Europe, if not the world – *"In requesting a Hearing the Council reserve the right to add to its concerns and to bring in expertise to question the adequacy of the environmental appraisal and appropriate assessment of this change to the conditions and it should be born in mind that because the precautionary principal applies the burden will rest with the Department to demonstrate that no harm will occur"*. The member felt that the Department may have given us an opinion but they have not given us the evidence that no harm will occur and advised that an opinion is not the same as research and felt that the committee needed to bear this in mind also.

The Chair advised that members had heard a good lengthy discussion and also presentation including questions and answers from representatives from Lough Neagh Sand Traders. He wished to say that it was unacceptable that the Department has not come forthwith to answer some of the very pertinent questions and felt that as government body to fail in its duty to do that is totally wrong and may have went some way to what Councillor Varsani asked for to alleviate some of the precautionary issues.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Varsani and

Resolved That having considered the correspondence from DfI, that a hearing by the PAC is still being sought.

P107/23 Receive Report on Net Zero

The Head of Strategic Planning (HSP) presented previously circulated report to agree a Council response to DAERA's current consultation on the related Carbon Budgets and the CCC advice report (appendix). The consultation closes on the 11 October 2023.

The Chair agreed that this was a very high tech, detailed, scientific document and commended the HSP on the delivery of his presentation and felt that it has been captured well and in terms on the needs to be an economic feasibility and considerations as well as protecting the environment and matters relating to agriculture.

Councillor Varsani enquired if the reduction livestock was almost a third or 18%.

The HSP advised that Item 3.2 specifically states that “*A reduction in Northern Irish livestock numbers of almost a third and the widespread adoption of low-carbon farming practices*” which relates to this particular point. He stated that one reflects the balance pathway and the other is the stretch ambition pathway which was an even more ambitious target which explains the reference to 18% and almost a third.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan and

Resolved To agree the suggested response to this consultation as set out in the report and that the Service Director is delegated to finalise the response.

Matters for Information

P108/23 Minutes of Planning Committee held on 5 September 2023

Members noted minutes of Planning Committee held on 5 September 2023.

Live broadcast ended at 6.52 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Varsani and

Resolved In accordance with Section 42, Part 1 of 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 P109/23 to P113/23.

Matters for Decision

P109/23 Receive Report on Advanced Notice of Listing – Pomeroy
P110/23 Receive Enforcement Report

Matters for Information

- P111/23 Confidential Minutes of Planning Committee held on 5 September 2023
- P112/23 Enforcement Cases Opened
- P113/23 Enforcement Cases Closed

P101/23 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 5 pm and concluded at 7.10 pm.

Chair _____

Date _____

Annex A – Introductory Remarks from the Chairperson

Good evening and welcome to the meeting of Mid Ulster District Council's Planning Committee in the Chamber, Magherafelt and virtually.

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

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 you are for or against the proposal or abstaining from voting
- For members attending remotely, note that by voting on any application, you are confirming that you were in attendance for the duration of, and that you heard and saw all relevant information in connection with the application you vote on
- When invited to speak please introduce yourself by name to the meeting. When finished please put your audio to mute
- 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
- An Addendum was emailed to all Committee Members at 5pm today. There is also a hard copy on each desk in the Chamber. Can all members attending remotely please confirm that they received the Addendum and that have had sufficient time to review it?
- If referring to a specific report please reference the report, page or slide being referred to so everyone has a clear understanding
- For members of the public that are exercising a right to speak by remote means, please ensure that you are able to hear and be heard by councillors, officers and any others requesting speaking rights on the particular application. If this isn't the case you must advise the Chair immediately. Please note that once your application has been decided, you will be removed from the meeting. If you wish to view the rest of the meeting, please join the live link.
- Can I remind the public and press that taking photographs of proceedings or the use of any other means to enable persons not present to see or hear any

proceedings (whether now or later), or making a contemporaneous oral report of any of the proceedings are all prohibited acts.

Thank you and we will now move to the first item on the agenda - apologies and then roll call of all other Members in attendance.

ADDENDUM TO PLANNING COMMITTEE AGENDA

FOR PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING ON: 3 October 2023

Additional information has been received on the following items since the agenda was issued.

Chairs Business –

Letter to DFI Re Draft Development Plan

Letter to Head of Planning from DAERA

ITEM	INFORMATION RECEIVED	ACTION REQUIRED
5.3	Natural Environment Division replied on 26-09-23 and has considered the impacts of the proposal on designated sites and other natural heritage interests and, on the basis of the information provided, has no concerns.	To be noted by members
5.4	A further condition is included to address the waste codes allowed	To be noted by Members
7	Correspondence from Friends of the Earth	To be noted by Members

Minutes of Meeting of Policy and Resources Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 5 October 2023 in the Council Offices, Burn Road, Cookstown and by Virtual Means

Members Present	Councillor Corry, Chair Councillors Bell* (7.03 pm), Brown, J Burton, Cahoon, Gildernew, Johnston*, McAleer, McFlynn*, McLean* (7.07 pm), McLernon, S McPeake*, Molloy*, Wilson
Officers in Attendance	Mr McCreesh, Chief Executive** Mrs Canavan, Strategic Director of Organisation Development, Strategy and Performance (SD: ODSP) Ms Linney, Assistant Director of Development (AD: Dev)** Mr McGuckin, Head of Strategic Services and Engagement (HoSS&E) Mr Moffett, Assistant Director of Organisation Development, Strategy and Performance (AD: ODSP) Mr O'Hagan, Head of IT (HoIT) Ms McNally, Assistant Director of Corporate Service and Finance (AD: CS&F)** Mr Scullion, Assistant Director of Property Services (AD: PS) Mr Tohill, Strategic Director of Corporate Services & Finance (SD: CS&F) Miss Thompson, Committee and Member Services Officer

* 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 Corry welcomed everyone to the meeting and those watching the meeting through the Live Broadcast. Councillor Corry 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.

PR161/23 Notice of Recording

Members noted that the meeting would be webcast for live and subsequent broadcast on the Council's You Tube site.

PR162/23 Apologies

Councillors F Burton and Totten.

PR163/23 Declarations of Interest

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

Councillors Brown and Gildernew declared an interest in agenda item 5 – Community Festivals Grant.

PR164/23 Chairs Business

None.

Matters for Decision

PR165/23 Community Festivals Grant

The Assistant Director of Development (AD: Dev) presented previously circulated report which sought approval for additional resourcing to support the current applications to the Community Festival Grant.

Councillor Bell joined the meeting at 7.03 pm during presentation of above report.

Councillor Gildernew proposed the recommendation stating she was acutely aware of how important funding is particularly to community groups in rural areas.

Councillor McLernon seconded Councillor Gildernew's proposal.

Councillor S McPeake declared an interest in this item.

Councillor Wilson stated that when the financial contribution is drawn down from Council reserves it will deal with those applications received at present. The Councillor stated that the grant still has a number of months to run and asked if it would now have to close.

The AD: Dev advised that the draw down of monies deals with applications received up until the end of August and stated that whilst applications to the fund have not been stopped there is a notice on the website advising potential applicants that the grant budget has been expended and applications cannot be processed. The AD: Dev stated that groups would not have been aware of this position until recently and referred to the concerns that if they had been aware they could have prepared their application earlier and would not have been disadvantaged now. The AD: Dev stated that this is a risk of a rolling grant programme such as Community Festival Grant and Good Relations Grant which is also a rolling grant programme. The AD: Dev advised that officers have been looking into additional funding sources but stated that if no further funding can be found the grant will have to close. The AD:

Dev stated that she could make no recommendations for the future at the moment but highlighted that no further funding sources have been found at this stage.

Councillor McLean joined the meeting at 7.07 pm.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve a financial contribution of £5,443 from Council reserves to the Community Festivals Fund to support applications as detailed in the September Development report.

PR166/23 Model Complaints Handling Procedures: Implementation

The Assistant Director of Organisational Development, Strategy and Performance (AD: ODSP) presented previously circulated report which advised of the background to and arrangements to implement the requirements of the Model Complaints Handling Procedures, as published by the Northern Ireland Public Service Ombudsman (NIPSO) on complaints management across local government in Northern Ireland and gave consideration to adopting the Model Complaints Handling Procedure (MCHP).

Councillor Wilson proposed the recommendation. Councillor Wilson referred to a recent High Court ruling on holiday pay and asked if this would have an effect on Council staff.

The Strategic Director of Organisational Development, Strategy and Performance (SD: ODSP) updated the meeting on when Council had previously considered such matters.

Councillor Brown seconded Councillor Wilson's proposal.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to adopt the Model Complaints Handling Procedure (MCHP) as set out at appendix to report, to be developed and personalised to Council.

