



05 July 2023

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Development Committee to be held in The Chamber, Dungannon and by virtual means Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon, BT71 6DT on Wednesday, 05 July 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: TBUC Funding Streams

Matters for Decision

- | | | |
|-----|---|-----------|
| 6. | Development Report | 3 - 46 |
| 7. | Extension of the Service Level Agreements with Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council | 47 - 54 |
| 8. | Health and Wellbeing Programmes | 55 - 98 |
| 9. | Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plan | 99 - 152 |
| 10. | Funding offer from Department of Business Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) 2023-2024 | 153 - 190 |
| 11. | Economic Development Report | 191 - 206 |

12. 10X Place Based Approach: Call for Evidence 207 - 242

Matters for Information

- 13 Minutes of Development Committee held on 15 June 2023 243 - 246
14 Minutes of Development Committee held on 19 June 2023 247 - 258
15 Update on Gambling Reform/Legislation 259 - 282
16 Economic Development and Tourism Achievements 2022 - 2023 283 - 308
17 Sliabh Beagh Engagement Consultation 309 - 310
18 Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP) 2023-24 Funding 311 - 314

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

Matters for Information

19. Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 19 June 2023
20. SHHP Bellaghy Bawn Literary Residential Proposal

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|--------------------------|---|
| Report on | Development Report |
| Date of Meeting | 5th July 2023 |
| Reporting Officer | Claire Linney, Assistant Director of Development |
| Contact Officers | Philip Clarke – Neighbourhood Development Manager, Oliver Morgan-Diversity & Integration Manager, Michael McCrory - PCSP Manager, Catherine Fox Arts Development Manager, Brian McCormick Seamus Heaney Homeplace Manager |

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

| 1 | Purpose of Report | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|---|--------|----------------------|---|----|
| 1.1 | <p>The purpose of this report is to update members and seek approval for the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Grants Rolling Programme • Irish Language Bursary and Activity Grants • Development Update | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | Key Issues | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.1 | <p>Community Grants - Rolling Grants Programme 2023 – 2024 Members are advised that the grants assessment panel are making the following recommendations to award grants.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Grant</th> <th>No. of groups awarded</th> <th>Value of Grant Awards</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Community Festival Fund</td> <td>8</td> <td>£5,865</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Good Relations Grant</td> <td>0</td> <td>£0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Please see attached in Appendix 1 grant award recommendations</p> | Grant | No. of groups awarded | Value of Grant Awards | Community Festival Fund | 8 | £5,865 | Good Relations Grant | 0 | £0 |
| Grant | No. of groups awarded | Value of Grant Awards | | | | | | | | |
| Community Festival Fund | 8 | £5,865 | | | | | | | | |
| Good Relations Grant | 0 | £0 | | | | | | | | |
| 2.2 | <p>Irish Language Bursary and Activity Grants The Irish Language Activity Funding scheme and RML Bursary scheme were advertised in local press at the end of February with a closing date of March 2023.</p> <p>Under RML Bursary scheme, 105 complete applications were received, two were withdrawn at an early stage and one was deemed ineligible due to receipt of a LÍOFA bursary from DfC. In total 102 students are being recommended for bursaries totalling £30,000. This is similar to 2022 when 100 bursaries were awarded.</p> <p>Under Irish Language Activity Funding, a total of 24 applications were received from local groups. One application was deemed ineligible as the applicant was located outside Mid-Ulster, 2 are part of the main Irish language programme; a total of 21</p> | | | | | | | | | |

projects are being recommended for funding, to the full budget of £50,000. Please see **Appendix 2** for the funding allocations.

2.3 **Development Update**

Community Support

Council officers are currently working with groups on grant delivery, and maximising other funding investment opportunities. Please see a list of all the community grants allocated under delegated authority, rolling to date in **Appendix 3**.

Social Inclusion

The Housing Conference took place on the 7th June, which attracted a large number of people. Over 90 people participated from across the sector. Presentations will be shared with members.

Key outcomes from the conference include:

1. LDP - engagement on mixed tenure solutions to support rural living and people living in their own communities.
2. Housing condition standard review, as part of the Rent Review Strategy - engage on its expansion to be more rigorous in terms of quality homes.
3. Climate Change – continue to update on the requirements for landlords in line with the climate change agenda, and potential incentives to accelerate this.
4. Waste water – need for infrastructure development, and how the local solutions can link to future network.
5. Zoned lands – seek an update on zoning and potential solutions for lands that are landlocked.
6. Community planning – support greater linkages between partners, for example planning, housing, water etc.

Ongoing engagement is continuing on the support for additional supported living provision in Mid Ulster.

The implementation of the Council's and Mid Ulster Community Plan Anti -Poverty Plans is continuing; additional meetings are being arranged with partners to build momentum again re the strategic actions.

The Community Wealth Building Plan has commenced with DTNI and DFC. This will be presented to the Community Wealth Building Working group for discussion.

Good Relations

The Good Relations Plan 2023 – 2024, has commenced delivery and programmes are being developed at present.

Peace

The new Peace Plus Local Action Plan is currently being developed, in line with SEUPB guidance. The draft plan will be presented formally to members in September for approval.

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| | <p>The Connecting Pomeroy project is in the second half of delivery on site, due to complete all activity prior to the end of December. Continuous engagement is taking place with community partners.</p> <p><u>PCSP</u> See attached PCSP minutes for information at Appendix 4.</p> <p><u>Burnavon Arts Centre</u> Maintenance work to the facility (upgrade seating etc.) is scheduled to be installed over the mid- summer months, with limited performance activity.</p> <p><u>Seamus Heaney Homeplace</u> Seamus Heaney Homeplace is continuing to develop its facility through a proactive arts programme, promotion of the exhibition and delivery of its education programme with a diverse range of schools across Northern Ireland. Alongside this it is continuing to develop Open Ground which is growing in numbers and is receiving positive feedback from the tours.</p> <p><u>Hill of The O'Neill and Ranfurly House</u> A new operational plan has been developed for Hill of The O'Neill and Ranfurly House. See copy attached in Appendix 5 for information. This is a short to medium term plan as part of the overall development of the facility under the Mid South West Growth deal/other investments initiative. A new suite of new marketing materials for the Hill and Ranfurly House are in development for; events and activities planned for the year, conferencing and wedding space, craft activity, and education programme.</p> <p>The Mid South West development for the facility (destination play park, softening of the Hill and closed events space, upgraded exhibition, and car parking and town centre events space at Feeny Lane) is at SOC (Strategic Case) stage. This is currently with the MSW Growth team for consideration.</p> |
| <p>3.1</p> | <p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <hr/> <p>Financial:</p> <p>Rolling Community Grants £5,865</p> <p>Irish Language Grants - £30,000 Bursaries, £50,000 Activity Grants.</p> <hr/> <p>Human: NA</p> <hr/> <p>Risk Management: NA</p> |
| <p>3.2</p> | <p>Screening & Impact Assessments</p> <hr/> <p>Equality & Good Relations Implications: NA</p> |

| | |
|----------|--|
| | Rural Needs Implications: NA |
| 4 | Recommendations |
| 4.1 | Members are recommended to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Agree the rolling community grant allocations (ii) Approve the annual Regional Minority Language Bursary Awards and Irish Language Activity Funding. (iii) Note the Development Update |
| 5 | List of Documents Attached |
| | Appendix 1 Community Grants Appendix 2 Irish Language Bursary and Activity Grants Appendix 3 Council Community Grants, as per delegated authority Appendix 4 PCSP Minutes Appendix 5 Hill of The O'Neill and Ranfurly House Plan |

Appendix 1

Local Community Festival Grants July 2023 - (Maximum £1,500)

| No | Organisation Name | Aim | Title Of Event/project | Band | Request | Award |
|----|---------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. | Clonoe Rural Development Agency | Community | Summer marquee event with musicians | 2 | £1,500 | 1350 |
| 2. | Friends of St Columbs Primary Cullion | Community | Family fun day | 7 | £1,500 | 600 |
| 3. | Spires Parents Community | Community | Family Fun Night | 7 | £1,770 | 600 |
| 4. | Killen Community Residents Group | Community | Killen Community Summer Event 2023 | 7 | £1,500 | 600 |
| 5. | Maghera Masonic Lodge 42 | Culture | Family Funday | 7 | £1,500 | 600 |
| 6. | Watty Grahams GAC | Sport | Summer Camp 2023 | 6 | £2,750 | 750 |
| 7. | Tobermore Village Hall | Community | Community Funday | 7 | £1,500 | 600 |
| 8. | Dungannon Swifts FC | Sport | DS Community Funday | 2 | £850 | 765 |
| | | | | | £12870 | £5865 |

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

Appendix 2

| AREA | GROUP | ACTIVITY | AWARD |
|---------------|---|--|---------|
| Coalisland | Cairde Uí Néill | “Gaeilge sa Phobal 23/24” (Irish in the Community) This wide-ranging project consists of Irish language days at local children’s summer camps, a range of outdoor activities for Irish speaking families, an adult summer school, a series of heritage talks, and an Irish language traditional song project and festival helping local people achieve fluency through the promotion of our heritage of traditional song. | £5,710 |
| Swatragh | Grúpa Ban Ghreanacháin - Granaghan Womens Group | Ár dTeanga Dúchais (Our Native Language) The project is an innovative series of Irish language workshops, targeting those who already have a little Irish. The plan is for 10 Irish language sessions of 90 mins each. | £800 |
| Maghera | An Carn Centre | “Clár Gníomhaíochta na Gaeilge” (Language Revitalisation Plan) A wide-ranging 12 month activity plan from this award winning community group targeting all aspects of the use of Irish in the local district. A range of projects including youth activity support, adult learning, heritage promotion,, family mentoring, teaching resource development, language colleges, Irish language drama etc | £13,235 |
| Dungannon | An Chraobh Rua, Comhaltas Uladh | “An Gasra Léitheoireachta” (Irish Language Reading and Conversation Club) A long-established and successful group promoting reading in the Irish language through a programme of online activity. | £800 |
| Maghera | Conradh na Gaeilge Charn Tóchair | “Gaeilge sa Phobal” (Support programme for Irish speaking families) A range of actions to support and assist families making the difficult transition to bilingualism in their everyday lives. Project involves Feis Charn Tóchair, family resource development, and Mother and Toddler club activities. | £5,290 |
| Ballinascreen | Glór na Speiríní | “Gníomhaíochtaí Bhaile na Scríne” (Ballinascreen Language Activity Programme) A support programme for Irish speaking families with a range of activities including a youth project and summer camp, and a programme of language courses heritage events. | £4,050 |
| Magherafelt | Glór Mhachaire Fíolta | “Gníomhaíochtaí Mhachaire Fíolta” (Magherafelt Language Activity Programme) A support programme for the Magherafelt District targeting young people in primary and post-primary Irish-medium education to develop their use of the language in informal settings through a range of youth activities. | £4,700 |

| | | | |
|--------------|-------------------------------|---|--------|
| Ardboe | Tobin Youth Centre | “Activities in Irish for 4-11 Year Olds” Language activities for 30 local children culminating in a St Patrick’s Day concert. | £1,950 |
| Swatragh | Naíscoil Ghreanacháin | “Ná Tacht mo Theanga” (Don’t Choke My Language) - Support to Irish speaking families through signage, classes and resource-lending programme. | £1,700 |
| Kildress | Campa Chill Dreas | “Campa Chill Dreas (Kildress Summer Camp)” Irish language summer camp for local children | £1,000 |
| Desertmartin | St Martin’s GAC | “Evolvement of Irish Culture” -Bilingual Signage, Irish classes and Family Céilí Event | £1,000 |
| Pomeroy | Irish Institute of Leadership | “Féile Ghaeltacht Thír Eoghain 2023 (Tyrone Gaeltacht Festival)” Online Irish language Summer School for Adults involving a series of language classes and lectures to improve language skills and knowledge of cultural heritage in Tyrone area. | £1,450 |
| Cookstown | Cairdeas Eoghain | Gearrscannáin na Gaeilge (A Night at the Movies) Summer Scheme for local Irish Medium primary school children involving a range of linguistic activities for both parents and pupils with a view to continuing use of Irish during summer months/school holidays. | £1,500 |
| Cookstown | Cairdeas Eoghain | Seal Spraioi (Summer Scheme Activity Week) Summer Scheme for local Irish Medium primary school children involving a range of linguistic activities for both parents and pupils with a view to continuing use of Irish during summer months/school holidays. | £2,915 |
| Dungannon | CLG Thomáis Uí Chléirigh | “Pobal na Páirce – Pitch People” Bilingual signage around clubhouse and grounds | £1,200 |
| Ballygawley | Coláiste Naomh Chiaráin | Féile na Gaeilge (Festival of the Irish Language) Provision of Fáinne awards to encourage the development of fluency | £300 |
| Dungannon | Gaelfhóram Dhún Geanainn | The Irish Language in the St Patrick’s Day Parade - Workshops for local schools and youth teams in the run up to St Patrick’s Day Parade | £500 |
| Kildress | Kildress Wolf Tones | Teanga Bheo Chill Dreas (Kildress Living Language) -A six week programme of classes and conversation circles | £300 |
| Eglishe | Campa Chormaic | Campa Chormaic na hEaglaise (Campa Chormaic in English) Support for running costs of Tyrone Campa Chormaic Language and Gaelic Sports Grant. | £500 |
| Maghera | Ceoltóirí Lúraigh | Amhráin na nDaoine (Songs of the People) Eight week course teaching Irish language songs including printing costs for resource booklet | £600 |
| Maghera | Naíscoil Mhachaire Rátha | “An Leabharlann Iasachtaí” (The Lending Library) Resources for a lending library for parents in Naíscoil Mhachaire Rátha pre-school. | £500 |

Grants Awarded 2023 – 2024

Community & Sport Venues and Facilities Grants

| Organisation name: | Title of Project/Activity: | Award |
|---|---|--------------|
| Aghaloo O'Neills G.A.A. Club | Facility Utilities and Maintenance Costs | £2,000.00 |
| Ardboe O'Donovan Rossa GAC | Project Rossa Survival and Growth 2023 | £2,000.00 |
| Augher St Macartan's GAC | Bringing Light to the St Macartan's Community | £1,500.00 |
| Aughintober Regeneration & 3G Pitch | Advance Aughintober 2023 - 2024 | £2,000.00 |
| Ballinderry Shamrocks Community Hub | Ballinderry Community Hub Support Project | £3,000.00 |
| Ballinderry Shamrocks GAC | Enhancing and Providing Activities for area | £1,500.00 |
| Ballysaggart Area Community Ass | An Sean Siopa delivery programme | £2,000.00 |
| Bann Valley Community Group | Provide Community Venue for range of activities | £1,500.00 |
| Bawn Development Association | The Bawn Hall Activity | £930.00 |
| Bellaghy Wolftones GAC | Bellaghy Wolftones Facility Support Project | £2,000.00 |
| Bonn Cultural Group Pomeroy | Ongoing expenses to run community facility | £1,500.00 |
| Brackaghreilly & District Community Ass | Brackagh Hall | £570.00 |
| Brocagh and District regeneration Group | Castlebay Centre Expenditure | £2,000.00 |
| Brocagh Emmets GFC | Brocagh Emmets Running Costs | £1,500.00 |
| Broughderg Area Development Ass | Our Space to Share | £2,000.00 |
| Caledon Community Centre | Operational of Caledon Community Centre | £1,000.00 |
| Caledon Regeneration Partnership | Caledon Regeneration Partnership | £750.00 |
| Caledon Rovers Football Club | Tanyard Park Safety Improvements | £860.00 |
| Cavanakeeran Community Association | Running Costs Facility | £2,500.00 |
| Clogher Eire Og GAC | Building for future growth and success | £1,500.00 |
| Clonaneese Development Group | Clonaneese Community Hub | £1,000.00 |
| Clonoe Rural Development Agency Ltd | Facility Running Costs | £3,500.00 |
| Coagh and Drummullan Network Group | Annual Running Costs | £1,000.00 |
| Coalisland & District Community FB | Community Hub | £1,000.00 |
| Coalisland & District Development Ass | Venue provision | £2,500.00 |
| Cookstown Community Centre | Cookstown Community Centre - Venue Running | £2,500.00 |
| Cookstown Royal British Legion Club | Running costs | £1,500.00 |
| Craigmore and District Community Ass | Glen Centre Support Project | £1,500.00 |
| Crossdernott Bowling Club | A Venue For All | £730.00 |
| Cumann Fionnbarra Naofa (St Finbarrs) | Sports Development | £750.00 |
| Desertcreat Women's Institute | Desertcreat Women's Institute Hall | £1,000.00 |
| Donaghmore District Community Ass | Torrent Complex Community Venue | £2,500.00 |
| Donaghmore GAA | Donaghmore GAA - Social Inclusion | £1,290.00 |
| Dgn Football Club t/a Dgn Rugby Club | Property maintenance & energy costs | £3,500.00 |
| Dungannon Swifts FC | Stangmore Community and Sporting Hub | £3,000.00 |
| Dungannon Thomas Clarkes GFC | Clarkes Community Hub | £2,500.00 |
| Eglish St Patrick's GAC | Club running costs | £1,485.00 |
| Eoghan Ruadh Hurling Club | Community walkway and building support | £2,000.00 |
| Erins Own Lavey GAC (Lavey GAC) | Erins Own Lavey Sports Support | £2,000.00 |

| Organisation name: | Title of Project/Activity: | Award |
|--|---|--------------|
| Fivemiletown United Football Club | Fivemiletown United Football Club | £1,000.00 |
| Galbally Pearses GFC | Renewal of facilities and maintenance | £2,000.00 |
| Galbally Youth & Community Association | GYCA Running Costs | £3,000.00 |
| Glor na Speirini | Supporting and developing community i | £750.00 |
| Glenageeragh Pipe Band | Community Venue | £1,000.00 |
| Gortalowry House Project Ltd | Gortalowry in The Community | £2,940.00 |
| Henry Joy McCracken Moneymore GAC | Facility Development and Sustainability Project | £1,500.00 |
| Hope 4 U Foundation | Community Centre and community services | £1,500.00 |
| Involve NI | Involve House | £2,000.00 |
| Kilcronaghan Community Association | Kilcronaghan Community Association | £2,000.00 |
| Kildress Wolfe Tones GAA | Kildress Hub Activities | £3,000.00 |
| Killeeshil Community Centre | Community Venue Grant | £2,500.00 |
| Killyman St Marys GAC | Facility Overheads for our Community Sporting | £2,000.00 |
| Kilnaslee Community Development | Expenses | £1,000.00 |
| Knocknagin Hall Committee | Knocknagin Community Hub | £1,500.00 |
| Maghera Cross Community Link | Venues grant | £2,500.00 |
| Moneyneena & District Development | Annual Running Costs - an RÁjth Dubh | £3,000.00 |
| Moortown St Malachys GAC | Moortown Sports Complex and Community Hub | £2,000.00 |
| Moy GAC | Moy GAC Perimeter Fencing | £1,500.00 |
| Moygashel Community & Cultural Ass | Facilities Grant | £1,000.00 |
| Moyola Park AFC | Installation of a storage container at MPFC | £1,080.00 |
| Muintir N Mointeach | Washingbay Centre | £2,500.00 |
| Naomh Colm Baile na Scrine GLC | Ballinascreen Sports Facilities Support | £2,000.00 |
| O'Donovan Rossa GAC Magherafelt | O' Donovan Rossa Sporting Facility Support | £1,500.00 |
| Pomeroy Plunketts GAC | Running Costs | £1,275.00 |
| Pomeroy Plunketts Handball Club | Handball Club Running Costs | £750.00 |
| Rainey Old Boys RFC | Rainey Old Boys Facility Project | £2,000.00 |
| Rhone Valley Community Group | Syerla Hall Venue Upkeep & Activities 2023 | £555.00 |
| Robert Emmet's GAC, Slaughtneil | Robert Emmet Slaughtneil Facility Support | £2,000.00 |
| Sean O'Leary GAC Newbridge | Newbridge Facility Support Project | £2,000.00 |
| St. Martin's GAC | Ongoing Improvements to club facilities | £1,500.00 |
| St. Oliver Plunkett Greenlough GAC | Greenlough Community Sports Venue Support | £2,000.00 |
| St.Michaels GAC Lissan | Maintenance upgrades to club facilities | £2,000.00 |
| TABBDA | TABBDA Ltd Marina Centre | £3,000.00 |
| Termoneeny Community Association | Community Venue Running Costs | £2,500.00 |
| The OpenDoor Complex | Open Door Activities For All Our Community | £2,500.00 |
| Tirgan Community Association Ltd | Tirgan Facilities | £730.00 |
| Tobermore Community Projects | Tobermore Mckinney Hall | £1,000.00 |
| Tobin Centre (Moortown) Ltd | Community Venue Running Costs | £1,200.00 |
| Upperlands Community Development Ltd | Community Venue Upperlands Community | £1,000.00 |
| Watty Grahams GAC | Watty Grahams Sports Venue Project | £2,000.00 |

Community Festival Grants

| Organisation name: | Title of Project/Activity: | Award |
|--|---|--------------|
| Ambassadors Community Group | Fun Night & BBQ | £149.00 |
| Ballinacross Accordion Band | King Coronation Family funday | £600.00 |
| Ballinderry Shamrocks GAC | Come and Enjoy' | £1,200.00 |
| BC Wolves | 3x3 Tournaments | £750.00 |
| Beechland development group | Party/picnic in the park | £600.00 |
| Blackhill LOL 681 | Community Family Fun Event | £600.00 |
| Campa Chormaic | Campa Chormaic | £1,200.00 |
| Castledawson LOL 96 | Castledawson Community Together | £600.00 |
| Cavanakeeran Community Association | St Patricks Weekend Celebration | £1,050.00 |
| Cookstown Youth Football Club | CYFC Community Festival 2023 | £750.00 |
| Crossglebe Community Association | Coronation tea party + community bbq & funday | £600.00 |
| Culnady Rural Development Group | Community Family funday | £600.00 |
| Derryloran Flute Band | Derryloran Culture Concert | £1,050.00 |
| DPC Entertainment Group | Coronation Celebration | £600.00 |
| Kilcronaghan Parish Church | A Coronation Garden Tea party | £600.00 |
| Kildress Wolfe Tones GAA | St John's Eve Festival | £260.00 |
| Killymuck Clay Pigeon Club | Killymuck Clay Pigeon Shoot | £600.00 |
| Knockloughrim Accordion Band | Knockloughrim Accordion Band Anniversary | £600.00 |
| Knockloughrim Community DevAsc | Knockloughrim Community Funday | £600.00 |
| Knockloughrim Fife and Drum Club | Coronation Celebrations 2023 | £594.00 |
| Maghera Parish Caring Association | Cultural Garden Fete & Vintage Rally | £600.00 |
| Maghera Sons of William | Kings coronation afternoon tea party | £600.00 |
| Maghera Vintage Rally | Maghera Vintage Rally | £600.00 |
| Moneymore Community Group | Motor Show & Family Fun Day | £1,050.00 |
| Monrush Social Society | Kings Coronation | £600.00 |
| Moree Community Association | Easter Egg Hunt | £348.00 |
| Moyola Clay Target Club | Moyola Cup Challenge | £600.00 |
| NaÁiscoil Charn Tochair | Easter Egg Hunt & Family Fun Day | £600.00 |
| Naiscoil Mhachaire Ríjtha | Community Games & Family Fun Day | £900.00 |
| Parents, Teachers & Friends of Dgn PS | Community festival BBQ and fun day | £1,100.00 |
| Pomeroy District Sports & Cultural Asc | Proms on the pitch | £600.00 |
| Queen Elizabeth II Primary School PTA | Coronation & Sports Festival | £600.00 |
| Sporting Hearts | Dungannon Truck Run/ Family Fun Day | £600.00 |
| St Andrew's Mother's Union (Killyman) | King Charles III Coronation Big Lunch | £600.00 |
| Tamlaght O'Crilly Parish Vintage Group | Vintage Rally | £750.00 |
| Tobermore Primary School PTA | Summer Fair and Duck Race | £334.00 |
| Tobin Centre (Moortown) Ltd | Annual Tobin Summer Festival | £1,050.00 |
| Upperlands Royal British Legion | Community Activity Day | £600.00 |
| Baltic Together | Christmas event and workshop | £1,050.00 |
| South Derry/East Tyrone Apprentice Boys of Derry | Apprentice Boys Parade 2023 – Cookstown | £1,050.00 |
| Augher Central Primary School PTFA | Community Fun Day | £600 |

| Organisation name: | Title of Project/Activity: | Award |
|--|--|--------------|
| Aughintober Regeneration | Kings Coronation Entertainment & Steak Night | £600 |
| Ballytrea Parent Support Group | Community Fun Night | £488 |
| Country Roads Womens Group | King Charles III Coronation Celebration | £346 |
| Curlough Accordion Band | Coronation BBQ | £584 |
| Desertcreatives | Harvest Moon Festival | £1,200 |
| Dgn Friends of Chest/Heart & Stroke | Community engagement & awareness event | £1,350 |
| F.A.C.T.S. | Fundraising Play | £900 |
| Fivemiletown Royal British Legion | Community Engagement Event | £750 |
| Harps Cycling Club | Mid Ulster grand prix | £600 |
| Knockloughrim PTA | Fun Colour Run | £600 |
| Leo`s boys and girls tug of war club | ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL tug of war c | £1,250 |
| Loughshore Community Services Ltd | Moortown Community Festival 2023 | £750 |
| Newmills Cultural Group | King Charles III Coronation Festival Weekend | £600 |
| Richmond Parents Support Group | Coronation Fun Night | £600 |
| Sandholes Community Group | Celebrating our Kings Coronation | £600 |
| Stewartstown & District Environmental | Stewartstown in Bloom | £910 |
| Tiny Tots Pre-School Education Centre | Tiny Tots Pre-School Family Day | £600 |
| Fivemiletown United Football Club | Festival of Footballs | £525 |
| B.S.E.Productons | Music matters | £630 |
| Ballinderry Shamrocks GAC | 'Come and Enjoy' | £1,200 |
| Ballyronan & Dist Vintage Vehicle Club | Vintage Vehicle Club Annual Static Show | £600 |
| Benburb Memorial Pipe Band | Benburb Community Get Together | £600 |
| Blessed Patrick O'Loughran PSG | Family Fun Day | £600 |
| Bush Primary School | Community Fun Night | £416 |
| Cookstown High School PTFA | Coronation Garden Fete | £600 |
| Cookstown North Community group | Coronation celebrations | £412 |
| Crilly Cultural and Youth Group | Coronation Big Breakfast | £600 |
| Desertmartin Parish Church | Desertmartin Vintage Rally | £1,050 |
| Friends of Knocknagin | Family fun night & BBQ | £600 |
| Friends Of Magherafelt High School | Pre-loved reloved unifrom sale & car boot sale | £600 |
| Killymoon Rangers Football Club | Developing Good Relations within Community | £750 |
| Kinturk Cultural centre | One Super Weekend | £600 |
| Newmills Playgroup | Summer Festival | £304 |
| Open Doors Club | Delightful Rainbow Project | £600 |
| Pomeroy Afterschool | Summer scheme | £600 |
| Pomeroy Preschool Playgroup | Colour Run Fun | £596 |
| Sperrin Harriers | Stunnerz N Runners | £750 |
| Superstars | Celebration of People with Learning Disabilities | £1,200 |
| Tyrone Ladies GFA | Females in Tyrone - Community Sports Program | £600 |
| Walker Memorial Primary School PSG | Community Fun Evening | £332 |
| Granquilters | Gran Quilters Exhibition | £212 |
| Crossdernott Parish Church | Celebrating the Coronation of King Charles III | £352 |
| Roughan Orange Lodge | 11th July Celebrations Evening | £600 |
| Walkers Volunteers LOL 1011 | BBQ & Fun Evening | £200 |
| Queen Elizabeth Pipe Band | Cross Community Variety Concert | £600 |
| Ochill Cultural Group | Ochill Summer Festival | £472 |
| Clonoe Rural Development Agency | Summer marquee event with musicians | £1350 |
| Friends of St Columbs Primary Cullion | Family fun day | £600 |

| Organisation name: | Title of Project/Activity: | Award |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Spires Parents Community | Family Fun Night | £600 |
| Killen Community Residents Group | Killen Community Summer Event 2023 | £600 |
| Maghera Masonic Lodge 42 | Family Funday | £600 |
| Watty Grahams GAC | Summer Camp 2023 | £750 |
| Tobermore Village Hall | Community Funday | £600 |
| Dungannon Swifts FC | DS Community Funday | £765 |

Good Relations Awards

| Organisation | Title of Project/Activity: | Award |
|----------------------------------|--|--------------|
| Draperstown After School Club | Summer Fun | £730.00 |
| Laghey Parent Support Group | Diversity through Food, Art & culture | £360.00 |
| Institute of Irish Leadership | Nurture yourself in nature this Spring. | £600.00 |
| Dungannon Ladies Probus | Senior Ladies Event | £360.00 |
| Dungannon Cookstown Camera Club | Portrait of a Community | £1,050.00 |
| Dungannon Area Church Forum | Praise on the Hill | £1,500.00 |
| Friends2Talk | Mental Wellbeing Program | £750.00 |
| The Royal British Legion Dgn/Moy | Wreath Laying Ceremony | £900.00 |
| County Derry Centenaries Group | History Talks- Period of Michael Collins | £900.00 |

Small Development Grants

| Organisation name: | Title of Project/Activity: | Award |
|-------------------------------------|---|--------------|
| 1st Ballygawley Brownie Unit | Ballygawley Brownies | £791 |
| 1st Ballygawley Scouts | 1st Ballygawley Scouts | £900 |
| 1st Caledon Boys' Brigade | Programme Extras | £1,035 |
| 1st Culnady Boys Brigade | Where do I fit in? | £1,050 |
| 1st Killyman Rainbow Guides | LEARNING/ GROWTH FOR YOUNG GIRLS | £750 |
| 1st Loy Guides | Girls Get Crafty | £1,200 |
| ACORNS AC | C25k | £1,278 |
| Aghintaine Parish Heritage Group | Townlands and landmarks of Aghintaine | £1,049 |
| Ardboe Art Group | Creative Therapy from the palette | £900 |
| Arthritis Care Cookstown Branch | Cookstown Versus Arthritis in our community | £1,050 |
| Aughadarragh Parent Support Ass | Arts Community and Sport Programmes | £1,050 |
| Augharan Development Pipe Band | Tuition 2023 | £882 |
| Aughnacloy Patchwork Club | Cross Border & Cross Community | £900 |
| Ballinascreen Camogie Club | Ballinascreen community sports project | £1,350 |
| Ballinderry AOH | Ballinderry AOH - A New Dawn | £720 |
| Ballygawley Local History Group | Monthly talks/Annual outing of Historical nature | £750 |
| Ballymaguigan Community Development | Moyola Riverside Path and BCDA Costs | £700 |
| Ballymoughan Clay Target Club | Generator for Ballymoughan Clay Target Club | £900 |
| Ballyronan Boat Club | Diversification - paddle boarding | £1,050 |
| Baltic Together | Traditional Annual Event - Saint Jonas's Festival | £1,050 |
| BC Wolves | Basketball for Everyone | £1,350 |
| Beechland community group | Community garden | £600 |
| Bellaghy Girls Brigade | Bellaghy Girls Brigade | £900 |
| Bellaghy Historical Society | Lecture Programme and Society Website | £750 |

| Organisation name: | Title of Project/Activity: | Award |
|---|--|--------------|
| Bellaghy Wolftones Camogie Club | Bellaghy Camogie Club Winter Skills Prog | £1,350 |
| Benburb Memorial Pipe Band | Running Costs and Tuition | £960 |
| Bloomhill Rural Development Association | Dance, Fun and creativity | £1,050 |
| Bovain Cultural Group | Various functions throughout the year | £900 |
| Brigh Senior Citizens Fellowship | Brigh Senior Citizens 2023 | £1,050 |
| Bush Womens Group | Womens Group Outing | £750 |
| Cairde Eochair (Friends of Augher) | Arts and Culture Programme in Rural Augher | £1,500 |
| Caledon Guides and Rangers | Caledon Guide Programme | £1,050 |
| Caledon in Bloom | Caledon in Bloom | £675 |
| Castledawson LOL 96 | Skills for Life | £1,200 |
| Ceoltoiri Luraigh | Bilingual school for Traditional Music and Song | £1,200 |
| Clogher Old Market House | Community Venue Activity | £750 |
| Clogher UDR Association | Respite Day Out | £460 |
| Clogher Valley CCE | Strategic Development of Traditional Music | £1,350 |
| Clonoe Independent Pipe Band | Clonoe Independent Pipe Band | £1,050 |
| Cloughfin Pipe Band | Cloughfin - The Next Level | £900 |
| Coagh & District Local History Group | Coagh & District Local History Group 2023 | £900 |
| Coagh Community Crossroads Club | Arts and Crafts Learning Programme 2023-24 | £900 |
| Coalisland & District Angling Club | Improvement Angling Stands for Accessibility | £1,000 |
| Cookstown AOH | Cookstown AOH - Our Year | £600 |
| Cookstown Boxing Club | Boxing Development & Mental Health | £1,050 |
| Cookstown Community allotments | Community Growing ! | £1,200 |
| Cookstown Floral Art Club | Flower Club 2023/2024 Activity for Year | £862 |
| Cookstown Fr Rock's | Gaelic for Mothers and Others | £1,350 |
| Cookstown Hockey Club | Keep Hockey Happening | £1,350 |
| Cookstown Local History Group | Local & Lived History Together Project | £900 |
| Cookstown Multiple Sclerosis Support | Health and Wellbeing 2023 | £450 |
| Cookstown North Community group | Trip | £697 |
| Cookstown RBL Football Club | Small sided games | £1,200 |
| Cookstown Royal British Legion Branch | Kings Coronation | £1,350 |
| Cookstown Sons of William Flute Band | Community Area Development Programme | £1,050 |
| Cookstown Wildlife Trust | IT Equipment | £900 |
| Cookstown Womens Support Group | Tackling Isolation Amongst Older Women in the Cookstown area | £544 |
| Cookstown Youth Football Club | Developing the Development Centre at CYFC | £1,500 |
| Coolnafranky Park residents Association | Coolnafranky Development | £966 |
| County Tyrone Super Cup NI Association | George Henderson County Tournament | £770 |
| Crossdernott Mothers' Union | Reaching Out | £600 |
| Cumann Fionnbarra Naofa (St Finbarrs) | Hurling equipment for increase in club members | £1,350 |
| Curran Heritage Culture & Community | Curran Community Engagement | £900 |
| Derganagh Training & Development Ass | Community involvement, inclusion | £1,080 |
| Derry Camogie Association | Community Camogie Initiative | £1,050 |
| Derryloran Flower Guild | Younger Generations | £900 |
| Derryloran Flute Band | Community Venue Activity | £900 |
| Derryloran Mothers Union | Coronation Celebrations 2023 | £416 |
| Desertcreat Scottish Country Dancers | Annual Scottish Country Dance | £435 |

| Organisation name: | Title of Project/Activity: | Award |
|--|--|--------------|
| Desertcreatives | Songs for a winters night | £750 |
| Desertmartin Football Club | Football Training and Fitness | £1,350 |
| Donaghmore District Community Ass | The HeART of Village Life | £1,029 |
| Donaghmore Horticultural Community | Donaghmore Blossom's | £1,500 |
| Donaghmore Mothers Union | Activities & Kings Coronation | £900 |
| Donaghmore Primary School PTA | Mental Health and Well Being Workshops | £750 |
| Drumcraw Clay Pigeon Club | Clay Pigeon Club | £1,200 |
| Drumglass Allotment Association | Sustainable Growing | £1,175 |
| Duiche Neill An Bhinn Bhorb Hurling club | Duiche Neill Schools - Let's get Hurling project | £1,200 |
| Dunamore Community Association | Dunamore Community Association 2023 | £1,200 |
| Dungannon & District Rambling Club | 2 Day Trips | £582 |
| Dungannon Amateur Boxing Club | Boxing and youth Development and Fitness | £1,050 |
| Dungannon Amateur Swimming Club | Dungannon Amateur Swimming club | £1,350 |
| Dungannon&South Tyrone Kraft Circle. | Dungannon & South Tyrone Kraft Circle | £900 |
| Dungannon Area All Stars | Will they, won't they' | £1,050 |
| Dungannon Cookstown Camera Club | Focus on Skills | £888 |
| Dungannon Fibromyalgia Support Group | Dungannon fibromalagia support group | £500 |
| Dungannon Gaelic Forum | Music/ Dance workshops for parade participants | £360 |
| Dungannon Ladies Hockey Club | Development of Goal Keeper Opportunities | £1,350 |
| Dungannon Masonic House Committee | Aging Strong: Promoting Physical/Mental Health | £879 |
| Dungannon Multiple Sclerosis Support | Health and Wellbeing | £1,200 |
| Dungannon Senior Citizen's Thursday | Entertainment and Activities | £1,050 |
| Dungannon Silver Band | Stability | £1,050 |
| Dungannon Visually Impaired Persons | VIP Activities 23/24 | £750 |
| Dungannon West Recycled Teenagers | Community Cohesion | £216 |
| Eastvale&Kilcoole Com & Cultural Group | Eastvale & Killcoole Community Events | £900 |
| Edentilone Bowling Club | Rent, Badminton equipment, heating | £900 |
| Edentilone Pipe Band | Running & Activity Cost | £900 |
| Fallaghloon AOH Community Hall | Community Activity | £1,350 |
| Fivemiletown Half Door Club | Fivemiletown Half Door Club 2023 Activities | £300 |
| Fivemiletown Primary Sch& Nurs PTFA | Toddle into The Arts | £883 |
| Footlights Drama Group | Oliver Twist | £600 |
| Friends of Aughnacloy Day Centre | Building Confidence to make our voices heard | £1,050 |
| Friends of Ballylifford | Ballylifford Sporting and Community Wellbeing | £1,350 |
| Friends of Glencull com & Parent Ass | 190 years of Rural Education | £1,200 |
| Friends of Killymoon Castle (FoKC) | Tony Vickery Experience | £750 |
| Friends of Kilronan | Summer Family Fun Day and events | £812 |
| Friends of Knocknagin | Afterschool dance programme | £1,200 |
| Friends of Little Woods | Virtual Forest Visits : Phase 2 | £1,037 |
| Friends of Magherafelt High School | FMHS Craft Group | £750 |
| Friends of Stewartstown Primary School | Arts & Sports Activities | £882 |
| Friends of the Somme Mid Ulster Branch | Programme of Events 2023 | £1,200 |
| Galbally ABC | Amateur Sports in Galbally | £1,350 |
| Galbally Country Club | Galbally Country Club | £900 |
| Girlguiding Moneymore | A Guiding Adventure - girls can do anything! | £1,350 |
| Glenburn Community Association | Glenburn Community Activities 2023 | £260 |

| Organisation name: | Title of Project/Activity: | Award |
|--|--|--------------|
| Golden Star Temperance RBP 979 | RBP 979 Hall | £900 |
| Groundforce | LOCAL HISTORY | £1,200 |
| Hilltop Highland Dancers Dergina | Hilltop Development project | £1,088 |
| Institute of Irish Leadership | Irish Environment Programme | £528 |
| Joseph DEVLIN Memorial Hall | Our Hall for Our Community | £1,350 |
| Keep 'Er Lit Running Club | Keep 'Er Lit Run4All | £1,350 |
| Kidzone | Generation 23 | £444 |
| Kilcronaghan Mothers Union | A Time of Socialising | £750 |
| Kildress Area Youth & Community Club | Our Youth - Our Future ! | £1,200 |
| Kildress Health Matters | Kildress Community Matters | £1,200 |
| Kildress Kare | Kildress Kare 2023 | £1,050 |
| Kildress Mother's Union | Activities & Talks | £750 |
| Killeeshil Open Door Club | Killeeshil Open Door Club | £750 |
| Killen Community Residents Group | Local Park Improvements | £1,050 |
| Killeeshil and Clonaneese Hist Society | Community Venue Activity | £900 |
| Killymoon Rangers Football Club | Physical Activity for All | £1,039 |
| Killymuck Clay Pigeon Club | Community at Heart | £1,050 |
| Kilnaslee Bowling Club | Bowls & Mats | £750 |
| Knockloughrim Community Development | Community Activities | £1,200 |
| Liberty Church Mid Ulster | Liberty in the Community | £1,500 |
| Lissan Girls Friendly Society | Developing health and wellbeing | £900 |
| Loughans Cultural and Community | Community Venue Activity | £900 |
| Loughshore Community Services | LCS - Community Hub and Activity Programme | £840 |
| Loughshore Traditional Music Group | Traditional Music Lessons for Adults and Youth | £1,050 |
| Maghera Parish Caring Association | A time of Socialising and education | £1,200 |
| Maghera Strollers Football Club | Hire of 4G Pitch | £1,200 |
| Maghera Vintage Rally | An Evening of country and western Music | £1,050 |
| Maghera Women's Institute | Programme of events 2023 – 2024 | £753 |
| Magherafelt Sky Blues FC | Getting back into football at MSB | £1,104 |
| Magherafelt Versus Arthritis | Magherafelt Versus Arthritis Members Events | £750 |
| Magherafelt Welfare Group | Good mental health and wellbeing | £600 |
| Magherafelt Womens Group | Reducing Financial Stress / Crafting Wellbeing | £1,200 |
| Magheraglass Womens Group | Decoupage Shovel | £305 |
| Michael Davitt Camogie Club | Swatragh Girls Development Project | £1,350 |
| Mid Ulster Amateur Swimming Club | Swimming Club | £1,350 |
| Mid Ulster Community First Responders | Mid Ulster Community First Responders | £1,200 |
| Mid Ulster Floral Art Society | Floral Demonstration | £900 |
| Mid Ulster Netball Club | MUNC 2023-24 | £1,350 |
| Mid Ulster Squash Club | Growing and Diversifying Squash in Mid Ulster | £358 |
| Mid Ulster Victims Empowerment MUVE | MUVE seating area in Garden of Reflection | £1,350 |
| Milltown Arch & Cultural Group | 2023 / 2024 Milltown Community Events | £750 |
| Milltown Area Community Association | Milltown Area Community Activities 2023 | £440 |
| Moneymore Clay Target Club | Moneymore Clay Target Activities 2023 | £1,050 |
| Moneymore Heritage Trust Limited | Increase Visibility and Impact | £1,040 |
| Moneyneany In Bloom Association | Moneyneany - Relaxation Zones | £1,200 |
| Montober LOL 661 | Montober community, culture & heritage 2023 | £1,200 |

| Organisation name: | Title of Project/Activity: | Award |
|---|--|--------------|
| Moortown Community Hall | Moortown Community Hall Activities | £1,080 |
| Moygashel Lambeg Drumming Club | Bringing the arts and culture alive to all ages | £1,200 |
| Moygashel Regeneration Group | Community Cohesion | £1,200 |
| Moyola Clay Target Club | Looking Forward | £1,050 |
| Moyola Park Youth AFC | Back to football& Autumn Football | £1,015 |
| Muintirevlin Historical Society | HISTORY TALKS AND HISTORY TRIP | £553 |
| Naomh Brid Brocagh Camogie | Brocagh Camogie Come Hurl with Us | £1,350 |
| Naomh Treasa Camogie Club | Outdoor & Indoor Coaching Programme 2023/24 | £1,350 |
| Newmills Cultural Group | Newmills Wildlife Gardening Development | £1,050 |
| Newmills Football Club | Club Running Costs Season 23/24 | £1,200 |
| O4O Cookstown Ltd | Arts and Crafts classes for older people | £750 |
| Orritor Cultural Development Group | Knock-Out | £750 |
| Parkview Community group | Parkview - Our Home | £546 |
| Pomeroy CCE | Autumn Sessions | £900 |
| Pomeroy Players | Annual Drama Production | £900 |
| Ren Bu Kan Judo Club | Judo classes for children and adults | £1,200 |
| Richmond Parent Support Group | Community Wellbeing Project | £1,050 |
| Riverside & Blackhill Community Assoc | Riverside and Blackhill 2023 Activities | £224 |
| Rock and District Historical Society | Learning from our Past | £750 |
| Royal British Legion Magherafelt Branch | Combat mental health and support wellbeing | £650 |
| Sacred Heart PS PTA | Gardening Club and Community Garden | £1,050 |
| Sandholes Community Group | Engaging the local community in activities | £1,050 |
| Sean O'Leary Camogie Newbridge | Newbridge Girls Sports Initiative | £1,350 |
| Sperrin Harriers | Couch 25K | £1,040 |
| Sperrin Hillwalking Club | Hillwalking | £826 |
| Sperrin Kidz and Sperrin Youth Choir | Administration/Development of Children's Choirs | £1,050 |
| Sperrin u3A | Sperrin U3A Out and About | £1,052 |
| Magherafelt Branch of Parkinson's UK | Portable Sound System, Hall, Activities | £900 |
| Square Wheels Cycling Club | Cyclocross Project | £1,350 |
| St Andrew's Mother's Union (Killyman) | Transformation - St Andrew's Mothers' Union | £900 |
| St Colman's Parish Community Group | Further Skills Build | £750 |
| St Columba's Camogie Club Greenlough | Greenlough Community Sports Project | £1,350 |
| St Elizabeth's Senior Citizens Club | Running Costs for St. Elizabeth's Senior Citizen | £786 |
| St John Bosco Community Association | Keeping our Community Connected | £1,500 |
| St Malachys Edendork GAC | St Malachys Edendork GAC - Annual Project | £1,350 |
| St Patrick's Camogie Club, The Loup | Annual Programme | £1,350 |
| Stewartstown Community Group | Stewartstown Community Group Activities 2023 | £749 |
| Superstars | The Greatest Show | £1,050 |
| Syerla and District Pipe Band (SADPB) | Provision of quality tuition for skills | £900 |
| Tamlaghtmore LOL 198 | Cultural Trip to Londonderry | £160 |
| Tamnamore Community Development | Inspiring creative beauty | £900 |
| Termoneeny Young at Heart Club | Termoneeny Young at Heart Activity Prog | £1,050 |
| Termoneeny Parish Bowling Club | Bowling to a higher level | £1,200 |
| The Craft Class St.Swithin's | Traditional and Contemporary Craft Activities | £900 |
| The Loup & District Historical Society | Researching/Documenting Items of History | £600 |
| The Regimental Association Of The UDR | Mystery tour | £900 |

| Organisation name: | Title of Project/Activity: | Award |
|-------------------------------------|---|--------------|
| The Royal British Legion Coalisland | Commemoration of Pte. John Percy Anderson | £756 |
| The Tuesday club | Arts and crafts Classes | £900 |
| Tri Limits Triathlon Club | Cycle Safe | £1,350 |
| Tulach Og Hurling & Camogie Club | Newbie Social Hurling and Camogie | £1,350 |
| Tullylagan Pipe Band | Tullylagan Pipe Band Centenary Concert | £1,050 |
| Tullymeadow Community Association | Augher Arts, Culture & Environment Programme | £1,350 |
| Tyrone Ladies GFA | Under 13 Player Development Programme | £1,200 |
| Tyrone Underwater Search & Recovery | Tyrone Underwater Search & Recovery | £900 |
| William Carleton Society | Cataloguing and digitalisation of summer school | £1,200 |
| William Kerr Memorial Pipe Band | Band Competition and Development | £894 |
| Woodschapel Beaver Scouts | Arts, Crafts, Culture, Teamwork and Sports | £900 |
| Workspace (Draperstown) Limited | Draperstown Community Craft Classes | £750 |
| Killymoon Golf Club | Juniors Development | £750 |
| Willowbank | Disability Support Prog | £1,200 |
| Lecumpher Presbyterian Church | Training & Development | £750 |
| Putting Others First | Fundraising Events | £750 |
| Baby Basics Magherafelt | Mothers & Babies Prog | £750 |
| Open Door Club | Arts & Crafts | £1,050 |
| Ballymacall True Blues | 75 th Anniversary Programme | £1,200 |

