

Report on	To update the committee on the outcome of the consultation undertaken on the Council's proposed performance improvement objectives 2024 – 2025
Date of Meeting	Thursday 9 th of May 2024
Reporting Officer	J Mc Guckin, Head of Strategic Services and Engagement
Contact Officer	L Jenkins, Corporate Performance & Quality Officer

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To update the committee on the outcome of the public consultation undertaken on the Council's proposed improvement objectives 2024 – 2025.
2.0	Background
2.1	<p><u>General Duty to Improve and Departmental Guidance</u></p> <p>The 2014 Local Government Act, section 84, places a general duty on the Council to “....<i>make arrangements to secure continuous improvement....</i>” in the exercise of its functions. Section 85 of the Act requires a council, for each financial year, to set itself improvement objectives for improving the exercise of its functions and to have in place arrangements to achieve those objectives. Section 87 of the Act also outlines that a Council; in deciding how to discharge its duty under sections 84 and 85 of the Act, <u>must consult</u> with persons appearing to the Council, “<i>to be representative of:</i></p> <p><i>a); persons liable to pay rates in respect of hereditaments in the district;</i> <i>b) persons who use or are likely to use services provided by the council; and</i> <i>c) persons appearing to the council to have an interest in the district.</i></p>
2.2	Statutory Guidance was issued by the Department for Communities to Councils on taking forward the general duty on to improve. In deciding how to discharge its duty under section 84 and 85, the guidance requires that the council consult on a yearly basis on their improvement objectives – (as outlined in section 87 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014).
2.3	Post a review exercise undertaken by Council officers and forwarded to SMT, four improvement objectives were proposed for 2024-2025. Each improvement objective has an assigned Senior Responsible Officer (SRO), who develops

2.4	<p>improvement projects aligned to the Improvement Objectives. The improvement project plans form part of Council's Performance Improvement Plan (PIP plan), which outlines how the improvement objectives will be achieved. The improvement objectives would follow on from the previous year's PIP plan as the objectives were still relevant and had SMART activity to complete and outcomes to attain.</p> <p>The Committee at its March 2024 meeting considered and approved the proposed four Corporate Improvement Objectives for 2024 to 2025, their rationale and associated links to the community and corporate plan, as well as a timeline for a public consultation exercise. The committee agreed the council's Improvement Objectives as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mid Ulster District Council will seek to reduce the environmental impacts of our own activities and will contribute to the improvement of the wider environment through local action. 2. We will ensure a more connected Mid Ulster where new technologies and ways of working, empower citizens to get the best services that matter to them. 3. To create cleaner neighbourhoods, where everyone takes responsibility for their waste and the environment. 4. We will contribute to the ongoing regeneration of our district by delivering a capital investment programme, enhancing facilities and opportunities for local people
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Results from the Improvement Objectives Public Consultation Outworking's Report April 2024</u></p> <p>This year the consultation exercise ran from Monday 26th February to Friday 19th April 2024 at 12 noon. Under each improvement objective, the Council asked whether respondents agreed with the objective or disagreed with the objective. Respondents were also asked to provide any related commentary they had regarding the proposed improvement objectives. The consultation survey also asked respondents to outline any improvements the council should consider in the future. The final question asked respondents to provide any further comments relating to the draft Improvement objectives.</p>
3.2	<p>The consultation involved a survey made available for completion and submission online and or by post to the council. The engagement process was promoted through a variety of communication channels including: social media outlets,</p>

3.3	<p>video message from the Chair of P & R committee, the council’s main website (listing in the main on the website front page), press releases, mailing lists, e-mails, staff intranet and internal staff meetings.</p> <p>In summary the percentage (%) of respondents who agreed with the Council’s proposed improvement objectives are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 89.29% of respondents agreed with objective one: - <i>Mid Ulster District Council will seek to reduce the environmental impacts of our own activities and will contribute to the improvement of the wider environment through local action.</i> • 92.59% of respondents agreed with objective two: - <i>We will ensure a more connected Mid Ulster where new technologies and ways of working, empower citizens to get the best services that matter to them.</i> • 100% of respondents agreed with objective three: - <i>To create cleaner neighbourhoods, where everyone takes responsibility for their waste and the environment.</i> • 92.31% of respondents agreed with objective four: - <i>We will contribute to the ongoing regeneration of our district by delivering a capital investment programme, enhancing facilities and opportunities for local people</i>
3.4	<p>With such significant endorsement of the four proposed improvement objectives, together with additional commentary provided, the council will be able to develop its Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) around them. When reviewed, the respondent’s commentary did not warrant the removal, amendment to or addition to the objectives proposed. The outworking’s of the public consultation of Mid Ulster District Council’s improvement objectives for 2024 to 2025 is contained in Appendix One - (Outworking of public consultation on MUDC Improvement Objectives 2024.25).</p>
3.5	<p>The additional valuable commentary and views provided from the consultees will be forwarded to management teams for consideration. This will assist, and inform our wider improvement activity across the services; thereby reflecting the needs and priorities of our community moving forward. The Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) will be will be published by 30th of June 2024.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <p>Financial: NA</p>

	Human: NA
	Risk Management: N/A.
4.2	<u>Screening & Impact Statements</u>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	That the Committee note and consider the outcome of the Council's Corporate Performance Improvement Objectives Public Consultation 2024 to 2025.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	Appendix One - Outworking's from the Public Consultation on Mid Ulster District Council's Performance Improvement Objectives 2024 – 2025.