PR167/23 Request to Illuminate Council Property

The Assistant Director of Organisational Development, Strategy and Performance (AD: ODSP) presented previously circulated report to seek members approval to illuminate and light up the Council's three designated properties to raise awareness for the following:

- Global: Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia (CDH)
- Holocaust Memorial Day Trust

The AD: ODSP also sought Members approval to include an additional request to light up the three buildings for Child Brain Injury Trust GloWeek on 3 November 2023 which was received since the report was circulated.

Proposed by Councillor Brown
Seconded by Councillor McLernon and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to illuminate the three designated Council properties as follows –
- Global: Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia (CDH), 19 April 2024. Colours: Blue, Pink and Yellow
 - Holocaust Memorial Day Trust, 27 January 2024. Colour: Purple
 - Child Brain Injury Trust GloWeek, 3 November 2023. Colour: Purple, Blue, Yellow

PR168/23 Member Services

Councillor Wilson paid tribute to all involved in the works to Cookstown Chamber. The Councillor stated that the technology has brought the Chamber into the 21st century and felt it also gave a boost to staff in the Cookstown offices as it let them see they have not been forgot about.

The Chair, Councillor Corry concurred with Councillor Wilson’s comments and thanked officers for the good work in bringing the Chamber up to date.

Matters for Information

PR169/23 Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on 7 September 2023

Members noted Minutes of Policy & Resources Committee held on 7 September 2023.

Live broadcast ended at 7.12 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 - Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Brown
Seconded by Councillor McLernon and

- Resolved** In accordance with Section 42, Part 1 of 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 PR170/23 to PR177/23.

Matters for Decision

- PR170/23 Land and Property Matters
PR171/23 Staffing Matters for Decision

Matters for Information

- PR172/23 Confidential Minutes of Policy & Resources Committee held on 7 September 2023
PR173/23 Staff Matters for Information
PR174/23 Contracts and DAC Registers – Update
PR175/23 Financial report for 5 months ended 31 August 2023

PR176/23 Treasury Management – Update
PR177/23 2024/25 Rate Estimates

PR178/23 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 7.35 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 - apologies and then roll call of all other Members in attendance.

Minutes of Meeting of Environment Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Tuesday 10 October 2023 in Council Offices, Burn Road, Cookstown and by virtual means

Members Present

Councillor Cuthbertson, Chair

Councillors J Burton*, J Buchanan, Cahoon, Kelly, Groogan, Mallaghan, Martin*, McAleer, McElvogue, McGuigan, McNamee, Milne*, Quinn (7.02 pm), Robinson, Varsani

Officers in Attendance

Mrs Campbell, Strategic Director of Environment (SD: Env)
Mr Lowry, Head of Technical Services (HoTS)
Mr McAdoo, Assistant Director of Environmental Services (AD: ES)
Mr Scullion, Assistant Director of Property Services (AD: PS)
Miss Thompson, Committee and Member Services Officer

* Denotes members and members of the public 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 Cuthbertson welcomed everyone to the meeting and those watching the meeting through the Live Broadcast. Councillor Cuthbertson 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.

E208/23 Notice of Recording

Members noted that the meeting would be webcast for live and subsequent broadcast on the Council's You Tube site.

E209/23 Apologies

None.

E210/23 Declarations of Interest

The Chair reminded Members of their responsibility with regard to declarations of interest.

E211/23 Chair's Business

None.

E212/23 Deputation - Safe Electricity Armagh & Tyrone (SEAT)

The Chair, Councillor Cuthbertson advised that this presentation was postponed tonight due to a bereavement in the family of one of the presenters.

The Chair also advised of two members of staff in the Environmental Services section who have been recently bereaved and that the thoughts and prayers of the Committee were with them at this time.

Matters for Decision

E213/23 DfI Roads Proposal to Mid Ulster District Council – Traffic Calming, Moneyhaw Road, Drummullan

Members considered previously circulated report which sought agreement in relation to proposal to extend traffic calming measures at Moneyhaw Road, Drummullan.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Robinson and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to endorse the proposal submitted by Department for Infrastructure Roads in relation to proposal to extend traffic calming measures at Moneyhaw Road, Drummullan.

Councillor Martin stated she welcomed the proposals for traffic calming as she had met with DfI officers several times on this issue. The Councillor asked if there is a timeframe for the work to be carried out.

The Chair, Councillor Cuthbertson advised that DfI were consulting with Council on this matter and officers would have no information regarding timeframes but that information may be contained within the recent DfI programme of works which was presented to Council.

E214/23 Dfl Roads Proposal to Mid Ulster District Council – Disabled Person’s Parking Bay, Main Street, Clogher

Members considered previously circulated report which sought agreement in relation to proposal to introduce a Disabled Person’s Parking Bay at Main Street, Clogher.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Robinson and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to endorse the proposal submitted by Department for Infrastructure Roads in relation to proposal to introduce a Disabled Person’s Parking Bay at Main Street, Clogher.

E215/23 Dfl Roads Proposal to Mid Ulster District Council – No Waiting At Any Time Restriction at Granville Industrial Estate, Dungannon

Members considered previously circulated report which sought agreement in relation to proposal to introduce No Waiting At Any Time, loading or unloading at Granville Industrial Estate, Dungannon.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Robinson and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to endorse the proposal submitted by Department for Infrastructure Roads in relation to proposal to introduce No Waiting At Any Time, loading or unloading at Granville Industrial Estate, Dungannon.

Councillor Burton referred to the red line on the map and asked if consideration had been given to if there was a backlog of vehicles wanting to enter the premises.

The Chair, Councillor Cuthbertson stated that Council would not have considered the issue as such and that Dfl are consulting with Council on what they are proposing to do.

The Assistant Director of Property Services (AD: PS) advised that the Chair’s comments were correct and that Dfl are consulting with Council on these issues. The AD: PS stated he was unsure if this was contained within the recently presented programme of works but that he would seek clarity on the matter.

E216/23 Dfl Roads Proposal to Mid Ulster District Council – Omagh Road and Old Ballygawley Roundabout, Ballygawley 50mph Speed Limit

Members considered previously circulated report which sought agreement in relation to proposal to introduce a reduced speed limit of 50mph speed limit at Omagh Road and Old Ballygawley Roundabout, Ballygawley.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Robinson and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to endorse the proposal submitted by Department for Infrastructure Roads in relation to proposal to introduce a reduced speed limit of 50mph speed limit at Omagh Road and Old Ballygawley Roundabout, Ballygawley.

E217/23 Consultation on Northern Ireland's 2030 & 2040 Emissions Reduction Targets and First Three Carbon Budgets

The Assistant Director of Environmental Services (AD: ES) presented previously circulated report which sought approval for a proposed response to a public consultation on Northern Ireland's 2030 & 2040 Emissions Reduction Targets & First Three Carbon Budgets.

Councillor McGuigan proposed the recommendation and stated that some of the items raised in the report could be brought forward to the climate change working group and community wealth building working group.

Councillor Varsani seconded Councillor McGuigan's proposal.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the proposed Carbon Budgets Consultation response as set out at appendix to report.

E218/23 Bus Shelters Update

The Head of Technical Services (HoTS) presented previously circulated report which provided update on current bus shelter status.

Councillor McAleer proposed the report and referred to decision taken at P&R Committee last week in relation to St Colmans Park. The Councillor asked for confirmation that NIHE were notified of the decision taken which is waiting on Council ratification.

The Assistant Director of Property Services (AD: PS) advised that further to decision taken at the P&R Committee last week NIHE were notified and that an extension has been granted in order for the decision to be ratified by Council at the end of the month.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council –

- That the following applications move of stage 5 of the process -
 - Dungannon Road, Cabragh, - 10nr passengers
 - Ballyronan road, Magherafelt, - 6nr passengers
 - Moydamlaght Road, Moneyneana, - 8nr passengers
 - Moore street, Aughnacloy, - 20nr passengers (relocation of shelter as agreed at September Environment committee meeting, due to objection on previous site)

4 – Environment Committee (10.10.23)

- Lineside, Coalisland, - 20+ nr passengers
- That the following applications are rejected and removed from the register -
 - Derrynoyd Road, Draperstown - 1nr passenger (minimum 6nr required to progress)
 - Cloane Road, Draperstown- 1nr passenger (minimum 6nr required to progress)
 - Thatch Inn, Hillhead Road- Translink confirmed no passengers collected at this stop, not an EA stop.

Matters for Information

E219/23 Environment Committee minutes of meeting held on 12 September 2023

Members noted minutes of Environment Committee held on 12 September 2023.