Sports Representative Awards

| Name | Title of event/Project. | Award |
|------------------|---|--------------|
| Daisy Abernethy | Barrier Animal Health Spring Festival | £200.00 |
| Jason Glasgow | Cycling Ulster Youth Development Belgium 2023 | £250.00 |
| Dylan Registe | The Irish Open Championships | £175.00 |
| Flynn Hasson | US Kids Irish Open | £225.00 |
| Matthew Moan | The Irish Open Championships | £200.00 |
| Nathan Moore | 2023 EBA Nations Cup of Pool | £225.00 |
| Craig Mckeown | World Down The Line Clay Pigeon Shooting | £250.00 |
| Nick Mckeown | World Down the Line Clay Pigeon Shooting | £250.00 |
| Aoife Mallon | Barrier Spring Festival 2022/23 - Scotland & NI | £200.00 |
| Roan Quinn | World Down the Line Clay Pigeon Shooting | £250.00 |
| Bernadette Quinn | World Down the Line Clay Pigeon Shooting | £250.00 |
| Mathew O'Neill | Small Countries International Volleyball | £250.00 |

Strategic Arts Awards

| Organisation name: | Title of Project/Activity: | Award |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Bardic Theatre | Bardic Theatre 2023/2024 | £17,500.00 |
| Carntogher Community Association | Carntogher Arts Project 2023/24 | £17,500.00 |
| Brantry Area Development Group | Brantry Bard | £5,000.00 |
| Craic Arts Centre | Affordable arts For ALL | £20,000.00 |
| Glasgowbury | Cornstore Creative Hub | £15,000.00 |

Strategic Community Development Awards

| Organisation name: | Title of Project/Activity: | Award |
|---|--|-----------|
| Mid Ulster Community Services Ltd | Out of Area Transport for Mid Ulster Dwellers | £5,000.00 |
| Hope Magherafelt | CAP Debt Centre, CAP Money Course | £3,981.00 |
| Community Organisations of South Tyrone & Areas Ltd (COSTA) | Mid Ulster Community Development Support Service 2023 / 2024 | £8,000.00 |
| Mid Ulster Volunteer Centre | Mid Ulster Volunteer Centre | £7,000.00 |
| First Steps Women's Centre (FSWC) | Women Towards Education & Employment | £7,000.00 |

Strategic Events Awards

| Organisation name: | Title of Project/Activity: | Award |
|--|---|-----------|
| Annahoe Historical Cultural & Sports Soc | Clogher Valley Kings Coronation Celebration | £4,000.00 |
| Brantry Bard Sessions Group | Brantry Fleadh 2023 | £2,000.00 |
| Clogher Valley Agricultural Society Ltd | Clogher Valley Agricultural Show | £8,000.00 |
| CoalislandClonoe Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann | Fleadh Thir Eoghain 2023 | £7,000.00 |
| Cookstown & District Motorcycle Club Ltd | The 2023 Cookstown 100 Road Races | £7,000.00 |
| Cookstown Motor Club | Circuit of Ireland 2023 | £7,000.00 |
| Cycul Ltd | Lap The Lough | £6,000.00 |
| Dungannon Gaelic Forum | St Patrick's Day Cultural Parade | £5,000.00 |
| Eglish Road Bowls Club | All Ireland road bowls Final 2023 | £3,000.00 |
| Erins Own Lavey GAC | Mid Ulster Truckers Festival 2023 | £4,000.00 |
| Irish Junior Open Committee | Irish Junior Open Tour Championship Finale | £4,000.00 |
| Island Wheelers CC | 2023 Cycling Ireland Senior National Road | £4,000.00 |
| Killyman & District Cultural Group | Dungannon Twelfth Festival | £4,000.00 |
| Mid Ulster Pride | Mid Ulster Pride Parade 2023 | £3,000.00 |
| Pomeroy Social Activity Group | Santa's Magical Forest | £6,000.00 |
| St John's Church Moneymore | Mid Ulster Farming Funday' | £2,000.00 |
| The Great Rossa Run | The Great Rossa Run 2023 | £3,000.00 |
| Tri Limits Triathlon Club | Tri Tyrone 70.3 National Series Race | £4,000.00 |

Strategic Sports Awards

| Organisation name: | Activity | Award |
|---------------------|-------------|----------|
| Ulster Hockey | Development | £ 10,000 |
| Irish FA Foundation | Development | £ 15,000 |

Festive Lights

| Area | Amount |
|-------------------|-----------|
| Ackinduff/Cabragh | £1,500.00 |
| Ardboe | £2,000.00 |
| Augher | £1,500.00 |
| Aughnacloy | £3,000.00 |
| Ballinderry | £1,500.00 |
| Ballygawley | £2,000.00 |
| Ballylifford | £1,500.00 |
| Ballymaguigan | £1,250.00 |
| Ballyronan | £2,000.00 |
| Bellaghy | £3,000.00 |
| Benburb | £1,500.00 |
| Brocagh | £1,500.00 |
| Bush | £1,500.00 |
| Caledon | £1,500.00 |
| Cappagh | £1,500.00 |
| Carntogher | £1,250.00 |
| Castlecaulfield | £2,000.00 |
| Castledawson | £3,000.00 |
| Churchtown | £1,500.00 |
| Clady | £2,000.00 |
| Clogher | £2,000.00 |
| Clonoe | £2,000.00 |
| Coagh | £2,000.00 |
| Culnady | £1,250.00 |
| Curran | £1,250.00 |
| Desertmartin | £1,500.00 |
| Donaghmore | £3,000.00 |
| Draperstown | £3,000.00 |
| Drummullan | £1,500.00 |
| Edendork | £1,500.00 |
| Eglisk | £1,500.00 |
| Fivemiletown | £3,000.00 |
| Galbally | £1,500.00 |
| Gulladuff | £2,000.00 |
| Innishrush | £1,250.00 |
| Killyman | £2,000.00 |
| Knockloughrim | £1,250.00 |
| Moneyneena | £3,000.00 |
| Moneyneena | £1,250.00 |
| Moortown | £2,000.00 |
| Moy | £3,000.00 |
| Moygashel | £2,500.00 |
| Newmills | £2,000.00 |

| | |
|--------------|-----------|
| Orritor | £1,500.00 |
| Pomeroy | £2,000.00 |
| Sandholes | £1,500.00 |
| Sixtowns | £1,250.00 |
| Stewartstown | £2,000.00 |
| Swatragh | £1,500.00 |
| Tamlaght | £1,250.00 |
| Tamnamore | £1,500.00 |
| The Loup | £1,500.00 |
| The Rock | £1,500.00 |
| Tobermore | £2,000.00 |
| Tullyhogue | £1,250.00 |
| Upperlands | £2,000.00 |

Minutes of Mid Ulster Policing and Community Safety Partnership meeting held on Wednesday 8 March 2023 in Council Chamber, Dungannon and via MS Teams at 2.30pm

Present: Councillor Dominic Molloy (Chair), Councillor Robert Colvin, Councillor Clement Cuthbertson, Councillor Cathal Mallaghan, Councillor John McNamee, Councillor Sean McPeake,

Alexandra Black (Vice Chair), Sue Chada, Grace Meerbeek, Pearse McFlynn, Julie McKeown, Ciaran McElhone, Hayley Wilson

Martin Corr (NIFRS), Michelle Grant (PBNI), Superintendent Stephen Murray (PSNI), Geraldine Hannah (CVOC)

Apologies: Councillor Frances Burton, Sharon Crooks (NIHE), Councillor Anne Forde, Alison Campbell-Smyth (NH&SCT)

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

The Meeting commenced at 2.35pm

PCSP258/23 WELCOME

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

The Chair extended a warm welcome to Geraldine Hanna, Commissioner Designate of the Office of the Commissioner for Victims of Crime (CVOC) who provided the following presentation in order to highlight the role of the office.

The Commissioner for Victims of Crime provides a voice to victims of crime in Northern Ireland. It monitors criminal justice organisations to make sure victims of crime get their entitlements under the Victim Charter. It reviews how the Victim Charter works and is delivered within criminal justice organisations to improve how victims of crime get their entitlements.

The Commissioner will use victims' experiences of the criminal justice system in Northern Ireland to improve services for victims working closely with victims, their families and support agencies to record their experiences. This will be used as evidence to provide advice to government on changes that are needed for a better victim centred criminal justice system.

Members were advised that the CVOC are currently working on three key 'Ds'

Delay

The delay in cases being heard is significant as a result of Covid and it is predicted that the backlog will not be fully addressed until 2028, therefore, additional funding is needed to swiftly deal with this backlog. A victim of sexual crime must make a choice of reporting a crime or accessing therapy due to length of time it will take for their case to be dealt with.

Data

There are currently at least 10 Case Management Systems across the Judicial Systems which are not capable of tracking the progress of an individual's case journey from start to finish. These systems are very cumbersome, therefore, we are seeking the Criminal Justice Board to commit to investment in order to connect data across all systems.

Disclosure

It is very concerning the level of disclosure and how information of a personal nature relating to a victim of crime especially in relation to sexual violence crimes is shared. The Information Commissioner found that the level of data being sought by PSNI and PPS is excessive and overly obtrusive, no more than necessary should be requested. The PSNI and PPS are currently working to address this, the CVOC will monitor this to ensure change for the better.

Geraldine Hanna, Commissioner Designate thanked the Chair for the opportunity to raise awareness of the role and services they provide and would be willing to meet with individuals needing advice. The CVOC can be accessed on-line at www.cvocni.org

Members asked the following questions;

In response to a question from Grace Meerbeek in relation to the Victim Charter for NI, Geraldine Hanna advised that The Victim Charter sets out the entitlements and services that victims of crime in Northern Ireland can expect to receive from a range of service providers. It was placed on a statutory footing in late 2015. There is a Code of Practice for victims of crime in England and Wales.

Responding to a question from Sue Chada in relation to how CVOC is publicised, Geraldine Hannah advised that it is hoped that a communications person will be employed for this purpose, depending on funding. Members of CVOC advisory panels consist of representatives from Women's Aid, Victim Support, ASSIST NI, NSPCC and Agewell and they in turn raise awareness of CVOC with their clients. A website has been recently launched and it is hoped to increase the use of social media. We are very grateful for the opportunity to attend today's meeting for this reason.

The Chair thanked Geraldine Hanna for attending and providing a very informative presentation on the role of the Commissioner for Victims of Crime.

Geraldine Hanna left the meeting at 2.58pm.

PCSP259/23 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

PCSP260/23 MINUTES OF MID ULSTER POLICING & COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14 DECEMBER 2022

The Minutes of Mid Ulster Policing and Community Safety Partnership meeting held on Wednesday 14 December 2022 were approved by Members.

Proposed by: Councillor Sean McPeake

Seconded by: Councillor John McNamee

PCSP261/23 MATTERS ARISING – PCSP254/22 – Public Spaces CCTV Report

In response to a question from Councillor McNamee in relation to ability of CCTV cameras being set to rotate, the PCSP Manager advised that this is currently being done and cameras will be set this weekend on 'Patrol Mode' allowing them to rotate every 5 to 10 minutes.

PCSP262/23 KNOCKLOUGHRIM SID REQUEST

The PCSP Manager advised that Councillor Forde has secured funding from FP McCann Contractors for the purchase of a SID for Knockloughrim, to help slow down speeding vehicles travelling through the village. The Chair sought approval from Members to allow PCSP to purchase a SID using the secured funding and to add this SID to the current SID Scheme, allowing it to be maintained and re-located within Knockloughrim as needed.

Proposed by: Councillor Clement Cuthbertson

Seconded by: Councillor Robert Colvin

PCSP263/23 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – COALISLAND TRAINING SERVICES - BOOST VIDEO PROJECT

The PCSP Manager referred Members to the 'Expression of Interest' received from Sean Murray, Coalisland Training Services Ltd for £15,000 funding from PCSP for 'Boost Video Project' which deals with the issue of 'sexting'.

Following a discussion, Members agreed, whilst the PCSP appreciate the work put into developing the proposal, it was determined that the project's substantial cost, along with the availability of comparable resources through its partners, funding was not granted on this occasion.

PCSP264/23 ACTION PLAN REVIEW

The PCSP Manager advised Members that the reviewed PCSP Action Plan has been submitted to the DoJ and NIPB and as soon as approval is received the final document will be circulated.

The PCSP Manager and PCSP Officers provided a brief update on completed and on-going projects.

PCSP265/23 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Shauna McCloskey, PCSP Officer reminded Members that the Neighbourhood Watch Event will be taking place in Council Offices in Magherafelt this evening at 7pm. Members are welcome to attend.

Annette McGahan, PCSP Officer advised Members that an event for Older People will take place on Monday 20 March 2023 in The Terrace Hotel, Magherafelt at 10.30am. Members are welcome to attend.

PCSP266/23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

A schedule of meetings for the new financial year is currently being drafted, the next meeting date will be circulated in due course.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending today's meeting.

The meeting ended at 3.20pm.

Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House

Plan 2023 - 2026



Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House 2023 - 2026

Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House opened in 2012 and celebrated its 10 year anniversary in October 2022. The heritage site has developed throughout this time increasing both its local community engagement and visitor numbers. Steeped in history this heritage site has an abundance of rich engaging stories incorporating a vast history from the Bronze Age right up to the twentieth century when it was a barracks for the British army. It brings to life one of the most enigmatic and astonishing stories in the history of Ireland –The Flight of The Earls and subsequent Plantation of Ulster of which Hugh O'Neill was the central character. These two seismic events dramatically changed Ireland, and in particular Ulster, and its landscape. This presents a remarkable asset in terms of tourism potential for Mid Ulster District Council.

The visitor attraction incorporates a range of services both to local people and the visitor including: Hill of The O'Neill, the rocky outcrop that played a major role in the Flight of the Earls and Plantation of Ulster; an interpretive exhibition; a civic space; a meeting and conference space; and a heritage community park.

To allow all of the above services to operate simultaneously for both a local and visitor audience, a site and operation plan has been developed. The plan is for a 3 year period, incorporating annual reviews to ensure it remains flexible to the customer. The plan is supported by a robust marketing plan with the overarching objective to create and build a strong proposition for the Hill, positioning it as a must-see visitor attraction. This plan will also be supported by a number of operational plans to ensure a quality experience for all.

A long-term strategy is currently in creation for the site to address its longer-term development, sustainability and performance.

The plan will be delivered under the following themes:

1. Heritage Preservation, Visitor Experience
2. Education Programme
3. Events
4. Conferencing & Civic Space
5. Heritage Park

This plan will contribute to and align with the objectives of a number of strategies and plans for the District, mainly the Mid Ulster Community Plan, the Corporate Plan and the Tourism Strategy. It will support the community plan's strategic objectives: Protection and Promotion of our heritage, provision of good quality open green space for people, and activities to engage and educate our

young people. It also aligns with the Mid Ulster Corporate Plan through its contribution to health and wellbeing, ensuring diversity, protecting our heritage and increasing tourism and footfall to the site.

This plan will also complement the Council's Tourism Strategy. The visitor experience at Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House sits within the 'Archaeology, History and Heritage' Strategic Tourism Strand featured as one of the top 3 tourism priority areas for the Council. It is recognised within this strategy that Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House offers a significant competitive advantage for Mid Ulster District Council in terms of its status as a historical monuments/site, the uniqueness of its story and its impact on the course of Irish history. Encouragingly, Tourism NI Visitor Attitude Surveys highlights that 53% of visitors to the Mid Ulster District Council area visited a castle or historical monument with 33% visiting a visitor or interpretation centre.

Indeed, the site's status within Irish history is widely recognised amongst historians and academics as a prestigious site in Ireland. There is acknowledgement that this recognition needs to be further harnessed amongst the local community and tourism sector to enhance their understanding of this significant heritage asset. We aim to address this via the 5 strands within this action plan. We will strive to further develop our product with new experiences that will reflect our heritage and attract a greater number of visitors.

We will build on our award winning Education programme with greater expansion into the post-primary school market. We will slowly adapt aspects of our Education programme to align it solely to the history associated with Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House. Through an enhanced programme, combined with a robust targeted marketing plan, we will position Hill of The O'Neill strongly within the visitor sector as a key attraction within Ireland.

We will focus on conferencing and room hire to harness the potential that exists in attracting the MICE market. Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House presents significant competitive advantage to this lucrative market due to its central location, access to M1 and the USP offered in terms of Hill of The O'Neill's status within Irish history and the breath-taking landscape that surrounds it. There is further opportunity to engage and attract global businesses in our locality, enabling them to host events that impress and inspire their international clients at this unique location that provides views of Ulster and beyond.

We will strive to improve our heritage park providing enhanced access to the Hill: reopening of access routes to encourage residents and the local community to utilise the heritage park. We will ensure the space is maintained to its highest standard for the local community and visitors alike. Through the development of Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House as a civic space we will continue to host and attract weddings, civic receptions and community events via increased promotion and community engagement. Through the development of these interdependent strands we aim to elevate Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House's position and increase footfall to the site, and thus to Dungannon.

Heritage Preservation, Visitor Experience, Education Programme, Events, Conferencing & Civic Space, Heritage Park

The significance, positioning and impact of Hill of The O'Neill's history on Ireland is important to reinterpret the Hill's story to engage various target markets, enhance awareness and drive footfall. The history that shaped Ulster/changed Ireland provides the foundation for future positioning and one that positions Hill of The O'Neill's story and heritage strongly both within visitor markets. This proposition has huge potential to attract visitors to Dungannon town centre and act as a catalyst/ key economic driver for Dungannon town centre.

“Heritage/cultural tourism is recognised as one of the largest and fastest growing segments within the global tourism marketplace” according to the World Tourism Organisation. This includes ‘all aspects of tourism that can teach visitors about their past and inheritance, as well as their contemporary lifestyles’. This approach focuses primarily on the potential of arts-led culture as a driver for attracting culturally motivated visitors to Northern Ireland and its heritage – in cities, towns, country and coast. Presenting a joined-up, coherent and compelling offer that covers all the visitor bases is vital. Therefore, this anticipated connection via the arts is a significant opportunity to engage both residents and visitors with the heritage, thus developing their understanding of this immense asset. If effectively engaged through workshops and events, it will build civic pride throughout the community, thereby creating local ambassadors.

The formation of a connected programme that combines high-quality events and activities will engage and inspire a number of markets. Where possible, linking events, workshops, activities to the overall proposition of Hill of The O'Neill will strengthen its positioning and brand.

Hill of The O'Neill has a strong past, but one that is pivotal in Ireland's story. It is important to develop and share these central stories that bring the main characters to life and engage the visitor. The current exhibition is text heavy, and in order to ensure an engaging, high-quality experience there is a definite need for visits to be guided. We will therefore focus on developing both our people and our story; bringing the hill to life through skilled and engaging tour guides and creating sustainability. This will enable us to develop, manage and expand our tours and experiences.

There is further potential to strengthen relationships with Tourism NI and build on the brand experience at Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House as part of Tourism NI's Embrace a Giant Spirit. This brand is based on the warm welcome and the connections with people and stories.

| Project | Detail | Target | Timeline | Budget | Lead |
|--|--|---|--|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| Heritage Preservation & Visitor Experience | | | | | |
| Traditional Irish Craft Workshops | Implement programme of traditional Irish heritage crafts. Some of the more traditional, handmade art forms include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textiles/Linen • Basket making or Willow Weaving • Woodworking • Ceramics • St Brigid's Day Cross Making • Traditional Irish bread making | 5 x 1 day workshops 4 x 4 week course | February June November September (EHOD) | £6,000 | Manager Development Officer |
| History/Heritage Field Trip | Tours to significant sites that complement O'Neill history – e.g. Tullaghoge, Benburb, Battle of The Yellow Ford. Further sites will be identified through engagement with local historians. | 2 per annum | August/September | £1000 Bus & Guide | Manager Development Officer |
| Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House History Talks | Deliver history/heritage talks associated with O'Neills, Ranfurly, Flight of The Earls to instil an understanding and sense of place in terms of the integral position Dungannon has played within the context of Irish history | One per quarter | | £1,000 | Manager Development Officer |
| Heritage Preservation | Regular NIEA engagement and maintenance | | Ongoing | N/A | Development Officer |
| Maintain connections internally and externally with interest groups | Ensure linkages are sustained with history/heritage community groups, cross border links in Donegal. Explore the possibility of joint promotions and projects. | Benburb O'Neill trail areas Donegal Historians | Ongoing | N/A | Manager Development Officer |

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| <p>Promote Hill of The O’Neill complementing TNI Embrace a Giant Spirit experience</p> | <p>Continued development and links with TNI Embrace A Giant Spirit Brand – Update digital assets and share with TNI</p> <p>Develop Tourism Heritage partnerships with private sector to offer unique experiences to tour operators. E.g. Deoch an Doras (a drink at the door), Heritage events</p> <p>Enhance knowledge of the site via FAM trips for staff, Dungannon Park, OM, etc. A number of tours will be organised to provide staff with knowledge of the site to effectively promote</p> | <p>2 joint promotions</p> <p>20 participants per tour (Income generating)</p> <p>3 FAM trips</p> | <p>MUDC Tourism, Tourism NI, Tourism Ireland</p> | <p>£1000</p> | <p>Manager</p> <p>Development Officer</p> <p>Visitor Experience & Education Officer</p> <p>Marketing & Sales Officer</p> |
| <p>Hill of The O’Neill Heritage Tours</p> | <p>Deliver heritage tours as requested, with proactive marketing campaign. Through increased marketing we will aim to increase visitor numbers/ tours to at least pre-2020 levels. Deliver tours in Irish, when requested, in collaboration with Irish Language Officers.</p> | <p>Increase tours by 20% from 2022 – 2023. Visitor numbers to exhibition 1000</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> | | <p>Manager</p> <p>Development Officer</p> <p>Visitor Experience & Education Officer</p> <p>Front of House Advisors/Guides</p> <p>Specialist guides</p> |
| <p>Redevelop workshop for heritage crafts</p> | <p>Create a dedicated workshop area (arts storage) for heritage craft.</p> | <p>School groups (Day time) Classes (Evening)</p> | <p>Winter 2023</p> | <p>TBC</p> | |
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| Education | | | | | |
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| Discovering Our Past: A Schools Introduction to Archaeology | Deliver an archaeology session to support pupils to learn about the past while also gaining new skills. The pupils work alongside a team of archaeologists from the Centre for Community Archaeology at Queen's University, Belfast, some of whom were involved in the "Time Team" excavation. | Primary/Post-Primary KS2/3 pupils in Mid Ulster schools and colleges 5 classes: 125 pupils approx. | April 1 week 1 x 2½ hour sessions each day | £1200 | Manager Visitor Experience & Education Officer |
| Heritage School Engagement | Guided class visits to the Flight of the Earls and Plantation of Ulster exhibition and Hill of The O'Neill. Targeting both Primary and post-primary pupils from schools and colleges across Northern Ireland and in ROI | Primary/Post-Primary 8 classes: 200 pupils approx. | February to May | N/A | Manager Visitor Experience & Education Officer |
| Heritage, Art and STEM with young people | Combining history, art and STEM. Pupils take a tour of the exhibition on the Flight of the Earls and the Plantation of Ulster and then explore Hill of The O'Neill. This is followed by either a STEM workshop that involves Science and Art in which images from Hill of The O'Neill are created. The STEM/Art workshop is delivered in partnership with the AMMA Centre | Post-Primary Key Stage 3 pupils Mid Ulster post-primary schools 6-8 schools: 150-200 pupils | June 1-2 weeks 1 full day session per school | £1000 | Manager Visitor Experience & Education Officer AMMA Centre |
| Heritage through Words on the Hill (incorporating National Poetry Day) | Investigating and celebrating the heritage of the Hill of The O'Neill through storytelling and creative writing. Celebrating National Poetry Day on Thursday 5 October 2023. | Primary/Post-Primary KS2/3 pupils in Mid Ulster 5 classes, 1 per day: 125 pupils approx. | October 1 week 1 x 2½ hour session each day | £1000 | Manager Visitor Experience & Education Officer Specialist facilitator |

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| Heritage: History on the Hill | <p>History on the Hill combines history, drama and puppetry. Pupils take a tour of the exhibition on the Flight of the Earls and the Plantation of Ulster</p> <p>There follows an exploration of Hill of The O'Neill, followed by either a drama workshop (KS2) or a specially written puppet show (KS1) which continues the themes of the exhibition. Time Steps facilitates the drama/puppet show.</p> | Primary KS1/2 pupils in Mid Ulster primary schools 5 classes, approx. 125 pupils | October 1 week 1 x 2½ hour session each day | £750 | Manager Visitor Experience & Education Officer Specialist facilitator |
| Heritage: Dungannon - Where I Live | <p>Dungannon: Where I Live is a learning activity which aims to assist school pupils to participate in learning outside the classroom by exploring the local built environment and heritage of Dungannon. This activity begins and concludes at Hill of The O'Neill, emphasising the important role this site played in the development of the town</p> | Primary KS2 pupils in Dungannon primary schools At least 5 classes, approx. 125 pupils. | November 1 week, or on request ½ day session | N/A | Manager Visitor Experience & Education Officer |
| A Heritage Christmas - Victorian Christmas in Ranfurly House: Old Time Toys | <p>Pupils will learn about Christmas traditions, and the toys of the Victorian age through a living history presentation</p> | Primary Foundation/KS1 pupils in Mid Ulster primary schools 10 classes: 250 pupils approx. | December 2 x 1 hour sessions each day: 10.00am and 11.15am. | £1100 | Manager Visitor Experience & Education Officer Specialist facilitator |
| A Victorian Christmas in Ranfurly House: Victorian Christmas Art | <p>In art workshops pupils will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be taught how to make Victorian-themed Christmas decorations • Create Christmas cornucopias and doves that they can take home • Tour of Hill of The O'Neill | Primary/Post-Primary KS2/3 pupils in Mid Ulster primary and | December 2 x 1½ hour sessions each day | £2100 | Manager Visitor Experience & Education Officer Specialist facilitator |

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| | | post-primary schools 250 pupils approx. | | | |
| A Victorian Christmas in Ranfurly House: Victorian Christmas Customs | In this activity pupils will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take part in a living history presentation, set in 1890 and led by Mrs. Smith, the housekeeper of Northland House, Dungannon • Learn about the traditions of the Victorian Christmas, finding out how these customs originated • Participate in Victorian parlour games, ask questions and make comments | Primary/Post-Primary KS2/3 pupils in Mid Ulster primary 250 pupils approx. | December 2 x 1 hour sessions each day | £1200 | Manager Visitor Experience & Education Officer Specialist facilitator |
| Heritage through Words on the Hill | Investigating and celebrating the heritage of the Hill of The O'Neill through storytelling and creative writing. One 2½ hour session each day, led by the EO and Liz Weir. | Primary/Post-Primary KS2/3 pupils in Mid Ulster schools and colleges 125 pupils approx. | February One 2½ hour session | £1000 | Manager Visitor Experience & Education Officer Specialist Facilitator |
| Heritage and Forest School Development | From September to December, 6 schools participate in four sessions per school. Teachers and school staff involved are able to undertake a Forest School Leader OCN Level 3 qualification, and they receive tuition from NIFSA personnel, thereby creating sustainability. | Nursery/Primary All Mid Ulster nursery and primary school – local to the Hill Call for applications for 2023-24 season | September to December | £3000 | Manager Visitor Experience & Education Officer Parks Manager NIFSA Facilitator |

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| | | 6 class places available | | | |
| Heritage – Dungannon’s Workhouse World Book Day: Thursday 7 March 2024 | Activity offered jointly with Dungannon Library. Through research and participating in living history, pupils find out about the Irish Famine and Dungannon Workhouse, the stimulus being the novel “Under the Hawthorn Tree”. | Primary KS2 pupils in Mid Ulster primary schools | February / March 2 weeks 1 x 1 hour session each day HOTON/RH and Library | £1000 | Manager Visitor Experience & Education Officer Specialist facilitator |
| Heritage Exploration - Create a Castle! | An activity for P3/4 pupils which combines learning about the buildings and people associated with Hill of The O’Neill, with an art workshop in which pupils construct castles from recycled materials. | Primary KS1 P3/4 pupils 225 pupils approx. | March 2 weeks 1 x 2½ hour session each day | £1500 | Manager Visitor Experience & Education Officer Specialist facilitator |
| QUB Open Learning Course: Looking at the O’Neill County – Heritage of South Tyrone | Work in partnership with QUB to develop an open learning course focused on the heritage of the Clan O’Neill and Tyrone. This course aims to develop an awareness amongst the local community of the rich heritage in the area. | Adult 20 participants | May 1 evening per week 2 hours | £650 | QUB Visitor Experience & Education Officer |
| Warrior School | Pupils will learn more about the heritage of Hill of The O’Neill and the Plantation through drama and living history. | Primary KS2 1 class per day for 5 days Target: 130 pupils | June | £1000 | Manager Visitor Experience & Education Officer |
| Redevelop a creative zone for schools | Creating a bright, engaging, themed area for learning. This room can then also be utilised for heritage themed evening classes and conference breakout (former arts studio) | School Groups | Summer 2023 | TBC | Manager Visitor Experience & Education officer |



Events

We will continue to deliver and host an array of events that incorporate our heritage and engage the local community and visitor

| Project | Detail | Target | Timeline | Budget | Lead |
|---|---|---|-----------|----------------------------------|---|
| Burns Night | An evening of celebration of Robbie Burns poetry – music, song, language and tradition. The Selkirk Grace. Piping in the haggis/toast the haggis. Toast to the Lassies. Band performances, dance, singing and recitals. | 150 community /visitors | January | £2000 | Manager Development Officer |
| St Patrick’s Day (link to Arts Festival in March) | Celebration of Irish Culture Traditional music & dance Arts & crafts Children’s entertainment Link with Irish Language officer re: Seachtain Na Gaeilge activities Link Community Cultural Parade Link with the Mid Ulster Arts Showcase/Festival | 3500 community/visitors | March | £8,000 | Manager Development Officer Link Seachtain Na Gaeilge Arts Development officer |
| Easter Arts Day | A fun engaging arts based event to engage local people and the wider community via Easter themed arts & craft activities 2024 = March | 2000 Local community/visitors | March | £4,500 | Manager Development Officer Sales and Marketing Officer |
| Historic banquet – The wedding of Hugh O’Neill & Mabel Bagenal | Work with private partners to deliver a Historic banquet. This banquet will be predominantly targeted at the travel trade and the International market via tour operators and through engagement with Tourism Ireland and NI. | 2 banquets per year (tbc) Minimum 60 per banquet Community/visitors | May /July | Reduced rate for hire facilities | Manager Tourism Officer (link to private promoter) Sales & Marketing Officer |

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|---|--|---|----------------------|--------|---|
| Summer Fun Day | A mid-summer fun day- music, dance, and arts fun. | 2000 Local community/ visitors | June/July | £4,500 | Manager Development Officer |
| Shakespeare on the Hill 2024 | <p>A partnership project with Bardic Theatre. This two week theatre production of Shakespeare's Macbeth will provide an immersive theatrical experience aimed at both the public and school groups.</p> <p>The rationale for Shakespeare on the Hill is rooted in the fact that the Great O'Neill, as a well-known King throughout Europe, travelled across the UK and continental Europe engaging with royal families and leaders. Around the same time Shakespeare was a noted playwright and moved in the same circles. It is highly likely that both historical figures would have been in the same places at the same time and that O'Neill would have experienced performances of Shakespeare's great works.</p> | <p>9 x morning performances 'Something wicked this Way Comes' Primary & post primary</p> <p>12 performances in evening community/visitor</p> <p>Performances target of 4,000 participants</p> | March or October tbc | £8,000 | Manager Bardic |
| Lúnasa: Day at Hill of The O'Neill and Tullaghoge Fort | Tour of Hill of The O'Neill & Tullaghoge heritage sites, clearly showing the links between them, while exploring how Lúnasa would have been enjoyed at both. Living history at Tullaghoge Fort and Hill of The O'Neill | <p>Community/ visitors</p> <p>Full day activity</p> <p>Number 100</p> | August | £1000 | Manager Visitor Experience & Education Officer Specialist facilitator |
| Music on the Hill | Ulster Orchestra – This popular event attracts visitors from across the province | 320 Visitors | August | N/A | Manager Ulster Orchestra |

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| European Heritage Open Day | European Heritage Open Day is an annual event celebrating local architecture, history and culture throughout Europe. The theme for 2023 is “Living Heritage – Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow” and will explore oral traditions, practices, places and objects passed from generation to generation | 100 4x sessions (25 people per session) | September | £1,500 | Manager Visitor Experience & Education Officer |
| Development of Halloween historic event | Organise and promote a historic Murder Mystery evening “Treachery in Tyrone” set in 1594 at the castle. The sudden and violent death of a nobleman, who has caused his untimely death and why, The Earl of Tyrone wants answers and the identity of the guilty party | 60 participants Local community/visitors | October /November 2023 | £2000 | Manager Development Officer |
| A Heritage Christmas at Hill of The O’Neill Santa’s Grotto | Pupils will meet Santa Claus. Link to Council Corporate Events | 600 community/visitors | December 2023 | £3,000 | Manager Development Officer Sales & Marketing Officer |



Conferencing & Civic Space

Mid Ulster, and indeed Northern Ireland, welcomes a significant number of business visitors (with and without family) for meetings, conferences and short-term working contracts. Tyrone is a significant hub for manufacturing and engineering. The Dungannon area in particular, with the largest crushing, screening and recycling sector in the world, offers a substantial untapped market with many global corporations in close proximity to Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House. This offers considerable potential to engage and attract the global businesses within our locality, enabling them to host events that impress and inspire their international clients at a unique location that provides an impressive back drop and spectacular panoramas.

The unique selling point of its breathtaking views, combined with its heritage, presents the ability to create a sought-after location for all. The offering and expertise onsite could be exploited to provide bespoke options to enhance customer events such as food and wine tastings, craft demonstrations, lectures, banquets, workshops and of course entertainment.

| Project | Detail | Target | Timeline | Budget | Lead |
|---|---|--|----------|--------|---|
| Develop conferencing at Hill of The O'Neill and Ranfurly House | Raise the profile of Hill of The O'Neill's suitability for conferences and meetings by showcasing its facilities with Visit Belfast Conferencing Team, local firms, Visit Derry and other channels Develop dedicated, digital content to encourage business visitors to return/ or recommend HOTO&RH | 22/23 - 306 external meetings took place. Increase by a minimum of 10% Conference brochure – Digital & Hard copy circulated | Ongoing | N/A | Manager Development Officer Sales & Marketing Officer |
| Viewing Tower | Promote the viewing tower in all marketing materials and within the local | Local residents and visitor | Ongoing | N/A | Manager |

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| | community to increase usage | | | | Sales & Marketing Officer |
| Civic Refreshment space | Provide quality vending refreshments to support the venue and contract catering for events and conferencing | N/A | August | | Manager |
| Wedding Venue – for civic ceremonies | Promote -Tower Room, Events Space, Plateau for Civic Ceremonies & afternoon tea | Local residents | Ongoing | | Manager Sales & Marketing Officer |
| Increase community engagement with local groups | Facilitate the booking of the venue for community use – balancing the other priority uses of the venue | Local residents and community groups | Ongoing | N/A | Manager |
| Chair Receptions | Support the Chair’s Dept. in the acknowledgement of civic accomplishments | N/A | Ongoing | N/A | Manager Chair’s Office |



Community Park

We will enhance the facilities and opportunities for local people through the creation and preservation of a picturesque, welcoming and clean space. We will ensure the maintenance and upkeep of the heritage park for both the local community and visitors. Through engagement with residents we will improve access to the Hill by reopening access routes; enabling residents to utilize walking routes – The Earl’s Trail.

| Project | Description | Target | Timeline | Budget | Lead |
|--|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Navigational Signage | Signage with heritage theme to be erected throughout the site to aid navigation and improve the visitor experience. Car parking signage required | HOTON&RH (Internal & external) | Summer 2023 | Irish language budget – Dual signage | Manager |
| Maintenance Plan | Work in partnership with Parks Dept. to ensure effective maintenance of park, entrances and remedial works | Parks Dept. | Ongoing | TBA | Manager Ground Maintenance |
| Mast | Work towards the removal of the telecommunications mast. Feasibility study to ascertain the cost of removing the mast and the restoration of the sites landscape and recognition as a significant historical asset. | Local Residents & Visitors | | | |
| Enhancing access to Hill of The O’Neill via Circular Road and Thomas Street | Explore the feasibility of reopening of Circular Road entrance onto Hill of The O’Neill & Ranfurly House to encourage residents to visit the heritage park and utilise the Earls Trail that had been previously developed. | Local residents | Report to Council (July) | TBC | Manager Property Services |



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| Report on | Extension of the Service Level Agreements with Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council |
| Date of Meeting | 5 th July 2023 |
| Reporting Officer | Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing |
| Contact Officer | Leigh Gilmore, Health & Wellbeing Manager Monica McDonnell, Principal Environmental Health Officer |

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

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| 1.0 | Purpose of Report |
| 1.1 | To seek Members continued approval for the renewal of Service Level Agreements (SLA's) with Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council (ABC) for the provision of Tobacco Control and Health Inequalities work for the period April 2023 – March 2024. |
| 2.0 | Background |
| 2.1 | Due to the nature of funding for Health Inequalities and Tobacco Control work, an SLA agreement has been in place with Mid Ulster District Council and ABC since the review of Public Administration. Both these services are funded through the Public Health Agency (PHA). |
| 2.2 | For both SLA's, ABC are responsible for contract administration, line management of staff and for ensuring services are delivered within the Agreement and in accordance with the PHA contract and funding terms. Previously in April 2022, Members at the Development Committee resolved to approved the Service Level Agreements for both areas for the period April 2022 – March 2023 (minute reference: D061/22) |
| 3.0 | Main Report |
| 3.1 | The details of the two SLA's are contained within the Appendices. The documents refer to objectives, reviews, performance management and reporting. Under the SLA, specific programmes of work are put in place in line with the PHA funding and PHA targets. |
| 3.2 | For Health Inequalities, this project seeks to engage with those individuals in the most deprived areas of the community, including those living in rural areas and tackling social isolation and inclusion. Signposting services are provided in relation to health and wellbeing within the community. |

| | |
|------------|---|
| 3.3 | For Tobacco Control, targets include underage sales, test purchasing and regulation of the smoke free legislation. Under the Smoking (Northern Ireland) Order 2006, Tobacco Control Officers and/or Environmental Health Officers can visit premises throughout the District to check they are complying with the law, offer help and advice and take legal action against offenders (where necessary). |
| 4.0 | Other Considerations |
| 4.1 | Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications |
| | Financial: Fully funded through Public Health Agency. |
| | Human: Staff time – staff already in posts. |
| | Risk Management: Considered in line with relevant Council policies and procedures. |
| 4.2 | Screening & Impact Assessments |
| | Equality & Good Relations Implications: None anticipated at this juncture. |
| | Rural Needs Implications: None anticipated at this juncture. |
| 5.0 | Recommendation(s) |
| 5.1 | To note the contents of this report and give approval for the signing of the renewal Service Level Agreements with Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council for the provision of Tobacco Control and Health Inequalities work for the period April 2023 – March 2024. |
| 6.0 | Documents Attached & References |
| 6.1 | Appendix A: SLA for Tobacco Control work |
| 6.2 | Appendix B: SLA for Health Inequalities work |

SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT

TOBACCO CONTROL PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY FUNDED SERVICE

2023/24

Between

**ARMAGH CITY BANBRIDGE
AND CRAIGAVON BOROUGH COUNCIL**

AND

MID ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL

April 2023

Service Level Agreement

Between

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

(Hereafter referred to as the Agreement and the Stakeholders)

1.0 Background

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

2.0 Shared Objectives

2.1 The Objectives of the Agreement are:

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

3.0 Review of the Service Level Agreement

3.1 The Stakeholders shall jointly review the Agreement after 12 months

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

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

4.0 Performance Review and Reporting

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

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

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

5.0 Level of Service Delivered

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

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

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

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

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

6.0 Health and Safety

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

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

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

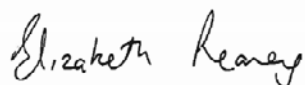
7.0 Resolution of Disputes

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

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

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF

ARMAGH CITY BANBRIDGE AND CRAIGAVON BOROUGH COUNCIL



Head of Department, Environmental Health

MID ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL

Assistant Director of Health, Leisure and Wellbeing

SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT

HEALTH INEQUALITIES PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY FUNDED SERVICE

2023/24

Between

ARMAGH CITY, BANBRIDGE AND CRAIGAVON BOROUGH COUNCIL

AND

MID ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL

June 2023

Service Level Agreement

Between

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

(Hereafter referred to as the Agreement and the Stakeholders)

1.0 Background

The SLA provides the framework under which ACBCBC may provide PHA commissioned Health Inequalities Services in the Mid-Ulster area with the Southern Health & Social Care Trust area on behalf of MUDC

2.0 Shared Objectives

2.1 The Objectives of the Agreement are:

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

3.0 Review of the Service Level Agreement

3.1 The Stakeholders shall jointly review the Agreement after 12 months

3.2 The review process will be facilitated by ACBCBC and MUDC, 3 months prior to the end of the financial year

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

4.0 Performance Review and Reporting

4.1 The stakeholders shall review performance on a quarterly basis.

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

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

5.0 Level of Service Delivered

5.1 ACBCBC is responsible for ensuring that services are delivered within the Agreement and in accordance with the PHA Contract and agreed Action Plan

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

5.3 The Health Improvement Officer (Inequalities) shall dedicate 18.5 hours per week to MUDC health Inequalities service delivery.

5.4 The time spend for training delivered by ACBCBC is incorporated with the time spend.

5.5 Line Management for the Health Improvement officer will be provided by the Community Development Department of ACBCBC

6.0 Health & Safety

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

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

6.3 The Head of Community Development, MUDC is responsible for informing ACBCBC employees of health and safety requirements relevant to their department.

7.0 Resolution of Disputes

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

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

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF

ARMAGH CITY, BANBRIDGE & CRAIGAVON BOROUGH COUNCIL

Seamus McCrory

Head of Department, Community Development

MID ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL

Kieran Gordon

Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Report on | Health and Wellbeing Programmes |
| Date of Meeting | 5 th July 2023 |
| Reporting Officer | Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing |
| Contact Officer | Steven Mc Elhatton, Lead Health and Wellbeing 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 provide an update to Members on the current programmes available to residents within our District through Council's Health, Leisure and Wellbeing service and consideration given to proceeding to approve and sign the proposed MUDC/NIFRS Partnership Agreement in relation to the Home Safety Programme Referral pathway. |
| 2.0 | Background |
| 2.1 | There are a number of ongoing Health and Wellbeing programmes made available for residents in the District via the Council's Health, Leisure and Wellbeing service. In many cases, the programmes are directly linked to the ongoing funding and partnership working with key external agencies and many arrangements and associated targets/KPI's have successfully been delivered and continued onwards each year. |
| 2.2 | This report seeks to provide a brief summary of the key Health and Wellbeing programmes and further details for residents are included on the Council website via the following link: https://www.midulstercouncil.org/resident/health-wellbeing |
| 3.0 | Main Report |
| 3.1 | Home Safety – supported with funding via the Public Health Agency Free Home Safety checks are available to anyone within the District who are 65 or over, families with children under 5 and vulnerable adults/children. The Council's Health and Wellbeing Officers carry out informal visits to discuss areas of home safety and establish what equipment might be needed and also organise talks/ info stands/ press releases and events throughout the year to raise awareness of home accident prevention. <i>Criteria</i> Home Safety equipment is free to anyone 65 or over. Households with children under 5 - equipment is only free if in receipt of certain qualifying benefits: |

- Income Support
- Job seeker's allowance (income based)
- Employment and Support Allowance (formally known as incapacity benefit)
- Working Tax Credits
- Housing Benefit
- Free School Meals

The Home Safety Scheme Officers receive referrals from and send referrals to various external agencies. One of those agencies, NI Fire and Rescue Service wish to renew their partnership agreement with Mid Ulster District Council, signed previously in 2018. The agreement is between both parties to refer people to each organisation when completing home visits. Please see copy of Agreement for consideration enclosed within the appendix.

3.2 **Energy Efficiency Advisory Service – supported with funding via the Public Health Agency**

The Energy Efficiency Advice Service is a 1-2-1 personal approach to manage the energy efficiency of domestic properties. The Health and Wellbeing Officer assess energy consumption in a household and encourage energy saving behaviour. The programme targets vulnerable older people, those with underlying health conditions or the working poor. The Health and Wellbeing Officer will;

- Signpost to other sources of fuel poverty/ poverty support such as oil clubs, fuel stamps schemes, Keep Warm packs or Power NI energy saving packs
- Signpost clients to appropriate schemes e.g. Affordable Warmth, NISEP, boiler replacement etc.
- Make links with other potential partners for referral and / or signposting purposes – e. g. health professionals, Housing Executive

Criteria

Anyone can seek Energy Efficiency advice.

The criterion for the fuel poverty support schemes varies. A referral can be made to the Health and Wellbeing team who can then carry out an initial assessment, provide support and determine eligibility.

3.3 **Fuel Stamp Scheme**

The Health, Leisure and Wellbeing department with Council manage and administer the MUDC Fuel stamp scheme. The Energy efficiency advisors also promote the MUDC fuel stamp scheme

Fuel stamps are available through local shops at £5 each. When card is full, residents will have saved £200 towards next order of fuel (partly completed cards can also be used towards the cost of paying)

List of retailers and suppliers available on council website:

<https://www.midulstercouncil.org/resident/health-wellbeing/fuel-stamp-saving-scheme>

3.4 **Make a Change – supported with funding via the Public Health Agency**

The Health and Wellbeing Officer can provide 1-2-1 support for individuals who are interested in changing their lifestyle to become more active or eat more healthily. Officers support individuals over a period of time to set goals and motivate them to achieve behavioural change. The officers can work on a 1-2-1 or group basis. The

programme has included delivery of Cook It programmes, Food Values, talks/presentations, weight loss programmes and facilitating exercise classes and is available for anyone aged 50 or over.

3.5 Age Friendly – supported with funding via the Public Health Agency

Mid Ulster District Council have been engaging with residents over the age of 50 to find out how it feels to grow older in their communities and what their needs are for the future. Commissioned in February 2022 the engagement process started in April 2022 with a revised online survey and consultation period that ended on 15th December 2022.

The Mid Ulster Age Friendly strategy and action plan has identified key issues and priority actions for the next three years and has been informed by this comprehensive consultation study with residents and organisations in Mid Ulster looking at key action on the 8 Age Friendly themes: Outdoor Spaces and Buildings; Transportation; Housing; Social Participation; Respect and Social Inclusion; Civic participation and Employment; Communication and Information; Community and Health Services.

An Age-friendly charter was developed to accompany the Age-friendly strategic plan outlining long-term Mid Ulster District Council commitments that will make Mid Ulster District an Age-friendly Community where older people are valued, engaged and supported to live healthy, active and fulfilling lives.

The Age friendly co-ordinator has been working with Mid Ulster Seniors Network over the past year to ensure better communication, support and develop older peoples' groups in the Mid-Ulster area, engaging with older people ensuring they have their voices heard. A new Age-friendly structure that aligns with Councils' Community plans has been agreed with the formation of an Age-friendly Alliance to deliver on the 3-year Age-friendly Strategy and Action Plan. The Age-friendly Co-ordinator will be responsible for engaging with the Older Persons forum and will report back to the Strategic Alliance on a continual basis to enable effective co-production and consultation with older people throughout all stages of the Age-friendly Strategy and Action plan and any other local issues. The 1st Age Friendly Alliance Meeting was held on 22nd March 2023.

The Age Friendly co-ordinator continues to meet the PHA objectives by working alongside Mid Ulster Loneliness Network, Mid Ulster Disability Forum, Mid Ulster Seniors Network and Mid Ulster Age Well to further develop a positive ageing community within Mid Ulster.

3.6 Physical Activity Referral Scheme – supported with funding via the Public Health Agency

Two full time coordinators are employed and work across the leisure centres in Cookstown, Dungannon, Greenvale and Maghera. Individuals can be referred via a GP or health care professional and each participant can avail of a 12 week structured activity programme and then are eligible for discounted leisure centre membership.

| | |
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| | <p>Selection Criteria –</p> <p>Anyone aged 16 and over who currently has one or more of the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • high blood pressure • controlled diabetes or a strong family history of diabetes • heart disease or risk factors associated with coronary heart disease • anxiety, stress, depression and controlled mental health problems • overweight or obese • well-controlled lung problems such as asthma, bronchitis or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease • mild to moderate joint problems such as osteoporosis • another condition that does not prevent you taking part in physical activity <p>3.7 Macmillan Move More & Pre-Habilitation Programmes Move More NI was previously funded 100% by Macmillan but from August 2022 until March 2024, the Council and Macmillan (through funding received from the Department of Health Northern Ireland: Cancer Charities Support Fund) will partner on a 50/50 basis. Working in partnership with physical activity providers and the health and social care trusts these programmes provide the support that people diagnosed, recovering or living with cancer need to participate in health and fitness activities.</p> <p>Each participant can avail of a 12 week structured activity and wellbeing programme and then are eligible for discounted leisure centre membership.</p> <p>3.8 Agewell – supported with funding via multiple partners The service is funded by community planning partners including the Northern and Southern Trusts, the Public Health Agency, the Police and Community Safety Partnership, the NI Housing Executive and the Environmental Health department of Mid Ulster District Council. The main deliverables of the programme are Good Morning Calls and the Handy-van scheme.</p> <p>Key elements of the scheme include targets for a minimum of 450 Good Morning/ Afternoon calls per day engaging residents and allowing time for addressing individual needs. It is expected that there are a minimum of 1,200 maintenance visits per annum lasting on average of 1.5hrs/visit and these visits can include any low level maintenance requests around the home. This scheme also links in well as a key referral pathway with other programmes as mentioned above.</p> <p>The current contract runs until 31st December 2023 and currently a tender process is ongoing with a report being brought back to a future Development Committee for Members consideration.</p> |
| 4.0 | Other Considerations |
| 4.1 | Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications |

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|------------|---|
| | <p>Financial: Home Accident Prevention: £49,359 per annum via the PHA Energy Efficiency: £32,828 per annum via the PHA Make a Change: £43,145 per annum via the PHA Age Friendly: £46,773 per annum via the PHA Agewell: Approx £150k funded via PHA, NHSCT, SHSCT, NIHE, PCSP and MUDC for the period 1st Jan 2023 – 31st Dec 2023. Physical Activity Referral: £57,271 per annum via the PHA Macmillan Move More: £33,333 for period Aug 2022 – March 2024 via Macmillan More More. Remaining 50% contribution from MUDC.</p> |
| | <p>Human: Officer time to manage and monitor various contract management arrangements. Staff time to deliver projects and programmes.</p> |
| | <p>Risk Management: Considered in line with relevant policies and procedures. Additional staffing costs above and beyond the stipulated external funding is Council responsibility (and to include unexpected sickness or other absence). Currently Council are in receipt of rollover letters for all PHA contracts for the period April 23 – March 24 but final confirmation of budget has not been received. Risk to programme delivery with all stipulated programmes within this report if external funding is reduced and/or withdrawn at any stage in the future as Council may not be in a position to absorb budget pressure(s). Potential contractual staffing impacts.</p> |
| 4.2 | Screening & Impact Assessments |
| | Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A |
| | Rural Needs Implications: N/A |
| 5.0 | Recommendation(s) |
| 5.1 | Members note the content of this report and approve the recommendation to approve the signing of the proposed Partnership Agreement between Mid Ulster District Council and the Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service in relation to the Home Safety Programme Referral pathway. |
| 6.0 | Documents Attached & References |
| 6.1 | Appendix A – Supporting promotional literature Appendix B – MUDC/NIFRS Partnership Agreement 2023 |

Fuel Stamp Scheme

Stamp your way to a warmer home

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

How does the scheme work?

Collect a free fuel stamp collection card from any participating retailer.

Complete the name, address and telephone number section as soon as you receive the card. Stamps costing £5.00 can be purchased from any participating retailer across the district. Once purchased, place the fuel stamps onto the card in the numbered spaces.

Can I use any fuel stamp on my collection card?

You can only use Mid Ulster District Council fuel stamps or stamps that you have previously bought through the former Cookstown, Dungannon oragherafelt Council Schemes.

What do I do when I need fuel?

When you need oil or coal, contact your preferred participating supplier and let them know the amount of oil or coal you require and the value of the stamps you have saved.

The card, either complete or partly complete, can then be used as payment or part payment for heating oil or solid fuel with participating suppliers.

Partly completed cards can be used towards the cost of your fuel. If you use a partly completed card, then the cost of your order should be at least to the value of the stamps you have saved to date.

It is your responsibility to agree with your chosen fuel supplier the price, delivery amount and payment method.

Where can I purchase stamps?

Stamps can be purchased from any participating retailer. The list of participating retailers and fuel suppliers is available from Mid Ulster District Council.

T: **03000 132 132**

E: environmentalhealth@midulstercouncil.org

W: www.midulstercouncil.org/fuelstamps



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council



make a change
a helping hand for your health



- Are you aged 50 or over?
- Do you live in Cookstown, Dungannon or Magherafelt?
- Are you interested in making a small change for your health and getting support to do this?

Make A Change is for anyone aged 50 or over who is interested in changing something they currently do to make a difference to their life. If you like the idea of getting one-to-one support to get more active or eat more healthily, **Make A Change** could be for you.

With **Make A Change**, you don't have to do it alone. The **Make A Change** Health Support Officer will work closely with you over a period of weeks or even months, to help you along the way.

You decide what you want to change.
We give you help to *change* it.

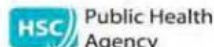
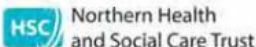
The service is confidential and **FREE** of charge.
Like the sound of this?

Then contact the Health Support Officer :

Email: health.wellbeing@midulstercouncil.org

or

Telephone: 03000 132 132



Mid Ulster Home Safety Scheme

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

The scheme includes:

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

Have you had your FREE Home Safety Visit?

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

Can anyone apply for a FREE Home Safety Check?

If you:

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

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

The Home Safety Officer will discuss important areas of home safety and establish what safety equipment you may need.



Can anyone apply for Home Safety Equipment?

This scheme is primarily about the provision of home safety advice however there are some pieces of home safety equipment available where the need is identified and criteria met.

Equipment is free to anyone 65 or over. If you are in a household with children under 5, equipment is only provided free of charge if you are in receipt of certain qualifying benefits.

These are:

- Income Support
- Job seeker's allowance (income based)
- Employment and Support Allowance (formally known as incapacity benefit)
- Working Tax Credits
- Housing Benefit
- Free School Meals

Or, if your Health Visitor or Home Safety Officer confirms that you are not able to afford safety equipment because of social or health circumstances, you may be entitled to free equipment.



What do I need to do?

If you would like to receive a home safety visit, would like further information or to arrange a Home Safety talk for a group, simply contact your local Home Safety Officer.

Call 03000 132 132

Email environmentalhealth@midulstercouncil.org



Mid Ulster District Council
Information For Residents

Energy Efficiency Advice Service



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

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

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

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

What assistance is available from your local council?

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

FEEL BETTER



Living with cancer? We'll help you get active

Taking part in physical activity during and after cancer treatment can play a huge part in enabling you to take back control. That's why Macmillan and Mid Ulster District Council have a project in your area called Move More to help you get and stay active at a pace that suits you.

**For more information contact the Move More
Co-ordinator for your area on**

 **077 8868 2163**

 **movemore@midulstercouncil.org**

In partnership with



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council



Northern Health
and Social Care Trust



Southern Health
and Social Care Trust

**MOVE
MORE**

**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

Mid Ulster District Council Exercise Referral Scheme **PARS**



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council



Public Health
Agency

Mid Ulster District Council Scheme in partnership with
The Public Health Agency and Primary Health Care
Representatives

Contact your Local Surgery or Leisure facility for more information

Maghera Leisure Centre on (028) 7954 7400
or Dungannon Leisure Centre on (028) 8772 0370

What is 'PARS'?

The 'PARS' Scheme is designed to aid individuals who have been identified by their Doctor, Health Professional or Medical Practitioner to take up the benefits of participating in enjoyable exercise.

As that individual, you will receive an 12 week activity programme designed specifically to your needs and will be under the guidance of Mid Ulster District Council's highly qualified Physical Activity Referral Co-ordinator.

It is a fact that taking regular exercise dramatically increases your chances of living healthier and longer. The current recommendation for physical activity is 30 minutes of moderate activity (like brisk walking) on five or more days of the week.

Who can be referred?

You can be referred if you have one, or more, of the following conditions, or risk factors that affect your health and wellbeing.

Clients must be:

- 19 years or over
- Inactive (not currently meeting the PA guidelines of 150 minutes of moderate activity, or 75 minutes of vigorous activity per week)
- Motivated to change.

- Mild or Moderate Mental Health Conditions
- High blood pressure (Hypertension)
- High Cholesterol (Hyperlipidaemia)
- Impaired Glucose levels or Diabetes
- Arthritis, low back pain
- Family history of Heart Disease
- Musculoskeletal Conditions
- Asthma, Bronchitis or COPD
- Obese (BMI >25 and < than 40)

Ask your Doctor, Health Professional or Medical Practitioner if you are eligible for referral.



Exercise can:

- Make you feel good
- Keep your heart strong
- Give you more energy
- Reduce blood pressure
- Help you sleep better
- Help reduce stress
- Help you manage your weight

Physical Activity Referral Scheme

For further information about the Physical Activity Referral Scheme contact the Co-Ordinator at Maghera Leisure Centre on (028) 7954 7400 Or Dungannon Leisure Centre on (028) 8772 0370

The programme is supported by The Public Health Agency in accordance with NICE and the NQAF guidelines.

Physical activity is an essential part of a healthy lifestyle and has a positive effect on a range of medical conditions.

How do I get on the Scheme?

1. Visit your Doctor's Surgery. If you are eligible, your Doctor, Health Professional or Medical Practitioner will complete a 'Medical Referral for Exercise' online form.
2. The PARS Coordinator will then contact you by telephone or letter with an appointment for your initial consultation.
3. Your initial consultation will consist of a full explanation of the scheme and a health assessment.
4. A programme will then be devised to suit your primary reason for referral.
5. Over the 12 weeks, your programme may include group activities such as using the Leisure facilities Gym, Group Classes, Walking and many more.

How much does it cost?

Option 1

Free

12 x 1 hour sessions.

Option 2

Special Reduced Membership

£10 per month for 3 months

Includes the 12 x 1 hour sessions plus access to fitness suite, health suite, fitness classes and swimming pool*

*dependant on facility.



Home Maintenance Service

A home maintenance worker is available for home visits to carry out security checks, small repairs or household tasks & fit a key safe to facilitate a care package or hospital discharge. This service is provided free of charge to anyone over the age of 65.

Our home maintenance worker can clean spoutings/fascia (bungalow level only & powerhose a small area to allow easy access to your home for a charge of £15/hour up to a maximum of 3 hours.

For more information please contact

T. 028 7963 2170



Power Washing Services

- Power washing and leaf blowing of essential pathways
- Cleaning of guttering/ fascia boards on bungalows.



This is a subsidised rate of just **£15 per hour (maximum of 3 hours)**. Other jobs may also be considered. Please phone us to see if we can help.

Community Engagement

We engage with a wide range of agencies to help support older and/or vulnerable people throughout Mid Ulster. We can come along and speak to your Group or Staff to inform you about our Services.

Contact us on 028 7963 2170 or complete our referral form at www.agewellpartnership.org/referral-form/



Contact Us

Unit 3, 80-82 Rainey St
Magherafelt, BT45 5AJ

We are here to help -
for more information please phone us

Telephone **028 7963 2170**

Email marie.devlin@agewellpartnership.org

Web www.agewellpartnership.org



DONATE TO MID ULSTER AGEWELL PARTNERSHIP

- Have you considered making a small donation to help us deliver more services to more people.
- We are a Social Enterprise and any profit generated will be reinvested into supporting older people within our community.

www.agewellpartnership.org/donate
Mid Ulster Agewell is a registered charity

Page 70 of 144



A local Partnership aimed at **improving** services for older people living in the Mid Ulster District Council Area

Who are we?

Mid Ulster Agewell is a partnership covering the Mid Ulster District council area, working together to improve services for older people in our community.



Good Morning Telephone Call

- We provide a daily phone call (Monday-Friday) at an agreed time to anyone over the age of 50, the call is friendly and confidential.
- The phone call provides social contact, reassurance and a listening ear to ensure you or your loved ones are safe and well and can act as a reminder for appointments.
- The Good Morning Call can keep you updated with events and activities in your community and connect you into other services
 - Luncheon Clubs
 - Community Groups e.g. Arts & Crafts, Physical activities e.g. Yoga, Tai Chi, Pilates, Walking Groups and Gardening Group
 - Benefit Entitlement Checks
 - Mid Ulster District Council: Health & Wellbeing Programmes e.g. Home Accident Prevention, Make a Change towards a healthier lifestyle

What we do

We work with the local community throughout the Mid Ulster District Council area, providing services to older people to stay independent at home for as long as possible.

Home Maintenance Service for the over 65's

Are you 65 years old, living in the Mid Ulster District Council areas with little or no family support, then Mid Ulster Agewell may be able to help.

We can provide some FREE services to help prevent trips and falls to keep people feeling safe at home.

- We can install a Key Safe with a secure 4 digit code to enable carers to access your key so that you don't need to leave your door unlocked.
- Changing light bulbs, putting up a shelf or curtain rail, moving furniture, putting items into or out of the attic.
- We carry out basic security checks e.g. Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarms and provide some other safety equipment where necessary.



Why not phone us to see if we are able to help with your odd jobs

Contact us on
Page 71 of 314
028 7963 2170



Unit 3, 80-82 Rainey St
Magherafelt, BT45 5AJ

Telephone **028 7963 2170**

Email marie.devlin@agewellpartnership.org

Web www.agewellpartnership.org

Referral

Please complete and return to us

Name:

Age: 50-65 Over 65

Address:

Contact Telephone No.:

Services

Please tick as required

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Good Morning Call | <input type="checkbox"/> Power Washing Service |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advice and/or information | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Engagement Worker |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Home Maintenance Worker | |

Name of person making the referral:

Job Title & Organisation (if appropriate):

Contact Telephone No.:

df



**Northern Ireland
Fire & Rescue Service**

PEOPLE AT RISK PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH

Mid Ulster District Council



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council



*Safer
Together*

Contents

| | | |
|-----|---|----|
| 1 | INTRODUCTION | 4 |
| 1.1 | Purpose | 4 |
| 1.2 | People at Risk | 4 |
| 1.3 | Aims | 4 |
| 1.4 | Objectives | 5 |
| 1.5 | NIFRS Service | 5 |
| 1.6 | Mid Ulster Council's Services | 6 |
| | Home Safety Scheme | 6 |
| 1.7 | Referring to Agency Mid Ulster Council | 9 |
| | Home Safety Scheme | 9 |
| 1.8 | Fire Risk Awareness | 10 |
| 1.9 | Referring to Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service | 10 |
| 2 | RESPONSIBILITIES | 11 |
| 3 | PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS | 12 |
| 3.1 | Signatories | 12 |
| 3.2 | Public Liability | 12 |
| 3.3 | Termination | 12 |
| 3.4 | Joint Training | 12 |
| 3.5 | Financial Implications | 13 |
| 4 | REVIEW PROCESS | 14 |
| 4.1 | Maintaining the Version Control | 14 |
| 4.2 | Review the Partnership | 14 |
| 5 | SIGNATORIES | 15 |
| | APPENDIX 1 – Home Safety Scheme Leaflet | 16 |
| | APPENDIX 2 – Fire Risk Awareness Form | 18 |
| | APPENDIX 3 – Guidance for your Team | 23 |
| | APPENDIX 4 – Joint Evaluation | 25 |

VERSION CONTROL

This version control is used to maintain a record of the life of the partnership. Each time the partnership is reviewed, re-signed or amended, the version control will be updated to provide a record of evidence in accordance with the review process detailed in Section 4.

| Version Control | | |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Version | Date Approved | Date of Review |
| 01 | ** June 2023 | 1 Year |
| 02 | ** June 2026 | 3 Years |

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this partnership agreement is to provide help to people at risk within the community.

This agreement has been prepared by Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service (NIFRS) who will maintain the agreement on behalf of both organisations. The agreement remains valid until superseded by a revised agreement, mutually endorsed by each organisation or until such times as the partnership has been terminated.



1.2 People at Risk

We define people at risk as persons who:

- *are aged 50 or older;*
- *have a disability or impaired mobility*;* or
- *are referred to NIFRS by a partnership agency.*

*includes people with a health condition that would affect their ability to acknowledge and respond to an emergency in the home.

NIFRS will also accept referrals for people who fall outside of this definition but who may also be at risk. We will review each referral on a case-by-case basis.

1.3 Aims

The aims of the partnership are to:

- provide additional fire safety advice to people at risk for the mutual benefit of both organisations;
- reduce fire deaths, injuries and fires in the homes of people at risk; and
- improve partnership working for the benefit of both organisations



1.4 Objectives

The objectives of this partnership are to:

- help reduce the overall number of accidental fire deaths and fire-related injuries in homes in Northern Ireland;
- provide a free Home Fire Safety Check (HFSC) to every referral from the partnership agency, within 28 days from the date of the referral; and
- provide a reciprocal referral arrangement where NIFRS personnel identify people, through the course of their duty, who could be supported by services offered by Mid Ulster District Council.

1.5 NIFRS Service

We will offer a Home Fire Safety Check (HSFC) free of charge to *'People at Risk'* who have been referred by Mid Ulster District Council.



The HFSCs is a visit to the home to offer fire safety advice and ensure that the home is fitted with working smoke alarms.

A HFSC focuses on three areas:

- **The person** – disability, impairments, medication which impact on their ability to acknowledge and respond to an emergency in the home
- **Fire risks** – identification of obvious dangers and causes of fire
- **The person's behaviour** – do they smoke, use alcohol/drugs, do they check their smoke alarms?

We will offer fire safety advice to groups on how to stay safe in the home and share Community Information Bulletins if appropriate.

1.6 Mid Ulster Council's Services

Home Safety Scheme

Mid Ulster Home Safety Scheme helps those over 65, families with children under 5 APPENDIX 1 – Home Safety Scheme Leaflet and vulnerable adults/children avoid serious accidents within the home.

The scheme includes:

- Free Home Safety visits
- Home Safety equipment including Carbon Monoxide Alarms (where criteria is met)
- Home Safety talks to groups (open to all age groups)

FREE Home Safety Visit;

- Every year, there are thousands of accidents and injuries in our homes, from burns and scalds to trips and falls.
- Our Home Safety Officers help to raise awareness of the dangers of blind cords and can supply blind safety devices for blinds already in your home.
- The Mid Ulster Home Safety Scheme aims to reduce the number of accidents which happen in the home by providing information and advice.

Who can apply for a home safety check?

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

Can anyone apply for Home Safety equipment?

This scheme is primarily about the provision of home safety advice however there are some pieces of home safety equipment available where the need is identified and criteria met.

Equipment is free to anyone 65 or over. If you are in a household with children under 5, equipment is only provided free of charge if you are in receipt of certain qualifying benefits.

These are:

- Income Support
- Jobseeker's allowance (income based)
- Employment and Support Allowance (formerly known as incapacity benefit)
- Working Tax Credits
- Housing Benefit
- Free School Meals

Or, if your Health Visitor or Home Safety Officer confirms that you are not able to afford safety equipment because of social or health circumstances, you may be entitled to free equipment.

What do I need to do?

If you would like to receive a home safety visit, would like further information or to arrange a Home Safety talk for a group, simply contact your local Home Safety Officer. Contact your local Home Safety Officer by telephoning 03000 132 132 or by emailing Health.Wellbeing@midulstercouncil.org

Age Friendly Initiative

Mid Ulster District Council want to help improve the quality of life for older people living in the Mid Ulster area.

What does an Age Friendly area look like?

In an age-friendly community, policies, services and structures related to the physical and social environment are designed to support and enable older people to 'age actively' – that is, to live in security, enjoy good health and continue to participate fully in society.

An age-friendly world enables people of all ages to actively participate in community activities and treats everyone with respect, regardless of their age.

It is a place that makes it easy for older people to stay connected to people and things which are important to them.

It also helps people stay healthy and active even at the oldest ages and provides appropriate support to those who can no longer look after themselves.

Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plan Consultation

We have now completed a draft Age Friendly Strategy and three-year Action Plan for the area. The strategy and action plan for 2023-2026 will work to ensure all residents in the district can live in security, enjoy good health, continue to participate fully in society and feel valued and respected – regardless of age.

The Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2026* have both been developed with the support of funding from the Public Health Agency and the commitment of other partners. After wide engagement older people and partners have highlighted the priorities we need to address within the Mid Ulster District, helping shape a better Age Friendly Community.

If you would like more information:

Email our Age Friendly Coordinator or telephone 03000 132 132 to speak to Raisa.

1.7 Referring to Agency Mid Ulster Council

To refer someone for help from Mid Ulster Council – NIFRS staff should follow these steps:

1. Gain permission

- Ask the person for permission to share their details and advise that they may be referred for some support.

2. Complete a Home Fire Safety Visit and record the following:

- Name of the person making the referral
- Name of the occupier being referred
- Phone number of the occupier being referred
- Full address including the postcode; and the
- Reason for the referral and any additional information that may help.

3. District SC P&P¹ should review and request support by

Home Safety Scheme

- Email Health.Wellbeing@midulstercouncil.org or
- Call 03000 132 132

Age Friendly Initiative

- Email raisa.donnelly@midulstercouncil.org or
- Call 03000 132 132

4. Updating Crews

- The SC P&P should provide updates to the crew or individual who made the referral, the update should include:
 - i. If the referral was forwarded to Mid Ulster Council or,
 - ii. If the referral was forwarded to another partner or
 - iii. If the referral was not progressed

¹ Referrals can be made by the District Commander or SC Prevention in the absence of SC P&P

1.8 Fire Risk Awareness

The Mid Ulster Council Officers in their role will visit Service Users in their own homes through completion of their duties. To assist in the process of reviewing risks that may cause or contribute to the development of fire, a Fire Awareness Form (Appendix 2) is available and is designed to act as aide memoire.

1.9 Referring to Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service

As a trusted partner NIFRS welcome referrals for Home Fire Safety Check for those who are within our People as Risk Groups (1.2). However, we also will accept referrals for people that you identify as a high fire risk. This can be due to the person's behaviour or signs of potential fire within a property.

To refer someone for a Home Fire Safety Check, Mid Ulster Council's staff should follow the steps outlined in Appendix 3 (Guidance for your team).

If you identify a group that may benefit from a Fire Safety talk, Mid Ulster Council staff should call: 028 8676 5936 or email

Cookstown.District@nifrs.org for further support from our Prevention Team.

2 RESPONSIBILITIES

The responsibilities of the signatories will be to:

- Explain to staff how to implement the partnership agreement, this can be supported by the 'Guidance for your Team' document provided by NIFRS (Appendix 3).
- Provide support to ensure each organisation understands;
 - The process for referring to the other Service, and
 - The circumstances that should initiate referral.
- On signing, publicise the partnership through a local joint press release and media launch;
- Publicise and signpost staff to the partnership agreement to raise awareness within each organisation;
- Review and re-sign the partnership in accordance with the review process;
- Maintain accurate records to help understand how effective the partnership is, and ensure data protection protocols are followed when processing data.



3 PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS

3.1 Signatories

Before signing the partnership, the signatories must seek approval from their respective organisation to be the signatory to the agreement and, thereafter, be responsible for maintaining and coordinating the implementation of the partnership.



3.2 Public Liability

Organisations are required to confirm the existence of public liability insurance or, alternatively, that arrangements are in place to deal with public liability on a self-insured basis.

3.3 Termination

This agreement is not intended to be restrictive or legally binding on either party. Either party, subject to 30 days' notice of such an intention, may terminate the agreement.

On termination, each signatory is to ensure their respective partnership register is amended to reflect that the partnership has been terminated and include the date of termination.

3.4 Joint Training

Each signatory, or their nominated representative, may make arrangements to facilitate joint training to raise awareness of the partnership. The framework for the



training will be the document titled 'Guidance for your Team' (Appendix 3) and the training must describe any local arrangement for processing referrals.

3.5 Financial Implications

It is the intention of this partnership that it will impose no costs on the other partner and that all expenses incurred will be regarded as normal daily business by both partners to this agreement.

4 REVIEW PROCESS

4.1 Maintaining the Version Control

The signatory for NIFRS will maintain the document and update it every time an amendment or review is undertaken as follows:



- 1 Amend the version number on the front cover.
- 2 Amend the version date on the front cover.
- 3 Add a new line to the version control to detail that the review has taken place or any amendments made.
- 4 Amend version number and date in the footer at the bottom of the pages.
- 5 Arrange for the document to be informally re-signed.
- 6 Scan the document and send a pdf to the partner signatory.
- 7 Signatories are to arrange for the new version to replace any other version held by their respective organisation and for any partnership register to be updated accordingly.

4.2 Review the Partnership

After the first year of partnership being first signed, the NIFRS will arrange for a joint evaluation using an Outcome Based Accountability template (Appendix 4). If the evaluation demonstrates that the partnership is meeting both organisations expectations, it will be renewed.

The partnership will then be reviewed every three years to confirm both organisations expectation are being met.

5 SIGNATORIES

| Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service | Organisations Name |
|---|--|
| Martin Corr - Station Commander Prevention & Protection | Ryan Black - Director of Communities and Place |
| Cookstown District Headquarters NIFRS 36 Chapel Street, Cookstown BT80 8QD T 028 8676 5936 ext 206 M 075 5741 4184 Email martin.corr@nifrs.org | Mid Ulster District Council, Burn Road, Cookstown BT80 8DT T 03000 132 132 M ** Email Ryan.Black@midulstercouncil.org |
| Signed on behalf of Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service | Signed on behalf of Mid Ulster District Council |
| Date: **/06/23 | Date: **/06/23 |

APPENDIX 1 – Home Safety Scheme Leaflet



Mid Ulster

Home Safety Scheme

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

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

Have you had your **FREE Home Safety Visit?**

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

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

If you:

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

If you request a home safety check, or are referred for a check by someone like a health visitor, a Health & Wellbeing Officer will visit your home

when it's convenient. It's a relaxed and informal visit, giving you an opportunity to discuss any home safety concerns you might have.

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



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Mid Ulster
District Council

Can anyone apply for Home Safety Equipment?

This scheme is primarily about the provision of home safety advice however there are some pieces of home safety equipment available where the need is identified and criteria met.

Equipment is free to anyone 65 or over. If you are in a household with children under 5, equipment is only provided free of charge if you are in receipt of certain qualifying benefits.

These are:

- Income Support
- Job seeker's allowance (income based)
- Employment and Support Allowance (formally known as incapacity benefit)
- Working Tax Credits
- Housing Benefit
- Free School Meals
- Universal Credit

Or, if your Health Visitor or Health & Wellbeing Officer confirms that you are not able to afford safety equipment because of social or health circumstances, you may be entitled to free equipment.



What do I need to do?

If you would like to receive a home safety visit, would like further information or to arrange a Home Safety talk for a group, simply contact your local Health & Wellbeing Officer.

Call 03000 132 132

Email health.wellbeing@midulstercouncil.org

APPENDIX 2 – Fire Risk Awareness Form

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Name of Service User | |
| DOB | |
| Telephone No. | |
| Address | |
| Postcode | |

In order to be able to identify and manage fire risk, it is important to consider the behaviour and the environment of the service user. The Red Flag Indicators shown below will assist when using the Northern Ireland Single Assessment Tool (NISAT) and serve as a prompt when considering fire risk. By considering the questions below you will be able to:

- identify behaviour, health, lifestyle and environmental risks;
- understand how and why these risks increase vulnerability;
- understand fire risk assessments;
- make a referral to Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service (NIFRS) for a home safety visit/talk for service users that are at risk and vulnerable to accidental fires in the home;
- incorporate the recommendations of the home fire safety check/joint visit into care and support planning and review process; and
- understand the resources available to mitigate risk and vulnerability to fire.

If the response to any of the red flag indicators is Yes, consider highlighting the risk in the NISAT.

| Risk Identification | Red flag indicators: | Response |
|---------------------|--|--|
| Smoke Alarm | Is there a smoke detector missing from any level (floor) within the property? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Is there a smoke detector missing where a person with mobility/capacity issues may spend the majority of their time e.g. living room, bedroom? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Candles | Are candles left too close to curtains or other items that could catch fire, including clothing and/or within easy reach of children or pets? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |

| Risk Identification | Red flag indicators: | Response |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| Smoking | Is there evidence of smoking in bed? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Are there carelessly discarded cigarettes, matches present or overflowing ashtrays? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Any signs/issues around secret smoking? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Are there signs of burns on the carpet, furniture, bedding or clothing? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Open fires | Is the fire guard missing or not used? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Are coal, logs and fire lighters unsuitably stored? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Electrical appliances | Are there any signs of damaged, overloaded sockets within the property? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Are any electrical cables running under rugs or furniture? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Are there combustibles such as clothing or newspapers placed too close to an electrical appliance? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Does the individual use an electric blanket? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Are there any square block adapters / extension leads in the home? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Does anyone leave any of the following electrical items plugged in at night? Laptop / Games Console / Mobile Phone Charger / E-Cigarette / Plug-in Air Freshener | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Are there known faulty electrical appliances within the property? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Portable Heaters | Are portable heaters such as fan heaters, ceramic heaters, gas heaters, paraffin heaters used in the home? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Does the plug for the heater share an electrical extension block? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |

| Risk Identification | Red flag indicators: | Response |
|---------------------|--|--|
| Cooking | Is there anything that could burn easily next to your cooker or hob? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Does anyone who cooks in the home leave cooking unattended? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Is there a build-up of excess grease or fat in the oven or grill? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Does anyone cook under the influence of alcohol, drugs and prescription drugs that make you feel drowsy? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Does anyone in your home use a traditional chip pan? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Emollient creams | Are emollient creams used? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Airflow mattresses | Does the service user have an airflow mattress in place and smoke in bed? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Dementia | If the individual has dementia, does it affect their ability to recognise and respond appropriately in the event of fire? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Is there evidence of previous cooking related fire incidents? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Is there an open fire in the property? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Are there any objects/materials left on or around the hob? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Mental ill health | Does the person have a diagnosed condition that requires medication? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Does the medication or any of its side effects inhibit the person's ability to recognise and respond appropriately in the event of a fire? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Does the individual exhibit fire setting behaviours? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hoarding behaviours | Does the individual have hoarding behaviours? Are escape routes blocked by the hoard? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Does the content of the hoard include hazardous or highly flammable materials? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Is the hoard located close to ignition sources such as gas fires or cookers? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |

| Risk Identification | Red flag indicators: | Response |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| Medical oxygen | Is there medical oxygen in the property? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Are there additional oxygen cylinders stored within the property? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Does the person smoke? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Visual impairment | Does the individual have a visual impairment? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Are potential escape routes blocked? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hearing impairment | Does the individual have a hearing impairment? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Is the smoke detector appropriate for the individual, i.e. does it have a strobe vibrating pad? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Drugs and alcohol use | Are there indicators of excessive consumption of alcohol? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Are there indicators of substance use? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Would either affect the individual's ability to recognise and respond appropriately in the event of a fire? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Prescription medication | Does medication affect the individual's ability to recognise and respond appropriately in the event of fire? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Physical Impairment/Limited Mobility/ | Does mobility impairment mean that the individual would be slow to evacuate the property in the event of fire, e.g. wheelchair, walking frame? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Will the person require specialist teams where equipment is needed to exit the property in the event of a fire, e.g. dependent or bariatric? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Reduced Manual Dexterity | Does the individual have reduced manual dexterity? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |

| What to do next | |
|---|--|
| Has use of assisted technology been considered? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Does the assessed individual/carer consent to proposed actions? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Non-consent to intervention (any capacity issues/concerns?) | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <p>A multi-professional/agency approach has been taken to ensure all support/information has been given</p> <p>After reviewing the Red Flag Indicators, consider the following options</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Home Fire Safety Check by Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service (NIFRS)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Joint visit with NIFRS</p> | |

| Risk Identified | Action (Continue on separate sheet if necessary) |
|-----------------|--|
| | |
| | |
| | |

| | | | |
|---|--|----------------|--|
| Name | | Signed: | |
| Office Name & Telephone Number | | | |
| Name of any other person present | | | |

APPENDIX 3 – Guidance for your Team

Background

Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service (NIFRS) has signed a Partnership Agreement with your agency. For simplicity we use the term 'agency', though your organisation may well use a different term.

The purpose of the partnership is to provide additional assistance to people at risk from fire for the mutual benefit of both agencies. After providing a referral to NIFRS, we will carry out a free Home Fire Safety Check (HFSC), which is a visit to the home to offer advice to reduce the risk of fire and ensure that the home is fitted with a working smoke alarm.

We will spend time with the occupier and help them to feel safe in their home.

People at risk

We define people at risk as persons who:

- are aged 50 or older;
- have a disability or impaired mobility*; or
- are referred to NIFRS by a partnership agency.

*includes people with a health condition that would impact on their ability to acknowledge and respond to an emergency in the home.

NIFRS will also accept referrals for people who fall outside of this definition but who may also be at risk. Each referral will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Who do we want you to refer?

NIFRS wants you to refer anyone who you think may be at a greater risk from fire.

Examples include those who:

- do not have a working smoke alarm
- have a history of fires
- are not careful with smoking materials
- have scorch marks on bedding, clothing, or carpets
- leave cooking unattended
- have large quantities of loose papers or stored items in their rooms; or
- use candles close to combustibles.

Making a referral

Step 1 - Prior to making a referral to NIFRS, permission must be gained from the occupier to pass on their details and please check the records held by your agency to confirm that a referral has not already been made within the previous 12 months. An additional visit within 12 months would be possible if it has been determined that the risk has increased due to a change in circumstances.

Step 2 - Then check you have the 6 pieces of information we require. These are the:

1. name of the person sending the referral
2. name of the partnership agency
- 3 name of the occupier being referred
- 4 phone number of the occupier being referred
- 5 full address of the home including postcode and the
- 6 reason for the referral and any additional information that may help us.

Step 3 - Your agency may well have a local procedure to process referrals. If so, follow that procedure as your next step.

Step 4 - Provide the 6 pieces of information to NIFRS using one of the following methods:

- via NIFRS Website at: Home Fire Safety Check - Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service (nifrs.org)
- by phone call to: 028 8676 5936 (Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm) or,
- email Cookstown.District@nifrs.org

What happens next?

We will make contact with the occupier to arrange a suitable time to visit and we aim to complete all referrals within 28 days, subject to operational commitments.

Periodically, we will carry out surveys to monitor our performance and we will use sampling to make contact with those who have received a Home Fire Safety Check. We use this feedback to establish that our service is at a high standard and identify how we can improve this further.

APPENDIX 4 – Joint Evaluation

Evaluation Period: (Annual or Three year)

Quantitative Review – NIFRS

- How many referrals were received:
- How many HFSCs were completed:
- How many requests were made for Fire Safety talks:
- How many Fire Safety Talks were provided:

Quantitative Review – Partner

- How many referrals were received:
- How many interventions were completed:

Qualitative Review?

Following a meeting with the partner summarise how effective the partnership has been for both parties.

Do we continue?

Consider the information collated with the Partner and confirm if the partnership should be renewed or terminated. Rationale for both outcomes should be noted.

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| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Report on | Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plan |
| Date of Meeting | 5 th July 2023 |
| Reporting Officer | Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing |
| Contact Officer | Raisa Donnelly, Age Friendly Coordinator |

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

| | |
|------------|--|
| 1.0 | Purpose of Report |
| 1.1 | The purpose of the report is to update Members on the progress of the Ageing Well Initiative and seek approval for the formal adoption of the enclosed Mid Ulster District Council Age Friendly Strategy and Action plan. |
| 2.0 | Background |
| 2.1 | Members may be aware that the work on an Age Friendly initiative has been progressed through the existing Community Planning partnerships structures with Mid Ulster Council being the lead partner. The Ageing Well Initiative seeks to ensure that the Mid Ulster District Council area is an area that supports older people. Mid Ulster District Council has received funding from the Public Health Agency for the development of an Age Friendly Alliance, an Age Friendly Charter, an Age Friendly Strategy and associated Action Plan. This work is being developed by the Age Friendly Co-ordinator and the Mid Ulster Age Friendly Alliance. |
| 2.2 | In November 2021, Members approved the procurement of external expertise to support the development of the Age Friendly Alliance, Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plan (Minute Ref E261/21) |
| 2.3 | A 12 week period of public consultation was launched Thursday 16th February 2023 and closed on Friday 12 May 2023. |
| 2.4 | The Age Friendly Strategy and 3 Year Action Plan seeks to provide the framework to ensure Mid Ulster is an age-friendly district where older people are valued, engaged, and supported to live healthy, active, fulfilling lives. |
| 2.5 | This report provides details of the process to date and the engagement carried out with various stakeholders within Mid Ulster and the Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plan. |

| | |
|------------|--|
| 3.0 | Main Report |
| 3.1 | In December 2021, a procurement process took place to recruit external expertise to assist in the planning process and development of an Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plan for the Mid Ulster District council area. |
| 3.2 | From April-December 2022 an extensive consultation period took place with older people and key stakeholders focusing on the 8 key themes identified by World Health Organisations and we identified a number of key priorities about the lives of older people. |
| 3.3 | The information gathered provided a baseline for future development, it outlined the positive aspects of residing within the Mid Ulster area and highlighted the priorities we need to address within the Mid Ulster District, helping shape a better Age Friendly Community. |
| 3.4 | <p>As part of the consultation process and to enable the general public and key stakeholders to put forward their suggestions for improving the experience of growing older, engagement with approx. 425 people has been carried through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 Workshops • 10 Focus Groups – in-depth conversations • Guided Conversations • Postcards • Online survey • Hardcopy surveys • Local, regional and national consultations • 12 week public consultation |
| 3.5 | A new Age-friendly structure that aligns with Councils' Community plans has been proposed with the formation of an Age-friendly Alliance to deliver on the 3-year Age-friendly Strategy and Action Plan. The Age-friendly Co-ordinator will be responsible for engaging with the Older Persons forum and will report back to the Strategic Alliance on a continual basis to enable effective co-production and consultation with older people throughout all stages of the Age-friendly Strategy and Action plan and any other local issues. The 1st Age Friendly Alliance Meeting was held on 22nd March 2023. |
| 3.6 | This is a co-production and people-led process where local people and organisations have made contributions on what it is like to live in their area. Their views informed this three-year action plan for delivery. The various stakeholders have offered invaluable insights to key challenges, solutions, and further engagement. The action plan (Appendix A) contains 8 theme and outcomes, 35 actions with desired goals with Action leads assigned. The actions will enable the Age Friendly Alliance members to work towards their aspirations set out within the strategy. Actions are proposed to be continually reviewed each year. |

| | |
|------------|---|
| | Feedback from the consultation process including the 12 week public consultation have been considered as part of the enclosed Mid Ulster District Council Age Friendly Strategy and Action plan for Members consideration. |
| 3.7 | The Age Friendly Co-ordinator continues to meet the PHA objectives by working alongside Mid Ulster Loneliness Network, Mid Ulster Disability Forum, Mid Ulster Seniors Network and Mid Ulster Age Well to further develop a positive ageing community within Mid Ulster. |
| 3.8 | Should Members be minded to approve the enclosed strategy and action plan, it is proposed that the Age Friendly Co-Ordinator along with the Mid Ulster Loneliness Network will coordinate a show case event to mark the networks 2nd birthday and at the same time seek to launch the Mid Ulster Age Friendly Strategy and action plan during September 2023. |
| 4.0 | Other Considerations |
| 4.1 | <u>Financial & Human Resources Implications</u> Financial: Costs for strategy development, design and print of strategy contained within annual grant funding received from the PHA. Human: Officer time. Risk Management: Considered in line with relevant Council Policies and Procedures. |
| 4.2 | Screening & Impact Assessments Equality & Good Relations Implications: Screened as part of strategy development and considered in line with Council Policies and Procedures. Rural Needs Implications: Screened as part of strategy development and considered in line with Council Policies and Procedures. |
| 5.0 | Recommendation(s) |
| 5.1 | To note the contents of this report and give approval for the formal adoption of the enclosed Mid Ulster District Council Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plan. |
| 6.0 | Documents Attached & References |
| 6.1 | Appendix A: Mid Ulster Age Friendly Strategic Plan 2023-2026 Appendix B: Mid Ulster Age Friendly Strategic Plan 2023-2026 (Easy Read) |



**Mid Ulster
Age Friendly
Strategic Plan
2023-2026**

Our Plan for an Ageing Community

Ensuring people age well in Mid Ulster



Age Friendly
Mid Ulster

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|-------|
| Foreword from the Chair of Mid Ulster District Council | 3 |
| 1. Introduction - Age-friendly plans for Mid Ulster | 4-5 |
| 2. Age-friendly and the community plan | 6 |
| 3. Age-friendly Profile – Mid Ulster | 7 |
| 4. STEPS taken to date | 8 |
| 5. Age-friendly Charter | 9 |
| 6. What the community told us | 10-26 |
| Themed ACTION PLANS | |
| Outdoor spaces and buildings | |
| Transport | |
| Housing | |
| Social Participation | |
| Respect and Inclusion | |
| Civic Participation | |
| Communication and information | |
| Community and health | |
| 7. Implementation Structure | 27 |
| 8. Measuring the Impact | 28 |
| 9. Stakeholders | 29 |
| 10. Policy Context | 30-32 |
| Contact details | 33 |



FOREWORD FROM THE CHAIR

Mid Ulster District Council (The Council) is fully aware it has an ageing population, meaning that the demographic profile is changing significantly with a higher proportion of older people in our communities. With older people living longer, these changes are welcomed as they are a great asset to society with vast experience, wisdom and community spirit. However, an ageing population presents significant challenges to the planning and delivery of services and facilities. Being better prepared to adapt to these changes is a priority for our older people and future generations. In response to this shift, the Council is committed to improving the lives of older people through the World Health Organisation's Age-friendly Framework, which will positively impact our residents.