E220/23 Consultation on Proposed Amendments to Fire Safety Measures of the Building Regulations

Members noted previously circulated report which advised on the Consultation by the Department of Finance, inviting a response on the proposed amendments to the fire safety measures of the Building Regulations under Part A (Interpretation and general) & Part E (Fire Safety) guidance of the Building Regulations.

E221/23 Building Control Workload

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on the workload analysis for Building Control.

E222/23 Entertainment Licensing Applications

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on Entertainment Licensing Applications across the Mid Ulster District.

E223/23 Dual Language Signage Surveys

Members noted previously circulated report which advised of the result of surveys undertaken on all applicable residents on the streets/roads in response to Dual Language Signage Nameplate requests.

E224/23 Dual Language Signage Requests

Members noted previously circulated report which advised of requests for Dual Language Signage from residents on the streets/roads in question.

E225/23 Launch of Community RePaint Scheme

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on the launch of the Community RePaint / Reuse Scheme.

E226/23 Sustainability, Biodiversity and Environmental Education Update

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on community engagement work by the Sustainability, Biodiversity and Environmental/Recycling Education team over the last six months.

Live broadcast ended at 7.15 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 - Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor McAleer and

Resolved In accordance with Section 42, Part 1 of 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 E227/23 to E234/23.

Matters for Decision

- E227/23 Public Toilet Provision
- E228/23 Applications for Installation of Memorials on Council Property
- E229/23 IST Award – Connecting Pomeroy Work Package 6 – Civil Work Trail Improvements

Matters for Information

- E230/23 Environment Committee Confidential Minutes of meeting held on 12 September 2023
- E231/23 Rationalisation of Recycling Centres and Grass Cutting Working Group Update
- E232/23 Capital Framework – ICT Contracts Update
- E233/23 Capital Framework – IST Contracts Update
- E234/23 Capital Projects – Scoping Contracts Update

E235/23 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 7.45 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.

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- 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

Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 12 October 2023 in the Council Offices, Burn Road, Cookstown and by Virtual Means

Members Present

Councillor McNamee, Chair

Councillors Bell* Black (7.03 pm), W Buchanan, F Burton (7.05 pm)* Clarke, Corry, Gildernew, McLernon, McQuade*, Milne*, Molloy* Monteith*, Quinn, Wilson

Officers in Attendance

Mr Black, Strategic Director of Communities & Place (SD: C&P)

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)**

Ms McCartney, Strategic Programme Development Manager (SPDM)

Mr John Kennedy, ICT Support

Mrs Grogan, Committee and Member Services Officer

* 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.

D144/23 Notice of Recording

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

D145/23 Apologies

Councillor Forde.

D146/23 Declaration of Interests

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

Councillor Clarke declared an interest in agenda item 8 – Sperrins Partnership Update.

D147/23 Chair's Business

The Chair, Councillor McNamee advised that he had attended the Housing Forum meeting last week and it was brought to his attention that landlord registration would be transferred to Local Government in December 2024. The member advised that he had raised a few questions enquiring whether it had been through Council or not.

The Strategic Director of Communities & Place (SD: C&P) stated that he was aware of ongoing conversations around the potential for the landlord registration scheme to transfer to local government from Department for Communities (DfC). The SD: C&P said that as far as he was aware that this has progressed to the stage where the department had formed a group to look at this and had recently written to SOLACE seeking a nomination to sit on that group, an appointment from SOLACE was agreed in September. The SD: C&P was not aware of the individual attending their first meeting yet but would link in with the appointee to seek an update and when further information is received this would be brought back for members consideration.

Councillor Molloy wished to raise a matter in relation to planning an event in Meadowbank, Magherafelt. The member advised that he had been approached by a member of the public seeking to run a charity event for children at Meadowbank as he works with seriously ill children and was advised by Council Officers that a certain type of licence needed to go through before this could be held. The member advised that this person wished to hold the event before Christmas and was more than willing to work with Officers and do whatever he can do to get it over the line. The member said that it would be helpful to provide any assistance possible to speed the process up.

The Assistant Director of Health, Leisure and Wellbeing (AD: HL&W) said that Officers were aware of the booking request and will keep engagement open with the group and follow up again tomorrow. In relation to specifics, the type of event is proposed to be held requires an entertainment licence but would look at all possible avenues to try and explore and expedite that to include working within all the relevant policies in place.

Councillor Black entered the meeting at 7.03 pm.

Matters for Decision

D148/23 Walking for All Project

The Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing (AD: HL&W) presented previously circulated report 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 Co-ordinator” to be based in the Mid Ulster area.

Councillor McLernon said that she would be happy to propose the recommendation and welcomed it as it was a great initiative and looked forward to seeing it rolled out.

Councillor Corry seconded the proposal as it was evident over this last number of years the great walking trails which were there throughout Mid Ulster including Davagh, Moydamlaght etc and goes to show how popular they have been and great to see an extension to this being recognised.

Councillor F Burton said that by reading through the report and thinking back to the night that Dfl were in attendance, our Chief Executive spoke very well in trying to ensure that any possibility with safer routes travel in which Council work with Dfl, would fit in very well with that. The member enquired from the AD: HL&W if this could be a possibility as she had a couple of places in which she may be able to try and push as she was aware of talk about rural areas but wanted to ensure the safety of people who were out walking on the road and the best way to link up people who live in rural areas who may not have safe access to walk into their village, church hall or sports facilities. The member felt that anything that Council could do to support this would be very welcome and she would be happy to come on board also.

The AD: HL&W advised that this was currently out for procurement for the appointment of the appropriate expertise to develop a district wide Active Travel Masterplan. He advised that the fundamental components of that would be to scope out all the possible routes and paths for this district area that may have the potential to lend itself from an Active Travel perspective in the future and working very closely with Dfl around that. He hoped that when procurement had run its course in the next number of weeks a paper can be brought back to committee for consideration and hoped to be in a position to move forward with the project.

Proposed by Councillor McLernon
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve ORNI request from Council to:

- 1) Formally support the project by being a named partner in the forthcoming application to Peace Plus
- 2) Agreeing in principle and subject to due diligence to act as the employing authority for the WFA Local Co-ordinator
- 3) Agreeing in principle and subject to due diligence to providing office space and administrative support as required throughout the length of the project
- 4) Proportionate office support throughout the project when required to assist the Co-ordinator

D149/23 Development Report

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

- Community Grants Rolling Programme
- Social Supermarket Concept, via the DfC Hardship Fund
- DfC Welfare Reform Support
- Cookstown Town Twinning
- Women's Night Safety Charter
- Seamus Heaney Homeplace Sandford Award
- Development Update

Councillor Gildernew said that she would be happy to propose the recommendation.

The member advised that however, in relation to the DfC hardship funding for foodbanks, she understood the need for foodbanks and funding for them but felt that we as a society should not be happy to let foodbanks become normality. We need the Executive restored to support workers and families through passing legislation to ban zero-hour contracts which make people's income insecure and uncertain. An incoming Executive should also be adequately funded to improve public services and provide better wages to public sector workers as well as power being devolved to set minimum wages rates. People in the North are being hit with increases in fuel, food, energy, mortgage repayments and heat. The cost-of-living crisis means that those on low pay or minimum wage are at risk of falling into debt and being unable to pay for basic essentials. Sinn Féin supports the 'Living Wage Foundations' call for a real living wage of £10.90 to be paid to workers as the minimum standard of pay.

Councillor McLernon seconded the recommendation. The member wished to comment in relation to the Women's Night Safety Charter and felt that anything that Mid Ulster District Council could do to provide safe spaces for women and promote safety for women should be done and would wholly support the signing of the Charter.

Proposed by Councillor Gildernew
Seconded by Councillor McLernon and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to –

- Agree the Community Grants Rolling Programme awards
- Agree the Social Supermarket funding application
- Agree the allocation the DfC Welfare Reform Support
- Agree the Cookstown Town Twinning support
- Agree to sign up to the Women's Nigh Safety Charter
- Agree to representation at the Seamus Heaney Homeplace Sandford Award
- Note the Development Update.

Councillor Quinn declared an interest in St. Vincent de Paul, Coalisland as they share part of Clonoe in which he is part of.

Councillor Quinn advised that Colette Campbell had put in for an individual sports award in October to attend an international event in Birmingham and was delighted to say that she was part of a successful act of Irish Ladies Bowls Team that won the British and Irish Championships at the weekend.

Councillor Monteith declared an interest in Mid Ulster Advice Service.

Councillor Monteith referred to page 9, where Water Service had appointed a contractor or consultant to deal with issues around the mast at the Hill of The O'Neill. He said that it was disappointing that this was only at this stage now as it was a good few months ago that commitment was made that this would be done. The member felt that the only people that was going to put any impetus or enthusiasm into this would be members themselves.