As we live longer, this can result in experiences of active and positive living, life-long learning and diverse interests but as we age, we can be presented with ill health, disability, dependence, social isolation or loneliness. This can significantly impact a person's life, especially their physical and social environment. Transforming environments into supportive and inclusive places with the right policies and services means that older people can thrive in their local community, contributing to healthy ageing.

The Age-friendly initiative aims to encourage active and healthy ageing by improving health, promoting inclusion and supporting well-being in older age. The population as a whole benefit from designing environments for older people and preparing for future generations. New plans for delivering an Age-friendly community can help tackle some of the biggest challenges to healthy and active ageing, such as social isolation and loneliness, injuries and falls, inactivity, mental and physical ill-health.

New interventions, policies and co-design of age sector projects are needed to transform our Council area into a supportive environment for our ageing population. The publication of this Age-friendly Strategy and Action Plan celebrates the beginning of a process that will see a coordinated approach being embraced by organisations and communities to create a more Age-friendly culture.

I welcome this first Age-friendly strategic plan as the Chair of Mid Ulster District Council and as a resident who knows we need to take responsibility for the health and wellness of everyone in our area. I look forward to the implementation of an Age-friendly plan through extensive collaboration with our partners to make Mid Ulster a great place to live and grow old. Together our plan will ensure people age well in Mid Ulster.

(Name and photo)

Age friendliness is about making Mid Ulster a great place in which to grow older and a community where older people can thrive.

I. INTRODUCTION – AGE-FRIENDLY PLANS FOR MID ULSTER

Age-friendly is a framework developed by the World Health Organisation ¹(WHO) to support the development of Age-friendly communities due to an ageing population. An age-friendly world and an Age-friendly Council area enables people of all ages to actively participate in community activities and treats everyone with respect, regardless of their age. An Age-friendly community is a place that makes it easy for older people to stay connected to people and things that are important to them. It also helps people stay healthy, active and appropriately supports those who need additional support. The eight thematic areas should be considered when developing plans; they are designed to overlap and interact with each other. These eight domains are:



Figure 1: Age-friendly domains ²

“When you plan for young, you plan just for the young – when you plan for the older population, you plan for everyone”.

¹ The World Health Organisation (WHO): is a specialised agency of the United Nations concerned with international public health. The WHO Global Network for Age Friendly Cities and Communities was established to foster the exchange of experience and mutual learning between cities and communities worldwide.

² <http://www.who.int/ageing/age-friendly-world/en/>

An Age-friendly world enables people of all ages to actively participate in community activities. It is a place where everyone is treated with respect, regardless of their age. It is a place that makes it easy to stay connected to those around you and those you love. It is a place that helps people stay healthy and active even at the oldest ages. And it is a place that helps those who can no longer look after themselves to live with dignity and enjoyment. Many cities and communities are already taking active steps towards becoming more Age-friendly and signing up to the Age-friendly Global Network.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has established a global network of Age-friendly cities and communities that encourage active ageing by optimising opportunities for health, participation, and security to enhance the quality of life as people grow older. The WHO has proposed eight domains that can help identify and address barriers to the well-being and participation of older people.

In Northern Ireland, the Active Ageing Strategy is one of the Northern Ireland Executive's key strategies to address the ageing of our population. Its vision is 'one of Northern Ireland being an Age-friendly region in which people, as they get older, are valued and supported to live actively to their fullest potential; with their rights respected and their dignity protected'. The Department of Communities Active Ageing Strategy outlines that people here are living longer than ever. Our older citizens make a significant contribution to society; by volunteering, continuing to work or providing childcare³.

Age-friendly is also an outcome within the Programme for Government (PfG) Delivery Plan for 2018/19 under Outcome 4: To Make each council area "Age-friendly" – a place where organisations work together to enhance the quality of life for people as they age.

Promoting the well-being of older people and ensuring they can enjoy later life to the fullest must remain a priority, especially overcoming the challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic and looking forward to the future. Our longer lives are an opportunity for the economy, society, and individuals. We all need support at different times across our lives and want to live in communities where we look out for each other.

Our Vision

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

³ <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/publications/active-ageing-strategy-2016-2021>

2. AGE-FRIENDLY AND OUR COMMUNITY PLAN

Mid Ulster District Council developed a Community Plan for the District, it highlights that an ageing population is an important issue to address. The ethos of community planning is to help improve how public agencies progress together alongside local people, to plan and deliver better services. It is essential that public services and infrastructure, designed and implemented today, will still be relevant to the Council's future population. We liaised with key partners represented on the Strategic Partnership Board and their working groups.

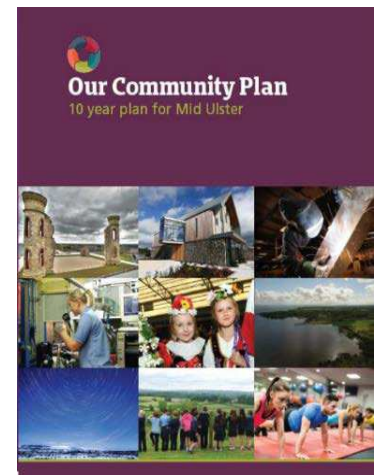
This Community plan, alongside the Age-friendly plan will build on the solid foundation of the existing relationships, partnerships, programmes already in place. The Age-friendly plan will link to the community plans outcomes as it highlights that an ageing population is an important issue to address. With the purpose of community planning being to improve how public services work together, with local people, to plan and deliver better services. Age-friendly will be a relevant way of working to gain positive outcomes for the Council's population in future years, linking to the current eight Age-friendly themes ensuring that everyone will benefit.

We envisage improved relationships with key stakeholders: Statutory Partners, as well as representatives from community, voluntary, business, colleges, NI Government Departments, and other sectors. Partners are represented on the Strategic Partnership Board and working groups.

This Age-friendly strategy provides a framework to help make our council area a great place to grow older and an area in which everyone, regardless of age, is valued and respected. It will provide the structure and new ways of working for cross-sectoral co-operation, which is essential to improving our older population's quality of life. This Age-friendly strategy and its associated action plan have been influenced by the Community Plan. It has been further supplemented by direct engagement with older people, other stakeholders and service providers. This Age-friendly plan will address challenges local people face and ensure that everyone will benefit.

The Age-friendly Alliance ⁴ will work collaboratively to meet the outcomes of the community plan in relation to Age-friendly and promote the best possible health and well-being, safety and quality of life outcomes for older adults living in the Mid Ulster District Council area.

Improving productivity and co-production across the Council will harness local knowledge, expertise and new ways of working, bringing Age-friendly a higher profile with partners. Investing in Age-friendly at a local level can help provide support older people and communities to achieve higher levels of productivity and tackle disadvantages and better outcomes.



⁴ Age Friendly Alliance: A group of representatives from specialist organisations who are collectively working together to make sure Mid Ulster is a great place to live and grow older.

3. AGE-FRIENDLY PROFILE - MID ULSTER

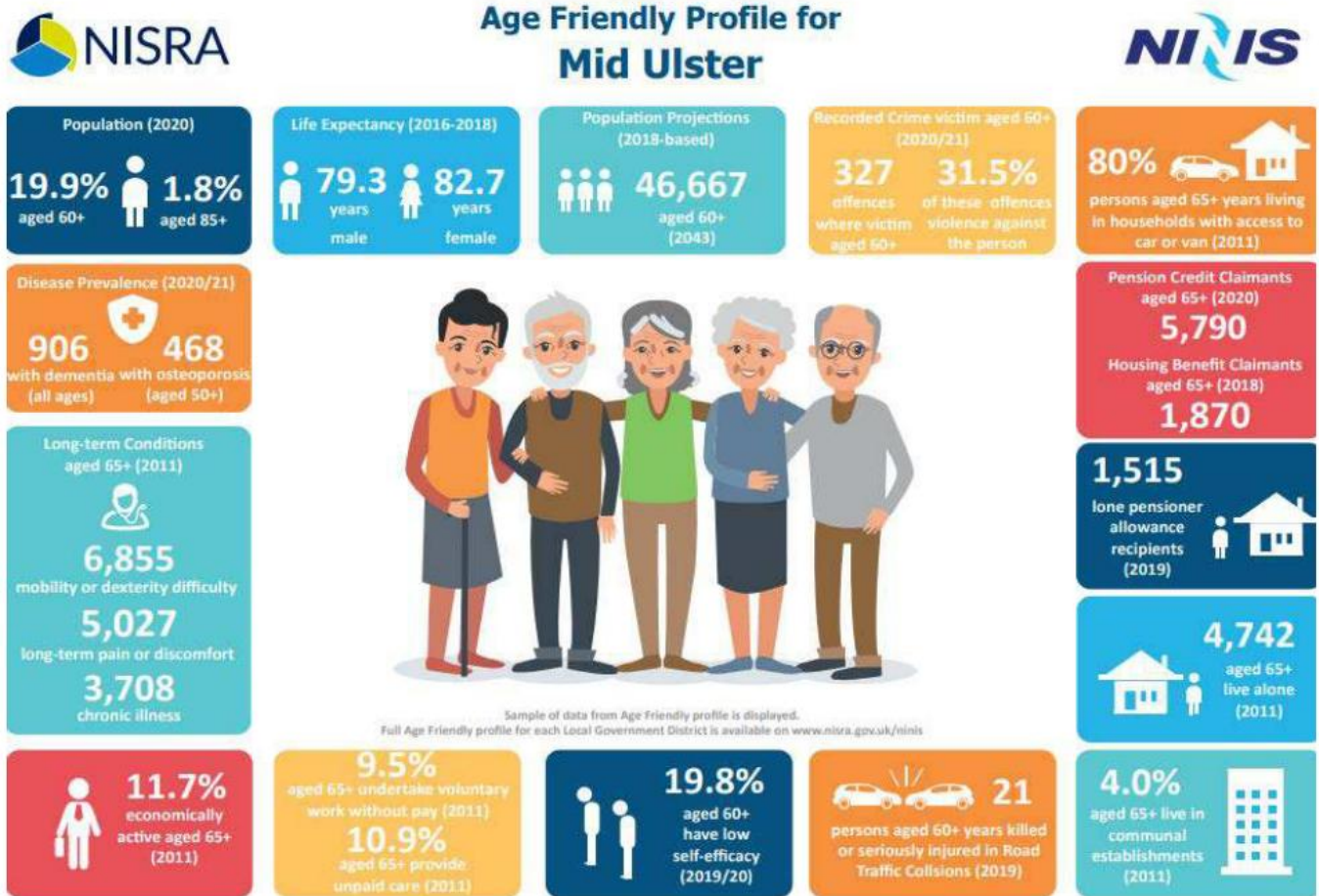


Figure 2: Age-friendly Profile ⁵

148,528 Population of Mid Ulster (2020)

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

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

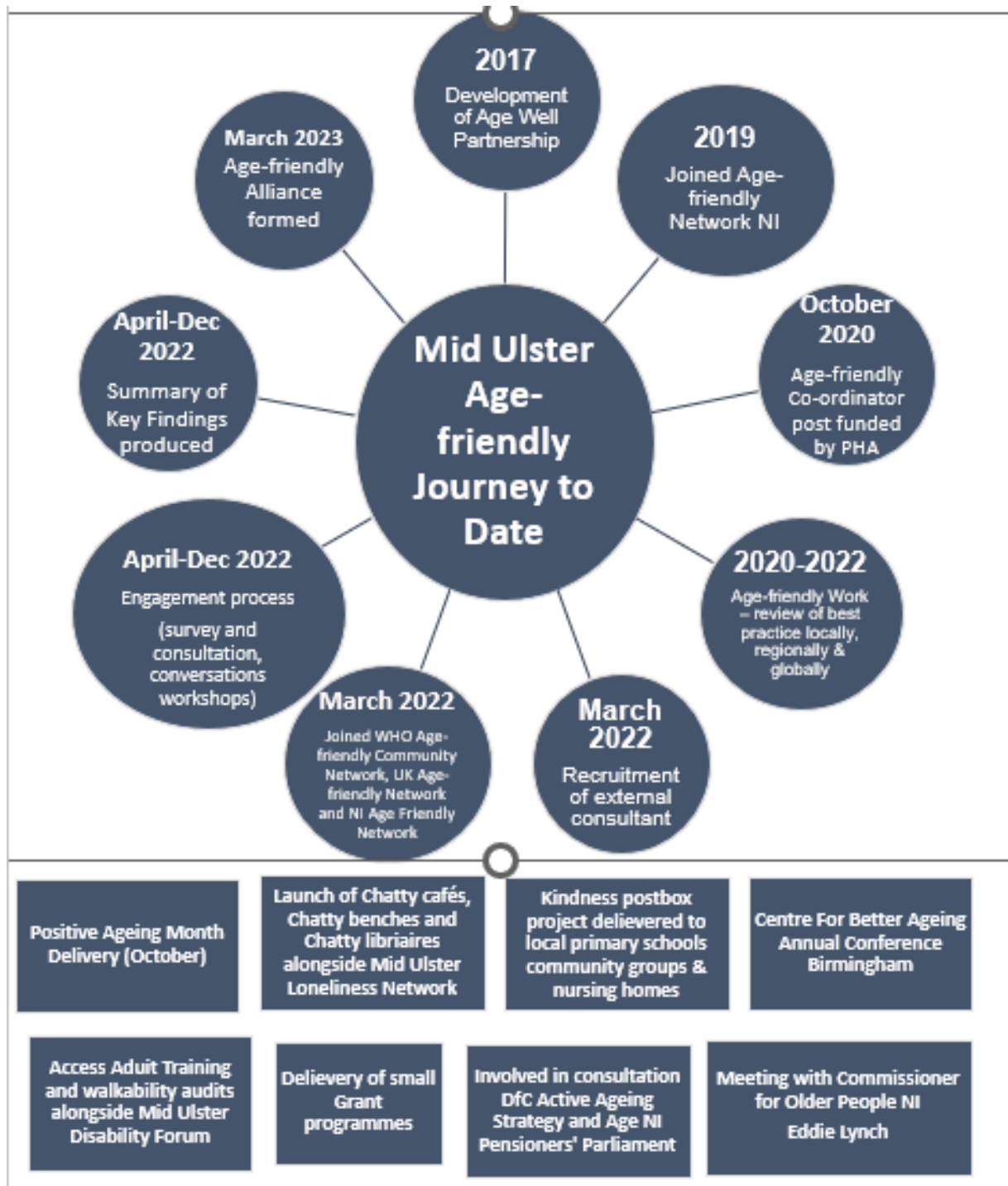
46,667 Mid Ulster aged 60+ expected to rise to by **2043**

⁵ www.nisra.gov.uk/ninis https://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/download/Infographics/AFP_All.pdf

4. STEPS TAKEN BY COUNCIL TO DATE

Over the past five years Mid Ulster District Council have been working hard to support older people with better care, increased connections and improved well-being.

Timeline of work supporting an Age-friendly community



The Age-friendly co-ordinator continues working alongside Mid Ulster Loneliness Network, Mid Ulster Disability Forum, Mid Ulster Seniors Network, Age-friendly Network NI, Mid Ulster Age Well and other partners. Along with other local community groups, older people will help to promote and embed Age-friendly.

5. AGE-FRIENDLY CHARTER

An Age-friendly charter will accompany the Age-friendly strategic plan outlining long-term Mid Ulster District Council commitments that will make Mid Ulster District an Age-friendly Community.

Our Vision – what we hope to achieve

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

Our Mission – how we will do it

- We will implement a new *Age-friendly strategy and action plan* to benefit everyone living in Mid Ulster District Council.
- We will develop an *Age-friendly Alliance* to ensure the implementation of the strategic plan, a multiagency partnership to drive the process locally, linking to other community planning processes - adapting existing structures.
- We will develop an *Older People's Forum* to engage older people with effective consultation, ensuring their voices are heard and participation is enabled.

Our Values – informs what we do and how we do it

- *Respect and Diversity*: We will value all older people, respect their diversity, and promote positive messages about age and older people.
- *Co-design*: We will build on assets and partnership structures through collaboration, meaningfully engaging with older people in planning, design and review processes – giving older people opportunities to share their wisdom, experience, hopes and fears.
- *Challenge and Change*: We are committed to giving older people a voice to challenge and bring about the changes they seek, fairness and justice.
- *Change attitudes*: We will see older people are a resource for their families, communities and economies in supportive and enabling living environments.
- *Equality and Inclusion*: We will address inequalities with urban and rural residents, people with disabilities or mobility issues. We will promote their inclusion and contribution to all areas of community life, respecting their lifestyle choices.

Outcomes – What success will look like

We will ensure that older people in the district:

- Have access to safe outdoor spaces and buildings with suitable facilities.
- Have access to suitable forms of transport.
- Have sufficient access to affordable home maintenance services and support to improve home efficiency and safety. Caring for the most vulnerable and in need.
- Feel part of their local community and not isolated, optimising opportunities for participation to enhance their quality of life and promote friendships.
- Feel heard and have a say in decision-making on things that affect their lives.
- Have access to work and volunteering opportunities that they want.
- Have opportunities to stay better connected via an effective communication system.
- Have opportunities to improve their health and well-being and have access to appropriate health, social care and well-being services at the right time.

6. WHAT THE COMMUNITY TOLD US

CONSULTATION, ENGAGEMENT AND ACTION PLANS

This extensive consultation with older people focused on the eight key themes identified by WHO and identified a number of key priorities for the lives of older people. One of the most significant findings being that older people are keen to be consulted with and provided with follow up information.

All those involved in this consultation process stated that this community is a great place to grow older. The majority liked living in their homes and if they had the choice to live elsewhere would choose to remain where they are. It was also found that there was a positive correlation between being associated with a group or community association and feeling involved and leading active lives in communities.

Older people who participated in the consultation clearly take their safety, health, and well-being seriously, taking the necessary provisions to protect themselves and their homes. They appreciate healthcare professionals and others visiting them in their communities to talk to them about health, safety and scam prevention.

The information gathered provided a baseline for future development, it outlined the positive aspects of residing within the Mid Ulster area and highlighted the priorities we needed to address within the Mid Ulster District, helping shape a better Age-friendly community.

As part of the consultation process, a facilitator was appointed to carry out workshops to enable the general public and key stakeholders to put forward their suggestions for improving the experience of growing older. We asked for thoughts and opinions on issues such as transport, housing, access to information and how to meet older people's needs now and in the future.

We carried out engagement with 425 people through:

- Four workshops
- Ten focus groups – in-depth conversations
- Guided conversations
- Postcards
- Online survey
- Hardcopy surveys
- Local, regional and national consultations
- 12 week public consultation

The Action Plan

This is a people-led process where local people and organisations told us what it is like to live in their area. Their views informed this three-year action plan for delivery. People offered invaluable insights to key challenges, solutions and further engagement. The action plan contains actions that will enable the Age-friendly Alliance members to work towards their aspirations set out within the strategy. Actions will be continually reviewed each year.

1. Outside spaces and buildings

The outside environment and public buildings have a major impact on the mobility, independence and the quality of life of older people and affect their ability to “age in place”. The recurring themes are quality of life, access and safety.

What is working well



- 93% said shops/ businesses were accessible and welcoming.
- 79% reported they felt safe in their local area.
- 65% reported that public spaces were clean and pleasant to visit.
- 59% were able to access public toilets outdoors, saying they were clean and well maintained.
- 50% stated there is good street lighting, police patrols and community education.
- Public realm work, Shopmobility, PSNI Active Listening, Ballyronan Marina, Dungannon Park and the Hill of the O’Neill and the Burnavon, bus station, wide-open spaces in the countryside, and Mid Ulster’s welcoming places.

Key Issues – What the community told us

- Older people need more opportunities to come out of the house with welcoming indoor and outdoor spaces i.e. coffee gardens, seating, clean toilets, lifts, picnic tables and places for walkers.
- Better parking, wider carpark spaces, lower kerbs. 64% said car parking on footpaths a problem.
- Better disabled access to shops. More disability friendly premises inside and out, i.e. handrails in local cinemas.
- Road crossing and ramps/signs to slow traffic down – too much speeding.
- Public spaces need to be cleaned from weeds, overgrown hedges, dogfouling and litter.

“Outdoor spaces need more connection areas with chatty benches and information notice boards promoting local hidden gems, walks and clear accessible parking.”

What needs improved

- Needs of the ageing population considered in the planning future public infrastructure and services.
- More encouragement to access outdoor spaces (outside gyms and exploring gardening).
- More signage, walkability audits and amenities such as toilets, and seating in public spaces.
- More access to leisure, museums and libraries and promote their facilities widely.
- Standards improved: public toilets, footpaths, lighting, roads, safety, litter and dog fouling.

Outdoor Spaces and Buildings Action Plan

To maintain and grow the valuable input of older people, Mid Ulster needs an infrastructure of age-friendly communities with good public transport links, free travel, accessible parking, and locally available cash and banking services. We will collaborate with tourist offices, museums, shops and businesses to promote accessible nature parks, and community areas paying attention to roads, paving, toilets, crossing, lighting, footpaths and seating.

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

| Outdoor spaces and buildings | Action Lead |
|--|---|
| Action | |
| Encourage and promote more access to outdoor spaces – recreation, leisure, parks, chatty benches and chatty cafes. | Mid Ulster District Council Mid Ulster Loneliness Network Sports NI |
| Develop age-friendly design guidelines and business charters for our district that will evolve over time. | Mid Ulster District Council |
| Promote Accessibility apps and websites and recognition of Age-friendly awards to places to promote accessibility. | Shopmobility Mid Ulster |
| Promote anti-littering programmes of education, awareness raising and enforcement. | Mid Ulster District Council |
| Explore options to improve accessibility along pavements and roads e.g. Awareness raising and signage. | Mid Ulster District Council |

Support Partners: Mid Ulster District Council, CDM Community Transport, Mid Ulster Volunteer Centre, Mid Uster Disability Forum, Southern Health and Social Care Trust, Northern Health and Social Care Trust, Chamber of Commerce, Age-friendly Co-ordinator, Tourism NI, Gobility/ Shopmobility, Translink, Guide Dogs NI, Sports NI, Department of Infrastructure - Roads and Police Service NI.

2. Transport

Transportation, including accessibility and affordable public transport, is a key factor influencing active ageing. Being able to move about an area (urban, rural and connections) determines social and civic participation and access to community and health services.



What works well

- 80% of those aged 65+ have access to a car or van⁶.
- CDM Community Transport, Comfort of buses, Mid Ulster Shopmobility and Gobility programmes, Park and Rides.



Key issues – What the community told us

- Although older people are generally happy with transport services, there are still concerns about the accessibility of buses, particularly for those who use mobility aids, safety or need to get to health appointments.
- 87% in the survey said they have their own car, 9% rely on public transport, 17% rely on family and friends, 7% rely on community transport.
- Inequality exists in accessing services, bus timetables are hard to read.
- 65% say that public transport is not convenient, 63% say public transport doesn't get them where they want to go, 33% not enough seating for older people, 33% report that public transport drivers are patient, 51% feel safe, 48% say there is not enough information on timetables and routes, 40% say that taxi's are not affordable.
- 21 reported road traffic collision casualties for persons aged 60+ who were killed/seriously injured.⁷

"I don't drive and live in a village with poor to no public transport. Totally rely on family and friends to bring me to essential and very important appointments".

What needs improved

- Provide better public and community transport for essential services, Dr's and hospitals encouraging people to come out of their homes with trips, church and shopping.
- Age-friendly training for bus drivers and transport providers.
- Public transport timetables to be larger and more accessible.
- Improve the reliability, accessibility and affordability of transport within the town and rural areas.
- Promote smart passes and community transport with good news stories promoting services.
- Address funding to continue community transport and volunteer expenses.

⁶ (NISRA 2011)

⁷ (NISRA 2011)

Transport Action Plan

Older people need additional transport support, especially in rural areas. People living outside of town centres who rely on public transport have less access to services for health and recreation. Transport provision needs to be mapped to services available, improving access, equality and safety.

Outcome: Increased collaboration to ensure better transport options and better integrated and cohesive infrastructure for increased accessibility, equality and safety.

| Transport | Action Lead |
|---|--|
| Action | |
| Engage with decision makers to maintain community transport services, improving the reliability, accessibility and affordability of transport within town, rural areas and hospital settings. | Translink CDM Community Transport |
| Promote smart passes and community transport, volunteer driver schemes with good news stories promoting services and easy to read timetables. | Translink CDM Community Transport |
| Promote Shopmobility and Gomobility services and increase referrals from healthcare professionals across Mid Ulster, including NHSCT and SHSCT. | Shopmobility Mid Ulster |
| Promote Age-friendly awareness training to all transport providers. | Mid Ulster District Council Translink |

Support Partners: Department of Infrastructure, Translink, Taxi and Private Operators, CDM Community Transport, Mid Ulster Shopmobility, Age-friendly Co-ordinator, Mid Ulster Volunteer Centre, Southern Health and Social Care Trust, Alzheimer's Society, Northern Health and Social Care Trust and community organisations.

3. Housing

Housing is essential to safety and well-being. There is a link between appropriate housing and access to community and social services in influencing older people's independence and quality of life. Housing, maintenance, heating and support that allow older people to age comfortably and safely within their community are universally valued. Housing can significantly impact the quality of life and feedback tells us older people want to remain independent at home for longer.



Mid Ulster Profile

- 2011 people aged 65+ years 96% lived in a household and 4% lived in communal establishments. 82% lived in households that were owner occupied, 8% in households that were social rented, 5% in households that were private rented and 5% were living rent free. 4,742 aged 65 are living alone. In 2019/20, there were 1,515 lone pensioner allowance recipients in Mid Ulster. These are ratepayers aged 70 or over who are living alone and entitled to a 20% reduction in their rates. 1,810 are in receipt of housing benefits.⁸

What works well:

- Residential Homes, sheltered dwellings, compassionate communities, Supporting Communities and warm home schemes. 73% felt safe at home and had housing to meet their needs.
- Energy efficiency workshops, boiler replacement schemes, warm home grants, Agewell Partnership HandyVan scheme, Home Safety Scheme and falls prevention work.

Key Issues – What the community told us

- Worries about the cost of living, fuel poverty, the rise in home energy costs, the rise in rented properties and profit-led homes, anti-social behaviour, loneliness and scams.
- Not sufficient and affordable housing - 63% said there wasn't affordable housing.
- Safety in the home is an issue with fear falls. 58% said they didn't know where to go to get information on home adaption, 39% said they didn't know who to contact for home maintenance, 57% didn't know who to contact for home safety, home warm/ energy efficiency.

“Good social housing would improve the health and lives of older people”.

What needs improved

- Accessible and affordable housing, with support if required for independent living.
- Homes need to be a place of well-being with home activities, care and compassionate communities, with better designs and shared living options explored.
- Support for home grant schemes enabling people to live independently in a safe, warm, affordable home.

⁸ 2018 NISRA.

Housing Action Plan

We want to ensure older people stay in their home if they wish and more consideration given to building home for life; more information and advice on services and housing issues; dementia friendly housing; more social housing; and retirement villages for those over 60 who don't require nursing home or fold setting.

Outcome: More accessible and affordable housing to give older people more choices to live independently and safely in their homes.

| Housing | Action Lead |
|--|--|
| Action | |
| Scope and promote the opportunities for people to remain independently at home in a safe, warm and affordable environment as they age well in their own homes. | Northern Ireland Housing Executive Housing associations NI Fire and Rescue Service |
| Lobby government to support home grant schemes that enable people to live independently in a safe, warm and affordable home. | Mid Ulster District Council |
| Maintain a home maintenance service for those in need. | Mid Ulster District Council |
| Promote Dementia Friendly environments promoting assisted technology, safety measures with PSNI and the Herbert Protocol. | Alzheimer's Society Dementia NI PSNI |

Support Partners: NI Housing Executive, Department of Communities, Housing Associations, Supporting Communities, Consumer Council NI, Agewell Partnership, PSNI and NI Fire and Rescue Service.

4. Social Participation

Social participation and social support are strongly connected to good health and well-being throughout life, giving people a sense of belonging. Participating in leisure, social, cultural and spiritual activities in the community and with the family allows older people to continue to exercise their independence, develop friendships and feel part of their community.



Mid Ulster Profile

Continuous Household Survey ⁹ on engagement in culture, arts and sport shows that of those age 60 and over: 28% participated in sport; 29% participated in arts activities; 59% attended arts events; 20% used the public library service; and 35% visited a museum or science centres.

What works well

- 53% said there was a wide variety of activities to attend and participate in the community before COVID with 56% taking part regularly. 86% interact with family and friends on a daily basis.
- 36% lacked companionship before COVID, only 15% felt lonely, and 30% felt isolated.
- The range of community group's facilities and activities.
- Electronic Magazines (Ezines): Mid Ulster Community Newsletter, NICH, Age NI and Carers Matters.
- Networks: Mid Ulster Loneliness Network, Mid Ulster Intergenerational Network, COSTA, CWSAN and Compassionate communities were appreciated for co-design and co-delivery.
- Websites: NHSCT and SHSCT directory of services and Mid Ulster Agewell Partnership.

Key issues – What the community told us

- Lack of information, activities, befriending, signposting, face-to-face interactions and alternative promotions. Not enough opportunities (trips and outings).
- 45% say activities are not accessible, promoted or have transport options available.
- Barriers include disability, transport, cost of living, lack of funds, confidence, unsuitable times, lack of community halls, mobility, being housebound, digital access and mental health.
- Too many activities become closed clubs and new people find them hard to access.
- Groups closed because of the pandemic, rising costs, high paperwork, lack of funding and Charity commission governance, volunteer burnout and no succession planning.
- Cutbacks and lack of long-term sustainable resources give uncertainty and inconsistency of services and activities.

“We need Wellness Checks at age 50/60 with a welcome pack with range of services available.”

What needs improved

- Access to affordable services and activities with discounts in hospitality, hairdressing and gyms.
- More community initiatives would attract residents of various demographics.
- Promote project ideas: gardening clubs, history, book clubs, day trips and hobby classes.
- More intergenerational work, changing attitudes and culture with Age-friendly schools.

⁹ 2015/16

Social Participation Action Plan

Supporting social well-being for both individuals and communities will be key to addressing loneliness and isolation and supporting preventive approaches to wellness and good health in the long term. The community and voluntary age sector are essential in keeping older people connected to services and their local communities. We must commit to maintaining and developing much-needed community connection and support.

Outcome: Increased social participation to reduce the likelihood of complex needs developing.

| Social Participation | Action Lead |
|---|--|
| Action | |
| Develop more chatty places – Warm, friendly chat areas, promoting libraries providing services for older people such as reading newspapers aloud, a cup of tea etc. | Northern Health & Social Care Trust Mid Ulster Agewell Partnership Libraries NI Mid Ulster Loneliness Network |
| Increase Age-friendly Promotion, i.e., social media/ newsletter to highlight current activities, leisure opportunities, volunteering, support organisations, and good news stories. | Mid Ulster District Council Mid Ulster Volunteer Centre |
| Encourage the development of buddy schemes to support involvement in local activities and community groups. | Mid Ulster District Council Mid Ulster Agewell Partnership |
| Promote training for staff who work in the community, the voluntary and educational sectors. | Linking Generations NI |
| Ensure better access to affordable services and activities that are age appropriate with convenient times and locations. | Northern Health & Social Care Trust Southern Health & Social Care Trust |

Support partners: Age NI (Connect North), SHSCT Social Prescribing Service, Agewell Partnership, Mid Ulster District Council, 040, Mid Ulster Volunteer Centre, Supporting Communities NI, Libraries NI and CWSAN.

5. Respect and Inclusion

The respect and inclusion of older people can depend on culture, gender, health status and economic status. The extent to which older people participate in the social, civic and economic life of where they live is closely linked to their experiences of inclusion. With the right policies, environments and support, people can age well. Older people's diverse life experiences, skills and resilience mean they have much to contribute to life and be respected for. Everyone has a right to influence what happens to them as individuals and within wider society.



Mid Ulster Profile

- 71% agreed that society doesn't recognise the contribution that many older people are still able to make.¹⁰
- 19.8% of respondents aged 60+ living in Mid Ulster reported low self-efficacy. People with low self-efficacy often doubt their capabilities, are less ambitious and give up when challenged.¹¹

What works well

- 69% feel respected and included within their community.
- Older people are represented in many local groups and strategic partnerships.
- The Age-friendly co-ordinator encourages engagement and co-design.
- Neighbours are always ready to help if needed and look out for each other.

Key Issues – What the community told

- 21% agreed they are consulted, 50% disagreed not consulted, 41% were not portrayed in a positive manner without stereotypes.
- Older people feel invisible and not seen as a priority. Isolation, loneliness and transport issues are significant factors that affect inclusion. Covid has killed some community spirit because older people are afraid to go out.
- Older people have great assets to bring to society, and appreciate culture and diversity.
- Listen to us regarding our care, fears and anxieties – 86% said there is a need for a forum.
- Only 50% agreed that facilities, shops, businesses and Council had courteous staff trained to understand the needs of older people. "Some people could be more friendly".
- 41% said there are not enough activities for young and older people.
- "Improve transport issues – you will improve inclusion".

"Don't put older people in a box – we have all different needs, some are healthy and then others need more attention. There can be many negative stories on the media of older people – share more good news about older people"

What needs improved

- Value older people and challenge ageism and discrimination in everyday conversations, work and media. Need growth of equality and diversity legislation and policies.
- Older people engage with policymakers, media and community action.
- Promote and support intersectoral, intergenerational approaches to policy development, planning and provision across each and every sector and department.
- More consultations and engagement opportunities to value older people's contribution.

¹⁰ Northern Ireland Life and Times (NILT) Survey 2017.

¹¹ Northern Ireland Continuous Household Survey (CHS) 2020.

Respect and Inclusion Action Plan

There needs to be more opportunities to support and promote active ageing, removing barriers to older people to ensure they are more respected, valued and included. This plan will support and focus on the diverse range of people living within mid ulster from 50+. As we all live longer, there are great opportunities to create vibrant communities, develop life-long interests and aspirations, and support diversity amongst our ageing population considering people living with a disability, LGBT communities, BAME groups and carers.

Outcome: Increased involvement, respect and inclusion with older people feeling more valued.

| Respect and Inclusion | Action Lead |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Action | |
| Develop an Age-friendly Older People’s Forum to consult on policies, age-friendly planning, services and inclusion. | Mid Ulster District Council |
| Connect and support people to participate in digital training and digital inclusion programmes, promoting good news stories. | Libraries NI |
| Promote a positive image of people ageing well, appreciating diversity, and having recognition awards/events to inspire others. | Mid Ulster District Council |
| Promote Positive Ageing Month each October with District-wide engagement opportunities online and face-to-face with positive ageing grants. | Mid Ulster District Council |

Support partners: Age NI Community Navigator, Department of Finance (Digital Inclusion) Linking Generations NI, SHSCT Social Prescribing Service, Southern Health and Social Care Trust, Northern Health and Social Care Trust, First Steps Community Centre, COSTA, STEP, Alzheimer’s Society, Agewell Partnership and CWSAN.

6. Civic Participation

Older people do not stop contributing to their communities on retirement. Many continue to provide unpaid and voluntary work for their families and communities, and they are lead contributors to the economy. An Age-friendly community should provide options for older people to continue contributing to their communities through paid employment or voluntary work, if they so choose, and engage in the political process. It's possible for us all to live meaningful and purposeful lives, participating in and contributing to the workplace, community and society at large.



Mid Ulster Profile

- In 2020, 120,410 people living in Mid Ulster were receiving state pension. In the same year, 5,790 living in Mid Ulster received pension credit.
- In 2016, 9.5% aged 65 + take part in voluntary work without pay. The corresponding figure for those aged 65+ years in Northern Ireland was 10.7%.
- On Census Day 2011, 11.7% of those aged 65+ years in Mid Ulster were economically active and 88.3% were economically inactive. Of those who were economically active, 490 worked full-time, 414 worked part-time, 1,100 were self-employed and 31 were unemployed, and 73.4% had no qualifications. In Northern Ireland, 63.7% of people aged 65+ had no qualifications.

What works well:

- Community assets: numerous halls, meeting venues and welcoming places. Mid Ulster Volunteer Centre, Compassionate communities, Shopmobility, Carers Matters and Carers NI, Mid Ulster Agewell Partnership, The Burnavon and Community Transport.
- Positive Ageing Month - involvement and promotion by Age-friendly Co-ordinator.
- 39% stated there were good opportunities for older people to volunteer.

What the community told us

- Longer working lives and pension age rising. Some older people are not looking forward to retirement. 46% don't know about work and retraining opportunities for older people, 47% said if there was better transport available, they would work.
- Older people don't feel valued in the workforce but have high experience and skills. 64% agreed that older people would work longer if employers were more flexible.
- 59% didn't know who to contact for volunteering. 51% would do voluntary work if they felt supported. 58% don't know who to contact about benefit entitlements and have difficulty accessing them. There is stigma associated with asking for help.

Age Inclusion at work needs addressed. Top issues raised by older employees: confidence, caring responsibilities, health, discrimination, tech, menopause, ageism, fatigue, stigma, undervalued, staying relevant, getting left behind, security fears (Age NI Age at Work conference 2022).

What needs improved

- New ways of engagement are addressed with older people through networks and forums.
- Age-friendly audits are needed in workplaces and consider reasons for economic inactivity.
- Need to promote volunteering opportunities.
- Promote benefit uptake campaigns locally and local discount schemes.

¹² NISRA 2020

Civic Participation Action Plan

Older people need to lead and play vital roles in their communities. Whether through work, volunteering, civic action or family support, the added value of older people's time, expertise and experience is significant. Communities, connection and inclusion are key.

Outcome: Increased support services to encourage opportunities to train, acquire skills, support employment, financial well-being, volunteering and interview skills.

| Civic Participation | Action Lead |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Action | |
| Supporting people to plan for a better later e.g. Research and develop a retirement pack for 50+, promoting engagement and volunteering opportunities. | Mid Ulster District Council |
| Encourage businesses to prioritise Age-friendly planning and retain an older workforce e.g. Age NI Age @ Work Mid-Career reviews, Age-friendly training and policies to support roles. | Mid Ulster District Council Age NI |
| Promote cost-of-living, benefit uptake and financial well-being workshops e.g. Make the Call pop-up clinics. | STEP |

Support partners: Age NI, Business in the Community, STEP, First Steps Community Centre, Libraries NI, Mid Ulster District Council, Compassionate communities, Mid Ulster Volunteer Centre and Banks.

7. Communication and Information

Staying connected with events and people and getting timely, practical information to manage life and meet personal needs is vital for active ageing. Age-friendly communities have relevant information that is readily accessible to older people with varying capacities and resources. Newspapers, radio, tv, social media, internet, community notices and community navigator roles are all important in supporting effective communication.



Mid Ulster Profile

- Seven libraries are located in Mid Ulster.¹³
- In 2016, 71% aged 65 + people in Mid Ulster have never accessed the internet. 46% of people aged 65+ living in Northern Ireland have never accessed the Internet.¹⁴
- In 2019/20, 40% of respondents to the Northern Ireland Continuous Household Survey aged 65+ reported using online channels to access public services.

What works well:

- Ezines: Council Community Newsletter, Health Alliance NI newsletter, Age NI Community Navigator Snapshot and Carers Matters. Networks: Mid Ulster Loneliness Network, MUSN, COSTA, and CWSAN. Websites: NHSCT directory of services, Connect North, Mid Ulster Agewell Partnership.
- Survey respondents: 44% read newspapers, 82% listen to the radio and 96% watch tv to gain information. 34% use a local community facility (church, community hall) for information and 10% used the community navigator scheme. 61% information from the Council is easy to understand. 60% didn't know who to contact to get information on older people's issues.

What the community told us...

- 71% over 65 are not able to use the internet. Technology is a barrier. – not everyone on social media and the IT world is moving too fast-slow broadband speeds in certain areas.
- 24% wanted support on how to use the internet.
- Most older people rely on word of mouth to find out about opportunities.
- Lack of awareness of services and opportunities, one-stop HUB for older people.
- Duplication of messages and support via trusts, PHA, Councils and Community groups.



“Older people can face difficulties when searching for clear, accessible information. We need trustworthy sources of information and advice to support older people make informed decisions about all aspects of later life.”

What needs improved

- Council social media could be significantly improved with weekly messages.
- Digital inclusion training and support access to devices.
- More positive messaging and link in with welcoming places.
- Information & advice portal for staff and professionals – co-design approach.
- Access to libraries needs to be improved, and mobile reading/ information rooms in villages.

¹³ LGD2014.

¹⁴ Labour Force Survey from January-March 2019.

Communication and Information Action Plan

Personal interaction with service providers is important. We can not rely on digital communication and information leaflets to get information out. We need to utilise a mix of communication methods. Service providers in Mid Ulster need to work together to share how they provide public information, ensuring people feel motivated by what they read. We will ensure older people have the information, advice and support they need to claim their rights, entitlements, and access services.

Outcome: A good effective communication system that enhances well-being, so that as we age, we can continue to be informed and engage in our community with the confidence of support.

| Communication and Information | Action Lead |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Action | |
| Provide online sessions such as financial fraud, and TV Licensing Scam Awareness talks. | PCSP PSNI |
| Develop an Age-friendly newsletter with essential contacts, linking to Mid Ulster District Council website. | Mid Ulster District Council |
| Develop one-stop shops for people to access information i.e. Rural areas information roadshows. | Mid Ulster District Council |
| Connect and support people to access information, including digital training, digital inclusion programmes and promoting digital champions. | Libraries NI |
| Encourage organisations to produce Age-friendly documents, including funding applications. | Mid Ulster District Council |
| To develop a communication action plan i.e. developing a database for partners, organisations and older people's groups for future communications. | Mid Ulster District Council |

Support Partners: PSNI, Age NI, Linking Generations NI, SHSCT Social Prescribing Service, Northern Health and Social Care Trust, COSTA, DeafBlind NI, Community Health Connectors, Community Ambassadors, Mid Ulster Agewell Partnership and CWSAN.

8. Community Support and Health

Community support and health services are vital to maintaining health and independence in the community. Civil society can provide a role in supporting the health of a community with programmes, services and activities such as fitness, wellness, diet, supporting health conditions, GP, dentist, hospital, home help, befriending, carers, sitting, daycare and care homes which all play an essential role in supporting better health and wellness.



Mid Ulster Profile

- There were 918 people on the Dementia Register (all ages) living in Mid Ulster.
- 1,990 are in receipt of carer's allowance. 5,790 are in receipt of pension credits.
- From those surveyed: 50% rated their health and quality of life good; 37% have day to day activities limited a little because of their health with 10% say they are limited a lot by their health.

What works well

- 87% eat well and have a varied diet and 92% cook for themselves.
- 52% said health and social services in their area provide a good service.
- 64% didn't know of good home care services in the area: home helps, carers and sitting service.
- 45% stated there were good residential facilities in the area: care homes, day centres etc.
- Compassionate communities, carers matters, a variety of day care, home helps, nursing care, carers and community activities, hearing clinics and safety talks.
- Council: Recycling, waste management, sports and leisure facilities, warm home schemes, chatty walks, Make a Change Programme and Agewell Partnership

What the community told us

- Accessing GP, dental services and hospital appointments. 80% didn't know who to contact in an emergency. The fear of becoming ill and long A&E triage times and complex systems.
- Care at home not available when discharged from hospital, no control over decisions going to bed or getting up, carers only time on microwave meals, carer low paid, inadequate care.
- Living with long term pain, ill health, hard of hearing/ disabilities, visual impairment and mobility.
- 52% don't know of affordable health and wellness programmes and classes in their local area i.e. nutrition, smoking cessation and weight control. 69% don't know of affordable fitness activities for older people. 79% don't know of support for chronic health conditions.
- Mental health issues, loneliness on the rise and insecurity of the future.

"We need health and well-being hubs to incorporate pharmacy, dentist, doctor, nurse led services, physiotherapist, nutritionist etc."

What needs improved

- Physical activities, keep active programmes online and offline – creative involvement.
- Provide better leisure centre facilities for groups of older adults to use.
- Better access to care and support to help people and their families live well.
- Dying matters need to be talked about – more talks about leaving behind digital footprints, funeral planning and wills.

Community Support and Health Action Plan

Activities, services and relationships help us all to live independent and healthy lives. As we age, our needs change and people require assistance due to disability, vulnerability, illness, incapacity or old age. We need to pay attention to promoting independence, social inclusion, safeguarding, mobility and well-being. Delivering effective support and helping people age with dignity helps prevent and address pressures elsewhere in the health system. To respond positively to an ageing population, we need action to help people stay well and feel good for longer and deliver positive outcomes for older people now and in the future.

Outcome: A system that enhances well-being and independence with a focus on early intervention and prevention so that as we age, we can continue to engage with professionals and the community maintaining our dignity and with care.

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

Support Partners: Age NI, Mid Ulster Volunteer Centre, Age-friendly Co-ordinator, Gobility/Shopmobility, COSTA, Sport NI, CWSAN - Health Alliance, older people's groups, Community Health Connectors, Community Ambassadors, PHA and private agencies.

7. MAKING OUR PLAN HAPPEN

To make our Age-friendly plan work, we need the support of all stakeholders to ensure that they deliver what is needed to have a thriving Age-friendly community.

Age-friendly Alliance: This multiagency partnership will lead in delivering this Age-friendly strategic plan. Alliance members will work together to support the needs and aspirations of older people. They will drive the process locally and have agreed to terms of reference and structures for linking to other Mid Ulster District Council's community planning processes.

The Mid Ulster Council: The Council is funded by the PHA to develop an Age-Friendly community. They are also a member of the WHO Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities, UK Network of Age-friendly communities through the Centre for Ageing Better UK and Age-friendly Network NI where Age-friendly best practices are shared, and learning is brought back to Mid Ulster.

An Age-friendly Co-ordinator: As a Council staff member, they will support the Age Friendly Alliance meetings, reporting to community planning structures with updates on progress. The Age-friendly co-ordinator will facilitate quarterly Age-friendly Alliance meetings ensuring all relevant stakeholders remain engaged, including having internal meetings with Council strategic leads.

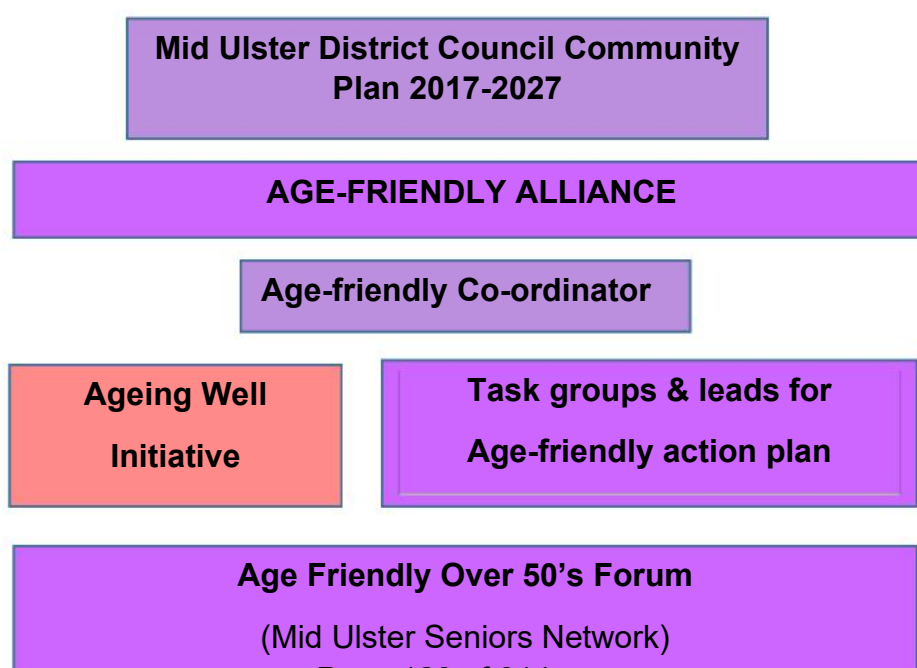
Tasks Groups and Action Leads: Task groups and action leads will be appointed to take on responsibilities, identify resources and set performance measures. Action leads will report back to the Age-friendly Alliance at quarterly meetings.

Older People's Forum: We will refresh the membership and terms of reference of the Mid Ulster Seniors Network (representatives of older people's groups and service providers) to include an older people's forum. We will engage with older people ensuring they have their voices heard.

Ageing Well Initiative: By working together, we can achieve great things from our combined efforts in supporting and developing the Agewell Initiative with the community sector.

IMPLEMENTATION STRUCTURE

 *Already in place*  *Community and Voluntary service*



8. MEASURING THE IMPACT

Becoming Age-friendly is not something that happens overnight and there are several steps that need to be taken. The planning, implementation, evaluation and improvement aspects of Age-friendly is a continuous process as shown in the figure 4 below.



Figure 4: The Age-friendly Management Cycle

We will adopt an outcomes-based approach to show what difference the actions have made. This will provide a manageable performance framework through which the Age-friendly Alliance can monitor and review progress against suggested actions and outcomes.

This performance management framework will require the Age-friendly Alliance to work collaboratively with a wide range of partners.

To be included in the performance management framework:

- Purpose of measurement of the strategic plan – ensuring actions are addressing gaps.
- Age-friendly strategic action leads and task groups.
- Key performance indicators (KPI's) used to measure impact.
- Formal reporting scorecards agreed.
- Communication to Age-friendly Alliance
- Communication to Community Planning structures.
- Older people's forum to provide feedback and engagement reviewing the plan.

9. STAKEHOLDERS

Developing this strategy was a people-led process where multiple stakeholders told us about living in the Mid Ulster area. Wide engagement gained views and informed the new action plans over the next three years. They all offered invaluable insights into key challenges, solutions and we thank them for their commitment and engagement.

By working with a wide range of older people's service providers and statutory partners, the new Age-friendly Alliance will be able to collectively pool knowledge and expertise to achieve delivering this plan together. Age-friendly stakeholders will have a vested interest in the needs and aspirations of older people.

Action leads and support partners from the public, private, community and voluntary sectors will be involved in delivering this plan. They will inform current issues and identify future strategic actions, priorities and key performance indicators.

Other statutory partners may include: Clanmill Housing, Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS), DfC, DfI, Education Authority (EA), Integrated Care Partnership, Northern Health and Social Care Trust (NHSCT), Southern Health and Social Care Trust (SHSCT), Health and Social Care Board (HSCB), Invest Northern Ireland (Invest NI), Northern Ireland Library Authority (Libraries NI), Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB), Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS), Public Health Agency (PHA), Mid Ulster District Council, (Community Planning CVS Forum), Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE), NIFRS, Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), PCSP and Sports Council for Northern Ireland (Sport NI).



10. POLICY CONTEXT

The Age-friendly strategy and action plan for the Mid Ulster District connects to and complements other strategies and policies that impact older people's lives.

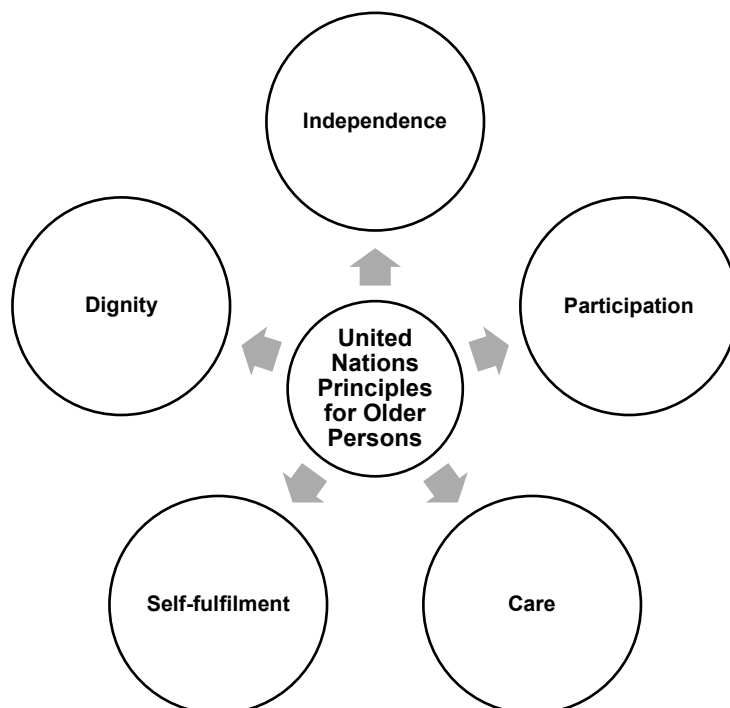
The WHO Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities was established in 2010 to connect cities, communities, and organisations worldwide with the shared vision of making their community a great place to grow old. The Global Network currently includes over 1333 cities in 47 countries, covering 298 million people worldwide.

Mid Ulster District Council provide the leadership to explore Mid Ulster becoming an Age-friendly City and Community. In 2018 Mid Ulster District Council signed the WHO Age-friendly Declaration, and in 2021 the Chair of the Council signed a declaration committing to this process by joining the World Health Organisation (WHO) Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities.

This section considers key strategies that relate to an Age-friendly district. Of particular importance are the Department for Communities' Active Ageing Strategy 2016–22, Making Life Better 2012-2023 A Whole System Framework for Public Health and Commissioner for older people Northern Ireland Corporate Plan 2023-2024 Right Here Right Now.

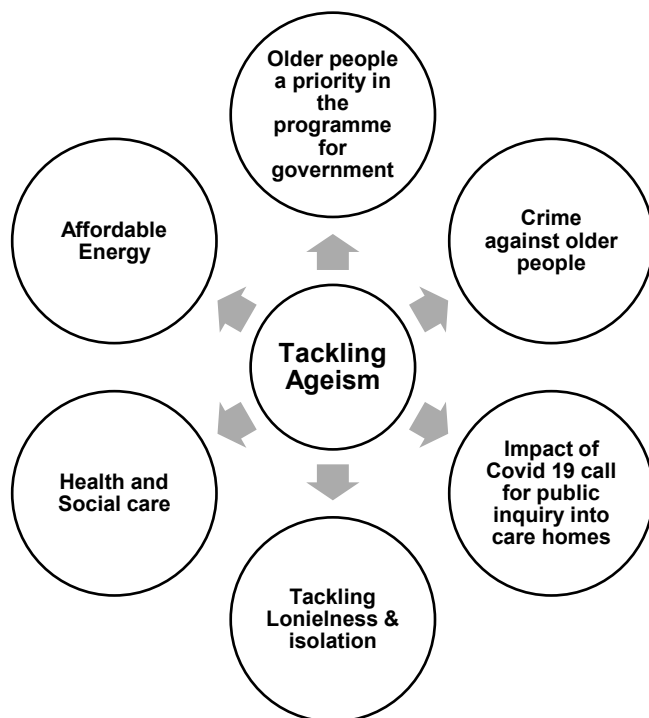
Department for Communities' Active Ageing Strategy 2016–2022

The Active Ageing Strategy vision is one of "Northern Ireland Being An Age-friendly In Which People, As They Grow Older, Are Valued And Supported To Live Actively To Their Fullest Potential; With Their Rights Respected And Their Dignity Protected." This strategy aims to increase understanding of the issues affecting older people and promote and emphasise their rights, value, and contribution. The strategy is informed by five key themes.



Commissioner for older people Northern Ireland Corporate Plan 2023-2024 Right Here Right Now.

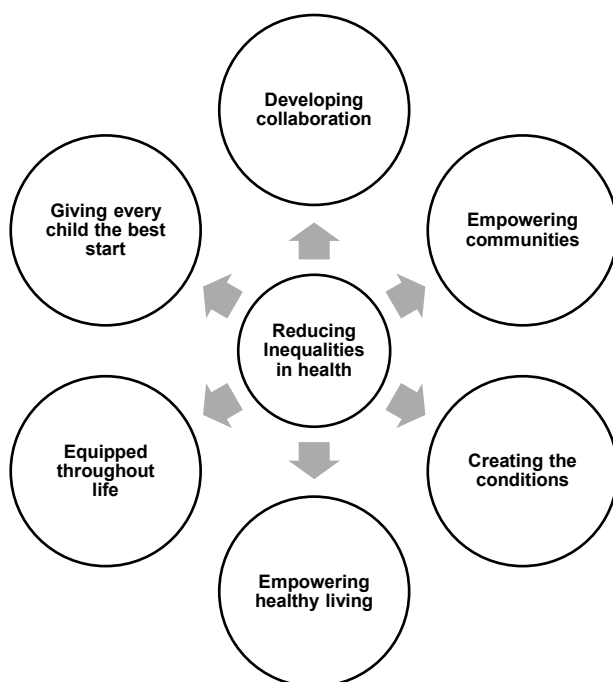
The Commissioner's vision is that: "Northern Ireland is a great place to age". The Commissioner's priorities will focus on six key issues.



Making Life Better 2012-2023 A Whole System Framework for Public Health

Making Life Better's vision is: "All People Are Enabled And Supported In Achieving Their Full Health And Well-being Potential." Its aims are to achieve better health and well-being for everyone and reduce inequalities in health. Making Life Better is structured around six themes.

Regional policies, strategies and supporting documents relating to the Age Sector to support this strategic plan. During consultations, Mid Ulster stakeholders analysed the external environment and the following public documents, policies and research were taken into consideration when making the action plans.



Other policies that relate to supporting an Age-friendly district include:

- Anti-Poverty Strategy
- Active Ageing Strategy (Department for Communities)
- Access to Cash Strategy 2020
- Advance Care Planning Policy (Department of Health)
- Age NI Strategy 2022
- Age NI Election Manifesto 2022
- Adult Protection Bill for Northern Ireland
- Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland with NIA
- Cancer Strategy for Northern Ireland 2022 -2032
- COPNI Corporate Plan 2023-2024: Right Here Right Now
- Consumer Council NI
- Department of Health's Urgent and Emergency Care Services
- Digital Inclusion Strategy 2022-2030
- Disability Strategy 2021-2026
- Inconsiderate Pavement Parking with IMTAC
- Gender Inequality
- Gender strategy and Sexual Orientation strategy
- Hourglass safer ageing index 2022
- European Union Settlement Scheme
- Mental Health Strategy 2021-2031
- NISRA Census data
- Northern Ireland Housing Executive's Older People's Housing Strategy 2021/22 - 2025/26
- Organ donation – PHA statutory opt-out system for Northern Ireland
- PHA: 'Making Life Better - a whole system framework for public health (2013-23)
- Programme for Government Outcomes Framework
- Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2022
- Strategy to End Violence Against Women and Girls
- The Housing Supply Strategy for Northern Ireland
- Victims of Crime Commissioner

There needs to be an integrated approach to address these external strategies, ensuring Mid Ulster Age-friendly actions are aligned with them to make sure they are all implemented effectively, guaranteeing better outcomes for older people. This Age-friendly strategy and its full implementation provide a unique chance to do things differently with a collaborative approach.

Over the next three years, there is the opportunity to improve structures and services so that older people have access to the advice, care and support they need when they need it, and in a way that helps them and their families to live and age well.

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT AGE-FRIENDLY



Want to know more about Age-friendly

Contact details

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Prepared by: Elaine Curry Coaching

**Mid Ulster
Age-friendly
Strategic Plan
2023-2026**



Our Plan for an Ageing Community

Ensuring people age well in Mid Ulster



Age Friendly
Mid Ulster

WHAT IS IN THE PLAN

- Age-friendly plan introduction.....Page 3
- Profile of growing older in Mid Ulster.....Page 4
- Steps taken by the Council to datePage 5
- How this plan links to the Council’s plan.....Page 6
- Age-friendly 8 key themes with actions.....Page 7
 - Theme 1: Outdoor Spaces Buildings.....Page 7
 - Theme 2: Transport.....Page 8
 - Theme 3: Housing.....Page 9
 - Theme 4: Social Participation.....Page 10
 - Theme 5: Respect and Social Inclusion.....Page 11
 - Theme 6: Civic participation and Employment.....Page 12
 - Theme 7: Communication and Information.....Page 13
 - Theme 8: Community and Health Services.....Page 14
- Making the plan happenPage 15

AGE- FRIENDLY PLAN INTRODUCTION



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



AGE FRIENDLY

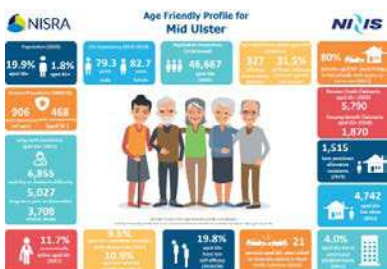
An Age-friendly community is one in which people of all ages can live healthy and active lives and where everyone is treated with respect, regardless of their age. As we all live longer, there are huge opportunities to create ageing well communities.



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



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



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

PROFILE OF GROWING OLDER IN MID ULSTER

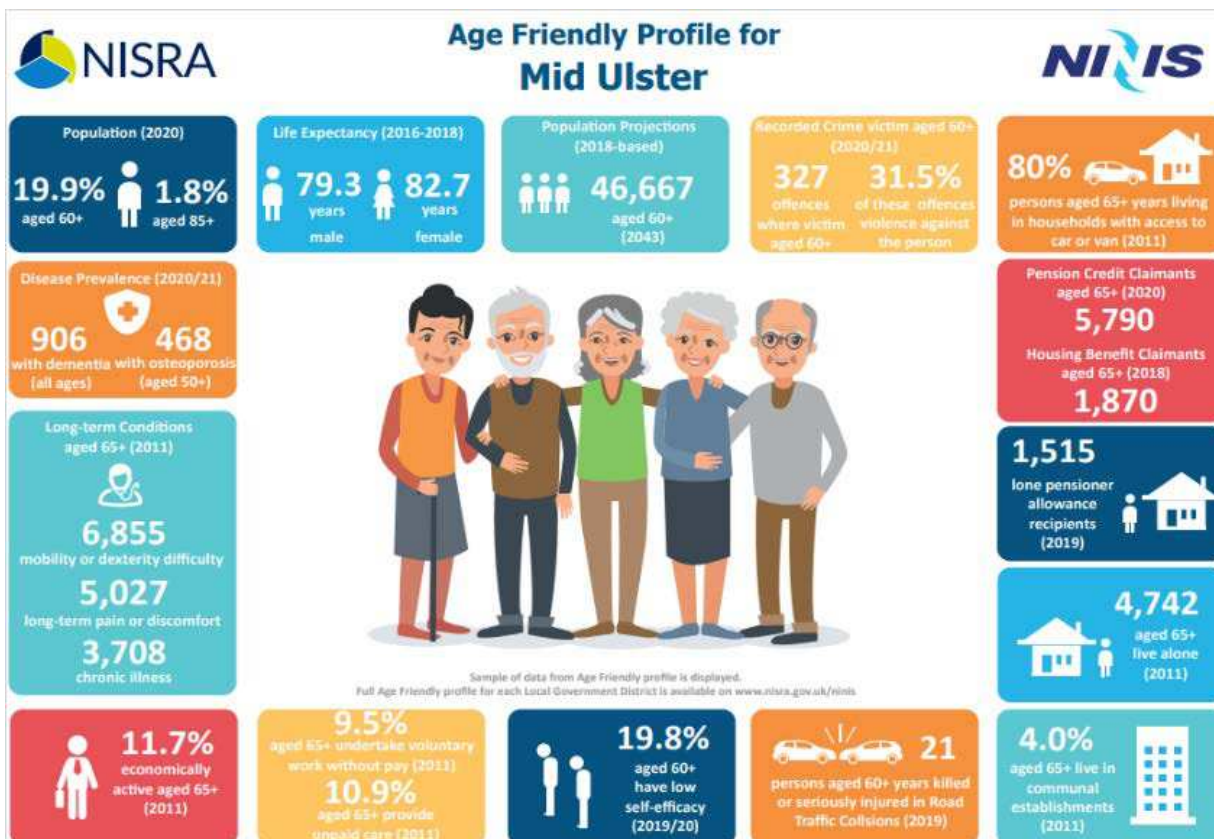
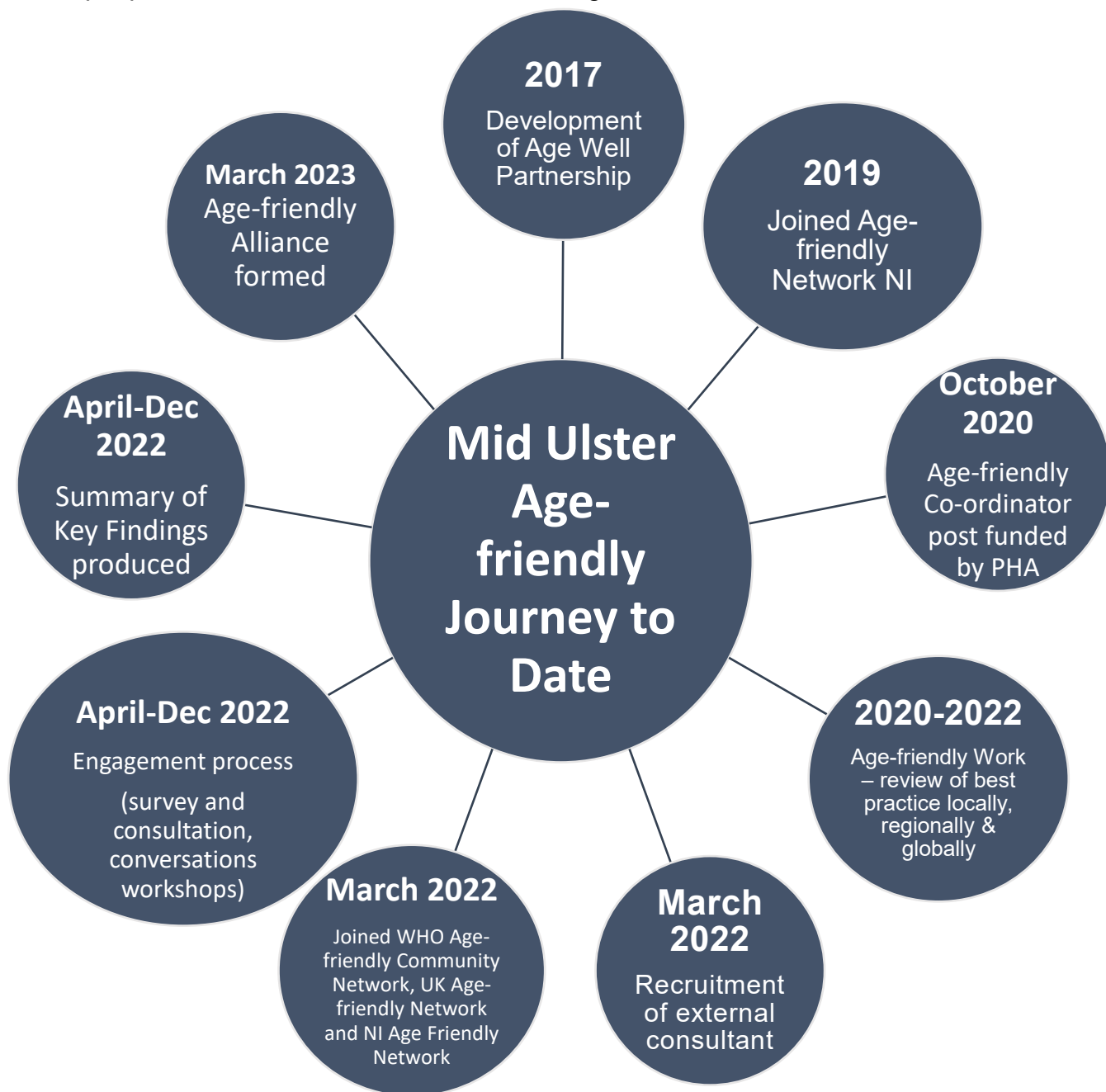


Figure 2: Age-friendly Profile www.nisra.gov.uk/ninis
https://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/download/Infographics/AFP_All.pdf

- 148,528 Population of Mid Ulster (2020)
- 29,557 Mid Ulster population aged 60+ years **19.9%**
- 2,673 Aged 85+ **1.8%**
- 46,667** Mid Ulster aged 60+ expected to rise to by **2043**

STEPS TAKEN BY COUNCIL TO DATE

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



Positive Ageing Month Delivery (October)

Launch of Chatty cafés, Chatty benches and Chatty libraires alongside Mid Ulster Loneliness Network

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

Centre For Better Ageing Annual Conference Birmingham

Access Adult Training and walkability audits alongside Mid Ulster Disability Forum

Delievery of small Grant programmes

Involved in consultation DfC Active Ageing Strategy and Age NI

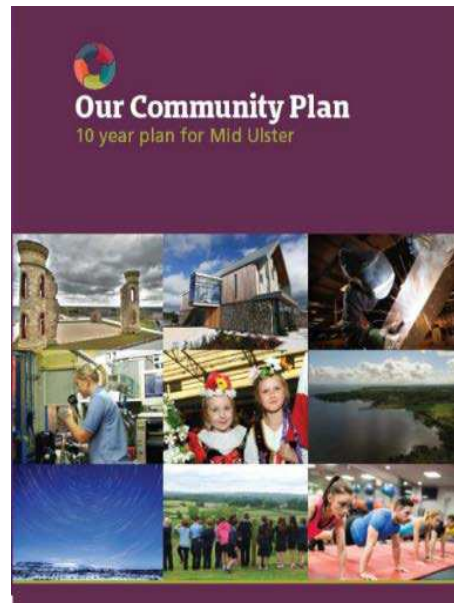
Meeting with Commissioner for Older People NI Eddie Lynch

AGE-FRIENDLY AND OUR COMMUNITY PLAN

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

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

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



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

Our Vision

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

AGE-FRIENDLY 8 THEMES WITH ACTIONS

Theme 1: Outdoor Spaces Buildings Action Plan

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

Suggested Actions:



Encourage and promote more access to outdoor spaces – recreation, leisure, parks, chatty benches and chatty cafes.



Develop a set of Age-friendly design guidelines and business charters for our district that will grow over time.



Promote accessibility apps and websites and recognition of Age-friendly awards to places to promote accessibility.



Promote anti-littering programmes of education, awareness raising and enforcement.



Explore options to improve accessibility along pavements and roads e.g. Awareness raising and signage.

Theme 2: Transport Action Plan

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

Suggested Actions:



Engage with decision makers to maintain community transport services; improving the reliability, accessibility and affordability of transport within town, rural areas and hospital settings.



Promote smart passes and community transport, volunteer driver schemes with good news stories promoting services and easy to read timetables.



Promote Shopmobility and GObility services and increase referrals from healthcare professionals across Mid Ulster, including NHSCT and SHSCT.



Promote Age-friendly Awareness Training to all transport providers.

Theme 3: Housing Action Plan

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

Suggested Actions:



Scope and promote the opportunities for people to remain independently at home in a safe, warm and affordable environment as they age well in their own homes.



Lobby government to support home grant schemes that enable people to live independently in a safe, warm and affordable home.



Maintain a good morning call and home maintenance service for those in need.



Promote Dementia Friendly assisted technology and safety measures with Herbert Protocol and PSNI.

Theme 4: Social Participation

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

Suggested Actions:



Develop more chatty places – warm, friendly chat areas, promoting libraries providing services for older people such as reading newspapers aloud, a cup of tea etc.



Increase Age-friendly promotion, i.e: social media/ newsletter to highlight current activities, organisations and good news stories.



Encourage the development of buddy schemes to support involvement in local activities and community groups.



Promote training for staff who work in the community, the voluntary and educational sectors.



Ensure better access to affordable services and activities that are age appropriate with convenient times and locations.

Theme 5: Respect and Social Inclusion Action Plan

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

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

Suggested Actions



Develop an Age-friendly older people's forum to consult on policies and inclusion.



Connect and support people to participate in digital training and digital inclusion programmes.



Promote a positive image of people ageing well, appreciating diversity and having recognition awards/ events to inspire others.



Promote Positive Ageing Month each October with District-wide engagement opportunities online and face-to-face with positive ageing grants.

Theme 6: Civic Participation Action Plan

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

Suggested Actions



Support people to plan for a better later, i.e. Produce Retirement packs for 50+, and promote volunteering opportunities.



Encourage businesses to prioritise Age-friendly planning and retain an older workforce, i.e. Age NI Age @ Work mid-career reviews, Age-friendly training and policies to support roles i.e. Menopause.



Promote cost-of-living, benefit uptake and financial well-being workshops i.e. Make the Call pop-up clinics.

Theme 7: Communication and Information Action Plan

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

Suggested Actions



Provide online sessions such as pension advice, and TV licensing scam awareness talks.



Develop an Age-friendly newsletter with essential contacts, linking to Mid Ulster District Council website.



Develop one-stop shops for people to access information i.e. Rural areas information roadshows.



Connect and support people to access information, including digital training, digital inclusion programmes and promoting digital champions.



Encourage organisations to produce Age-friendly documents, including funding applications.

Theme 8: Community Support and Health

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

Suggested Actions



Build and maintain relationships with all service providers to share support and increase referrals, i.e., meals on wheels, luncheon clubs and food banks.



Identify and promote good mental health and well-being programmes and support. Mental Health Community Ambassadors, Take 5 Programme, Safer U App, Scam Wise and Action Mental Health workshops.



Share information on health issues, relevant services, development opportunities regarding nutrition, diabetes, sleep routines and public health messages.



Raise awareness and promote physical activity programmes i.e. Physical activity referral scheme, walking groups and leisure centre activities.



Support and raise awareness around End-of-Life Care.

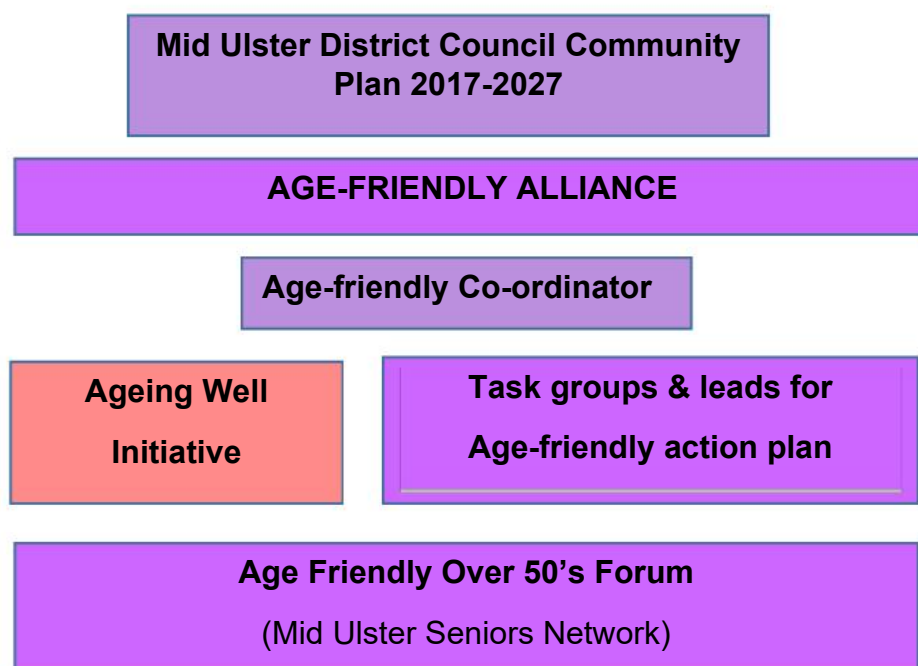
MAKING OUR PLAN HAPPEN

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

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

OUR AGE-FRIENDLY STRUCTURE

 *Already in place*  *Community and Voluntary service*



WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT AGE-FRIENDLY?



(What older people wanted to see from the plan)

Contact details

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



Prepared by: Elaine Curry Coaching

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Report on | Funding offer from Department of Business Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) 2023-2024 |
| Date of Meeting | 5th July 2023 |
| Reporting Officer | Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing |
| Contact Officer | Melanie Patterson, Environmental Health Service Manager |

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

| | |
|------------|---|
| 1.0 | Purpose of Report |
| 1.1 | To inform Council of a potential funding opportunity for the Environmental Health service area from the OPSS for 'The Capacity & Capability Building Programme in Northern Ireland: Non-Food Products 2023/24'. Funding is for the period 1 st April 2023 – 31 st March 2024. |
| 2.0 | Background |
| 2.1 | The Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) was created in January 2018 to deliver consumer protection and to support business confidence, productivity, and growth. They are the overarching body for all aspects of Product Safety for which the Councils Environmental Health service has enforcement responsibility. |
| 2.2 | From 2018, OPSS, the national regulator for all consumer products, has worked with district councils in Northern Ireland to enable them to undertake market surveillance (sampling, complaint investigation etc.) and provide advice and support to local businesses regarding product safety responsibilities. This has included a grant funding arrangement either made directly to Council or through a Service Level Agreement with a lead Council. |
| 2.3 | Previously in February 2023, Members at the Development Committee resolved to accept a similar funding award for the programme that covered the 1 st July 2022 – 31 st March 2023 period (minute reference: D030/23). Council therefore achieved grant income of £55,000 to cover eligible expenditure for that period. |
| 3.0 | Main Report |
| 3.1 | In June 2023, the Office of Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) issued an offer of grant funding to each individual District Council for the period 1 st April 2023 – 31 st March 2024. |
| 3.2 | The purpose of the grant programme is to further support District Councils in Northern Ireland to build capacity and capability to ensure the safety of consumers following a similar programme awarded for the period 1 st July 2022 – 31 st March 2023. It funds targeted and prioritised regulatory activity on non-food consumer products as part of the OPSS's approach to ensuring there is robust market surveillance across the UK. |
| 3.3 | The funding may be used for a range of activity on non-food products, and includes work to: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • build on previous product safety capacity and capability building work. • ensure access to enforcement equipment and facilities |

| | |
|------------|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide advice and support to local businesses to meet their obligations under product safety legislation for importing and appropriate labelling/marketing of goods • define work processes • develop officers' understanding of local supply chains and their associated risks • ensure adequate prioritisation of effort and resource against OPSS policy and national regulatory interests • ad hoc requests for case studies or other additional information. |
| 3.4 | The grant funding agreement (offering a maximum amount of up to £55,000) can be used for eligible expenditure from the 1 st April 2023 – 31 st March 2024 (Appendix A). The funding for relevant activities undertaken during this period will be paid directly to Council. |
| 3.5 | It is expected that District Councils will report to the OPSS on delivery of the activities, through for example, the provision of information on inputs to relevant databases; engagement with businesses and outcomes; submission of records of activity; and review meetings at the end of the grant funding year. |
| 3.6 | If accepted, the funding will be drawn down based on the resource allocated to complete the specified activities. This would include areas of work included with the Council's Consumer Protection 2023/2024 work-plan including a focus on ensuring that consumer goods produced and/or on sale in the District are safe and also to provide advice and guidance to manufacturers, distributors and retailer to comply with the relevant legislation and guidance. The funding is up to a maximum of £55,000 and will be utilised in the main to offset the salary associated with additional Environmental Health Officer time. |
| 4.0 | Other Considerations |
| 4.1 | Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications |
| | Financial: Up to a maximum of £55,000 in grant to be received by MUDC subject to eligible claim expenditure before deadline of 31 st March 2024. |
| | Human: Officer time to undertake required activities. Recruitment of additional officer(s) where relevant in line with grant offer – no additional cost to Council. |
| | Risk Management: Considered in line with Council Policies and Procedures. |
| 4.2 | Screening & Impact Assessments |
| | Equality & Good Relations Implications: None anticipated at this juncture. |
| | Rural Needs Implications: None anticipated at this juncture. |
| 5.0 | Recommendation(s) |
| 5.1 | It is recommended that Council accepts the offer of funding from OPSS (up to a maximum of £55,000) in relation to activities undertaken in 2023/2024, and if accepted, that it be recommended to the Chief Executive that he operate his Delegated Authority Resolve under the Scheme of Delegation for Senior Officers to sign and return the funding agreement between Mid Ulster District Council and the Department of Business Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS). |

| | |
|------------|---|
| 6.0 | Documents Attached & References |
| 6.1 | Appendix A - Grant funding agreement from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy's Office for Product Safety and Standards |



Department for
Business & Trade

Monica McDonnell
Mid Ulster District Council
Burn Road
Cookstown
Northern Ireland
BT80 8DT

Date: 21 June 23

Dear Monica,

CAPACITY & CAPABILITY BUILDING PROGRAMME IN NORTHERN IRELAND: NON-FOOD PRODUCTS — 2023/24

1. I am pleased to inform you that Secretary of State for The Department of Business and Trade (referred to in this letter as **“We”/ “Us”/ “Our”**), offers **Mid Ulster District Council** (referred to in this letter as **“You”/ “Your”**) a grant (**“Grant”**) subject to Your agreement to, and compliance with, the terms and conditions set out in this agreement (the **“Grant Funding Agreement”**).

The Grant Funding Agreement includes and incorporates this letter along with the following documents:

- ANNEX 1: The standard **Terms and Conditions**;
- ANNEX 2: The description of the **Funded Activities**;
- ANNEX 3: The **Payments Schedule**;
- ANNEX 4: Your **Bank details**;
- ANNEX 5: The **Eligible Expenditure**;
- ANNEX 6: The Grant Claim Form requirements (**this document is not included**)
- ANNEX 7: The **Contact details**

2. The Grant is offered under s.274(a) of the Enterprise Act 2002.

Amount of Grant

3. The maximum amount of Grant offered is up to £55,000 (fifty-five thousand pounds) and is provided to your District Council for the project outlined in Annex 2. This is the total amount of Grant that We may pay, and this amount will not be increased because of any overspend. This will be paid in financial year ending on 31st March 2024.

Purpose of Grant

4. The Grant is offered to You to contribute to certain expenditure (see paragraph 5, **“Eligible Expenditure”**) where that expenditure is reasonably incurred by You in undertaking (**“the Funded Activities”**).
5. A description of the Funded Activities is set out in **Annex 2** to this letter.

Eligible Expenditure

6. Subject to paragraphs 7 and 8, the Eligible Expenditure is limited to the costs specified in **Annex 5** to this letter.
7. Under no circumstances may the Grant be claimed or used to cover any Ineligible Expenditure listed in paragraph 5.3 of **Annex 1** to this Grant Funding Agreement or to cover costs incurred for those purposes (and any such costs do not constitute Eligible Expenditure for the purposes of this Grant Funding Agreement). The Eligible Expenditure must be kept to the minimum for the efficient conduct of the Funded Activities, and expenditure that We reasonably determine to be in excess of that amount does not constitute Eligible Expenditure.

Funding Period

8. The Eligible Expenditure for which the Grant is awarded is expenditure limited to costs which are incurred between **1st April 2023** and **31st March 2024**.

Payment of Grant

9. The Grant will be paid in arrears, on a reimbursement basis upon receipt from You of an invoice in the form set out in **Annex 6** to this Grant Funding Agreement.

Accountable Officer

- 10.1 You must appoint a person (the "**Accountable Officer**") responsible for ensuring that You use the Grant in compliance with the Grant Funding Agreement and notify Us of the identity of the Accountable Officer.
- 10.2 The Accountable Officer must maintain oversight of Your use of the Grant and:
 - a) safeguard, control and ensure the efficient, economical and effective management of the Grant;
 - b) advise You on the discharge of Your responsibilities under the Agreement and under any subsequent terms and conditions agreed by You and Us, or any guidance or other information notified by Us;
 - c) ensure that principles of probity, robust governance, transparency and value for money are maintained at all times in relation to the Grant;
 - d) be responsible for signing the accounts relating to the Grant, ensuring that they are properly prepared and presented and that proper accounting records are maintained in a form that complies with generally accepted accounting practices to which You are subject; and
 - e) ensure that conflicts of interest are avoided.

Grant Claims

11. Your Grant claim[s] must include the following:
 - a) the information and evidence required for the relevant instalment in Condition 4 in **Annex 1**; and

- b) accompanying that information and evidence, the appropriate assurance required by Condition 7 in **Annex 1**.

Reasonable assurance report

Not required.

Conditions Precedent

- 12. The offer of Grant is conditional on You providing Us with the following:
 - a) the completed and signed form in **Annex 4** confirming Your bank details and the details of Your signatories.
 - b) evidence showing that an Accountable Officer has been appointed.
- 13. You must ensure that We receive the information and evidence required above within one month of the date of this Grant Funding Agreement. Should You fail to do so, or should We reasonably conclude that the information and evidence provided prior to that deadline is unsatisfactory, We shall be entitled to withdraw the Grant (and any Grant already paid by then will be repayable with interest).

Assets

Not applicable

Warranties

- 14. By signing this Grant Funding Agreement, you warrant and represent that:
 - a) Your obligations under the Grant Funding Agreement are legal, valid, binding and enforceable;
 - b) all authorisations and consents necessary to enable You to enter into and perform the obligations in the Grant Funding Agreement have been obtained; and
 - c) the person signing this Grant Funding Agreement is duly authorised to sign on your behalf.
- 15. Nothing in the Grant Funding Agreement or the provision of Grant gives or is intended to give rise to contractual relations.

Notices and contact

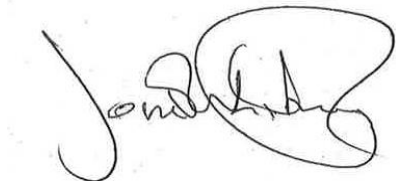
- 16. In communicating with Us, Your contact within the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy is Debra Macleod (debra.macleod@BEIS.gov.uk)

Acceptance

- 17. If You wish to accept this offer, You must sign and date the duplicate copy of this Grant Funding Agreement as indicated below and return one signed copy to Us. It must be signed by someone who is authorised to sign on behalf of your organisation. Please provide evidence of their

authority to sign and bind your organisation. Please also provide a day-to-day contact name and email address.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Eatough', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Jonathan Eatough
Deputy Chief Executive
Office for Product Safety & Standards

Agreement

I confirm, for and on behalf of Mid Ulster District Council, the agreement of Mid Ulster District Council to the terms and conditions set out or referred to in this Grant Funding Agreement.

Signed:

Printed Name:

Position:

Date:

Day to day contact for the Grant:

Name:

Position:

Email address:

Accountable Officer for the Grant:

Name:

Email address:

ANNEX 1

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

| | PAGE NO |
|--|---------|
| 1. INTRODUCTION..... | 6 |
| 2. DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION..... | 6 |
| 3. DURATION AND PURPOSE OF THE GRANT | 11 |
| 4. PAYMENT OF GRANT | 12 |
| 5. ELIGIBLE AND INELIGIBLE EXPENDITURE | 13 |
| 6. MONITORING AND REPORTING | 15 |
| 7. AUDITING AND ASSURANCE | 16 |
| 8. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND PREVENTION OF BRIBERY, CORRUPTION, FRAUD AND OTHER IRREGULARITY | 17 |
| 9. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST | 17 |
| 10. CONFIDENTIALITY | 17 |
| 11. TRANSPARENCY..... | 18 |
| 12. STATUTORY DUTIES | 18 |
| 13. DATA PROTECTION AND PUBLIC PROCUREMENT | 19 |
| 14. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS | 19 |
| 15. ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS..... | 20 |
| 16. ASSETS | 20 |
| 17. INSURANCE..... | 20 |
| 18. ASSIGNMENT | 20 |
| 19. SPENDING CONTROLS – MARKETING, ADVERTISING, COMMUNICATIONS AND CONSULTANCY..... | 21 |
| 20. LOSS, GIFTS AND SPECIAL PAYMENTS | 21 |
| 21. BORROWING | 21 |
| 22. PUBLICITY | 21 |
| 23. CHANGES TO THE AUTHORITY’S REQUIREMENTS | 21 |
| 24. CLAWBACK, EVENTS OF DEFAULT, TERMINATION AND RIGHTS RESERVED FOR BREACH AND TERMINATION | 22 |
| 25. EXIT PLAN..... | 26 |
| 26. DISPUTE RESOLUTION | 26 |
| 27. LIMITATION OF LIABILITY..... | 26 |
| 28. VAT | 26 |
| 29. CODE OF CONDUCT FOR GRANT RECIPIENTS | 26 |
| 30. NOTICES | 27 |
| 31. GOVERNING LAW | 27 |
| ANNEX 1 TERMS AND CONDITIONS | 5 |
| ANNEX 2(a) FUNDED ACTIVITIES | 28 |
| ANNEX 2(b) EHNI CP SUBGROUP WORKPLAN 2021/22..... | 32 |
| ANNEX 3 PAYMENTS SCHEDULE..... | 39 |
| ANNEX 4 BANK DETAILS..... | 40 |
| ANNEX 5 ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURE | 42 |
| ANNEX 6 GRANT CLAIM FORM..... | 43 |
| ANNEX 7 CONTACT DETAILS | 44 |

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 These are the conditions collectively (“the Conditions”) which apply to the Grant Recipient receiving the Grant from the Authority up to the Maximum Sum.
- 1.2 The parties confirm that it is their intention to be legally bound by this Grant Funding Agreement. Nothing in the Agreement or the provision of Grant gives or is intended to give rise to contractual relations.
- 1.3 The Authority makes this Grant to the Grant Recipient to build capacity and capability to ensure there is a robust consumer product and construction product safety system UK-wide. The criteria and deliverables requested are set out in **Annex 2**.

2. DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

- 2.1 Where they appear in these Conditions:

Annex means the annexes attached to these Conditions which form part of the Grant Funding Agreement;

Asset means any assets that are to be purchased or developed using the Grant including equipment or any other assets which may be a Fixed Asset or Major Asset as appropriate in the relevant context, and **Assets** will be construed accordingly;

Asset Owning Period means the period during which the Assets are recorded as Assets in the Grant Recipient’s accounts;

Authority means the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy;

Authority Personal Data means any Personal Data supplied for the purposes of, or in connection with, the Grant Funding Agreement by the Authority to the Grant Recipient;

Bribery Act means the Bribery Act 2010 and any subordinate legislation made under that Act from time to time together with any guidance or codes of practice issued by the relevant government department concerning this legislation;

Code of Conduct means the Code of Conduct for Recipients of Government General Grants published by the Cabinet Office in November 2018 which is available at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/754555/2018-11-06_Code_of_Conduct_for_Grant_Recipients.pdf, including any subsequent updates from time to time;

Commencement Date means the date on which the Grant Funding Agreement comes into effect, being the **1st April 2023**.