Councillor Monteith proposed that contact be made with Water Service again requesting that a meeting take place with the consultant at the earliest opportunity. The member said that his fear would be that this could run into 12 months after members felt was a reasonably positive meeting with Water Service and will eventually die with a lack of enthusiasm on their behalf.

Councillor Molloy seconded Councillor Monteith's proposal. The member said that he was present at the meeting with Water Service and disappointing to see it only slowly progressing. There is talk about redeveloping the Hill of The O'Neill and the black spot that was on top of it with the mast and any further work which can be achieved for the better would be welcomed.

The Strategic Director of Communities & Place (SD: C&P) said that he appreciated and understood the frustrations in relation to how long it has taken to get to this stage with NI Water. The SD: C&P wished to reassure members that engagement with NI Water has been ongoing and a lot of backwards and forwards in relation to trying to agree the terms of reference and the scope of work which has thankfully been completed and the final costs being received. The commission of the contractor is a joint commission and jointly being paid by this Council and NI Water and we will be heavily involved and will members at the right juncture in relation to inputting into the study in advance of the final report.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to keep the impetus on the matter and continue to engage with the Water Service to move this work forward at pace.

D150/23 Economic Development Report – OBFD

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

- **Lough Neagh Partnership (2023/24)**
- **Tourism Autumn/Winter Campaign 2023**
- **Donaghmore Historical Society – Letter of Support**
- **Social Enterprise NI: Membership Renewal 2023/24**
- **Dungannon Traders Association Proposal**

Proposed by Councillor McLernon
Seconded by Councillor Gildernew and

- **Lough Neagh Partnership (2023/24)**

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to:

- Note content of report, including Lough Neagh Partnership's Progress Partnership's Report for 2022/23 (appendix 1) outlining actions completed against their 2022/23 Service Level Agreement Targets
- Approve 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.
- Approve Council's Draft Service Level Agreement with Lough Neagh Partnership for the 2023/2024 financial year (appendix 2)

- **Tourism Autumn/Winter Campaign 2023**

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the content and mediums proposed for the Mid Ulster Tourism Autumn/Winter Campaign 2023 and associated budget of £10,000.

- **Donaghmore Historical Society**

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve 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.

- **Social Enterprise NI: Membership Renewal 2023/24**

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve Council's membership renewal with Social Enterprise NI (SENI) for the year 2023/24 at a fee of £500.

- **Dungannon Traders Association Proposal**

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve 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.

Councillor Gildernew referred to Jingle Ball Run event and advised that Eoghan Ruadh Hurling Club were involved last year which didn't seem to be the case this year and also Aodh Ruadh Ladies Football Club. The member enquired if this was a case of being missed and if so could they be included if they are willing to do so.

The AD: EDT&SP advised that this can be investigated with Dungannon Traders Association to check this out and advise the member.

D151/23 Sperrins Partnership Update

The Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes (AD: EDT&SP) presented previously circulated report to provide members with an update on the Sperrins Partnership Project.

The Chair congratulated Councillor Clarke on being elected as new Chairman of Sperrin Partnership.

Councillor Clarke thanked the AD: EDT&SP for the good report and stated that this was a historic opportunity as Sperrins had been declared an AONB in 1968 which was 55 years ago and within the last 30 years he has been involved in the different stages to try and have a management plan brought into place and eventually this has been received. The member advised that we were the last and the earliest, but we were here now and will make a huge difference in delivering the key benefits of an AONB and would be delighted to accept the recommendations as outlined within the report.

Councillor Corry seconded the recommendations and would be happy to reiterate what Councillor Clarke alluded to as this was something that people have been waiting on for a long time and we all realise and see the potential for the beauty the Sperrins has to offer and great to see the final outcome.

Councillor Wilson advised that as a point of order that the Chair of Sperrins Partnership, Councillor Clarke should not be proposing the recommendations.

The Chair said that he seen no issue as a conflict of interest.

Councillor Corry said that she would be happy to propose the recommendations.

Proposed by Councillor Corry
Seconded by Councillor Quinn and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to:

- Note content of report.
- Approve in principle that Council continue to provide financial support to Sperrins Partnership when their financial request is made to Committee in the 2024/25 financial year, subject to Council budgets being confirmed for next year, and reciprocal financial contribution being made available from all Partner Councils. The financial request should be accompanied by a refreshed Partnership Agreement.

- Approve realignment of Sperrins Partnership financial requests to Partner Councils to mirror financial years (1 April – 31 March).
- Accept the terms and conditions of the DAERA Environment Fund Strategic Strand 2023 – 2028. Letter of Offer attached at Appendix 1.
- Support recruitment of an AONB Project Officer to assist with development of the Sperrin AONB Management Plan and Action Plan.
- Approve the suggested amendment to the current Sperrins Partnership Structure as set out on Appendix 2 and budget allocation to salary costs as detailed in the report.

Matters for Information

D152/23 Minutes of Development Committee held on 14 September 2023

Members noted Minutes of Development Committee held on 14 September 2023.

Councillor Quinn referred to D126/23 and said that he was aware that discussions had taken place regarding the Blackwater barmouth last month and was agreed that legal advice would be brought to the Environment Committee, which didn't happen but Council did receive the legal advice. The member stated that this time last year this Council did discuss options in relation to dredging and core sampling and was also aware of the committee going against paying for it but felt that that it had now come to the situation where ABC and ourselves are not willing to do it, that we take it upon ourselves to do it as it wasn't a lot of money. The member suggested that a report be brought back to environment or development in whichever committee it falls under, with costings of what is going ahead or what is proposed for the committee to look at and felt that this would be the best interest going forward. The member was aware of meetings taking place with ABC in relation to issue on the Blackwater and when meeting took place 2 years ago it was to have Maghery/Ferry Bridge looked at and repaired and all the land cleared away which was within ABC's gift. Discussions also took place regarding the jetty which was on the Maghery side and nothing on the Derrylaughan side and if people were trying to board the boats it can be quite a long journey from one side to the other especially by car, this had been discussed before and the people from the local community were basically asking why Maghery has got everything including more development and nothing on their side at all. From a historical point of view from the ferry going across the Blackwater going back generations and if a jetty was put there for people getting on and off is vitally important and hoped that this could possibly be raised at the next meeting with ABC Council in joint committee. The member was aware of other groups around Moy enquiring about a jetty also, but felt there was a lot of delaying, stalling, a lot of talk but there was a need to turn this into a result and would like to push to a result if not next month but certainly before the end of the year as there was a lot of toing and froing and people getting angry and felt it this was within Mid Ulster Council's gift to do the jetty or core samples then this should be progressed.

The Chair advised that Councillor McLernon had raised this issue at the last Development Committee meeting where it was decided that a report be brought back to Environment committee.

Councillor McLernon clarified that she had raised this issue at the last Development committee where it was agreed that a report be brought back to Environment committee as the issue is very important and as there was no mention of it in the Environment report, enquired if there was any update. The member reiterated what Councillor Quinn had stated and said that this goes along the whole Lough Shore and had huge potential to be opened up for tourism.

Councillor Molloy concurred with previous two speakers comments and advised that a feasibility study was presented in Autumn last year on the Blackwater and this was part of it for development of facilities on the Mid Ulster side of the river. The member said that whilst talking to local people there is a group prepared to do core samples at the barmouth regardless of whatever happens in the cut on the ABC side, a group prepared to carry out the testing of the soil samples and then up to ourselves along with ABC to get the action carried out in relation to the dredging. The member felt that this is the time to push this on and get it sorted as it was going on for far too long and if need be would propose if this was a funding issue, to look at power of general competence to get this over the line. The member advised that the facilities on the Mid Ulster side of the river were dire as Moy jetty was in a fairly bad state in comparison to provisions which were at Tamnamore and Maghery, it was a stark contrast to what we were providing on our side of the river. We have lots of groups using the river and want to use the facilities and felt there was a lot of work to be done. This Council has paid a significant amount of money for a feasibility study to be done and whilst looking through the paper for Lough Neagh Partnership (Item 2E in addendum) – *Development of Blackwater River providing technical advice associated with dredging*, which also states that there was a number of engagements regarding the Blackwater study and things moving on in the background and whilst he appreciated that, felt that this was going on too long as there is local anxiety around it on how long this was taking and Local Government and Central Government is seen now to be inactive and not delivering on what they should be delivering.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor McLernon and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to look at the Power of General Competence to get the issues relating to Blackwater over the line.

Councillor McQuade reiterated what Councillor Quinn alluded to regarding Moy and advised that when water levels rise which is quite frequent, the rescue and safety services cannot access the concrete quay which was vitally important. The member stated that this was not just Moy but the requirement to have them all upgraded and whatever help the relevant Councils can provide would be welcome as ABC was also in a bad state of repair and also needs upgraded. The member advised that this was the gateway to the Ulster Canal which was currently being worked upon and soon to be completed and we need to be up to scratch by the time this happens.

Councillor F Burton said members may recall matters which may be going on for a few years including Dredge Bridge in Caledon which was rusting in parts. The member advised that this was a bridge which was off a huge significant historical importance and a report brought to committee in the hope that funding would be

sourced and when we talk about the link between our Council and ABC enquired if there was any possibility where this could all be looked at in the round as we meet together as two neighbouring Councils. The member felt if this bridge was not looked about, it would soon be that there is no bridge of significant heritage and when report was brought by the Officers, it was clearly seen from that time the bridge is well rusted in different parts. The member recalled years ago in Bertie McMinn's era, it was himself that helped that this was not lost to the locality and right beside riverside walk and gateway into Mid Ulster from ABC area. The member enquired if there was any way that this could be brought all together into the round to ensure that all of these things are discussed as Councillors all need to push for improvements within their own patch which is the gateway into their own areas.

The Strategic Director of Communities & Place (SD: C&P) said to reiterate the message which was presented at the last meeting in that the Strategic Director of Environment has been seeking legal advice in relation to the River Blackwater. The SD: C&P stated that he understood members frustration here tonight in relation to how long this was taking, but felt it was very important that we review the legal advice and make sure we are clear before we make recommendation to committee. That being said members views will be fed back from this evening and see where we are in terms of how this can be moved forward.

In response to Councillor Burton's query regarding Dredge Bridge, Caledon, the SD: C&P advised that he was not aware of the background regarding this but would like to pick up a conversation offline and link in with Assistant Director of Property Services (AD: PS) on any work which has been done historically on that or how we can move that forward.

The Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes (AD: EDT&SP) said she wished to follow up on what SD: C&P said regarding Blackwater River and advised that Mid Ulster District Council had convened a meeting last week with Officers from Lough Neagh Partnership, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council and Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council; these being the Councils with the largest Lough Neagh shoreline and which contribute the greatest share of core funding towards Lough Neagh Partnership.

The AD: EDT&SP said that whilst Mid Ulster District Council has been clear in its support for Lough Neagh and the River Blackwater, it is a matter for each neighbouring Council to determine the emphasis and priority they place on such issues. She added that a joined up partnership approach is much needed so that Councils speak with one voice. In addition, she advised at the meeting with Council partners last week, it was agreed that Mid Ulster District Council would convene a further meeting with Department for Infrastructure (DfI) to discuss the dredging issues and advised that Lough Neagh Partnership would be invited also. The AD: EDT&SP indicated that there were at least 3 different types of surveys that needed to be undertaken prior to any potential dredging works taking place. She stated that Lough Neagh Partnership said they may be able to bid directly to DfI to obtain funding to undertake the surveys and would investigate this.

The AD: EDT&SP confirmed that a lot of work is taking place behind the scenes and advised the Strategic Director of Environment will bring a composite report to the Environment Committee to provide Members with an update on the project. This will include the advice received from Council's solicitor on the legal vires of Council undertaking the proposed dredging works, which Members had previously sought.

The Chair said that it was quite clear that there was an awful lot going on around the Lough and the urgent need for action and the sooner a meeting takes place around the table with these people the better.

Councillor Monteith advised that he had three items he wished to raise as follows:

- D126/23 - agreed last month that a standing item would be on the agenda for Environmental Health report and asked that this be up and running for next month.
- D131/23 - agreed last month that Council resume Railway Park/Ballysaggart Lough initiative which has yet to take place and asked that this be done as a matter of urgency as this was now coming up to 12 months from last DEA meeting.
- D134/23 – cost of free carparking and enquired if Officers had a chance to investigate this.

The Chair advised that D134/23 would be raised in Confidential Business.

The SD: C&P advised that we are live in relation to Railway Park, there are revised drawings in relation to that site visit and did appreciate that this had taken some time but hoped to review those as an Officer team some time next week, with a DEA meeting date being put into the diary.

In relation to Environmental Health report being included as a standing item on the Development Report, the SD: C&P advised that this report will be brought back on a regular basis regarding Environmental Health matters.

D153/23 Age Friendly Update

Members noted update 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.

D154/23 Sunbed Test Purchasing Exercise

Members noted update on the outcome of two sunbed test purchase exercises carried out on 3rd August and 24th August 2023 under the Sunbeds Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.

D155/23 Economic Development Report – OBF1

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

- Christmas 2023 Town Activities
- ICBAN – Peace Plus Funding
- Digital Transformation Flexible Fund (DTFF) Update
- Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2023

The live broadcast ended at 7.42 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor McLernon and

Resolved In accordance with Section 42, Part 1 Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 that Members of the public in accordance with Section 42, Part 1 Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 that Members of the public be asked to withdraw from the meeting whilst members consider items D156/23 to D163/23.

Matters for Decision

- D156/23 Public Right of Way
- D157/23 SHHP Bellaghy Bawn Writers Residency Project
- D158/23 Cahore Playing Fields, Draperstown
- D159/23 Animal Welfare
- D160/23 Economic Development Report - Cbfd

Matters for Information

- D161/23 Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 14 September 2023
- D162/23 Update on New 11 Council NI Enterprise Support Service ('ESS')

D163/23 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7pm and concluded at 8.25 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

Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Monday 16 October 2023 in the Council Offices, Burn Road, Cookstown and by Virtual Means

Members Present	Councillor McNamee, Chair Councillors Bell*, Black*, W Buchanan, Clarke*, Corry*, Gildernew*, McLernon, McQuade*, Milne*, Monteith*, Quinn*, Wilson
Officers in	Ms Linney, Assistant Director of Development (AD: Dev)** Mrs Forde, Committee and Member Services Manager Ms McCabe, Grants and Capacity Building Manager
Others in Attendance	Councillor McFlynn Agenda Item 5 – Deputation: Fivemiletown Football Club Mr Christopher McDowell Agenda Item 6 – Deputation: Robert Emmet’s GAC Slaughtneill Mr Johnny McKaigue Ms Ursula O’Loughlin Agenda Item 7 – Deputation: Stewartstown Harps GAC Mr Cathal Coyle Mr Owen Coyle Mr Emma Park

* 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.

D164/23 Notice of Recording

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

D165/23 Apologies

Councillors F Burton and Molloy.

D166/23 Declaration of Interests

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

D167/23 Chair's Business

None.

D168/23 Deputation – Fivemiletown Football Club

The Chair, Councillor McNamee welcomed Mr McDowell to the meeting and invited him to make the presentation.

Mr McDowell delivered the presentation drawing attention to the project detail which plans to improve the football and community facility; provide a FIFA standard full size 3G pitch and floodlighting; increase club capacity to deliver more sports opportunities in the area; and increase sports participation in an area that had the least sports provision in the province.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee thanked Mr McDowell for his presentation and referred to the difficulties he spoke of in relation to use of Council pitches.

In response Mr McDowell advised that the two pitches were grass, were overused and due to the inclement climate were not fit for purposes. He advised that during the clubs consultation it had been said 'that at times it is not cost effective for Council to open the pitches for one booking as officers had to travel from other areas to do so.' Mr McDowell concluded that throughout the summer Council had carried out remedial work on the pitches.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee said he would not like to think users did not have access to facilities because there was issues in getting them opened due to location and requested that officers follow up.

Councillor Corry in relation to access to pitches highlighted that Council had service level agreements in many areas in order that issues such as those highlighted were overcome.

Councillor Gildernew welcomed the investment in the Clogher Valley area and concurred with fellow Members that accessibility to facilities should not be an issue just because Fivemiletown was on the periphery of the district.

Councillor Buchanan commended Mr McDowell on both the presentation and the drawing down of funding.

Mr McDowell withdrew from the meeting at 7.24 pm

Change to order of business

The Chair, Councillor McNamee said due to technical issues agenda item 7 would be heard next.

D169/23 Deputation – Stewartstown Harps GAC

The Chair, Councillor McNamee welcomed Mr Cathal Coyle, Mr Owen Coyle and Ms Emma Park to the meeting and invited them to make their presentation.

The representatives delivered the presentation (appendix B) giving an overview of the club and the project plans to deliver a Spectator Stand; Play park; Ball Wall 3G surface and Ball Wall concrete panels.

They highlighted achievements of the club in recent years together with the planning, securing of funding and bringing the proposals project to 'shovel ready project' to deliver.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee thanked the representatives of Stewartstown Harps for the presentation and said it was an ambitious project that would be welcomed in the community especially the stand which would provide shelter for spectators.