Confidential Information means any information (however conveyed, recorded or preserved) disclosed by a Party or its personnel to another Party (and/or that Party’s personnel) whether before or after the date of the Grant Funding Agreement, including but not limited to:

- (a) any information that ought reasonably to be considered to be confidential (whether or not it is so marked) relating to:
 - (i) the business, affairs, customers, clients, suppliers or plans of the disclosing Party; and

- (ii) the operations, processes, product information, know-how, designs, trade secrets or software of the disclosing Party; and
- (b) any information developed by the Parties in the course of delivering the Funded Activities;
- (c) the Authority Personal Data;
- (d) any information derived from any of the above.

Confidential Information shall not include information which:

- (a) was public knowledge at the time of disclosure (otherwise than by breach of paragraph 10 of these Conditions;
- (b) was in the possession of the receiving Party, without restriction as to its disclosure, before receiving it from the disclosing Party;
- (c) is received from a Third Party (who lawfully acquired it) without restriction as to its disclosure; or
- (d) is independently developed without access to the Confidential Information.

Contracting Authority means any contracting authority (other than the Authority) as defined in regulation 2 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (as amended);

Controller and Processor take the meaning given in the UK GDPR;

Change of Control means the sale of all or substantially all the assets of a Party; any merger, consolidation or acquisition of a Party with, by or into another corporation, entity or person, or any change in the ownership of more than fifty percent (50%) of the voting capital stock of a Party in one or more related transaction;

Crown Body means the government of the United Kingdom (including the Northern Ireland Assembly and Executive Committee, the Scottish Executive and the National Assembly for Wales), including, but not limited to, government ministers and government departments and particular bodies, persons, commissions or agencies from time to time carrying out functions on its behalf;

Data Protection Legislation means (i) the UK GDPR, and any applicable implementing Law as amended from time to time; (ii) the Data Protection Act 2018 to the extent that it relates to the processing of Personal Data and privacy; and (iii) all applicable Law relating to the processing of Personal Data and privacy;

Disposal means the disposal, sale, transfer of an Asset or any interest in any Asset and includes any contract for disposal;

Domestic Law means an applicable law, statute, bye-law, regulation, order, regulatory policy, guidance or industry code, judgment of a relevant court of law, or directives or requirements of any regulatory body, delegated or subordinate legislation which replaces EU law as a consequence of the UK leaving the European Union;

Domestic Successor means, as the context requires, either:

- (a) a body that takes over the functions of the European Commission in the United Kingdom on the date it withdraws from the European Union; or
- (b) the relevant court in the United Kingdom which takes over the functions of the Court of Justice of the European Union on the date the United Kingdom withdraws from the European Union;

Duplicate Funding means funding provided by a Third Party to the Grant Recipient, which is for the same purpose for which the Grant was made, but has not been declared to the Authority;

Eligibility Criteria mean the Authority's selection criteria used to determine who should be grant recipients including the Grant Recipient;

Eligible Expenditure means the expenditure incurred by the Grant Recipient during the Funding Period for the purposes of delivering the Funded Activities which comply in all respects with the eligibility rules set out in paragraph 5 of these Conditions;

EIR means the Environmental Information Regulations 2004;

Event of Default means an event or circumstance set out in paragraph 24.1;

Financial Year means from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024;

Fixed Assets means any Asset which consists of land, buildings, plant and equipment acquired, developed, enhanced, constructed in connection with the Funded Activities;

FOIA means the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and any subordinate legislation made under that Act from time to time together with any guidance or codes of practice issued by the relevant government department concerning the legislation;

Funded Activities means the activities set out in **Annex 2**;

Funding Period means the period for which the Grant is awarded starting on the **1st April 2023** and ending on **31st March 2024**.

UK General Data Protection Regulation and **UK GDPR** means the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679) as it forms part of the law of England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland by virtue of section 3 of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018;

Grant means the sum or sums the Authority will pay to the Grant Recipient in accordance with the Grant Funding Agreement including but not limited to paragraph 4 of the Conditions and subject to the provisions set out at paragraph 24;

Grant Claim means the payment request invoice or documentation accompanying the invoice submitted by the Grant Recipient to the Authority for payment of the Grant in form specified by **Annex 6**;

Grant Funding Agreement means the Grant Funding Letter together with its Annexes, including but not limited to this **Annex 1**;

Grant Funding Letter means the letter the Authority issued to the Grant Recipient dated 21 June 2023

Grant Manager means the individual who has been nominated by the Authority to be the single point of contact for the Grant Recipient in relation to the Grant

HRA means the Human Rights Act 1998 and any subordinate legislation made under that Act from time to time together with any guidance or codes of practice issued by the relevant government department concerning the legislation;

Ineligible Expenditure means expenditure incurred by the Grant Recipient which is not Eligible Expenditure and as set out in paragraph 5 of these Conditions;

Information Acts means the Data Protection Legislation, FOIA and the EIR, as amended from time to time;

Intellectual Property Rights or **IPRs** means copyright, rights related to or affording protection similar to copyright, rights in databases, patents and rights in inventions semi-conductor topography rights, trade marks, rights in internet domain names and website addresses and other rights in trade names, designs, know-how, trade secrets and any modifications, amendments, updates and new releases of the same and all similar or equivalent rights or forms of protection which subsist or will subsist now or in the future in any part of the world;

IPR Material means all material produced by the Grant Recipient or its Representatives in relation to the Funded Activities during the Funding Period (including but not limited to, materials expressed in any form of report, database, design, document, technology, information, know how, system or process);

Instalment Period means the intervals set out in **Annex 3** when the Authority will release payment of the Grant to the Grant Recipient during the Funding Period;

Joint Controllers means where two or more Controllers jointly determine the purposes and means of processing;

Law means any applicable law, statute, byelaw, regulation, order, regulatory policy, guidance or industry code, judgment of a relevant court of law, or directives or requirements of any regulatory body, delegated or subordinate legislation;

Losses means all losses, liabilities, damages, costs, expenses (including legal fees), disbursements, costs of investigation, litigation, settlement, judgment, interest and penalties whether arising in contract, tort (including negligence), breach of statutory duty, misrepresentation or otherwise and **Loss** will be interpreted accordingly;

Match Funding means any contribution to the Funded Activities from a Third Party to the Grant Recipient to meet the balance of the Eligible Expenditure not supported by the Grant;

Maximum Sum means the maximum amount of the Grant the Authority will provide to the Grant Recipient for the Funded Activities subject to paragraph 24;

Party means the Authority or Grant Recipient and **Parties** shall be each Party together;

Personal Data has the meaning given to it in the Data Protection Legislation as amended from time to time;

Procurement Regulations means the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, Concession Contracts Regulations 2016, Defence Security Public Contracts Regulations 2011 and the Utilities and Contracts Regulations 2016 together with their amendments, updates and replacements from time to time;

Prohibited Act means:

- (a) directly or indirectly offering, giving or agreeing to give to any servant of the Authority or the Crown any gift or consideration of any kind as an inducement or reward for:
 - (i) doing or not doing (or for having done or not having done) any act in relation to the obtaining or performance of the Funding Agreement; or
 - (ii) showing or not showing favour or disfavour to any person in relation to the Funding Agreement.
- (b) committing any offence:
 - (i) under the Bribery Act;
 - (ii) under legislation creating offences in respect of fraudulent acts; or
 - (iii) at common law in respect of fraudulent acts in relation to the Funding Agreement;
or
- (c) defrauding or attempting to defraud or conspiring to defraud the Authority or the Crown;

Publication means any announcement, comment or publication of any publicity material by the Grant Recipient concerning the Funded Activities or the Authority;

Remedial Action Plan means the plan of action submitted by the Grant Recipient to the Authority following an Event of Default pursuant to the Rectification Plan process set out in paragraphs 24.4

Representatives means any of the Parties' duly authorised directors, employees, officers, agents, professional advisors and consultants;

Special Payments means ex gratia expenditure **by the Grant Recipient to a third party** where no legal obligations exists for the payment and/or other extra-contractual expenditure. Special Payments may include, but is not limited to, out-of-court settlements, compensation or additional severance payments to the Grant Recipient's employees;

Third Party means any person or organisation other than the Grant Recipient or the Authority;

Unspent Monies means any monies paid to the Grant Recipient in advance of its Eligible Expenditure, which remains unspent and uncommitted at the end of the Financial Year, the Funding Period or because of termination or breach of these Conditions;

VAT means value added tax chargeable in the UK;

Working Day means any day from Monday to Friday (inclusive) which is not specified or proclaimed as a bank holiday in England and Wales pursuant to section 1 of the Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971 including Christmas Day and Good Friday.

2.2 In these Conditions, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (1) the singular includes the plural and vice versa;
- (2) reference to a gender includes the other gender and the neuter;
- (3) references to a person include an individual, company, body corporate, corporation, unincorporated association, firm, partnership or other legal entity or Crown Body;

- (4) a reference to any Law includes a reference to that Law as amended, extended, consolidated or re-enacted from time to time;
- (5) the words "including", "other", "in particular", "for example" and similar words will not limit the generality of the preceding words and will be construed as if they were immediately followed by the words "without limitation";
- (6) references to "writing" include typing, printing, lithography, photography, display on a screen, electronic and facsimile transmission and other modes of representing or reproducing words in a visible form, and expressions referring to writing will be construed accordingly;
- (7) references to "representations" will be construed as references to present facts, to "warranties" as references to present and future facts and to "undertakings" as references to obligations under the Grant Funding Agreement;
- (8) references to "paragraphs" and "Annexes" are, unless otherwise provided, references to the paragraphs and annexes of these Conditions and references in any Annex to parts, paragraphs and tables are, unless otherwise provided, references to the parts, paragraphs and tables of the Annex in which these references appear; and
- (9) the headings in these Conditions are for ease of reference only and will not affect the interpretation or construction of these Conditions.

2.3 Where there is any conflict between the documents that make up this Grant Funding Agreement the conflict shall be resolved in accordance with the following order of precedence:

2.3.1 The Grant Funding Letter;

2.3.2 The Annexes to the Grant Funding Letter except Annex 1 (Terms and Conditions); and

2.3.3 Annex 1 (Terms and Conditions).

CONDITIONS

3. DURATION AND PURPOSE OF THE GRANT

- 3.1 The Funding Period starts on 1st April 2023 (the **Commencement Date**) and ends on 31st March 2024 unless terminated earlier in accordance with this Grant Funding Agreement.
- 3.2 The Grant Recipient will ensure that the Funded Activities start on 1st April 2023 but where this has not been possible, that they start no later than one month after the Commencement Date.
- 3.3 The Grant Recipient shall use the Grant solely for the delivery of the Funded Activities. The Grant Recipient may not make any changes to the Funded Activities.
- 3.4 If the Authority wants to make a change to the Funded Activities (including for example reducing the Grant or removing some of the Funded Activities from the Grant) it may do so on one month's written notice to the Grant Recipient.

4. PAYMENT OF GRANT

- 4.1 Subject to the remainder of this paragraph, the Authority shall pay the Grant Recipient an amount not exceeding £55,000 (fifty-five thousand pounds). The Authority shall pay the Grant in pound sterling (GBP) and into a bank located in the UK.
- 4.2 The Grant Recipient must complete and sign the Confirmation of Bank Details and Signatories (**Annex 4**) as part of their acceptance of the Grant. No payment can be made in advance of receipt of a correctly completed and signed form.
- 4.3 The signatory must be the chief finance officer or someone with proper delegated authority. Any change of bank details must be notified immediately on the same form and signed by an approved signatory. Any change of signatory must be notified to the Authority for approval, as soon as known.
- 4.4 The Grant represents the Maximum Sum the Authority will pay to the Grant Recipient under the Funding Agreement. The Maximum Sum will not be increased in the event of any overspend by the Grant Recipient in its delivery of the Funded Activities
- 4.5 The Authority will only pay the Grant to the Grant Recipient in respect of Eligible Expenditure incurred by the Grant Recipient to deliver the Funded Activities. The Authority will not pay the Grant until it is satisfied that the Grant Recipient has paid for the Funded Activities in full and the Funded Activities have been delivered during the Funding Period.
- 4.6 The Grant Recipient will provide the Authority with evidence of the costs/payments, which are classified as Eligible Expenditure in paragraph 5.2 which may include (but will not be limited to) receipts and invoices or any other documentary evidence specified by the Authority.
- 4.7 The Grant Recipient shall declare to the Authority any Match Funding which been approved or received, before the Commencement Date. If the Grant Recipient intends to apply for, is offered or receives any further Match Funding during the Funding Period, the Grant Recipient shall notify the Authority before accepting or using any such Match Funding. On notifying the Authority of the Match Funding the Grant Recipient shall confirm the amount, purpose and source of the Match Funding and the Authority shall confirm whether it is agreeable to the Grant Recipient accepting the Match Funding. If the Authority does not agree to the use of Match Funding the Authority shall be entitled to terminate the Grant Funding Agreement in accordance with paragraph 24.1.9 and where applicable, require all or part of the Grant to be repaid.
- 4.8 Where the use of Match Funding is permitted the Grant Recipient shall set out any Match Funding it receives in the format required by Annex 2 and send that to the Authority. This is so the Authority knows the total funding the Grant Recipient has received for the Funded Activities.
- 4.9 The Grant Recipient agrees that:
 - 4.9.1 it will not apply for, or obtain, Duplicate Funding in respect of any part of the Funded Activities which have been paid for in full using the Grant;
 - 4.9.2 the Authority may refer the Grant Recipient to the police should it dishonestly and intentionally obtain Duplicate Funding for the Funded Activities;
 - 4.9.3 The Authority will not make the first payment of the Grant and/or any subsequent payments of the Grant unless or until, the Authority is satisfied that:
 - (i) the Grant will be used for Eligible Expenditure only; and

(ii) if applicable, any previous Grant payments have been used for the Funded Activities or, where there are Unspent Monies, have been repaid to the Authority.

- 4.10 The Grant Recipient shall submit by the **31st of May 2024** the Grant Claim together with a copy of Annex 5 of these Conditions (Eligible Expenditure) and any other documentation as prescribed by the Authority, from time to time.
- 4.11 Unless otherwise stated in these Conditions, payment of the Grant will be made within 30 days of the Authority approving the Grant Recipient's Grant Claim.
- 4.12 The Authority will have no liability to the Grant Recipient for any Losses caused by a delay in the payment of a Grant Claim howsoever arising.
- 4.13 The Authority reserves the right not to pay any Grant Claims, which are not submitted within the period set out in paragraph 4.10 or Grant Claims, which are incomplete, incorrect, or submitted without the full supporting documentation.
- 4.14 The Grant Recipient shall promptly notify and repay immediately to the Authority any money incorrectly paid to it either as a result of an administrative error or otherwise. This includes (without limitation) situations where the Grant Recipient is paid in error before it has complied with its obligations under the Grant Funding Agreement. Any sum, which falls due under this paragraph 4.14, shall fall due immediately. If the Grant Recipient fails to repay the due sum immediately the sum will be recoverable summarily as a civil debt.
- 4.15 The Grant will be paid into a bank account in the name of the Grant Recipient which must be an ordinary business bank account. All cheques from the bank account must be signed by at least two individual Representatives of the Grant Recipient.
- 4.16 Where the Grant Recipient enters into a contract with a Third Party in connection with the Funded Activities, the Grant Recipient will remain responsible for paying that Third Party. The Authority has no responsibility for paying Third Party invoices.
- 4.17 Onward payment of the Grant and the use of sub-contractors shall not relieve the Grant Recipient of any of its obligations under the Grant Funding Agreement, including any obligation to repay the Grant.
- 4.18 The Grant Recipient may not retain any Unspent Monies without the Authority's prior written permission.
- 4.19 If at the end of the relevant Financial Year there are Unspent Monies, the Grant Recipient shall repay such Unspent Monies to the Authority no later than 30 days of the Authority's request for repayment.

5. ELIGIBLE AND INELIGIBLE EXPENDITURE

- 5.1 The Authority will only pay the Grant in respect of Eligible Expenditure incurred by the Grant Recipient to deliver the Funded Activities and the Grant Recipient will use the Grant solely for delivery of the Funded Activities (as set out in Annex 2 of these Conditions).
- 5.2 The following costs/payments will be classified as Eligible Expenditure if incurred for the purposes of the Funded Activities:
 - 5.2.1 giving evidence to Parliamentary Select Committees;
 - 5.2.2 attending meetings with government ministers or civil servants to discuss the progress of a

taxpayer funded grant scheme;

5.2.3 responding to public consultations, where the topic is relevant to the objectives of the Funded Activities. To avoid doubt, Eligible Expenditure does not include the Grant Recipient spending The Grant on lobbying other people to respond to any such consultation (unless explicitly permitted in the Grant Funding Agreement)

5.2.4 providing independent, evidence-based policy recommendations to local government, departments or government ministers, where that is the objective of a taxpayer funded grant scheme, for example, 'What Works Centres'; and

5.2.5 providing independent evidence-based advice to local or national government as part of the general policy debate, where that is in line with the objectives of the Grant.

5.3 The Grant Recipient may not in any circumstances claim the following non-exhaustive list as Eligible Expenditure. The list below does not override activities which are deemed eligible in these Conditions:

5.3.1 Paid for lobbying, which means using the Grant to fund lobbying (via an external firm or in-house staff) in order to undertake activities intended to influence or attempt to influence Parliament, government or political activity; or attempting to influence legislative or regulatory action;

5.3.2 using the Grant to directly enable one part of government to challenge another on topics unrelated to the agreed purpose of the grant;

5.3.3 using the Grant to petition for additional funding;

5.3.4 expenses such as for entertaining, specifically aimed at exerting undue influence to change government policy;

5.3.5 input VAT reclaimable by the grant recipient from HMRC;

5.3.6 payments for activities of a political or exclusively religious nature;

5.4 Other examples of expenditure, which are prohibited, include the following:

5.4.1 contributions in kind;

5.4.2 interest payments or service charge payments for finance leases;

5.4.3 gifts;

5.4.4 statutory fines, criminal fines or penalties civil penalties, damages or any associated legal costs;

5.4.5 payments for works or activities which the grant recipient, or any member of their Partnership has a statutory duty to undertake, or that are fully funded by other sources;

5.4.6 bad debts to related parties;

5.4.7 Payments for unfair dismissal or other compensation;

5.4.8 depreciation, amortisation or impairment of assets owned by the Grant Recipient;

5.4.9 the acquisition or improvement of Assets by the Grant Recipient (unless the Grant is explicitly

for capital use – this will be stipulated in the Grant Funding Letter); and

5.4.10 liabilities incurred before the commencement of the Grant Funding Agreement unless agreed in writing by the Authority.

6. MONITORING AND REPORTING

6.1 The Grant Recipient shall closely monitor the delivery and success of the Funded Activities throughout the Funding Period to ensure that the aims and objectives of the Funded Activities are achieved.

6.2 The Grant Recipient shall provide the Authority with all reasonable assistance and co-operation in relation to any ad-hoc information, explanations and documents as the Authority may require, from time to time, so the Authority may establish if the Grant Recipient has used the Grant in accordance with the Grant Funding Agreement.

6.3 As a condition of the grant funding, the Authority will have an annual review meeting with the recipient, which will include a review of outcomes delivered.

6.4 The Grant Recipient will provide a quarterly report as specified in Annex 2 – the Funded Activities

6.5 The Grant Recipient will permit any person authorised by the Authority reasonable access, with or without notice, to its employees, agents, premises, facilities and records, for the purpose of discussing, monitoring and evaluating the Grant Recipient's fulfilment of its obligations under the Grant Funding Agreement and will, if so required, provide appropriate oral or written explanations to such authorised persons as required during the Funding Period.

6.6 The Grant Recipient will record in its financial reports the amount of Match Funding it receives together with details of what it has used that Match Funding for.

6.7 The Grant Recipient will notify the Authority as soon as reasonably practicable of:

6.7.1 any actual or potential failure to comply with any of its obligations under the Grant Funding Agreement, which includes those caused by any administrative, financial or managerial difficulties; and

6.7.2 actual or potential variations to the Eligible Expenditure set out in Annex 5 of these Conditions and/or any event which materially affects the continued accuracy of such information.

6.8 The Grant recipient represents and undertakes (and shall repeat such representations delivery of its report:

6.8.1 that the reports and information it gives pursuant to this paragraph 6 are accurate;

6.8.2 that it has diligently made full and proper enquiry of the matter pertaining to the reports and information given; and

6.8.3 that any data it provided pursuant to an application for the Grant may be shared within the powers conferred by legislation with other organisations for the purpose of preventing or detecting crime.

7. AUDITING AND ASSURANCE

7.1 Not used

- 7.2 The Grant Recipient will produce quarterly assurance data to the Authority covering; irregular payments (e.g., error, fraud, and non-compliance), prevented fraud and recoveries. A sample dashboard, or summary of the consolidated results could be shown to demonstrate how this Grant is monitored.
- 7.3 The Authority may, at any time during and up to one year after the end of the Grant Funding Agreement, conduct additional audits or ascertain additional information where the Authority considers it necessary. The Grant Recipient agrees to grant the Authority or its Representatives access, as required, to all Funded Activities sites and relevant records. The Grant Recipient will ensure that necessary information and access rights are explicitly included within all arrangements with sub-contractors.
- 7.4 If the Authority requires further information, explanations and documents, in order for the Authority to establish that the Grant has been used properly in accordance with the Grant Funding Agreement, the Grant Recipient will, within 5 Working Days of a request by the Authority, provide the Authority, free of charge, with the requested information.
- 7.5 The Grant Recipient shall:
 - 7.5.1 identify separately the value and purpose of the Grant Funding in its audited accounts and its annual report; and
 - 7.5.2 maintain a record of internal financial controls and procedures and provide the Authority with a copy if requested.

Retention of documents

- 7.6 The Grant Recipient shall retain all invoices, receipts, accounting records and any other documentation (including but not limited to, correspondence) relating to the Eligible Expenditure; income generated by the Funded Activities during the Funding Period for a period of one year from the date on which the Funding Period ends.
- 7.7 The Grant Recipient shall ensure that all its sub-contractors retain each record, item of data and document relating to the Funded Activities for a period of one year -from the date on which the Funding Period ends.
- 7.8 The Grant Recipient will promptly provide revised forecasts of income and expenditure:
 - 7.8.1 when these forecasts increase or decrease by more than 5% of the original expenditure forecasts; and/or
 - 7.8.2 at the request of the Authority.

8. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND PREVENTION OF BRIBERY, CORRUPTION, FRAUD AND OTHER IRREGULARITY

- 8.1. The Grant Recipient will at all times comply with all applicable Laws, statutes and regulations relating to anti-bribery and anti-corruption, including but not limited to the Bribery Act.
- 8.2. The Grant Recipient must have a sound administration and audit process, including internal financial controls to safeguard against fraud, theft, money laundering, counter terrorist financing or any other impropriety, or mismanagement in connection with the administration of the Grant. The Grant Recipient shall require that the internal/external auditors report on the adequacy or otherwise of that system.

- 8.3. All cases of fraud or theft (whether proven or suspected) relating to the Funded Activities must be notified to the Authority as soon as they are identified. The Grant Recipient shall explain to the Authority what steps are being taken to investigate the irregularity and shall keep the Authority informed about the progress of any such investigation. The Authority may however request that the matter referred (which the Grant Recipient is obliged to carry out) to external auditors or other Third Party as required.
- 8.4. The Authority will have the right, at its absolute discretion, to insist that the Grant Recipient address any actual or suspected fraud, theft or other financial irregularity and/or to suspend future payment of the Grant to the Grant Recipient. Any grounds for suspecting financial irregularity includes what the Grant Recipient, acting with due care, should have suspected as well as what is actually proven.
- 8.5. The Grant Recipient agrees and accepts that it may become ineligible for Grant support and may be required to repay all or part of the Grant if it engages in tax evasion or aggressive tax avoidance in the opinion of Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs.
- 8.6. For the purposes of paragraph 8.4 "financial irregularity" includes (but is not limited to) potential fraud or other impropriety, mismanagement, and the use of the Grant for any purpose other than those stipulated in the Grant Funding Agreement. The Grant Recipient may be required to provide statements and evidence to the Authority or the appropriate organisation as part of pursuing sanctions, criminal or civil proceedings.

9. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

- 9.1. Neither the Grant Recipient nor its Representatives shall engage in any personal, business or professional activity which conflicts or could conflict with any of their obligations in relation to the Grant Funding Agreement.
- 9.2. The Grant Recipient must have and will keep in place adequate procedures to manage and monitor any actual or perceived bias or conflicts of interest.

10. CONFIDENTIALITY

- 10.1. Except to the extent set out in this paragraph 10 or where disclosure is expressly permitted, the Grant Recipient shall treat all Confidential Information belonging to the Authority as confidential and shall not disclose any Confidential Information belonging to the Authority to any other person without the prior written consent of the Authority, except to such persons who are directly involved in the provision of the Funded Activities and who need to know the information.
- 10.2. The Grant Recipient gives its consent for the Authority to publish the Grant Funding Agreement in any medium in its entirety (but with any information which is Confidential Information belonging to the Authority or the Grant Recipient redacted), including from time-to-time agreed changes to the Grant Funding Agreement.
- 10.3. Nothing in this paragraph 10 shall prevent the Authority disclosing any Confidential Information obtained from the Grant Recipient:
 - 10.3.1 for the purpose of the examination and certification of the Authority's accounts; or pursuant to section 6(1) of the National Audit Act 1983 of the economy, efficiency and effectiveness with which the Authority has used its resources; or

10.3.2 to any government department, consultant, contractor or other person engaged by the Authority, provided that in disclosing information under the Authority only discloses the information which is necessary for the purpose concerned and requests that the information is treated in confidence and that a confidentiality undertaking is given where appropriate;

10.3.3 where disclosure is required by Law, including under the Information Acts.

10.4 Nothing in this paragraph 10 shall prevent either Party from using any techniques, ideas or know-how gained during the performance of its obligations under the Grant Funding Agreement in the course of its normal business, to the extent that this does not result in a disclosure of the other Party's Confidential Information or an infringement of the other Party's Intellectual Property Rights.

11 TRANSPARENCY

11.1 The Authority and the Grant Recipient acknowledge that, except for any information, which is exempt from disclosure in accordance with the provisions of the Information Acts, the content of the Grant Funding Agreement is not confidential.

12. STATUTORY DUTIES

12.1. The Grant Recipient agrees to adhere to its obligations under the Law including but not limited to the Information Acts and the HRA.

12.2. Where requested by the Authority, the Grant Recipient will provide reasonable assistance and cooperation to enable the Authority to comply with its information disclosure obligations under the Information Acts.

12.3. On request from the Authority, the Grant Recipient will provide the Authority with all such relevant documents and information relating to the Grant Recipient's data protection policies and procedures as the Authority may reasonably require.

12.4. The Grant Recipient acknowledges that the Authority, acting in accordance with the codes of practice issued and revised from time to time under the Information Acts, may disclose information concerning the Grant Recipient and the Grant Funding Agreement without consulting the Grant Recipient.

12.5. The Authority will take reasonable steps to notify the Grant Recipient of a request for information to the extent that it is permissible and reasonably practical for it to do so. Notwithstanding any other provision in the Grant Funding Agreement, the Authority will be responsible for determining in its absolute discretion whether any information is exempt from disclosure in accordance with the Information Acts.

13. DATA PROTECTION AND PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

Data Protection

13.1 The Grant Recipient and the Authority will comply at all times with its respective obligations under Data Protection Legislation.

13.2 The Parties agree to enter into a separate Memorandum of Understanding (annexed hereto at **Annex 8** in respect of the processing activities that the Grant Recipient and any further beneficiaries of the Grant will carry out.

- 13.3 To the extent that the Grant Recipient and the Authority share any Personal Data for the purposes of this Grant Funding Agreement, the Parties accept that they are each a separate independent Controller in respect of such Personal Data. Each Party:
- (i) shall comply with the applicable Data Protection Legislation in respect of their processing of such Personal Data
 - (ii) will be individually and separately responsible for its own compliance; and
 - (iii) do not and will not Process any Personal Data as Joint Controllers
- 13.4 Each Party shall, with respect to its processing of Personal Data as independent Controller, implement and maintain appropriate technical and organisation measures to ensure a level of security appropriate to that risk, including, as appropriate, the measures referred to in Article 32(1)(a), (b), (c) and (d) of the UK GDPR, and the measures shall, at a minimum, comply with the requirements of the Data Protection Legislation, including Article 32 of the UK GDPR.

Public Procurement

- 13.5 The Grant Recipient will ensure that any of its Representatives involved in the Funded Activities will adopt such policies and procedures that are required in order to ensure that value for money has been obtained in the procurement of goods or services funded by the Grant.
- 13.6 Where the Grant Recipient is a Contracting Authority within the meaning of the Procurement Regulations the Grant Recipient will comply, as necessary, with the Procurement Regulations when procuring goods and services in connection with the Grant Funding Agreement and the Authority shall not be liable for the Grant Recipient's failure to comply with its obligations under the Procurement Regulations.

14. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

- 14.1 Intellectual Property in all IPR Material will be the property of the Grant Recipient. Other than as expressly set out in these Conditions, neither Party will have any right to use any of the other Party's names, logos or trademarks on any of its products or services without the other Party's prior written consent.
- 14.2 The Grant Recipient grants to the Authority a non-exclusive irrevocable and royalty-free, sub-licensable, worldwide licence to use all the IPR Material for the purpose of supporting other projects.
- 14.3 Ownership of Third-Party software or other IPR necessary to deliver Funded Activities will remain with the relevant Third Party.
- 14.4 The Grant Recipient must ensure that they have obtained the relevant agreement from the Third-Party proprietor before any additions or variations are made to the standard 'off-the-shelf' versions of any Third-Party software and other IPR. The Grant Recipient will be responsible for obtaining and maintaining all appropriate licences to use the Third-Party software.

15. ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS

- 15.1 The Grant Recipient shall perform the Funded Activities in accordance with the Authority's environmental policy, which is to conserve energy, water, wood, paper and other resources, reduce waste and phase out the use of ozone depleting substances and minimise the release of greenhouse gases, volatile organic compounds and other substances damaging to health and the environment.

15.2 The Grant Recipient shall pay due regard to the use of recycled products, so long as they are not detrimental to the provision of the Funded Activities or the environment, to include the use of all packaging, which should be capable of recovery for re-use or recycling.

15.3 The Grant Recipient shall take all possible precautions to ensure that any equipment and materials used in the provision of the Funded Activities do not contain chlorofluorocarbons, halons or any other damaging substances, unless unavoidable, in which case the Authority shall be notified in advance of their use. The Grant Recipient shall endeavour to reduce fuel emissions wherever possible.

16. ASSETS

Not applicable.

17. INSURANCE

17.1 The Grant Recipient will during the term of the Funding Period and for three years after termination or expiry of these Conditions, ensure that it has and maintains, at all times adequate insurance with an insurer of good repute to cover claims under the Grant Funding Agreement or any other claims or demands which may be brought or made against it by any person suffering any injury damage or loss in connection with the Funded Activities or the Grant Funding Agreement.

17.2 The Grant Recipient will upon request produce to the Authority its policy or policies of insurance or where this is not possible, a certificate of insurance issued by the Grant Recipient's insurance brokers confirming the insurances are in full force and effect together with confirmation that the relevant premiums have been paid.

18. ASSIGNMENT

18.1 The Grant Recipient will not transfer, assign, novate or otherwise dispose of the whole or any part of the Grant Funding Agreement or any rights under it, to another organisation or individual, without the Authority's prior approval.

18.2 Any approval given by the Authority will be subject to a condition that the Grant Recipient has first entered into a Grant Funding Agreement, authorised by the Authority, requiring the Grant Recipient to work with another organisation in delivering the Funded Activities.

19. SPENDING CONTROLS – MARKETING, ADVERTISING, COMMUNICATIONS AND CONSULTANCY

19.1 The Grant Recipient must seek permission from the Authority prior to any proposed expenditure on advertising, communications, consultancy or marketing either in connection with, or using the Grant.

19.2 The Grant Recipient should provide evidence that any marketing, advertising, communications and consultancy expenditure carried out in connection with, or using the Grant will deliver measurable outcomes that meet government objective to secure value for money.

20. LOSSES, GIFTS AND SPECIAL PAYMENTS

20.1 The Grant Recipient must obtain prior written consent from the Authority before:

20.1.1 writing off any debts or liabilities.

20.1.2 offering to make any Special Payments; and

20.1.3 giving any gifts.

in connection with this Grant Funding Agreement.

20.2 The Grant Recipient will keep a record of all gifts, both given and received, in connection with the Grant or any Funded Activities.

21. BORROWING

21.1 The Grant Recipient must obtain prior written consent from the Authority before:

21.1.1 borrowing or lending money from any source in connection with the Grant Funding Agreement; and

21.1.2 giving any guarantee, indemnities or letters of comfort that relate to the Grant Funding Agreement or have any impact on the Grant Recipient's ability to deliver the Funded Activities set out in the Grant Funding Agreement.

22. PUBLICITY

22.1 The Grant Recipient gives consents to the Authority to publicise in the press or any other medium the Grant and details of the Funded Activities using any information gathered from the Grant Recipient's initial Grant application or any monitoring reports submitted to the Authority in accordance with paragraph 6.2 of these Conditions.

22.2 The Grant Recipient will comply with all reasonable requests from the Authority to facilitate visits, provide reports, statistics, photographs and case studies that will assist the Authority in its promotional and fundraising activities relating to the Funded Activities.

23. CHANGES TO THE AUTHORITY'S REQUIREMENTS

23.1 The Authority will notify the Grant Recipient of any changes to their activities, which are supported by the Grant.

23.2 The Grant Recipient will accommodate any changes to the Authority's needs and requirements under these Conditions.

24. CLAWBACK, EVENTS OF DEFAULT, TERMINATION AND RIGHTS RESERVED FOR BREACH AND TERMINATION

Events of Default

24.1 The Authority may exercise its rights set out in paragraph 24.2 if any of the following events occur:

24.1.1 the Grant Recipient uses the Grant for a purpose other than the Funded Activities;

24.1.2 the Grant Recipient fails to comply with its obligations under the Grant Funding Agreement, which is material in the opinion of the Authority.

- 24.1.3 where delivery of the Funded Activities does not start within three months of the Commencement Date and the Grant Recipient fails to provide the Authority with a satisfactory explanation for the delay, or failed to agree a new date on which the Funded Activities shall start with the Authority;
- 24.1.4 the Grant Recipient uses the Grant for Ineligible Expenditure.
- 24.1.5 the Grant Recipient fails, in the Authority's opinion, to make satisfactory progress with the Funded Activities and, with meeting the Agreed Outputs set out in Annex 2 of these Conditions.
- 24.1.6 the Grant Recipient fails to:
- (i) submit an adequate Remedial Action Plan to the Authority following a request by the Authority pursuant to paragraph 24.3.4, or
 - (ii) improve delivery of the Funded Activities in accordance with the Remedial Action Plan approved by the Authority.
- 24.1.7 the Grant Recipient is, in the opinion of the Authority, delivering the Funded Activities in a negligent manner (in this context negligence includes but is not limited to failing to prevent or report actual or anticipated fraud or corruption).
- 24.1.8 the Grant Recipient fails to declare Duplicate Funding.
- 24.1.9 the Grant Recipient fails to declare any Match Funding in accordance with paragraph 4.7;
- 24.1.10 the Grant Recipient receives funding from a Third Party which, in the opinion of the Authority, undertakes activities that are likely to bring the reputation of the Funded Activities or the Authority into disrepute.
- 24.1.11 the Grant Recipient provides the Authority with any materially misleading or inaccurate information and/or any of the information provided in their grant application or in any subsequent supporting correspondence is found to be incorrect or incomplete to an extent which the Authority considers to be significant.
- 24.1.12 the Grant Recipient commits or has committed a Prohibited Act or fails to report a Prohibited Act to the Authority, whether committed by the Grant Recipient, its Representatives or a Third Party, as soon as they become aware of it;
- 24.1.13 the Authority determines (acting reasonably) that the Grant Recipient or any of its Representatives has:
- (i) acted dishonestly or negligently at any time during the term of the Grant Funding Agreement and to the detriment of the Authority; or
 - (ii) taken any actions which unfairly bring or are likely to unfairly bring the Authority's name or reputation and/or the Authority into disrepute. Actions include omissions in this context.
 - (iii) transferred, assigns or novates the Grant to any Third Party without the Authority's consent.

- (iv) failed to act in accordance with the Law; howsoever arising, including incurring expenditure on unlawful activities.

24.1.14 the Grant Recipient ceases to operate for any reason, or it passes a resolution (or any court of competent jurisdiction makes an order) that it be wound up or dissolved (other than for the purpose of a bona fide and solvent reconstruction or amalgamation).

24.1.15 the Grant Recipient becomes insolvent as defined by section 123 of the Insolvency Act 1986, or it is declared bankrupt, or it is placed into receivership, administration or liquidation, or a petition has been presented for its winding up, or it enters into any arrangement or composition for the benefit of its creditors, or it is unable to pay its debts as they fall due.

24.1.16 The Grant Recipient breaches the Code of Conduct and/or fails to report an actual or suspected breach of the Code of Conduct by the Grant Recipient or its Representatives in accordance with paragraph 29.2.

24.1.17 The Grant Recipient undergoes a Change of Control which the Authority, acting reasonably, considers:

- (i) will be materially detrimental to the Funded Activities and/or.
- (ii) the new body corporate cannot continue to receive the Grant because they do not meet the Eligibility Criteria used to award the Grant to the Grant Recipient.
- (iii) the Authority believes that the Change of Control would raise national security concerns and/or.
- (iv) the new body corporate intends to make fundamental change(s) to the purpose for which the Grant was given.

24.2 Where, the Authority determines that an Event of Default has or may have occurred, the Authority shall notify the Grant Recipient to that effect in writing, setting out any relevant details, of the failure to comply with these Conditions or pertaining the Event of Default, and details of any action that the Authority intends to take or has taken.

Rights reserved for the Authority in relation to an Event of Default

24.3 Where, the Authority determines that an Event of Default has or may have occurred, the Authority shall take any one or more of the following actions:

24.3.1 suspend or terminate the payment of all or part of the Grant for such period as the Authority shall determine; and/or

24.3.2 reduce the Maximum Sum in which case the payment of Grant shall thereafter be made in accordance with the reduction and notified to the Grant Recipient; and/or

24.3.3 require the Grant Recipient to repay the Authority the whole or any part of the amount of Grant previously paid to the Grant Recipient. Such sums shall be recovered as a civil debt; and/or

24.3.4 give the Grant Recipient an opportunity to remedy the Event of Default (if remediable) in accordance with the procedure set out in paragraph 24.4 and/or

24.3.5 terminate the Grant Funding Agreement.

Opportunity for the Grant Recipient to remedy an Event of Default

- 24.4 Where the Grant Recipient is provided with an opportunity to submit a draft Remedial Action Plan in accordance with paragraph 24.3.4, the draft Remedial Action Plan shall be submitted to the Authority for approval, within 5 Working Days of the Grant Recipient receiving notice from the Authority.
- 24.5 The draft Remedial Action Plan shall set out:
- 24.5.1 full details of the Event of Default; and
 - 24.5.2 the steps which the Grant Recipient proposes to take to rectify the Event of Default including timescales.
- 24.6 On receipt of the draft Remedial Action Plan and as soon as reasonably practicable, the Authority will submit its comments on the draft Remedial Action Plan to the Grant Recipient.
- 24.7 The Authority shall have the right to accept or reject the draft Remedial Action Plan. If the Authority rejects the draft Remedial Action Plan, the Authority shall confirm, in writing, the reasons why they have rejected the draft Remedial Action Plan and will confirm whether the Grant Recipient is required to submit an amended Remedial Action Plan to the Authority.
- 24.8 If the Authority directs the Grant Recipient to submit an amended draft Remedial Action Plan, the Parties shall agree a timescale for the Grant Recipient to amend the draft Remedial Action Plan to take into account the Authority's comments.
- 24.9 If the Authority does not approve the draft Remedial Action Plan the Authority may, at its absolute discretion, terminate the Grant Funding Agreement.
- 24.10 The Authority shall not by reason of the occurrence of an Event of Default which is, in the opinion of the Authority, capable of remedy, exercise its rights under either paragraph 24.3.3 or 24.3.4 unless the Grant Recipient has failed to rectify the default to the reasonable satisfaction of the Authority.

General Termination rights – Termination for Convenience

- 24.11 Notwithstanding the Authority's right to terminate the Grant Funding Agreement pursuant to paragraph 24.3.4 above, either Party may terminate the Grant Funding Agreement at any time by giving at least three months written notice to the other Party.
- 24.12 If applicable, all Unspent Monies (other than those irrevocably committed in good faith before the date of termination, in line with the Grant Funding Agreement and approved by the Authority as being required to finalise the Funded Activities) shall be returned to the Authority within 30 days of the date of receipt of a written notice of termination from the Authority.
- 24.13 If the Authority terminates the Grant Funding Agreement in accordance with paragraph 24.11 the Authority may choose to pay the Grant Recipient's reasonable costs in respect of the delivery of the Funded Activities performed up to the termination date. Reasonable costs will be identified by the Grant Recipient and will be subject to the Grant Recipient demonstrating that they have taken adequate steps to mitigate their costs. For the avoidance of doubt, the amount of reasonable costs payable will be determined solely by the Authority.

- 24.14 The Authority will not be liable to pay any of the Grant Recipient's costs or those of any contractor/supplier of the Grant Recipient related to any transfer or termination of employment of any employees engaged in the provision of the Funded Activities.
- 24.15 Nothing in the Grant Funding Agreement will affect any provision which is expressly or by implication intended to apply or continue to apply for any reason following termination of this Agreement.

Change of Control

- 24.16 The Grant Recipient shall notify the Authority immediately in writing and as soon as the Grant Recipient is aware (or ought reasonably to be aware) that it is anticipating, undergoing, undergoes or has undergone a Change of Control, provided such notification does not contravene any Law.
- 24.17 The Grant Recipient shall ensure that any notification made pursuant to paragraph 24.16 shall set out full details of the Change of Control including the circumstances suggesting and/or explaining the Change of Control.
- 24.18 Where the Grant Recipient has been awarded to a consortium and the Grant Recipient has entered into a collaboration agreement, the notification required under paragraph 24.16 shall include any changes to the consortium members as well as the lead Grant Recipient.
- 24.19 Following notification of a Change of Control the Authority shall be entitled to exercise its rights under paragraph 24.1 of these Conditions by providing the Grant Recipient with notification of its proposed action in writing within three months of:
- (i) being notified in writing that a Change of Control is anticipated or is in contemplation or has occurred; or
 - (ii) where no notification has been made, the date that the Authority becomes aware that a Change of Control is anticipated or is in contemplation or has occurred,
- 24.20 The Authority shall not be entitled to terminate where an approval was granted prior to the Change of Control.

25. EXIT PLAN

- 25.1 Where the Authority requires the Grant Recipient to prepare an Exit Plan to allow the cessation or seamless transfer of the Funded Activities, the Grant Recipient shall prepare the Exit Plan within three months of the signing of the Grant Funding Agreement.

26. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- 26.1 The Parties will use all reasonable endeavours to negotiate in good faith, and settle amicably, any dispute that arises during the continuance of the Grant Funding Agreement.
- 26.2 All disputes and complaints (except for those which relate to the Authority's right to withhold funds or terminates the Grant Funding Agreement) shall be referred in the first instance to the Parties Representatives.

26.3 If the dispute cannot be resolved between the Parties Representatives within a maximum of 30 days, then the matter will be escalated to formal meeting between the Grant Manager and the Grant Recipient's chief executive (or equivalent).

27. LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

27.1 The Authority accepts no liability for any consequences, whether direct or indirect, that may come about from the Grant Recipient delivering/running the Funded Activities, the use of the Grant or from withdrawal, withholding or suspension of the Grant. The Recipient shall indemnify and hold harmless the Authority, its Representatives with respect to all actions, claims, charges, demands Losses and proceedings arising from or incurred by reason of the actions and/or omissions of the Grant Recipient in relation to the Funded Activities, the non-fulfilment of obligations of the Grant Recipient under this Grant Funding Agreement or its obligations to Third Parties.

27.2 Subject to this paragraph 27, the Authority's liability under this Grant Funding Agreement is limited to the amount of Grant outstanding.

28. VAT

28.1 If VAT is held to be chargeable in respect of the Grant Funding Agreement, all payments shall be deemed to be inclusive of all VAT and the Authority shall not be obliged to pay any additional amount by way of VAT.

28.2 All sums or other consideration payable to or provided by the Grant Recipient to the Authority at any time shall be deemed to be exclusive of all VAT payable and where any such sums become payable or due or other consideration is provided, the Grant Recipient shall at the same time or as the case may be on demand by HMRC in addition to such sums, or other consideration, pay to HMRC all the VAT so payable upon the receipt of a valid VAT invoice.

29. CODE OF CONDUCT FOR GRANT RECIPIENTS

29.1 The Grant Recipients acknowledges that by signing the Grant Funding Agreement it agrees to take account of the Code of Conduct, which includes ensuring that its Representatives undertake their duties in a manner consistent with the principles set out in the Code of Conduct.