Councillor McLernon commended Stewartstown Harps on the work on the project to date and said that the community looked forward to the project coming to fruition. Councillor Clarke thanked the representatives for the presentation and said that his own club had been delighted to use the facilities but had been disappointed when their ladies team beat them to win a recent title!. He said it was an excellent project and commended them on their cost effective management especially in relation to the ball wall.

Councillor Quinn commended Stewartstown Harps and spoke of the difficulty of fundraising and their endeavours to date in raising and securing funding had been exemplary. He said the club committee and members had given hours to lead the project and they were a great example to all.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee reiterated appreciation for the presentation and representatives of Stewartstown Harps withdrew from the meeting at 7.48 pm.

D170/23 Deputation – Robert Emmet's GAC Slaughtneill

The Chair, Councillor McNamee welcomed Ms O'Loughlin/Mr McKaigue to the meeting and invited them to make their presentation.

Mr McKaigue and Ms O'Loughlin delivered presentation (appendix c). They spoke of the four elements to the project which included a 4G indoor hall, additional training pitch, perimeter walkway and children's playground. In relation to the drawing down of funding Ms O'Loughlin highlighted funding confirmed to date, applications pending with Sports NI and that they were waiting on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to open and the need for the NI Executive to be reconnect in order that for example funding could be sourced from DAERA.

Johnny delivered presentation,

The Chair, Councillor McNamee thanked Ms O'Laughlin and Mr McKaigue for their presentation commending the ambitious project and said that his only fear is that if Slaughtneil continue to build on their sporting success other clubs wouldn't get a look in!

Councillor Corry stated that Slaughtneil was the envy of many clubs that boasted great activities, commended them on their excellent plan and wished them well.

Ms O'Laughlin and Mr McKaigue withdrew from the meeting at 8.12 pm

The Chair, Councillor McNamee concluded that all were promising projects and wished the three clubs all the best in bringing them to fruition.

Chair concluded all were promising projects and wished all clubs all the best.

D171/23 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7pm and concluded at 8.13 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.

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

Report on	Conferences, Seminars & Training
Date of Meeting	26 October 2023
Reporting Officer	Joseph McGuckin, Head of Strategic Services & Engagement
Contact Officer	Eileen Forde, Member Support Officer

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	Provide an update on seminars and conferences received. To seek approval for (i) elected member attendance and the payment of registration/ attendance fees and associated costs, as incurred and, (ii) council officer approvals.
2.0	Background
2.1	Costs associated will be set against 2023-2024 member Conference, Seminar and Training allocations.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Approval for Consideration of Attendance by Elected Members There are occasions when it is beneficial to the council for Officers to attend conferences and seminars. Members are asked to consider engaging in training opportunities as outlined in Appendix A.
3.2	Officer Approvals There are occasions when it is beneficial to the council for Officers to attend conferences and seminars. Approval for attendance as detailed in Appendix B to this report is sought.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications Financial: Costs to be set against Members 2023/2024 conference/seminar/training allocation. Any costs incurred above annual allocation to be incurred by Member

	Human: not applicable
	Risk Management: not applicable
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: not applicable
	Rural Needs Implications: not applicable
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Approval for attendance at the conferences, seminars and training by members and council officers as required.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	Appendix A Member Conferences, Seminars & Training Appendix B Staff Conferences, Seminars & Training

Member Training

Provider/Course	Date & Time	Location	Costs	Attendee Requests
Housing Rights	23 October 2023	STEP Centre Dungannon	£55	Cllr Varsani
Carbon Literacy for Local Authorities – Action Day	4 December 2023	Virtual	£296+VAT	
NILGA Regional Programme Events	Various	As per flyer attached	Nil	

working together to improve housing outcomes. Celebrating 20 years of the Community Housing Advice Partnership

Working together to improve housing outcomes: Celebrating 20 years of the Community Housing Advice Partnership

Half-day conference

£45 CHAP members

£55 non-CHAP member

[Book now](#)

Housing Rights

Sponsored by:
Housing Executive

Event details

Location

The Junction, 12 Beechvalley Way,
Dungannon, BT70 1BS

Date

23 October 2023

Time

12:45pm to 4:15pm

Housing Rights invites you to a half-day conference on quality standards in housing advice for Northern Ireland, and to mark 20 years of the Community Housing Advice Partnership (CHAP).

We will celebrate 20 successful years of CHAP, and look forward to the next 20 years discussing the steps we can take to evolve the partnership, placing CHAP in the best possible position to meet need now and in the future.

The event will begin with a celebration of the project and a networking lunch.

We will start a conversation about housing advice standards and how these might operate in a Northern Ireland context.

We will hear from Grainia Long, Chief Executive, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and Margaret Kelly, Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsman. There will also be a panel discussion and opportunity to ask questions.

Event sponsor

We would like to thank our event sponsor, the [Northern Ireland Housing Executive](#) for enabling us to deliver this event.

What we will cover

- ✓ the invaluable role of CHAP organisations in assisting those in housing need
- ✓ why a housing advice standard could help housing organisations strengthen this work
- ✓ how an advice standard would benefit housing organisations and people in housing need in NI
- ✓ the importance of accurate and up to date advice and consequence of giving incorrect advice to vulnerable people
- ✓ benefits and importance of standards in public services for both practitioners and those using the service
- ✓ how good practice in public services translates to improved outcomes

Who should attend?

- ✓ CHAP organisation staff
- ✓ generalist housing advice agency staff
- ✓ Northern Ireland Housing Executive staff
- ✓ Department for Communities staff
- ✓ local councils
- ✓ politicians



Speakers

- ✓ Grainia Long, Chief Executive, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive
- ✓ Margaret Kelly, Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsman
- ✓ Faith Westwood, Housing Rights
- ✓ panellists to be announced



Carbon Literacy for Local Authorities

Upcoming sessions

Date	Price (APSE Members)	Price (Non-APSE Members)	
 04/12/23 - CARBON LITERACY ACTION DAY  09:00 - 16:30	£182 + VAT	£296 + VAT	Book Your Place Now

To learn more about our in-house option, please contact us for details: training@apse.org.uk

In September 2018, Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, said of Climate Change, "We face a direct existential threat". Independent scientists around the globe agree. With overwhelming evidence and robust analysis, this course will raise your awareness and equip you with the insights you need to meet the challenge we face in combatting climate change.

Whether your council has declared a climate emergency or not, we need to foster a low-carbon culture. We need citizens who understand the scale of the problem and feel empowered to accept and support climate mitigation policies. We need to take action on climate change.

All officers and councillors will be expected to contribute to a corporate climate emergency or climate change action plan. This Carbon Literacy training will provide support and information which will help in making a meaningful contribution.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the training you will:

- Understand and be able to explain the basic science of climate change and how climate change will affect us both globally and locally.
- Evaluate the climate change objectives in local authorities and analyse the impacts.
- Construct your own strategies to take action on climate change.

This course will be delivered online via Microsoft Teams. To access it, you will need a WiFi connection or mobile data hotspot. Downloading Microsoft Teams to your laptop, desktop or smart device will give a better performance and greater functionality throughout the day. This highly interactive training includes a mixture of presentations, video conferencing, group work, games, quizzes and video.

Carbon Literacy Award

This course is run online as a full day, two half-days or as bitesize sessions. An additional two hours of individual work is required to achieve the Carbon Literacy Award. This will include a video link prior to the training and a self-assessment of learning, which is submitted to the Carbon Literacy Project.

Carbon Literacy for Local Authorities

Course programme

For further information, please contact training@apse.org.uk

08:45 - 09:00	REGISTRATION
09:00 - 10:30	UNIT 1: The science of Climate Change <ul style="list-style-type: none">Carbon Literacy TerminologyHow is the Climate Changing?Greenhouse Gasses & the Greenhouse Effect
10:30 - 10:45	COMFORT BREAK
10:45 - 12:30	UNIT 2: Global and Local Climate Change Policy <ul style="list-style-type: none">Equity & VulnerabilityPolicies and StrategiesThe Role of Local CouncilsGreen Recovery
12:30 - 13:00	LUNCH
13:00 - 14:30	UNIT 3: Carbon Footprints and Local Actions <ul style="list-style-type: none">Myth Busting Carbon FootprintsCo-benefits of Climate ChangeTransformation and Levers of InfluenceNet-zero Dragons Den
14:30 - 14:45	COMFORT BREAK
14:45 - 15:45	UNIT 4: Planning for change and Influencing Stakeholders <ul style="list-style-type: none">Local Authority actionsCarbon Literacy Award
15:45 - 16:00	PLENARY, FEEDBACK AND CLOSE