29.2 The Grant Recipient shall immediately notify the Authority if it becomes aware of any actual or suspected breaches of the principles outlined in the Code of Conduct.

29.3 The Grant Recipient acknowledges that a failure to notify the Authority of an actual or suspected breach of the Code of Conduct may result in the Authority immediately suspending the Grant funding, terminating the Grant Funding Agreement and taking action to recover some or all of the funds paid to the Grant Recipient as a civil debt in accordance with paragraph 24.1.7.

30. NOTICES

30.1 All notices and other communications in relation to this Grant Funding Agreement shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been duly given if personally delivered, e-mailed, or mailed (first class postage prepaid) to the address of the relevant party, as referred to in Annex 7 or otherwise notified in writing. All notices and other communications must be marked for the attention of the contact specified in Annex 7 (Contact Details). If personally delivered or if e-mailed all such communications shall be deemed to have been given when received (except that if received on a non-working day or after 5.00 pm on any Working Day they shall be

deemed received on the next Working Day) and if mailed all such communications shall be deemed to have been given and received on the second Working Day following such mailing.

31. GOVERNING LAW

- 31.1 These Conditions will be governed by and construed in accordance with the law of England and Wales and the Parties irrevocably submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the English and Welsh courts.

ANNEX 2 – THE FUNDED ACTIVITIES

Purpose of the Grant

The purpose of the grant programme is to support District Councils in Northern Ireland to build capacity and capability to ensure the safety of consumers. It funds targeted and prioritised regulatory activity on non-food consumer products. This is part of our approach to ensure we have robust market surveillance across the UK.

Background

The Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) is the national regulator for product safety. It was established to lead and co-ordinate the UK product safety system to deliver improved protections for consumers and better support for industry across the UK. It is responsible for developing and building national capacity and capability for product safety that is consistent and applied uniformly across the UK.

Aims and Objectives of the Funded Activities

The Grant is provided to District Councils in Northern Ireland to enhance enforcement capacity and capability to support their development of effective mechanisms to protect consumers and the UK internal market.

The funding may be used for a range of activity on non-food products, including to:-

- build on previous product safety capacity and capability building work
- ensure access to enforcement equipment and facilities;
- provide advice and support to local businesses to meet their obligations under product safety legislation for importing and appropriate labelling/marketing of goods;
- define work processes;
- develop officers' understanding of local supply chains and their associated risks; and
- ensure adequate prioritisation of effort and resource against OPSS policy and national regulatory interests
- ad hoc requests for case studies or other additional information.

Reporting Arrangements

These are expected to include: inputs to relevant databases; quarterly submission of records of activity (format to be agreed); and a review meeting at the end of the grant funding year.

During the year OPSS may seek information about operational methods, activities, engagement with businesses and outcomes.

ANNEX 3 – PAYMENT SCHEDULE

The Authority will pay the grant on receipt of eligible expenditure claims. Payment will be made in arrears (September 2023, December 2023 and March 2024).

All invoices to be submitted quarterly through the LAU.OPSS@beis.gov.uk email address. All claims should be submitted by 31st May 2024.

When making a Grant claim, as set out in the standard terms and conditions in the Grant Funding Agreement, we may request, and you must supply proof of expenditure and any other supporting documentation as we may require.

ANNEX 4 – GRANT RECIPIENT’S BANK DETAILS

Guidance: The Grant Recipient must complete parts 1 to 5. Part 5 must only be completed by the person who signed the Grant Funding Agreement with the Authority, or their replacement.

The Grant Recipient should take a photocopy of the form for their records and return the original along with the signed Grant Funding Agreement to the address indicated in the Grant Funding Agreement.

Part 1: Grant recipient details

| | |
|--|--|
| Name of Main Grant Holder <input style="width: 95%; height: 25px;" type="text"/> | Address of Grant Holder <input style="width: 95%; height: 100px;" type="text"/> |
| Grant Determination number <input style="width: 95%; height: 25px;" type="text"/> | Postcode: <input style="width: 95%; height: 25px;" type="text"/> |
| Grant name <input style="width: 95%; height: 25px;" type="text"/> | Contact telephone number <input style="width: 95%; height: 25px;" type="text"/> |
| <input style="width: 95%; height: 25px;" type="text"/> | |

Part 2: Bank details

| | |
|---|--|
| Bank / Building Society name <input style="width: 95%; height: 25px;" type="text"/> | Account name <input style="width: 95%; height: 25px;" type="text"/> |
| Branch name <input style="width: 95%; height: 25px;" type="text"/> | Account number <input style="width: 95%; height: 25px;" type="text"/> |
| Bank sort code <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> - <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> - <input style="width: 20px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> | Account type <input style="width: 95%; height: 25px;" type="text"/> |
| Building Society roll number <input style="width: 95%; height: 25px;" type="text"/> | Branch address <input style="width: 95%; height: 25px;" type="text"/> |
| | Postcode: <input style="width: 95%; height: 25px;" type="text"/> |

Part 3: Address for remittance advice

| | |
|---|---|
| Choose one method only | Postal address (if different from Part 1) <input style="width: 95%; height: 25px;" type="text"/> |
| Send our remittance advice by post <input type="checkbox"/> | Postcode <input style="width: 95%; height: 25px;" type="text"/> |
| Send our remittance advice via email | |

Part 4: Authorised signatories

The names and specimen signatures of people authorised to sign claim forms on behalf of the person who signed the Grant Funding Agreement are shown below. These signatures are binding on this organisation in respect of the Agreement.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--|------------------------------|--|
| Name | | Name | |
| Position in the organisation | | Position in the organisation | |
| Signature | | Signature | |
| Date | | Date | |

Part 5: Grant recipient declaration

To be completed by the person who signed the Grant Funding Agreement

- I certify that the information given on this form is correct.
- I agree that following discussions, any overpayments can be automatically recovered from future payments.

| | |
|------|--|
| Name | Signature (<i>the person who signed the agreement</i>) |
| Date | |

Return this form to the address indicated in the Grant letter, alongside a signed Grant Funding Agreement.

General Data Protection Regulation (2018): The information on this form will be recorded on the Authority's computer system. The information provided will be used for paying your fees and will not be passed to anyone outside of the Authority without the permission of the Grant Recipient.

ANNEX 5 – ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURE SCHEDULE

(breakdown of forecast grant expenditure)

[Guidance: Details of eligible expenditure must be included in all funding agreements, including items of expenditure that are expressly ineligible. Grant recipients are required to provide evidence of their grant expenditure]

| Item of Expenditure | Budget (in UK Sterling)/forecast expenditure |
|---------------------|--|
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ANNEX 7 – CONTACT DETAILS

The main departmental contact in connection with the Grant is:

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Name of contact | Debra MacLeod |
| Position in organisation | Head of Local Authority Unit - Engagement (LAU) |
| Email address | debra.macleod@beis.gov.uk |
| LAU Email address | LAU.opss@beis.gov.uk |
| Telephone number | (0) 7909 527 613 |
| Fax number | |
| Postal address | 1 Victoria St, London SW1H 0ET |

This information is correct at the date of the Grant Funding Agreement. The Authority will send you a revised contact sheet if any of the details change.

The Grant Recipient's main contact in connection with the Grant Funding Agreement is:

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Reference | |
| Organisation | |
| Name of contact | |
| Position in organisation | |
| Email address | |
| Telephone number | |
| Fax number | |
| Postal address | |

Please inform the Authority if the Grant Recipient's main contact changes.

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Report on | 1. Rural Micro Business Development Scheme 2023 2. Covid19 Recovery Revitalisation Programme 3. Great Days Out 4. Sperrins Walking Programme |
| Date of Meeting | 5 July 2023 |
| Reporting Officer | Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes |

| | | |
|---|-----|---|
| 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 provide Members with an update on key activities as detailed below. |
| 2.0 | Background |
| 2.1 | <p>Rural Micro Business Development Scheme 2023</p> <p>The Rural Micro Business Development Scheme funded through DAERA's Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation programme (TRPSI) will run again in 2023 subject to approval of a business case and budget within the Department. This Scheme is again expected to offer a capital grant at 50% of eligible project costs up a maximum of £4,999 for business development and recovery activities.</p> <p>This Scheme has been running annually since 2019 and has proved very popular with rural businesses across the district with 416 letters of offer issued to the value of just over £1,315,977.22 in grant aid.</p> |
| 2.2 | <p>Covid19 Recovery Revitalisation Programme</p> <p>Council previously received a letter of offer from the Department for Communities for £1,452,000 to deliver Tranche 1 & Tranche 2 Business Support Grants and Active Travel Scheme. Tranche 1 & 2 Business Support Grants has all been allocated and the Active Travel element is ongoing.</p> |
| 2.3 | <p>Great Days Out</p> <p>This event was previously run by Tourism Northern Ireland, catering for group organisers, church groups, sports and social clubs, community groups, retirement associations, gardening groups, historical groups, rotary clubs and many more from across NI.</p> <p>Council has previously delivered three Great Days Out in 2019 at Corick House Hotel, Seamus Heaney Home Place in 2020 and The Glenavon Hotel 2022.</p> |

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| <p>2.4</p> | <p>Sperrins Walking Programme</p> <p>The Sperrins Partnership is a joint initiative involving the four Sperrins Councils with the purpose of delivering on a number of agreed action plans in a co-operative, co-ordinating manner under the themes of Tourism, Heritage, Infrastructure and Environment. The four Councils involved in the Partnership are Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, Derry City and Strabane District Council, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council and Mid Ulster District Council.</p> |
| <p>3.0</p> | <p>Main Report</p> |
| <p>3.1</p> | <p>Rural Micro Business Development Scheme 2023</p> <p>The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) has indicated that in the absence of an Assembly or Minister, there was delays to the current budget being confirmed for the 2023 Rural Business Development Grants Scheme. This budget has just now been confirmed and subject to DAERA approval of a business case which will be jointly prepared by all Councils participating.</p> <p>Subject to DAERA approving the business case, a contract will be issued to each participating Council. Council acceptance of the contract will be needed before the Scheme can be opened.</p> <p>The overall TRPSI scheme across all Councils in 2023 will be in the region of £4 million capital and £2million resource. The Rural Business Development Grant Scheme element is valued at £1.5 million, similar to last year's budget. Individual Council allocations to be confirmed once the business plan has been completed.</p> <p>3.2 Covid19 Recovery Revitalisation Programme</p> <p>There is one Active Travel scheme to be completed, which is the Clogher footpath scheme. This Clogher project is the development of a new footpath to complete a full loop from Station Road to Ballymagowan Road / McCrea Park (approximately 400 metres). This section of road has remained incomplete and is unsafe for walkers in the area. DfI will adopt this path on completion.</p> <p>Landowner negotiations are well advanced and are positive. Council were required to have additional vehicular access points included and therefore had to formally submit a Planning application to ensure the process was fully transparent with appropriate approvals obtained. To date no formal objections have been raised against this application so from a positive viewpoint this is widely supported from the local residents.</p> <p>Recently a request was made by Council to the Department for Communities (DfC) seeking an extension of time until 31 March 2024.</p> <p>DfC has agreed to Council's request and furnished Council with a letter of variance granting an extension to the period of funding to 31 March 2024 as detailed on Appendix 1.</p> |

3.3 Great Days Out

Great Days Out will directly target group organisers from across Northern Ireland and the border counties, such as church groups, community groups and retirement associations, Schools, Youth Groups, Young Farmers, Walking Groups.

The purpose of Great Days Out is to encourage these organisers and the general public to visit the Mid Ulster District by providing information on the wealth of fantastic group day visits available. It will showcase cultural experiences, heritage sites and special interest tours and will entice groups to visit locations which may not be familiar to them.

Great Days Out is designed to showcase the vast array of tourism businesses and experiences across the District. It will include attractions, activities and accommodation throughout the Mid Ulster Council area offering a range of great day trip experiences and overnights for a variety of groups from church, sports and social clubs to community groups, retirement associations, youth groups, schools and many more.

Group trip organisers, group leaders and the public will be given the opportunity to meet and sell directly to a range of exhibitors who can help them plan a day trip in Mid Ulster.

The event will take place in the Glenavon House Hotel, Cookstown on 18 October 2023.

3.4 Sperrins Walking Programme

The four partner Councils wish to appoint suitably qualified professional guides / organisation to deliver a two-day Walking Programme that will develop and co-ordinate outdoor recreation participation programmes for the local community and visitors, resulting in increased participation and ultimately improve physical and mental health.

The successful organisation will consult with each council's tourism team to develop the programme to showcase the local heritage and the walking/countryside experience, provided technical knowledge and applications, co-ordinate participation at each event, including health and safety, guide orientation, event monitoring and evaluation, marketing and promotion and overall delivery of the programme.

The successful organisation will be responsible to seek permissions from landowners, statutory agencies, local community buy-in and consideration of other activities being undertaken e.g. commercial tree felling etc. When developing the programme the successful organisation must consider the landscape topography, sensitivity of the environment and its biodiversity.

| | |
|------------|---|
| | <p>It is anticipated that the two-day Walking programme will be spread over a number of weekends during the months of March/April and September and will focus on various locations throughout the Sperrins region, one programme delivered in each council area.</p> <p>Mid Ulster tourism team propose to hold the two-day Walking Programme on the weekend of the 23 and 24 September 2023 consisting of moderate and challenging walks around Slieve Gallion, Moydamlaght and Davagh. Other walks throughout the district will be promoted to correspond with Sperrins Walking Programme to include easy and family walks.</p> <p>Following review and evaluation of the 2022 Festival it was deemed a successful weekend for local tourism and hospitality businesses within proximity to the walks.</p> |
| 4.0 | Other Considerations |
| 4.1 | Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications |
| | <p>Financial:</p> <p>Rural Micro Business Development Scheme 2023 The scheme will be 100% funded by DAERA.</p> <p>Covid19 Recovery Revitalisation Programme Funding has been received from DfC for £1,452,000 to be spent by March 2023. Letter of variance attached on Appendix 1 providing an extension to allow the Clogher footpath scheme to be completed by 31 March 2024.</p> <p>Great Days Out Within existing tourism budget, approximate cost is £2,500.</p> <p>Sperrins Walking Programme Maximum contribution of £3,000 from each of the four partner Councils</p> |
| | <p>Human:</p> <p>Rural Micro Business Development Scheme 2023 Officer time. An administration budget is to be agreed with DAERA. For the 2022, Scheme this was based on 10% of the total value of letters of offer issued.</p> <p>Covid19 Recovery Revitalisation Programme Officer time.</p> <p>Great Days Out Officer time.</p> <p>Sperrins Walking Programme Officer time.</p> |

| | |
|------------|--|
| | <p>Risk Management:</p> <p>Rural Micro Business Development Scheme 2023 Council policies and procedures will be adhered to in the roll out of this scheme.</p> <p>Covid19 Recovery Revitalisation Programme One aspect of the Active Travel scheme (Clogher footpath) requires an extension of time until 31 March 2024 to allow for landowner issues and planning matters to be finalised. DfC has issued Council with a letter of variance to accommodate this request.</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications:</p> <p>Rural Micro Business Development Scheme 2023 Screening will be carried out prior of commencement of the Scheme.</p> <p>COVID Small Settlements Regeneration Programme To be considered in line with Council Policies and Procedures.</p> <p>Sperrins Walking Programme Screening will be carried out prior to commencement of the project. Local community involvement, promoting health and wellbeing, economic growth in rural businesses and promotion of the Sperrin communities to visitors. On evaluation of the 2022 Walking Programme, many local communities participated as well as visitors to the area.</p> |
| 5.0 | Recommendation(s) |
| | <p>It is recommended that Members: -</p> <p>5.1 Rural Micro Business Development Scheme 2023 Approve Council's participation in the 2023 Rural Business Development Grants Scheme.</p> <p>5.2 Covid19 Recovery Revitalisation Programme Approve authority for the Chief Executive to sign the Covid-19 Recovery Programme Letter of Variance on Appendix 1, dated 21 June 2023 which grants an extension to the period of funding to 31 March 2024, and to return the signed letter to the Department for Communities immediately following the Development Committee to meet the Department's response timeframe.</p> <p>5.3 Great Days Out Event Approve delivery of the Great Days Out event 2023 in the Glenavon House Hotel, Cookstown on 18 October 2023 at the cost of £2,500.</p> <p>5.4 Sperrins Walking Programme Approve delivery of the Sperrins Walking Programme with the four Councils involved in Sperrins Partnership at a cost of £3,000 within Tourism budget constraints.</p> |

| | |
|------------|--|
| 6.0 | Documents Attached & References |
| | Appendix 1 - Covid-19 Recovery Revitalisation Programme – Letter of Variance |

Appendix 1

From: Sharon McGowan (By email)



Mr Adrian McCreesh
Chief Executive
Mid Ulster District Council

North West Development Office/West Team
2nd Floor
Boaz House
19 Scarffes Entry
Omagh
Co Tyrone
BT78 1JG

Telephone: (028) 82 2555506

Email: Sharon.McGowan@communities-ni.gov.uk

Our reference: CO1-20-11980

Date: 21 June 2023

| | |
|--|--|
| Project Reference No | CO1-20-11980 |
| Project Applicant | MID ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL |
| Project Title | COVID-19 RECOVERY REVITALISATION PROGRAMME |
| Total Funding | £1,452,000 |
| Period of Funding | 27 July 2020 to 31 December 2022 (as per letter issued by G. Murray Director of Regional Development Office 15 March 2022) |
| Organisation's Financial Systems and Controls Rating | Robust |

Dear Adrian,

1. Revised Approval

The purpose of this letter is to effect certain amendments and variations to the Contract for Funding constituted by the letter dated 28th October 2020, the Letter of Variance dated 2nd March 2021, the Letter of Variance dated 26th August 2021, the

Letter of Variance dated 22nd March 2022, and the Letter of Variance dated 20th September 2022 issued to Mid Ulster District Council for the COVID-19 Recovery Revitalisation Programme. I am pleased to confirm that the period of funding has been extended to 31 March 2024. Accordingly, upon the Organisation's acceptance of this letter as hereinafter provided the said Contract for Funding shall be amended and have effect as follows:

(i) The contract detail table, as above, is substituted to:

| | |
|--|--|
| Project Reference No | CO1-20-11980 |
| Project Applicant | MID ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL |
| Project Title | COVID-19 RECOVERY REVITALISATION PROGRAMME |
| Total Funding | £1,452,000 |
| Period of Funding | 27 July 2020 to 31 March 2024 (as per letter issued by G. Murray Director of Regional Development Office 13 June 2023) |
| Organisation's Financial Systems and Controls Rating | Robust |

(ii) Ensure the project is completed in accordance with any statutory approvals and notify the Department when Planning Approval has been received.

(iii) Annex B (2) is attached which updates projects and costs following agreement on active travel schemes with DfI. It is noted some re-profiling will be required as per project update received 2/6/23.

(iv) A revised Annex E (2) is attached which changes the target dates for the key objectives from December 2023 to March 2025.

2. Acceptance

This letter is issued electronically by e-mail and, accordingly, if the Organisation is prepared to accept the variance to the original Contract for Funding, please return a scanned PDF copy of this letter duly signed and dated on behalf of the Organisation

within one week from the date of this letter. Failure to return the acceptance within this period shall result in the offer being deemed as withdrawn.

3. Availability

The foregoing offer shall remain open a period of four weeks from the date of this letter. Failure to return a scanned PDF copy of this letter duly signed and dated on behalf of the Organisation within this period shall result in the offer being deemed as withdrawn.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sharon McGowan".

Sharon McGowan
Deputy Director NWDO/West

4. OFFICIAL FUNDING ACCEPTANCE

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Project Reference No | CO1-20-11980 |
| Project Applicant | MID ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL |
| Project Title | COVID-19 RECOVERY REVITALISATION PROGRAMME |
| Amount of Funding | £1,452,000 |
| Period of Funding | 27 July 2020 to 31 March 2024 (as per letter issued by G. Murray Director of Regional Development Office 13 June 2023) |

I _____ have authority **on behalf of**
(Name of Chief Executive in Block Capitals)

Name of Council

to accept the offer of funding set out in the letter dated 21 June 2023 and agree to deliver the above project on the terms and conditions therein.

Signed by
(Chief Executive)

Witnessed by
(Registered Office Bearer)

Name in Block Capitals

Name in Block Capitals

Date

Date

5. BANK DETAILS

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Project Reference No | CO1-20-11980 |
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Please complete Bank details below.

Name of Organisation: _____

Name of Account: _____

Bank Name: _____

Bank Address: _____

Sort Code: _____ **Account Number:** _____

Signed by
(Chief Executive)

Witnessed by
(Registered Office Bearer)

Name in Block Capitals

Name in Block Capitals

Date

Date

ANNEX B (2)

AREAS TO BE FUNDED UNDER TRANCHE 2 & 3 OF THE PROGRAMME

| Item | Cost | Funding Stream (DfC, DAERA, DFI, Revenue) |
|---|-------------------|--|
| COVID-19 Business Support Grant – Urban (PH2 & 3) | £376,000 | DfC |
| Subtotal DfC | £376,000 | |
| COVID-19 Business Support Grant – Rural (PH2) | £148,000 | DAERA |
| Subtotal DAERA | £148,000 | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coalisland Lighting scheme • Maghera Lighting scheme • Eglisk Footpath • Clonoe Footpath • Clogher Footpath • Bellaghy Footpath (Design Brief) • OB | £127,000 | DFI |
| | £42,500 | |
| | £117,000 | |
| | £40,000 | |
| | £85,000 | |
| | £18,000 | |
| | £35,500 | |
| Subtotal DFI | £465,000 | |
| Professional Fees etc... | £34,000 | DfC Revenue |
| Subtotal DfC Revenue | £34,000 | |
| Total Capital Funding - Tranche 2 & 3 | £989,000 | |
| Total Revenue Funding - Tranche 2 | £34,000 | |
| Tranche 2 Total | £1,023,000 | |
| | | |
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| | | |
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| | | |

**COVID-19 RECOVERY REVITALISATION PROGRAMME
OBJECTIVES, OUTPUTS & OUTCOMES**

Objectives

1. To support each district council to develop a costed Covid-19 Recovery Revitalisation Plan by September 2020. **This objective has now been met.**
2. By August 2020, each district council will have established or identified a suitable stakeholder engagement forum to support the delivery of its Covid-19 Revitalisation Plan. **This objective has now been met.**
3. To support each district council to deliver its Covid-19 Recovery Revitalisation Plan by March 2024.
4. By March 2025, 80% of businesses in scheme areas agree that the improvements to their businesses and other Capital purchase projects would encourage people to live, work, visit and invest in the area (by council).
5. By March 2025, 80% of people using the scheme areas agree that the improvements to the area would encourage people to live, work, visit and invest in the area (by council).
6. By March 2025, council schemes funded through this Programme will have positively impacted on efforts to see footfall levels returning to a level which is at least 70% of levels recorded prior to the public health crisis.
7. By March 2025, surveys completed by traders indicate that council schemes funded through this Programme will have positively impacted on efforts to see sales figures returning to a level which is at least 70% of levels recorded prior to the public health crisis.
8. By March 2025, attitudinal surveys indicate 80% of the public are satisfied with the measures taken in the Scheme areas to respond to safety issues raised by the Covid-19 pandemic.

9. By March 2025, attitudinal surveys indicate 70% of the public are satisfied with walking facilities in the Scheme area.
10. By March 2025, attitudinal surveys indicate 60% of the public agree that they are satisfied with cycling facilities in the Scheme area.
11. By March 2025, attitudinal surveys indicate 40% of the public agree that measures taken in the Scheme area would encourage people to change from car use to more environmentally friendly choices such as walking and cycling for journeys of under two miles.
12. By March 2025, grant fund measures in the Scheme area to demonstrate the benefits of low-emission fuel options.
13. By March 2025, the scheme area will have an increase in land used for active travel (i.e. extended footways, cycle ways, and connecting pathways) which connects people with key services and ensures accessibility for all including those with disabilities.

Outputs

Council Revitalisation Plans.

- Each council will provide a quantification of the outputs associated with their plan.

Outcomes

Outcome Delivery Plan - Outcome 10: We have created a place where people want to live and work, to visit and invest.

- New and improved physical infrastructure and environment in which opportunity can flourish in economic, social and cultural terms to develop our attractiveness as a home, place of business, and tourist destination.

- Bring communities together and deliver programmes that target social need through social, economic and physical regeneration of cities, towns and villages.
- Complete a range of Urban Regeneration Schemes in towns and cities across Northern Ireland to enhance our attractiveness as a home, place of business, and tourist destination.
- Develop strategic sites across Northern Ireland to provide new and improved physical infrastructure and environment.

Outcome Delivery Plan - Outcome 11: We connect people and opportunities through our infrastructure

- Achieve a shift from the private car to active travel modes such as walking and cycling
- Protect and enhance our 'green' and 'blue' infrastructure (parks, green spaces and street trees; ponds, streams and lakes) to define a sense of place and character within our communities, making it more attractive to walk and cycle to access key services with associated health and wellbeing outcomes and strengthening the resilience of our natural environment.
- Develop integrated sustainable drainage solutions to manage rainwater on the surface to protect against flooding.

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Report on | 10X Place Based Approach: Call for Evidence |
| Date of Meeting | 5 July 2023 |
| Reporting Officer | Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism & Strategic Programmes |

| | | |
|---|-----|---|
| 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 provide Members with an update on key activities as detailed below. |
| 2.0 | Background |
| 2.1 | 10X Place Based Approach: Call for Evidence The Department for the Economy have been developing some early work on a future place-based sub-regional economic approach and have launched a Call for Evidence to help inform how they should progress that. |
| 3.0 | Main Report |
| 3.1 | 10X Place Based Approach: Call for Evidence The Department for the Economy have been developing some early work on a future place-based sub-regional economic approach and have launched a Call for Evidence to help inform how they should progress that. The Department's Call for Evidence (Appendix 1a) notes it is "to create a body of information which will inform policy makers and a future Minister in the Department for the Economy of what central intervention and support is needed or wanted" and will be used to develop this work stream throughout 2023 and inform future discussions with key stakeholders. Council has developed a draft Response (Appendix 1b) which is to be submitted by Friday 7 July 2023 (deadline is Sunday 9 July 2023). In order to meet the required deadline, approval is sought for the draft response to be submitted following the Development Committee meeting on Wednesday 5 July 2023. If any Member wishes for additional comments to be forwarded to the Department for the Economy to supplement Council's consultation response, these should be |

| | |
|------------|---|
| | forwarded to the Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism & Strategic Programmes by 12 noon on Friday 28 July 2023. |
| | Other Considerations |
| 4.1 | Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications |
| | Financial: None |
| | Human: Officer Time |
| | Risk Management: None |
| 4.2 | Screening & Impact Assessments |
| | Equality & Good Relations Implications: |
| | Rural Needs Implications: |
| 5.0 | Recommendation(s) |
| 5.1 | <p>It is recommended that Members:</p> <p>10X Place Based Approach: Call for Evidence</p> <p>Approve Council's draft response to the 10X - Call for Evidence which is to be submitted by Friday 7 July 2023 (deadline is Sunday 9 July 2023). If any Member has further comments they wish to add, these should be forwarded to the Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism & Strategic Programmes by 12noon on Friday 28 July 2023.</p> |
| 6.0 | Documents Attached & References |
| | <p>Appendix 1a - 10X Place Based Economic Approach: Call for Evidence</p> <p>Appendix 1b - Draft Response to 10X Place Based Economic Approach: Call for Evidence</p> |



Department for the
Economy
www.economy-ni.gov.uk

PLACE 10X

A SUB-REGIONAL ECONOMIC APPROACH



MAY 2023

PLACE 10X

A SUB-REGIONAL ECONOMIC APPROACH

locally designed interventions to deliver innovative, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth; building on the existing strengths of a place to unlock potential, to empower communities, and to tackle sub-regional and local inequality.

CALL FOR EVIDENCE
May 2023

| | |
|--|----|
| Introduction | 4 |
| What is Place? | 5 |
| What is Place10X? | 6 |
| The Call for Evidence – Overview | 7 |
| 1 – What is the problem we are trying to solve? | 8 |
| 2 – What geographic areas should Place10X cover? | 10 |
| 3 – What is expected of delivery partners? | 12 |
| 4 – What interventions could occur? | 13 |
| 5 – What are the indicators of success? | 14 |
| 6 – Is the Department’s definition of Place and use of Place10X correct? | 16 |
| Summary | 17 |
| How to respond | 18 |
| Annex A – Evidence Snapshot | 19 |
| Annex B – Example Indicators | 24 |
| Further Information | 26 |

PLACE 10X

A SUB-REGIONAL ECONOMIC APPROACH

DfE is responsible for the economy across Northern Ireland and the [10X Vision](#)¹ is the Department's plan to create a pathway to transform the entire economy innovatively, inclusively, and sustainably at a regional level. This is a long-term plan where Northern Ireland will become one of the top performing small, advanced economies in the world.

With 10X driving ambition at the macro level, and councils leading economic development at a local level in partnership with statutory partners such as Invest NI, there is a need to consider the sub-regional focus² and how the three levels link together. This is where [Place10X](#) comes in. This is why DfE is asking for your help to develop this approach.

This Call for Evidence is to create a body of information which will inform policy makers and a future Minister in the Department for the Economy of what central intervention and support is needed or wanted.

We are also looking for your thoughts on the best way to measure success. We would like you to share your thoughts on these so that we can co-produce a collective approach to sub-regional economic initiatives.

Embedding a concept like *place* takes time. This is not going to be quick or easy. It will take a Minister to be in office to set new policy directions. It will require a realignment of policy teams and programme delivery bodies to reprioritise their focus. Results may be visible in some areas instantly and some change may be generational. We do not want to duplicate or challenge your efforts but to build on them.

1 [10X Economy - an economic vision](#)

2 Sub-regional here is taken in the context that NI is the regional level, the 11 council areas are each a local level and hence, sub-regional is an area (to be defined) in between these levels. See page 7 below.

What is Place?

Place at its most general refers to three main components:

- location – where it is on a map, e.g. an area, city, town, or village;
- locale – the material social setting, e.g. workplaces, shops, neighbourhoods, churches; and
- a sense of a place – how we feel emotionally about a location or locale.

Taken together it can be an idea of identity and belonging, both physically and culturally, and allows some to define the special quality of a place.

When used in policy making and programme development it demands that those designing interventions are cognisant of the uniqueness of a place, while working with those based there, to design initiatives to be complementary and specialised.

Place based interventions are not simply a local version of a macro approach, they often aim to tackle an inequality or disadvantage too. In this way *place* based interventions can accelerate the development of a more robust local ecosystem, identifying and unlocking capability while removing systematic weaknesses.

This means working to build on the existing strengths of a place: its people and its businesses, councils and community organisations, local knowledge, and experience, and agreeing how to use these assets to harness this untapped potential to deliver inclusive and sustainable change.

What is Place10X?

DfE's responsibility is the economic remit, and as *place* refers to a much broader concept encompassing the work of other NI Executive departments such as community, justice, education, and health, there is a need to distinguish what the Department can and cannot do.

Place10X is used here to remove any confusion with the wider concept. This is the start of a conversation that will lead to a strategic approach to determine what intervention and support is required within the economic remit, and to determine what role the Department for the Economy can and should play in places across Northern Ireland.

The Place10X Team in DfE will develop this work stream throughout 2023 beginning by listening to stakeholders through this Call for Evidence.

The Call for Evidence – Overview

This requires several questions be answered:

1. What is the problem we are trying to solve?
2. What geographic areas should [Place10X](#) cover?
3. What is expected of delivery partners?
4. What interventions could or already occur?
5. What does success look like?
6. Is the Department's view of *place* and use of [Place10X](#) correct?

We will ask these questions and highlight early thinking throughout this document. A response form is attached at the end, but we would also like to meet with stakeholders to listen to your ideas. We are happy to do this via videoconference or in person. We would appreciate sight of relevant plans in your organisation that consider *place*.

This will be done in three cohorts:

- Local Government, third sector, business, academia, community groups, and trade bodies;
- DfE and ALB partners; and
- NICS *place* teams & delivery partners.

Once views have been collected, we will analyse responses to develop a position paper to test those ideas with you. This will be followed by a consultation to co-produce what the final [Place10X](#) strategic approach should be.

1 – What is the problem we are trying to solve?

- a. Firstly, there is a Departmental macro regional approach (10X) and there are local government approaches but no defined DfE sub-regional approach and no strategic link between those three levels. Is there a need for a sub-regional level?

The 10X Vision is clear that *place* based thinking should be applied to the programme of work DfE is involved in. This holistic approach is important to ensure that everyone in society can avail of the economic opportunities 10X will bring.

Taking this as a starting point, an initial analysis of sub-regional disparities was undertaken to create a snapshot (see Annex A) based on the geographic model of the four City and Growth Deal (CGD) regions. The CGD regions were chosen here as sub-regionally representative to provide an illustrative evidence base. The metrics showed disparities existed and a further snapshot of metrics at council area level revealed differences within the CGD regions. Even within areas that are doing relatively well there appear to be variations of economic prosperity.

While this isn't comprehensive, and it doesn't dig deeply into the factors behind the metrics, it does point to the need to at least consider there are disparities. Many of these areas will continue to show disparities unless we change our approach – the status quo has not worked to date. There is also the chance to maximise opportunities in areas that are performing better and to examine if central government support can accelerate growth. It highlights there is a challenge for the Department to consider.

- b. Further, if the Department has a role to play at a sub-regional level, does it then follow there is a role at council area? What could this be given the role and remit of local government? Should DfE be involved only sub-regionally initially leaving the local space to councils, business, academia, and communities?

The metrics point to the need for more joined up thinking across the public sector given the range of issues and the levels of government involved. Adopting a sub-regional approach and linking this to 10X and local council area plans would appear to be a sensible course of action. It could remove silos, maximise limited resources, enable delivery bodies to pivot and realign to more targeted programmes, and it brings a greater range of expertise to bear. Given the scale of this issue, it makes sense for DfE to play a central role at sub-regional level. The Department has a range of drivers and influence that can support and supplement other stakeholders to remove or lessen disparities.

This doesn't mean always taking the lead or being the decision maker but can be a role acting as a co-ordinator between a range of partners. The Department has a range of Arm's Length Bodies (ALB) such as Invest NI and Tourism NI that can play an important function here too. ALBs are already embedded in sub-regional and local level work streams, have inputted to local development plans, and have a wealth of experience at working within the unique characteristics of a place. Their knowledge will be essential in landscape mapping now, and in horizon scanning going forward.

At local level any work must be undertaken in partnership with those already acting in those places. There is even an argument that DfE should never be in the lead, but how this may manifest itself is discussed alongside geographic considerations below.

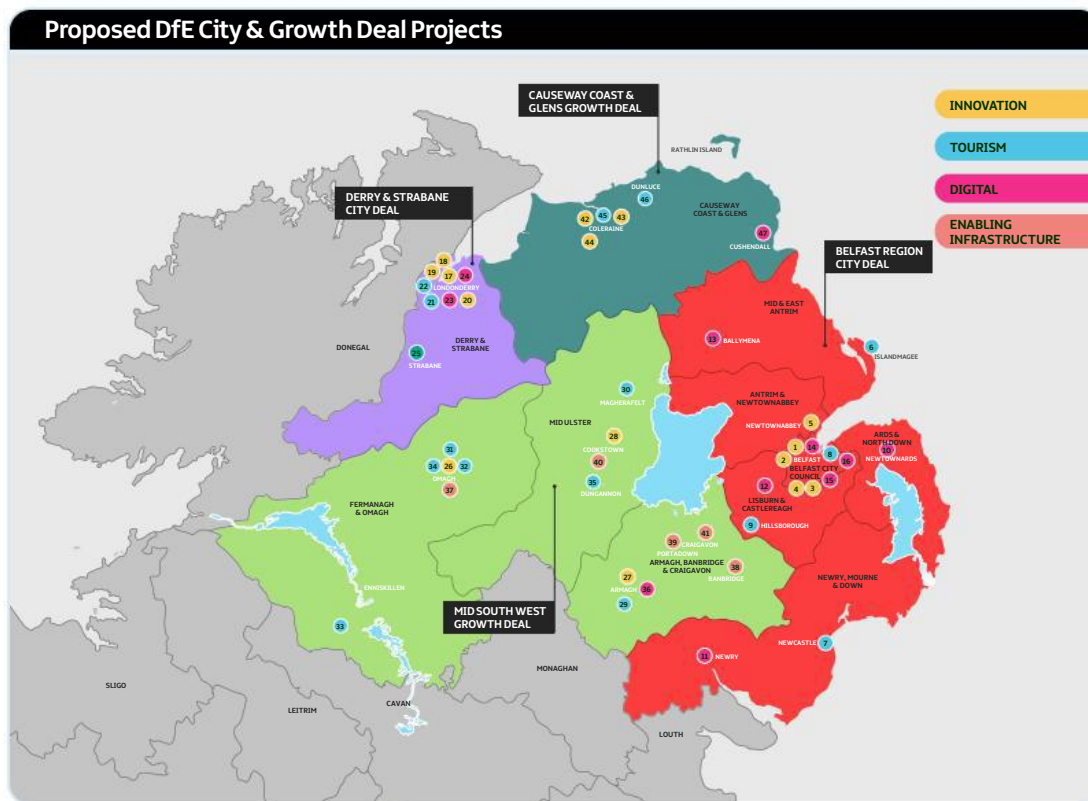
2 – What geographic areas should Place10X cover?

There are three possible strands to a geographic approach:

- sub-regional;
- local; and
- custom focused.

With 10X as the macro regional NI approach, a local level approach could be appropriately classed as a council area. In turn sub-regional would then be anything aggregating council areas together. A custom focus, such as cross-border initiatives like the North-West Strategic Growth Partnership and the Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor can be supported or a more localised approach could be developed based on need.

The City & Growth Deals (CGD) Programme has established good relationships between DfE, local government, universities, and other government departments. Invest NI and Tourism NI act as investment decision makers for new project proposals giving them an insight to sub-regional needs and they will already be applying a *place* based approach when considering CGD business cases. DfE and its delivery partners are already considering how resources can be reprioritised to maximise the Deal projects' potential; taking a consistent approach beyond the programme for this purpose would therefore be reasonable. It would appear to be the most appropriate starting sub-regional model for [Place10X](#).



Source: Department for the Economy NI

While some *place* interventions need to be at CGD project size, given the scale requirements, some must be at a more granular level due to the challenge they are tackling or that they are not able to be delivered through a City & Growth Deal project. These are the local level interventions.

With councils in the lead of local economic development and with statistical data often collected at this level, it makes sense that council areas are considered as the ‘local level’ in terms of [Place10X](#). While some *place* interventions may need to occur at ward level or lower, developing metrics and indicators could prove difficult. Given that the macro level is directed by central government and that the CGD sub-regional level is a partnership of central and local government, it follows that local area *place* interventions should be designed and led by that community – whether local government, or community and third sector, or business groups – not DfE. There is a space for the Department to support and monitor actions that will aggregate towards achieving 10X goals and this should be explored with local government.

Regardless of lead, these levels are interlinked and can be complementary, allowing both top-down and bottom-up design to tackle the same issue.

3 – What is expected of delivery partners?

If DfE can use the evidence base to further identify sub-regional disparities, and policy teams are able to apply a *place* based lens to realign objectives and prioritise localised interventions, programme delivery partners – such as Invest NI – could then direct focused support to tackle those disparities at that level. With regional offices established, InvestNI is well placed to support [Place10X](#). Discussions are already underway to consider how this could operate.

There is also the potential to work with other NICS departments, such as through the Department for Communities and Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs led Test and Learn project. Universities, as CGD partners, could not only support actions and interventions directly, but could also support the development of policy and a metrics dataset using their academic expertise.

Local councils can play a key role in working with the Department to align their priorities with DfE's macro level indicators for success. There are also partnership opportunities if one or more councils have the same issue that the sub-regional work streams are not dealing with.

4 – What interventions could occur?

Interventions can take a range of forms – from policy and legislative changes to enable greater focus on disparities and inequalities or to remove barriers to success, to funded programme interventions that are targeted rather than rolled out at regional level as may occur at present.

Even before establishing any of these, launching a [Place10X](#) policy, building a *place* based dataset, embedding the concept in DfE and its ALBs, and forming a network of stakeholders committed to this approach would be a step change.

A collaboratively produced delivery plan setting out the way forward should capture not only DfE interventions but those at local government level, and associated actions of other NICS *place* projects with some economic benefit.

It is important that all partners have a say in the prioritisation of interventions.

5 – What are the indicators of success?

10X metrics and indicators of success will inform those considered to measure [Place10X](#). However, the [Place10X](#) dataset must be bespoke to meet the unique challenges that apply sub-regionally and locally. It should also be flexible to monitor emerging challenges and priorities.

We recognise that each place is unique with its own strengths and needs and that the realities of people's lives are best captured at a local and community level. We need to map out disparities and strengths at a local level as well as sub-regionally. Your evidence will help us to build up a unique picture.

To be successful we need strong evidence to provide a collective, evidence applied approach to developing robust metrics. The evidence we gather and the deeper analysis we complete will provide us with a strong foundation on which to add value. Robust evidence informed policy making will lead to sustainable and lasting *place* based interventions.

It will also highlight gaps in our knowledge and will be a reference point on which we can commission research.

Suggested metrics to map out an area should be comparative across geographic areas and initially based on data that is readily available.

Council level data is already collected across a wide range of topics, and this would be a focus to begin with. This does not discount other geographic information gathering such as education statistics or information from other sources but is to be seen as a starting point for discussion. If data can be produced at council area it can be aggregated up for sub-regional purposes. Similarly, some macro level data cannot be disaggregated. Your evidence and thoughts will be key in deciding which are the best indicators to use for measuring growth and success.

Below are a range of proposed themes for metrics that could provide a holistic view of [Place 10X](#) supported change at a local level:

- Population and its makeup;
- Breakdown of industry;
- Entrepreneurship and Business Growth;
- Labour Market;
- Skills & Qualifications;

- Quality of Life, Wellbeing and Equality; and
- Innovation.

This list is not definitive and had been created to start discussion; further detail is provided at Annex B.

There will need to be a project undertaken to link local and sub-regional indicators to 10X metrics to ensure value of [Place10X](#) interventions can be analysed alongside macro strategic initiatives.

There is a need to consider if a toolkit is required within DfE to monitor how policy and programme proposals consider [Place10X](#). Existing tools such as the various impact assessments could be utilised to avoid creating a layer of bureaucracy that becomes a barrier to success. This work will be taken forward internally.

6 – Is the Department’s definition of Place and use of Place 10X correct?

We know the concept of *place* is wider than just the DfE remit and there is a need to ensure that [Place10X](#) works alongside other departmental and local government interpretations of what *place* in an economic context is, but an initial working definition is proposed:

Place 10X: *locally designed interventions to deliver innovative, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth. Building on the existing strengths of a place to unlock potential, to empower communities, and to tackle sub-regional and local inequality.*

This is not intended to be proscriptive or for others to have to adopt. This is to separate the DfE *place* role from that of other departments and to create a focus in establishing a sub-regional and local level response in tackling disparities.

Summary

This call for evidence sets out DfE initial thinking around what *place* is in an economic context

Place 10X – locally designed interventions to deliver innovative, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth. Building on the existing strengths of a place to unlock potential, to empower communities, and to tackle sub-regional and local inequality.

and provides you with the opportunity to help us create evidence that can be used to shape a tailored, *place* focused approach to policy creation and interventions:

1. Is there a need for a sub-regional level intervention?
 - a. What sub-regional geographic areas should [Place10X](#) cover?
 - b. If the Department has a role to play at a sub-regional level, is there is a role at council area? What could this be given the role and remit of local government? Should DfE be involved only sub-regionally initially leaving the local space to councils, business, academia, and communities?
2. What is expected of delivery partners?
3. What interventions could or already occur?
4. What does success look like?
5. Is the Department's view of *place* and use of [Place10X](#) correct?

How to respond

You can answer the questions above and you can offer any relevant statements or evidence by sending a written response to the [Place10X](#) Team **by 9th July 2023**.

Please email responses to Place10X@economy-ni.gov.uk or in writing to:

Place10X
Department for the Economy
Adelaide House
39 - 49 Adelaide Street
Belfast
BT2 8FD

In addition to written responses, we would like to speak with organisations and stakeholders to discuss [Place10X](#) and if you would like to take part in those conversations, please let us know.

Annex A – Evidence Snapshot

Extensive work and consultation have already been completed by the Department, through the ‘Measuring Success’ report, on creating a comprehensive suite of Tier 1 and Tier 2 metrics for 10X which will help shape all Departmental activity. Analysis of these highlighted that we have significant and long-standing problems in our economy. While Tier 1 metrics measure growth on an international map, the Tier 2 metrics will help us look at growth and from a PLACE perspective.

The 10X Vision pillars of innovation, inclusivity and sustainability have been identified as capturing the 10X vision for Northern Ireland. Innovation is essential for economic growth and social wellbeing and can monitor changes in productivity, entrepreneurship, and R&D. Inclusivity ensures that growth is distributed fairly across society for people and place and creates opportunities for all. The Department’s aim is to help people from underrepresented groups and places to skill up, ensure they are equitably paid when in employment, have ‘good quality’ work and experience a fairer distribution of wealth.

This evidence snapshot is provided using a mixture of the indicators across the Innovation and Inclusivity pillars and is not intended to duplicate the extensive work already done. Instead, the following are being provided for illustrative purposes only to inform discussion. Similarly, the different geographic boundaries have been kept flexible.

After analysis of evidence collected through this, a bespoke set of Tier 3 metrics will be created, linked to the themes already set out in the ‘Measuring Success’ report.