NILGA Regional Programme October 2023 – April 2024

Date	Time	Event	Venue	Approach	Approach
Friday 6th October 2023	12.30 – 2pm	Audit Committee Training for Councillors	Online / Zoom	Workshop	Local Government Auditor
Friday 24th November 2023	10.30-1pm	Civil Contingencies/ Emergency Planning	Lough Neagh Discovery Centre Oxford Island	Masterclass	Local Government Resilience
Thursday 11th January 2024	6-8pm	Employment Issues, Recruitment / Selection and Negotiation with Trade Unions	Online / Zoom	Compliance	Multi-facilitation Team
Thursday 22nd February 2024	6-8pm	Mental Health and Wellbeing Training for Councillors	Online / Zoom	Workshop	Multi- facilitation of Team
March 2024 (tba)	2 Day Workshop Programme	Empowering Women / NI Councillors	tba	Programme	Society for Innovation, Modernisation and Technology (Socitm)
Wednesday 17th April 2024	12-2pm	Economic Development and the Role of Councillors	Online / Zoom	Workshop	Multi- facilitation Team

Conferences – October 2023

Retrospective Approval:-

Details of Conferences	Service/ Directorate	No. Attending	Cost	Date	Location
Flavours of Ireland	Chief Executive's Tourism	1	£113+vat + flight & accomm 75% of cost met by Tourism NI	5 th October 23	London
Sports Safety Conference	Comms & Place – E/Health	2	N/A	13 TH October 23	Belfast

Approval:-

Details of Conferences	Service/ Directorate	No. Attending	Cost	Date	Location
Housing Rights Annual Private Rented Sector Conference	Communities & Place	1	£135	29/11/23	Belfast
Travel News Market	Chief Executive's Tourism	1	£86+vat + flights & accomm – 75% met by Tourism NI	9/11/23	Stockholm
All island Env Health Forum	Comms & Place – E/Health	1	No cost	17/11/23	Dundalk

Report on	Consultations Information notified to Mid Ulster District Council
Date of Meeting	26 October 2023
Reporting Officer	Joe McGuckin, Head of Strategic Services & Engagement
Contact Officer	Ann McAleer, Policy Engagement and Equality Officer

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To update members on the consultations notified to Mid Ulster District Council and to provide details of a submitted consultation.
2.0	Background
2.1	Council is a consultee for many government departments, statutory agencies and other bodies, and as such receives consultation documentation inviting commentary on a wide range of issues that may be pertinent to council services and/or the District.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Documentation relating to the aforementioned consultations can be accessed via the links provided in the table provided in Appendix A.
3.2.	Members were notified of the TEO's consultation on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls at September's Full Council Meeting. Delegated Authority was provided for the response to be submitted via Officer approval. Appendix B contains the submitted response.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: N/A
	Human: N/A
	Risk Management: N/A
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: These consultation responses relate to EQIA consultations.
	Rural Needs Implications: The lack of available RNIA's in relation to these consultations has been included in the body of the consultation responses.

5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Members review and note active consultations and further associated consultation information notified to Mid Ulster District Council.
6.0	Documents Attached & References Appendix A: Details of Current Consultations Appendix B: Submitted Consultation-TEO Consultation of Ending Violence Against Women and Girls

Appendix A: Details of Current Consultations

Organisation	Consultation Title	Issue	Closing Date	Response Currently Being Developed
Department of Education	Integrated Education Action Plan	The Integrated Education Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 became law on the 26 October 2022. This Act placed a duty on the DE to prepare, publish and maintain a strategy for the encouragement, facilitation, support for and provision of integrated education.	31 st October 2023	No
	Link to Consultation	https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/consultations/integrated-education-act-action-plan		
	Delegated Authority required to be granted to a Committee if Council agrees that a response should be made (where an extension is not given)?	Yes		
Organisation	Consultation Title	Issue	Closing Date	Response Currently Being Developed
Department for the Economy	Consultation on Approach to 10X Technologies and Clusters	This consultation sets out the approach for three key areas of the proposed 10 Technologies and Clusters: 1. Identification and prioritisation of technologies and USPs where NI can be globally competitive, the growth of which can drive benefits at scale across the economy; 2. An indication of the policy actions DfE	24 November 2023	Yes

		and partners may use to drive the growth, uptake and scaling of these technologies and USPs; and 3. How these technologies and USPs could be integrated into a future Sub-Regional Economic Plan.		
	Link to Consultation	https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/dfe/approach-10x-technologies-and-clusters/		
	Delegated Authority required to be granted to a Committee if Council agrees that a response should be made (where an extension is not given)?	No- a draft response will be presented to November's P&R Committee meeting.		
Organisation	Consultation Title	Issue	Closing Date	Response Currently Being Developed
DAERA	Consultation on a Proposed Ban on the Manufacture, Supply and Sale of Wet Wipes Containing Plastic in the UK	This consultation is focused on wet wipes containing plastic and addressing their impact on the environment. The UK Government and Devolved Administrations are seeking views on a proposed ban on the manufacture, supply and sale of wet wipes containing plastic.	25 November 2023	No
	Link to Consultation	https://consult.defra.gov.uk/wet-wipes-1/wet-wipes-containing-plastic/		
	Delegated Authority required to be granted to a Committee if Council agrees that a response should be made (where an extension is not given)?	Yes, the relevant Committee would require DA to approve any draft response to this consultation.		



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

2 October 2023

Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Directorate,
Room A5.18,
The Executive Office,
Castle Buildings,
Stormont Estate,
Belfast,
BT4 3SR
Email: EVAWG.HaveYourSay@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk

Ref: Ending Violence Against Women and Girls

Mid Ulster District Council would like to take this opportunity to put forward its views in relation to the proposals detailed in the above-mentioned consultation.

The Council welcomes the co design approach that is used in relation to the development of this draft strategy. It is important that Violence Against Women and Girls continues to be recognised as having a cross-cutting societal impact that requires a joint approach. Co-ordinated action plans underpinned by effective governance and community engagement seems to be the most proactive way to ensure that the voices of people impacted upon can be heard and acted upon.

Mid Ulster District Council also welcomes that prevention forms a key part of the strategy. Awareness raising and challenging attitudes and behaviours can lead to positive outcomes for individuals who are vulnerable to becoming victims of violence and abuse. The Council also supports the role given to community engagement. This will ensure that challenging behaviour can and should, be addressed at the earliest opportunity so that the attitudes, systems, and structural inequalities that cause them, are tackled and resolved at the earliest possible opportunity.

The statistics included in this consultation report make it abundantly clear why there is a need for the implementation of this strategy and action plan at the earliest possible opportunity. Therefore, the Council finds it regrettable that while there is such a clear requirement to address some of the worst levels of Violence Against Women and Girls in Europe, some of the organisations required to provide the support to women and girls are experiencing unprecedented levels of funding cuts. While the Council understands that the Departments are in a very difficult financial situation in relation to financing support organisations, some of these actions are going to be much less achievable without the valuable contribution of some of the community and voluntary organisations who have been so negatively affected by a loss of funding.

In addition, Mid Ulster District Council area is a vastly rural District and as such the Council would have appreciated if the consultation documentation had consisted of a Rural Needs Impact Assessment. The assessment would hopefully highlight that support solutions employed in urban areas may not work in rural areas and that alternatives should be considered. As demonstrated clearly within the consultation document evidence, Violence Against Women and Girls happens right across Northern Ireland. As such access to services and support needs to reflect that this is the case. Isolation can be a real issue for women and girls who live in rural areas and unfortunately it can also be a key factor in allowing all types of violence and abuse to occur and in some cases thrive.

Overall, the support outlined in the draft strategy and action plan seem to be of a comprehensive and practical nature which the Council fully supports. Clear pathways to prevention and support are critical. Tackling the root causes of violence and abuse perpetrated against women and girls are key to ending an acceptance of all forms of gender-based violence, abuse, and harm, including the attitudes, systems, and structural inequalities that cause them.

The Council is also supportive of the Year One action which involves all of government and society working better together to end violence against women and girls. Joint working to tackle the root causes of Violence Against Women and Girls can achieve improvements across communities across Northern Ireland. Therefore, the Council is keen to participate in and promote best practice examples of how to prevent and address all types of Violence Against Women and Girls.

In conclusion, the Council believes that current levels of violence and abuse perpetrated against women and girls in Northern Ireland is completely unacceptable. The Council hopes that the finalisation and implementation of this strategy and action plan will go a long way to addressing the current extremely concerning levels of Violence Against Women and Girls in Northern Ireland. Overall, the Council is fully supportive of what this draft strategy and action plan aims to achieve, particularly the

comprehensive preventative measures and clear pathways of support for women and girls who are impacted upon by all types of violence and abuse.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dominic Molloy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

Dominic Molloy

Chair of Mid Ulster District Council

Report on	Correspondence to Council
Date of Meeting	Thursday 26 October 2023
Reporting Officer	J McGuckin Head of Strategic Services & Engagement
Contact Officer	E Forde, Committee & Member Services Manager

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	Provide an update on correspondence received for attention of Council.
2.0	Background
2.1	This paper refers to correspondence to be brought to the attention of Council. Items are referred to in 3.0 below.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Correspondence from Department for Infrastructure</p> <p>The Chief Executive has received correspondence from Department for Infrastructure outlining the preferred method of handling correspondence related to roads maintenance defects. Refer to Appendix A</p>
3.2	<p>Correspondence from Department for Infrastructure</p> <p>Correspondence has been received from Department for Infrastructure providing an update on the A5 Western Transport Corridor (A5WTC) scheme. Refer to Appendix B.</p>
3.3	<p>Correspondence from Northern Ireland Office</p> <p>The Chair has received a response to letter sent by Council to Secretary of State for Northern Ireland in relation to Lough Neagh. Refer to Appendix C</p>
3.4	<p>Correspondence from the Department of Education</p> <p>The Chief Executive has received correspondence from the Department of Education in relation to <i>Every CHILD</i>: Department of Education Corporate Plan 2023-2028. Refer to Appendix D</p>
4.0	Other Considerations

4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: not applicable
	Human: not applicable
	Risk Management: not applicable
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: not applicable
	Rural Needs Implications: not applicable
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	That Council notes and considers, as necessary, the correspondence received.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	Appendix A – Department for Infrastructure – Roads Reporting Appendix B – Department for Infrastructure – A5 Western Corridor Appendix C – Northern Ireland Office Appendix D – Department of Education

From the Permanent Secretary
Dr Denis McMahon

Our Reference: SSUB-0260-2023

Council Chief Executives

Via email: name@emailaddress.co.uk

Room 701
Clarence Court
10-18 Adelaide Street
BELFAST
BT2 8GB
Telephone (028) 9054 1175
Email: perm.sec@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

4 October 2023

Dear Chief Executives

HANDLING CORRESPONDENCE RELATED TO ROADS MAINTENANCE DEFECTS

The purpose of this letter is to advise you and Councilors of the Department for Infrastructure's preferred approach to handling correspondence relating to the reporting of defects on the roads network. Our aim in doing this is to ensure that we provide the best possible service while focusing our resources on delivery on the ground.

The Department, and in particular the Transport and Roads Asset Management Teams, receive a significant volume of correspondence from the public and elected representatives throughout the year. To give you a sense of scale, one Division was sent over 19,000 items of correspondence last year. Indeed, the level of correspondence has been increasing in recent years at a time when resources have been reducing which is adversely impacting on our ability to deliver key services and public safety responsibilities.

In an effort to maximise the Department's effectiveness in delivering key road maintenance functions, I would ask that members of the public and elected representatives who have access to the internet report road defects via the DfI online reporting facility provided by NI Direct (<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/travel-transport-and-roads/problems-roads-and-streets>) rather than by direct correspondence with the Department.

Alternatively, faults that are considered to be an emergency can be reported by telephone to 02890 540540 and reports of Flooding can be directed to the Flooding Incident Line 0300 2000 1000 (24 hours a day).

I hope you find this helpful and know that you will appreciate the reasons for this

approach which is seeking to make best use of the people we have.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Denis McMahon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

DR DENIS McMAHON
Dfi Permanent Secretary



From the Director of Major Projects & Active Travel
Colin Hutchinson

Paul McCreedy
Mid Ulster District Council
Cookstown Office
Burn Road
Cookstown
BT80 8DT

Clarence Court
10-18 Adelaide Street
BELFAST
BT2 8GB

Telephone: 028 90 542961

Email:

Colin.Hutchinson@infrastructureni.gov.uk

Paul.McCreedy@midulstercouncil.org

Date: 2 October 2023

Our reference:
WS/2023/3067395

Dear Paul McCreedy,

A5 Western Transport Corridor (A5WTC) scheme update

As one of our key partners in the delivery of the A5WTC flagship scheme, you will know that earlier this year (May–June 2023), the Department progressed the scheme through a Planning Appeals Commission (PAC) led public inquiry process.

We are expecting the PAC Report on its findings from the public inquiry to be issued to the Department by the end of December 2023, at the latest. I am optimistic that the significant work invested by the Department, all our advisors and stakeholders, will lead to a positive outcome from the public inquiry and allow us to move towards the commencement of construction next year.

Subject to a positive report from the public inquiry and a formal Decision to Proceed by a Minister (or Permanent Secretary), the Departmental Statement and Direction and Vesting Orders could be made and published in Spring 2024.

Subject to all requirements being met including the availability of funding and no further delays due to legal challenges, all three Section Contractors would gain possession of their respective sites from Spring 2024, with construction works currently being programmed to commence as follows:

- Section 1 (New Buildings to Sion Mills) mid-2024
- Section 2 (Sion Mills to South of Omagh) Autumn 2024
- Section 3 (South of Omagh to Aughnacloy) Spring 2025.

We have fully committed our consultants – WSP, the Contractors and their design teams to ensure we are ready to meet these dates.

If agreement with current landowners can be reached, we anticipate that advance works in the form of archaeological and ground investigations could commence across all three sections in autumn of this year.

The Department appreciates your continued support and commitment to achieving this planned delivery programme and commencing construction. As we wait for the publication of the PAC Report and findings of the public inquiry, I would encourage you to review your resourcing position to ensure that you will be able to meet the demands of the anticipated scheme progression and planned delivery programme.

If you have any queries, please contact the Project Sponsor for the scheme, Seamus Keenan at Seamus.Keenan@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,



Colin Hutchinson
Director of Major Projects & Active Travel



Steve Baker MP
Minister of State for Northern
Ireland

1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

Erskine House
20-32 Chichester St
Belfast
BT1 4GF

E: correspondence@nio.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/nio
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Councillor Dominic Molloy
Chair, Mid-Ulster Council

By email: Eileen.Forde@midulstercouncil.org

10 October 2023
Our reference: MC/23/465
Your reference: C172/23

Dear Dominic,

Thank you for your letter dated 2 October regarding Lough Neagh. I am responding on behalf of the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, the Rt Hon Chris Heaton-Harris MP.

The Secretary of State and I understand the appalling state and the seriousness of concerns that people in Northern Ireland, and indeed people in the rest of the UK and Ireland, have about Lough Neagh and the damage being caused to its environment, wildlife and local businesses.

As you are aware, the management of Lough Neagh is a devolved matter and responsibility for this rests with the Northern Ireland Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, the Department of Infrastructure and the NI Environment Agency. We would therefore ask that you please contact the relevant departments and agencies, who will be able to respond to you directly about their specific plans on this issue.

The absence of a functioning Executive in Northern Ireland is exacerbating the severe challenges associated with managing serious environmental issues such as this. The restoration of the Executive and a fully functioning Assembly is a key priority for the UK Government. The Secretary of State is continuing to engage with party leaders to support a return to stable government so that matters such as the protection of Lough Neagh can be addressed by those elected to do so.

In the meantime, my officials, and their counterparts in DEFRA, will continue to engage regularly with the Northern Ireland Departments to monitor the situation at Lough Neagh.

Thank you once again for writing to the Secretary of State on this important issue.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Baker', with a horizontal line underneath.

STEVE BAKER MP
MINISTER OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

Andrew Scott
Director of Corporate Services & Governance



Rathgael House
43 Balloo Road
Rathgill
BANGOR
BT19 7PR

Andrew.Scott@education-ni.gov.uk
19 October 2023

Every CHILD: Department of Education Corporate Plan 2023-2028

Dear stakeholder

I am writing to advise you that the Department of Education has today published its new Corporate Plan, *Every CHILD*, which is available to view on the Department's website at [Corporate and business planning | Department of Education \(education-ni.gov.uk\)](https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/corporate-and-business-planning)

On the website you will also find an Easy Read version of *Every CHILD*, a report on the public consultation which took place towards the end of 2022 and the DE 2023-24 annual Business Plan and mid-year progress report.

At the heart of the Plan is the Department's Vision that "*Every child and young person is happy, learning and succeeding*," *Every CHILD* puts children and young people at the heart of its priorities for the next five years and sets out an ambitious Plan for achieving this.

Every CHILD was developed following extensive engagement with stakeholders and we hope that it will provide clarity to the Department and all our stakeholders on our focus over the coming years to deliver on our Vision that "*Every child and young person is happy, learning and succeeding*".

Although I recognise the challenges we are all facing across the education sector and beyond, it is important that we remain ambitious. *Every CHILD* provides a renewed focus for everyone working to improve outcomes for children and young people.

If you would like further information on *Every CHILD*, please contact DEcorporateplan@education-ni.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Scott".

ANDREW SCOTT