Labour Market Indicators

(Tier 1 –Inclusive Growth)

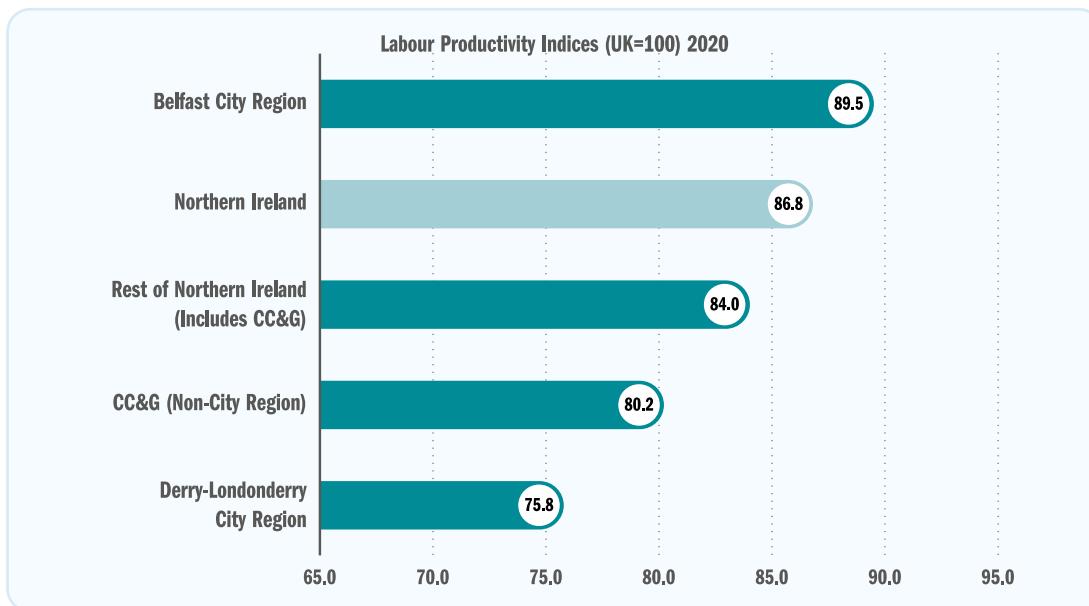


Source: NISRA/DfE, 2022 by City Deal region based on 2020 figures

*Estimates for City Regions comprising of one LGD subject to greater uncertainty year on year due to sampling constraints. Significant volatility in estimated inactivity rates from 2012 -20. Rates presented above are 5y average values (to 2021) to account for this.

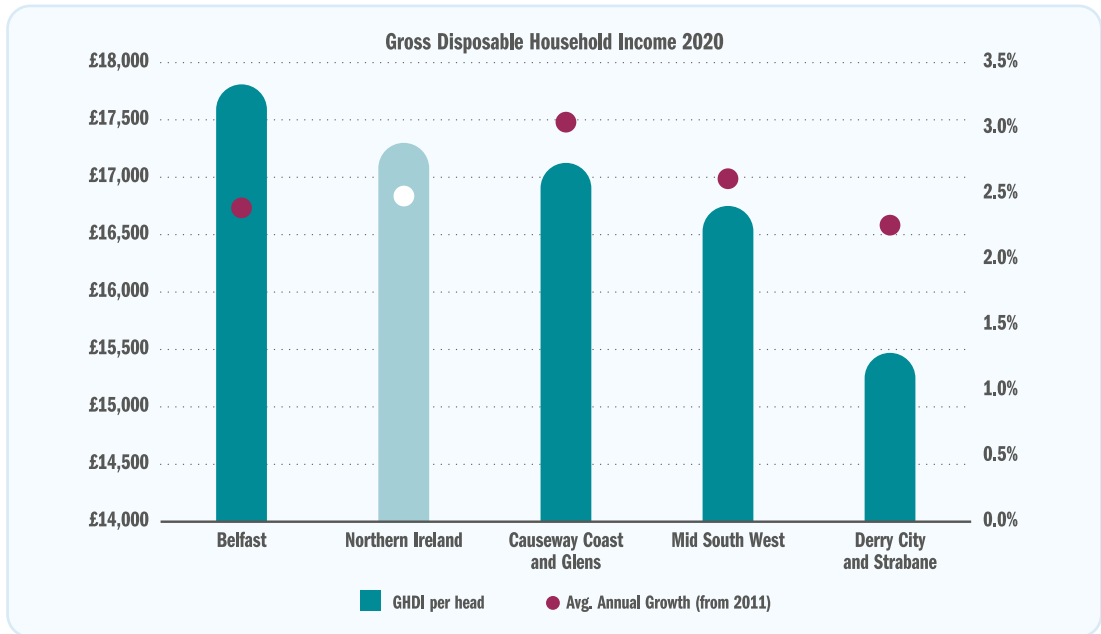
Labour Productivity

(Tier 1 –Innovation Led Growth)



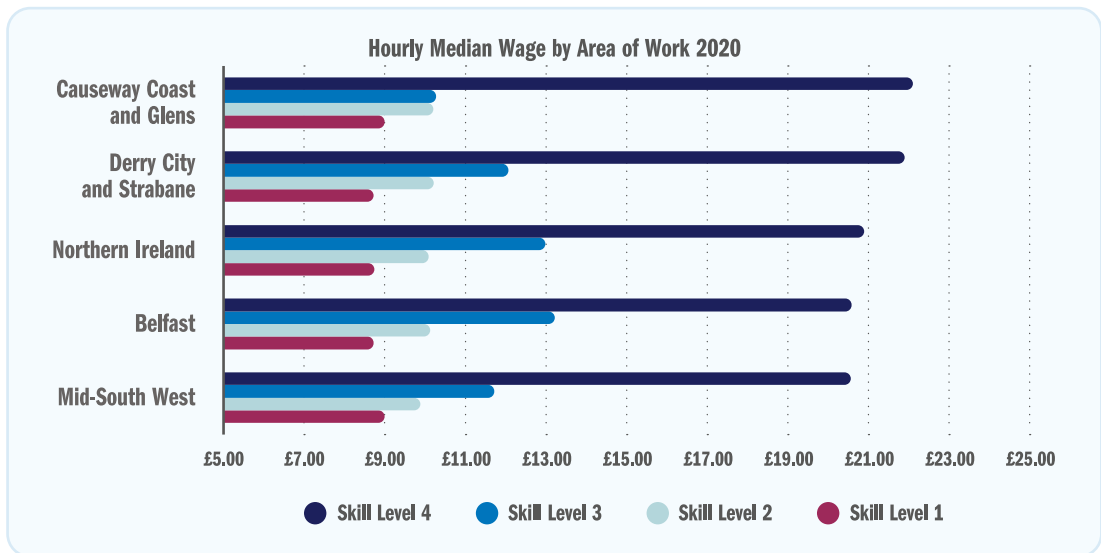
Source: NISRA/DfE, 2022 by City Deal region based on 2020 figures

Gross Household Disposable Income (Tier 1 – Inclusive Growth)



Source: NISRA/DfE, 2022 by City Deal region based on 2020 figures

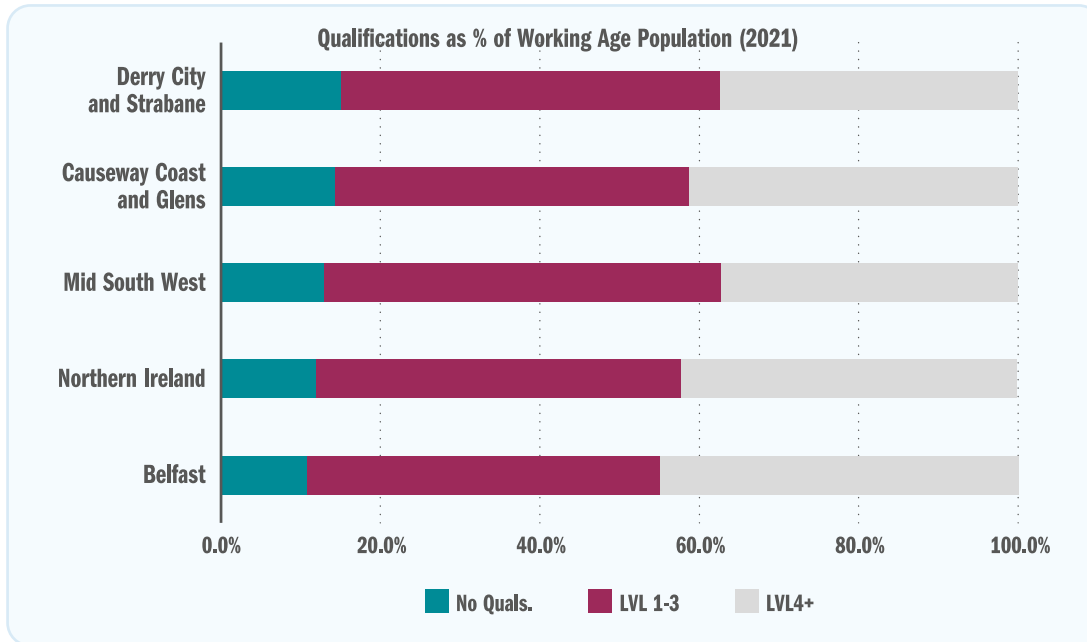
Hourly Median Wage (Tier 1 – Innovation Led Growth)



Source: NISRA/DfE, 2022 by City Deal region based on 2020 figures

Qualifications

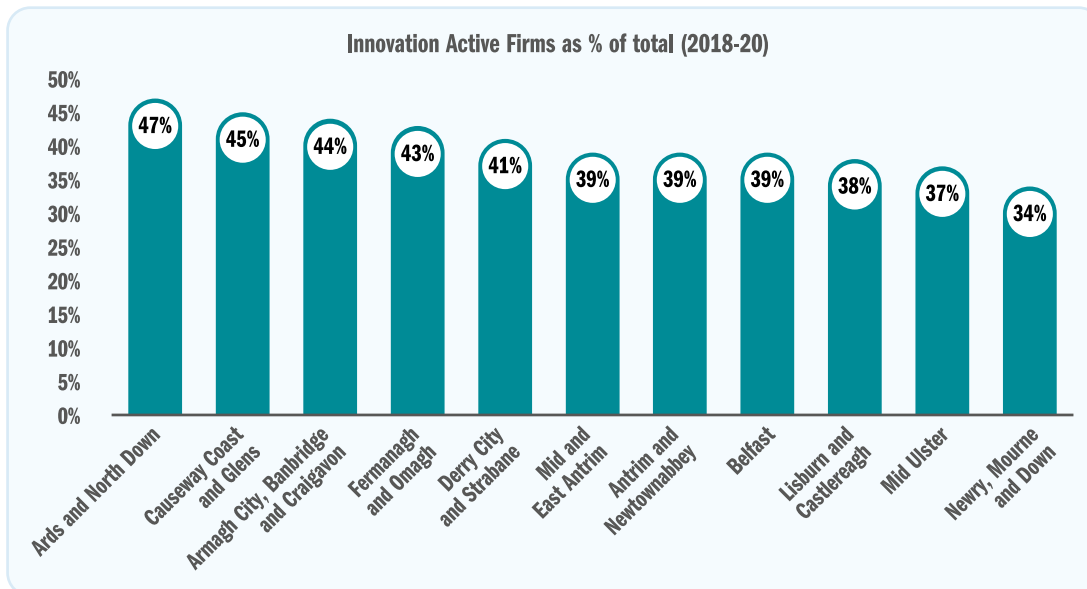
(Tier 1 –Inclusive Growth/Tier 1 –Innovation Led Growth/ Tier 2 –Inclusive Growth)



Source: NISRA/DfE, 2022 by City Deal region based on 2021 figures

Innovation Active Firms

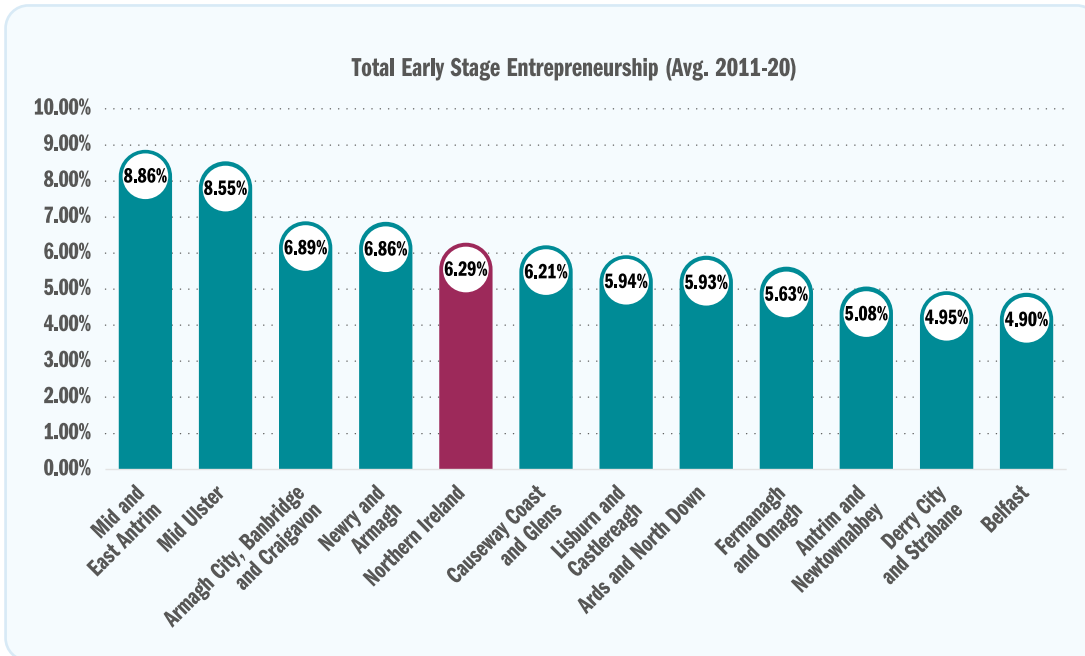
(Tier 2 –Innovation Led Growth)



Source: NISRA/DfE, 2022 by NI Council region based on figures 2018-2020

Total Early-Stage Entrepreneurship

(Tier 1 – Innovation Led Growth)



Source: GEM NI report, 2021 by NI Council region based on figures 2011-2020

Global Entrepreneurship Monitor measures the propensity of individuals to be entrepreneurial and may not match official statistics.

Annex B – Examples of Indicators

The indicators below are set out for example purposes only.

| Theme | Metric |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Population | Population breakdown by age |
| | Number of employed and unemployed |
| | Economically inactive – broken down by gender, disability, and caring responsibilities |
| Industry | Number of companies by industry and size |
| | Number of people employed and where |
| Business Growth | Industry breakdown by council |
| | Startups |
| | Tech startups |
| | Business Survival Rates |
| Entrepreneurship | Early-stage Entrepreneurial Activity in NI (LGD) |
| | Early-stage Female Entrepreneurial Activity in NI |
| | Number of Social Enterprises |
| Innovation | Number of R&D companies |
| | Number of R&D FTE |
| | Number of Innovation Accredited Businesses |
| | Innovation infrastructure e.g. City Deals projects |
| Social | Living Wage |
| | Quality of Life – Life Satisfaction and Wellbeing |
| | Gross disposable income |
| | Prosperity |
| | Culture |
| Equality & Inclusion | Comparison of wages by gender |
| | Number of people registered disabled in the workplace |
| | Number of SEN pupils leaving school and going into FE, training or work |

| Theme | Metric |
|---------------|---|
| Skills | Number of pupils with at least 5 GCSE's |
| | Number of pupils leaving education and going into FE, training, or work |
| | Number of pupils leaving school with no qualifications |
| | Proportion of the population aged 16+ with qualifications at Level 2+ |
| | Proportion of the population aged 16+ with qualifications at Level 3+ |
| | NEET |

Further Information

Email Place10X@economy-ni.gov.uk

Web www.economy-ni.gov.uk/Place10X

**Response to Department for the Economy Place 10X – A Sub Regional
Economic Approach: A Call for Evidence**

July 2022

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Mid Ulster District Council (the Council) welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Department for the Economy's Call for Evidence on the Place 10X 'A sub-regional economic approach'.

The Council understands this Call for Evidence is to create a body of information which will inform policy makers and a future Minister in the Department for the Economy on what central intervention and support is needed or wanted and recommend the best way to measure success.

The Council's response comprises comments on the areas requested by the Call for Evidence, and, in addition, also provides an insight into examples of critical issues which have severely and adversely impacted the growth of the Mid Ulster economy, where a 'place-based approach' could be used to tackle such 'place' based challenges and drive local economic growth.

2.0 OVERVIEW OF MID ULSTER

The Mid Ulster District Council area represents a multicultural population of more than 150,000¹ across 1,714 km² (14% of the NI land mass) and is the fastest growing new Council area in Northern Ireland (its population is expected to grow to 165,000 by 2030). The area is within a 30-minute reach of Belfast (Dublin - 2 hours) and shares a land border with Republic of Ireland providing access to 450,000 people within a 50km radius.

Mid Ulster is recognised as one of the most entrepreneurial and enterprising regions in Northern Ireland. Its economy is private sector driven, boasting the largest business base outside the Belfast Metropolitan area with 9,430 VAT registered businesses. Over the last 5 years Mid Ulster had the fastest pace of employee job creation of any council area in NI growing at 13% (6,680 new jobs) compared to a total NI growth rate of 7%.

¹ Census Statistics 2021

The region has higher productivity per head of population compared to the Northern Ireland average and a GVA² of £3.97bn (producing 8.1% of NI's economic output).

The Council area has strengths in key sectors, including Manufacturing & Engineering; Food and Agri Food; Construction; Retail, IT and Hospitality. Our businesses are the most export-intensive, accounting for 12% of NI's exports. Mid Ulster businesses embrace innovation, and the region has the largest uptake of Invest NI's Innovation Accreditation Awards outside of the Belfast region.

Mid Ulster has an international reputation for manufacturing excellence, hosting several of NI's leading advanced manufacturers, leading it to be recognised as the centre of manufacturing and engineering in Northern Ireland, where it accounts for 29% of the local economy (approx. 17,066 jobs), compared to 11% in NI. The sector is estimated to deliver c£1.67bn GVA contribution to the local economy and over £710m in local wages, directly and indirectly. This world class cluster is of profound importance to the area's economy – especially in key specialisms such as the manufacture of mining and quarrying machinery, production of general and special purpose machinery etc., which have linkages and supply chain associations with the construction and food and agri-food sectors. For instance, the area boasts a world-class High Growth Cluster that manufactures more than 40% of the world's mobile crushing and screening equipment.

3.0 A PLACE-BASED APPROACH

The Council fully supports with the Department's proposal to move to a more 'place-based' approach, as outlined in the document. The definition of 'place' set out in the Place 10X consultation document is satisfactory, however, the aim to tackle inequality and disadvantage will require local and specific considerations as there are significant differences between council areas.

In policy making and programme development, this will require those designing interventions to be cognisant of the uniqueness of a place, while working with those based there to design initiatives to be complementary and specialised.

Thus, Council would advocate a more targeted localised approach of place-based thinking, ensuring the Department (and any relevant Agencies) will involve Councils from the policy development stage, through to co-design and delivery. Councils play a pivotal role, being the key drivers of local economic development in their respective communities and can offer a wealth of experience and unique insights into the dynamics, nuances, and characteristics of their local economies.

Council agrees that a place-based approach can have one or more of three strands as outlined i.e. sub-regional, local (i.e. Council level) and custom focussed. In determining the targeting of geographies, Council would suggest that in the case of any new policy or development initiative, it is essential that the Department consults with Councils from the initial concept stage to determine the approach or 'strand' (or combination) would

² Office for National Statistics 2021

be most appropriate to adopt. While some may be at Growth/City Deal level, others may need to be at a more localised level.

The key determining the approach to be selected should be informed by robust and structured engagement with Councils from the early stages to both scope the need and plan the most effective approach to delivery.

4.0 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: A BROADER CONTEXT

The Call for Evidence advises that its focus is primarily to ‘determine what interventions are required within the economic remit and what role the Department for the Economy can play’. The lack of a joined-up thinking and working across departments has been an increasingly challenging issue faced by Councils in recent years, constraining their ability to deliver Department-led initiatives in an effective and efficient manner. Effectively, economic development cannot be addressed in isolation; economic growth is inextricably linked to a range of other factors, including infrastructure, regeneration, skills and education.

It is frustrating that there appear to be, as yet no plans in place to begin the process of aligning Departmental strategies, budgets, policies, or funding streams, where the objectives, target sectors, outputs or issues are the same, or where there is scope for complementary delivery. More integrated working across Departments should be a key requirement in planning the delivery of any future collaborative ‘place-based approach’, to reduce the need for Councils having to liaise with a number of Departments on the same issue and help to achieve a more efficient mechanism for the management, resourcing, and delivery of initiatives.

Going forward, this new approach presents a key opportunity to design structures to facilitate a joined-up and more fully integrated approach to economic development e.g. working with the Department for Communities in regeneration and skills/employability initiatives, Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs for addressing the specific needs of our rural economies, the Department for Infrastructure to bring forward improvements to the roads/transport network for more efficient local economies, the understanding of the impact of a new Childcare Strategy can have on enabling parents to have the opportunity to re-engage with the labour market.

Failure to acknowledge the need for cross-departmental working on these, and many other areas, will continue to cause inefficiencies in delivery and furthermore will limit the ability of any future place-based approach to achieve meaningful and sustainable economic impact.

▪ Longer Term Strategic Approach

Council acknowledges the constraining factors being as noted in the document i.e. it will take a new Minister to be in office to set new policy directions, and that it will require a realignment of policy teams and programme delivery bodies to reprioritise their focus. However, it agrees the development of this new way of working must embed a longer-term approach, both in policy development *and* budgetary provision. The current

fragmented “ad-hoc” approach does not work. There is a need for 3 year annual budgets to allow Councils to plan ahead effectively.

Future interventions must adopt a co-design approach, involving local Councils from the outset and be adequately resourced, with an appropriate long-term budgetary allocation (multi-annual budgets). This approach towards funding is critical to enable local councils to plan, develop and drive the identified interventions and deliver sustainable and inclusive growth as part of a coherent strategy.

Any future plans must also be based on SMART principles, to ensure effective monitoring, capturing all relevant baseline data, identifying specific ‘place-based indicators’, including not just economic but also, for example, societal, and/ or environmental data to measure the broader impact of adopting this new approach and inform the development of future initiatives, key learnings, and the direction of future planning. In addition, the views of local businesses should be collated to determine to what extent have their needs been addressed. To be of optimum value, this too should involve cross-Departmental working to assist with baselining, monitoring and the collection of appropriate data to facilitate effective evaluation.

▪ **Invest NI**

Mid Ulster is home to the largest business base outside of Belfast, primarily made up of micro and small indigenous businesses (comprising 98.4% of the 9,430 total businesses). In delivering the recent Investment for Growth and Jobs (IGJ) Programme (2014-2022), NI Councils worked in partnership with Invest NI colleagues in the Regional Offices, using a joined-up approach to support the local micro and small businesses sector, with Councils building the capacity of local businesses with growth potential, and providing a ‘pipeline’ of clients progressing to access further support from Invest NI. In Mid Ulster alone, support was delivered to 706 businesses over 4 Programmes.

There is significant scope to build on this approach to deliver a longer term localised and integrated businesses support across the eco-system, from Council’s role in driving entrepreneurship and growth, through to businesses availing of further support from Invest NI. In the IGJ Programme, Invest NI match funded Councils’ contribution (each providing 20%). Going forward, with Councils continuing to build business’ capacity, many of whom will progress to access Invest NI clients, Council believes the partnership approach to resourcing should also be maintained.

Council understands the Invest NI Omagh office (which serves the Mid South West sub-region) currently has a reduced complement of 4 staff (previously was 14). Mid Ulster has the highest business base outside Belfast, the MSW sub-region makes up *almost 33%* of NI’s businesses and makes a significant contribution to the NI economy (including some major exporters), these figures provide a poor reflection on the current approach to resourcing and supporting economic development in this key Western sub-region. Any future ‘place-based approach’ should have as its key priority, from the outset, to significantly scale up the Invest NI resource allocation across this sub-region, to recognise the contribution Mid Ulster and the MSW economies make to the overall regional economic development.

Given Mid Ulster's recognised contribution to the NI economy, the Council requests that Invest NI should establish an office within the council area, not least as Mid Ulster is one of the Council areas where Invest NI does not have a presence. Such investment would further support partnership working and drive a more integrated and coherent approach to addressing local economic development issues.

One of the key constraints which continues to stifle economic growth and investment within Mid Ulster is the absence of Invest NI serviced sites to facilitate the growth of indigenous business in the area. 10X advises that encouraging more companies to scale up and achieve high growth is considered to be a key element in creating more employment opportunities. It is clear the issue of providing industrial serviced sites is compounded by Invest NI's lengthy timeframe for land acquisition (4+ years) and the Department's approval processes. Such protracted timescales inhibit the ability to be agile and flexible to respond effectively to the pace of change and private sector business needs.

▪ **Availability of Industrial Land**

As mentioned above, the acute shortage of serviced sites is a huge barrier to investment in Mid Ulster. This issue has forced high growth businesses to relocate employment opportunities outside the region (and NI) resulting in a subsequent loss of exports and GVA.

Council members and officers receive regular representations from frustrated local businesses asserting that they are unable to access affordable and suitable industrial lands to grow their business. Furthermore, this asset deficit is also a barrier to promoting new start-up businesses.

A 'place-based approach' could provide an opportunity to address the deficiencies in the supply of industrial land to meet growing demand for existing and new businesses in the Mid Ulster. Council has been working with Invest NI colleagues over recent years and in 2021 a Working Group was established between Invest NI and the Council.

Council acknowledge that Invest NI has recently been subject to an external review. That Review recommended that Invest NI should move quickly on acquisition and development in areas where there is a clear need and develop a clear longer-term strategy for site acquisition/development in collaboration with strategic partners.

In the interim, the Council has employed its economic role in exploring local opportunities to meet the industrial site deficit. Council is keen to work in partnership with the Department (and its agencies) to undertake a pilot project(s) to address the immediate demand for industrial serviced sites in Mid Ulster. Two potential pilot projects include Desertcreat and the former Maghera High School site. Both projects would test the proposed place-based approach through collaborative working addressing economic need.

The Council is convinced that addressing this key economic constraint would unleash private investment, encourage enterprise and support a dynamic business sector that can create better jobs, nurture skills and invest in innovation.

▪ **Infrastructure Challenges**

A key barrier for businesses and entrepreneurs across Mid Ulster (and indeed wider MSW sub-region) has been the long-standing and chronic infrastructural deficits in broadband, mobile coverage and transport infrastructure. As home to a third of NI's businesses and many world-leading export businesses, the MSW region requires the infrastructure to move products to market quickly and maintain efficient supply chains. Investment from across relevant Departments (including the Department for Infrastructure) using a 'place-based approach' transport infrastructure is critical to ensure businesses in the sub-region do not lag behind their counterparts in the east of the province and can maintain a competitive edge.

Facilitating transport, advanced cross-border connectivity, greater access to road, rail, ports and airports, progressive digital communication capability, access to industrial land, energy and water are all considered by Council as the bedrock to economic prosperity for the economy.

Decades of underinvestment in our road and rail network has left communities marginalised and isolated from essential services as well as businesses facing a daily battle in the movement of freight to export markets via non-classified road networks, with consequent impacts on growth, productivity and competitiveness.

Within the Mid Ulster Community Plan, '*Infrastructure*' has been identified as one of five themes and a key action is to advance the development of the Strategic Road Network (the A29 – A31, A4, A6 and A5), including bypasses for the main towns and villages on the strategic routes.

The Mid Ulster region is growth dependent on the A29, and investment in Hub Bypasses in Cookstown and Dungannon would strengthen economic competitiveness, enhance accessibility to regional services and reduce peripherally. The further economic development and regeneration of Mid Ulster as an industrial and commercial hub will be supported by expanded economic networks and trade facilitated by the A29 infrastructure investment.

▪ **Skills deficits**

Skills and access to labour are both a major current and future constraint to economic growth in Mid Ulster. The predominant recurring theme from industry consultation is on the growing "People Crisis" facing every sector in the region.

The main messages from industry confirm that:

- Large numbers of jobs vacancies currently exist and are not being filled;
- Businesses are having to decline customer orders due to the lack of people, resulting in a loss of revenue and a negative impact on the region's productivity.

The Council has been at the very forefront of the skills agenda in Northern Ireland, having established the first ever industry-led Mid Ulster Skills Forum to address the skills and employability issues within our current and potential workforce that are impacting on the economic future of the District.

An outcome of the Forum's work is the highly regarded MEGA Collaborative Network which aims to attract suitable talent into the Manufacturing and Engineering industry and reduce the skills and labour shortages which currently exist within that sector in Mid Ulster. The Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership is supporting a working group of local companies representing the Construction sector to replicate this model and further support our key industries.

As mentioned earlier in this response, a place-based holistic approach to economic development must involve better and stronger integrated working on key issues such as skills which are a driver for a modern, high performing economy.

5.0 CONCLUSION

Mid Ulster District Council fully supports the approach outlined in the document and notes that Councils must be instrumental in the planning and development of any future 'place-based approach' due to their pivotal role in their local economies and their unique insight into the specific issues and challenges faced by their communities.

It is critical that future interventions are designed, developed, and properly resourced in partnership with Councils to ensure inclusive and sustainable local solutions to local problems. Any new place-based strategy must be locality focused and flexible enough so that each council can focus on its individual needs.

However, this new approach will have limited impact if it does not acknowledge that real change in local economies should best be delivered through a broader and more holistic approach to economic development, which involves more integrated working across Departments on other key economic issues, such as infrastructure, skills, regeneration and infrastructure.

In taking forward this approach, the Department must recognise the scale of the Mid Ulster business base (and, consequently, the contribution Mid Ulster's economy makes to the region) and reflect this by significantly uplifting its apportionment of investment and resources to both the district and sub-region.

This Response should also be considered alongside the Response being submitted by the Mid South West Region (on behalf of the Councils of Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon, Fermanagh and Omagh and Mid Ulster).

Council thanks the Officers from the Department who met with the Mid South West Director Team on 2 June 2023 and looks forward to working in partnership with both the Department and other related bodies to progress the issues discussed in this Response.

As discussed at the meeting, (and also in this Response) Mid Ulster Council requests the Department consider the development of a 'pilot' project for this place-based approach in a priority area and proposes the industrial land proposal at Desertcreat as one such opportunity.

Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 15 June 2023 in the Council Offices, Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt and by Virtual Means

Members Present

Councillor McNamee, Chair

Councillors Bell, Black*, W Buchanan, F Burton, Clarke, Corry, Forde, Gildernew, McLernon, McQuade, Monteith*, Milne*, Quinn, Wilson

Officers in Attendance

Mr Black, Strategic Director of Communities and Place (SD: C&P)
Mr Gordon, Assistant Director of Health, Leisure and Wellbeing (AD: HL&W)
Ms Linney, Assistant Director of Development (AD: Dev)**
Mr McCreedy, Strategic Programmes Service Manager (SPSM)
Mr McKenna, Economic Regeneration Service Manager (ERSM)
Ms McKeown, Tourism Service Manager (TSM)
Miss Thompson, Committee and Member Services Officer

Others in Attendance

Agenda Item 4 – Tbus Funding Streams
Mr Gardner – Head of Good Relations***

Councillor McFlynn**

* 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.

D076/23 Notice of Recording

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

D077/23 Apologies

Ms McKeown, Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes.

D078/23 Declaration of Interests

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

D079/23 Chair's Business

The Chair, Councillor McNamee asked that if Members want to raise something under Chair's Business that two days notice is given so that other Members and officers can be given prior notice. The Chair stated that if something comes up as an emergency then it can be dealt with.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee passed the condolences of the Development Committee to Councillor Varsani whose brother had passed away.

Councillor Bell spoke in relation to the blue-green algae bloom that is developing on Lough Neagh at present. The Councillor stated that due to the recent hot weather and lack of rainfall Lough Neagh waterflow has stagnated resulting in the build up of dangerous levels of algae. Councillor Bell advised that exposure to high levels of this this algae and its toxins can cause illness in humans and illness and death in animals if they consume large amounts of water containing blooms. The Councillor stated that pollution is also killing large numbers of fish in the Lough and it has been reported that over 200k tonnes of raw sewerage is dumped in the Lough every year. Councillor Bell stated that Lough Neagh is the source of 40% of drinking water for 750k people and if nothing is done he felt that we are sitting on a public health crisis and a biodiversity threat. The Councillor stated it is for these reasons that he asked officers to liaise with NIEA and have water from the Lough tested and that warning signs are placed along the lough shore. Officers were commended for their efforts to date but Councillor Bell felt that Council should do more to highlight this ever increasing hazard. Councillor Bell proposed that NIEA be invited to a future meeting to present on the water quality in Lough Neagh and what they are actively doing to protect the waterways that flow into the Lough.

Councillor McLernon seconded Councillor Bell's proposal.

That it be recommended to Council to invite NIEA to a future meeting to present on water quality in Lough Neagh.

Councillor Quinn stated that Mid Ulster is only one of six Councils which are around the Lough but that there is more lough shore in the Mid Ulster area. The Councillor felt this is not an easy issue to tackle and that the weather is not helping but that the water quality around the Washingbay / Brocagh area has been a cause for concern for him for a number of years with this year being particularly bad. Councillor Quinn stated that Councillor Bell had already highlighted the danger to animals from blue-green algae but also advised that a number of dead birds that have been found at lough shore areas which is being put down to Avian Flu which is another issue. The Councillor felt that the absence of a Minister in Stormont is not helping and that this is an issue which needs tackled at a Stormont level. Councillor Quinn stated that rain may or may not help to alleviate some of the issues but that the problems need to be sorted. The Councillor stated that the Lough was strange in that in some areas you couldn't go into the water

whilst in other areas there are blue beach flags where it is safe for people to swim. Councillor Quinn stated that a uniform approach is needed across the Lough as it is a national treasure and that it needed to start being looked after. The Councillor thanked officers who have been proactive during the last couple of weeks and that he would be happy for the NIEA to be invited to Committee.

Due to technical difficulties it was decided that the meeting be adjourned. Members to be advised of date / time to reconvene the meeting.

D080/23 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7pm and ended at 7.33 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 Reconvened Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Monday 19 June 2023 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon and by Virtual Means

Members Present

Councillor McNamee, Chair

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

Officers in Attendance

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

Mr Gordon, Assistant Director of Health, Leisure and Wellbeing (AD: HL&W)

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

Mr McCreedy, Strategic Programmes Service Manager (SPSM)

Mr McKenna, Economic Regeneration Service Manager (ERSM)

Ms McKeown, Tourism Service Manager (TSM)

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 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.

D081/23 Notice of Recording

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

D082/23 Apologies

Councillor Wilson and Ms McKeown, Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes.

D083/23 Declaration of Interests

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

D084/23 Chair's Business

The Chair, Councillor McNamee reminded Members of discussion at meeting on 15 June in relation to blue-green algae and water quality in Lough Neagh and proposal from Councillor Bell to invite NIEA to future Development Committee to discuss these issues. This proposal was seconded by Councillor McLernon.

Councillor Monteith stated he agreed with the comments previously made but that there was a further issue for commercial fishermen on the Lough who have been unable to make a living since the algae bloom has come up. The Councillor suggested that Council make contact with DAERA in relation to seeking compensation for the commercial fishermen in the area.

Councillor Bell stated he was content to include this within his proposal.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council –

- To invite NIEA to a future meeting to present on water quality in Lough Neagh.
- That Council make contact with DAERA in relation to any potential compensation for commercial fishermen on Lough Neagh who cannot make a living due to current issue of blue-green algae on the Lough.

The Strategic Director of Communities and Place (SD: C&P) provided update in relation to blue-green algae and Avian Flu. In relation to Avian Flu, he advised that there have been confirmed cases in Maghera, Ballyronan and Dungannon and that DAERA are taking lead in relation to advice for the protection of kept poultry and captive birds and PHA are leading on the advice on public health messaging. The SD: C&P advised that Council have been asked that where positive cases have been confirmed that signage is erected and he stated that this has been done and that reporting of dead birds is encouraged both by Council staff and the public and that external messaging from DAERA and PHA is shared on Council social media channels. The SD: C&P advised that DAERA will collect dead birds for testing but that there is criteria to be met, this criteria relates to whether there have already been positive cases in the area, if the birds are accessible and the length of time since the bird has died. Where DAERA won't collect birds they are advising landowners that they are responsible for disposing of the bird. The SD: C&P advised that the key messages that Council has been asked to promote is that no one should touch any dead birds, that pets should be kept away from dead birds, that suspected cases should be reported to DAERA and that risk of Avian Flu to humans is low.

With regard to blue-green algae the SD: C&P advised that there have been confirmed cases in Battery Harbour, Ballyronan Marina, Toome, Newferry and Portglenone and that there are suspected cases at Castlebay, Washingbay and Curran Quay. The SD: C&P advised that officers continue to engage with NIEA in relation to blue-green algae and will provide messaging at the sites where positive cases have been identified. It was advised that Environmental Health Officers have also visited other water bodies across the District and that no further blue-green algae has been identified. The SD: C&P advised that signs are available at Meadowbank for community groups who wish to erect signage to promote the key public messaging in relation to blue-green algae which is to stay away from it and to keep pets and animals away from it. The SD: C&P

advised that officers will continue to respond to public enquiries, to direct the public to the relevant agencies and engage with those agencies as the message changes to ensure Council sites remain compliant.

Councillor Burton stated that blue-green algae has been a problem at Brantry Lough in the past and asked if officers are checking all sites.

The SD: C&P advised that officers are checking other sites across the District and that Brantry Lough was one the sites visited as well as Round Lake, Black Lough, Eskragh Lough and that no evidence of blooms were detected.

Councillor Quinn asked if the recent rainfall has made any difference to the algae.

The SD: C&P advised he did not have up to date information in relation to the impact of recent rainfall but that he would hope that it has had a positive impact in terms of the dispersal of the algae and that officers will be seeking an update from NIEA.

D085/23 Deputation – Tbuc Funding Streams

The SD: C&P advised that the rescheduled meeting did not suit Mr Gardner from Tbuc to attend tonight but it is hoped he will be able to attend the July Development Committee.

Matters for Decision

D086/23 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
- DfC Hardship Funding – Allocation
- Government Funding TEO – Phased Good Relations Plan
- One World – Youth Conference
- Development Update

Councillor Molloy referred to a previously held, Council led, uniform exchange which was held in the Leisure Centre and allowed people to bring uniforms for exchange. The Councillor stated that uniforms are expensive and can be a big drain and asked if officers could look at holding a similar event again.

The AD: Dev advised that officers are carrying out an analysis at the moment to identify gaps and will look to take this forward.

Councillor Monteith agreed with Councillor Molloy's comments and stated that as we move out of the emergency situation of the pandemic, hardship and the cost of living is becoming a more permanent situation. The Councillor stated that whilst his comments are no reflection on the work of the groups involved he asked for some work to be done in achieving a consistent approach across the groups receiving funding. Councillor

Monteith stated that the various groups have different criteria for people they are helping but that depending on what the need is, a group may advise that they are not in a position to help that person. The Councillor stated that this is the third year Council has allocated funding and that there needs to be a level of consistency across the groups and that it is important for the groups, when contacted, to say they are in a position to offer help. Councillor Monteith stated that whenever someone is in hardship it takes a lot of courage to ask for help and if a person receives a negative on their first contact it is extremely difficult to build up the courage again. The Councillor stated that the situation needs to be regularised and that there needs to be consistency across the groups availing of funding.

The AD: Dev stated that whilst some organisations are not like for like they are all networked and that when a person makes contact if that particular organisation cannot help with what the person is asking for they should be able to provide link to organisation who can help. The AD: Dev stated that officers will bring the groups together to stress the importance of the network and having contact points in all organisations.

Councillor Monteith asked that a report be brought back to committee which sets out what is expected of the groups and what the groups can provide.

The AD: Dev agreed to this.

Councillor Corry asked if the hardship funding targets people in Mid Ulster.

The AD: Dev stated that the funding is targeted to people in Mid Ulster and would not be promoted outside of Mid Ulster. The AD: Dev stated there may be instances of people from outside of Mid Ulster receiving help but that most of the help goes to people within the District.

Councillor Burton referred to the community festival grants listed and that one group requested £4,250 whilst another group requested £1,500 and it is proposed that they both be awarded £600. The Councillor asked how this came about and what needs to be improved.

The AD: Dev advised that the maximum allocation to a group is £1,500 and the award is based on four set criteria and the level of detail on the application.

Councillor Monteith referred to report and events and activities being planned and delivered at Hill of The O'Neill and Ranfurly House and asked for a report on what the events and activities to ensure users and the wider community are aware of whats going on at this site. The Councillor stated that the issue of disabled access to the Hill of The O'Neill had also been raised with him and that he felt more could be done at the entrance such as the provision of signage on how to access the facility.

The AD: Dev noted the Councillor's comments.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Gildernew and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to –
- Agree the rolling community grant allocations as set out in report.
 - Agree the Hardship Funding Allocations as set out in report.
 - Agree the phased Good Relations Plan as set out in report.
 - Agree to sponsor a delegate to attend the One World Youth Conference as set out in report.

D087/23 Choose to Live Better Funding

The Assistant Director of Health, Leisure and Wellbeing (AD: HL&W) presented the previously circulated report which provided update on successful applications to the Choose to Live Better Fund and sought approval of the acceptance of the letters of offer from The Northern Healthy Lifestyle Partnership (NHLP).

Councillor Burton asked if the projects will be project wide and not just in the Northern Health Trust area.

The AD: HL&W stated that whilst the expressions of interest predominantly originated from the Northern Trust area it is the understanding that the projects will benefit district wide.

Proposed by Councillor McLernon
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to accept the letters of offer from the Northern Healthy Lifestyle Partnership (NHLP).

D088/23 Economic Development – June 2023 - OBFD

The Economic Regeneration Service Manager (ERSM) and Tourism Service Manager (TSM) presented previously circulated report to update on key activities as detailed below:

- Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2023
- Lough Neagh Rescue (2023-2024) – Service Level Agreement
- Project Gigabit – Public Review
- Branded Jute Shopping Bags

Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2023

Councillor Corry referred to the appointment of a delivery partner to manage the delivery of Enterprise Week and asked if it is possible that this could be done in house in the future.

The ERSM advised that the delivery partner is paid £6,000 of the £28k budget and that they have the contacts to bring people to the table and help Council work up proposals. The ERSM advised that the delivery partner will also carry out the marketing and promotion along with Council. The ERSM stated that whilst he was not saying it could not be done in house it would be difficult given resources but that it may be something that could be looked at in future.

Proposed by Councillor Corry
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council –
- To approve a budget of circ. £28,000 for the delivery of Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2023 from within the existing Economic Development budget 2023/24.
 - To approve that Council proceed to seek competitive quotes to appoint a professional Management / Delivery Partner to manage and co-ordinate the delivery of Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2023. The costs for such to be apportioned from within the budget detailed.
 - To approve that the Chief Executive be awarded delegated authority to appoint the successful Management/Delivery Partner following the procurement exercise to allow work to commence over the summer 2023 period.

Service Level Agreement: Lough Neagh Rescue 2023/24

Proposed by Councillor Milne
Seconded by Councillor Quinn and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council -
- To note Lough Neagh Rescue 2022/23 Progress Report outlining actions completed against their 2022/23 SLA Targets.
 - To approve Mid Ulster District Council's Service Level Agreement with Lough Neagh Rescue for the year 2023-24.
 - To approve the release of £12,000 to Lough Neagh Rescue from Council's Tourism budget (2023-24) subject to Council being provided with the requisite documentation – Progress Reports (12 months) updating Council on the work undertaken against that outlined in the SLA.

Project Gigabit – Public Review

The Chair, Councillor McNamee stated he thought it would be to the Department's benefit to let Council know where the not spots are.

Councillor Clarke stated he totally agreed and that it would be incumbent on DfE to allow more time. Councillor Clarke proposed the recommendations.

Councillor Burton seconded Councillor Clarke's proposal. The Councillor stated that she could remember the Chief Executive saying that if it was not done right this time it would be years before some people in rural areas can get broadband. Councillor Burton stated that there have been numerous rural businesses set up during the pandemic and that Council needs to ensure no stone is left unturned in trying to support people to get broadband.

Councillor Quinn stated that officers would be sick of him pointing out the failures of Project Stratum and that this was now a chance to set the issues right.

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council -
- To write to DfE to seek a two month extension to the consultation period, until 6 September 2023, to allow time for greater awareness raising to take place about the Project Gigabit consultation, especially throughout rural areas, thus ensuring our citizens are adequately informed and granted sufficient time to respond.
 - To request DfE to supply Council with the recent information they've collected from broadband infrastructure providers to help identify and map addresses / postcodes where remaining gaps in broadband provision still exist.

Branded Jute Shopping Bags

Councillor Burton asked if £55k is money well spent or is there anything else could be done with the money to provide support.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee stated that the money is spread across the towns listed therefore he did not feel it was an overly large amount directed towards each town. Councillor McNamee stated that the provision of bags benefits traders who can give them to shoppers and that it also encourages people to shop in those towns and helps to stop people buying plastic bags.

Councillor Burton asked if the bags are given to traders.

The ERSM advised that the bags are given to traders and the public at events etc. The ERSM advised that the bags are probably the best branding tool for the towns and that the bags are constantly in demand.

Proposed by Councillor Burton
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council -
- Approve a budget circ. £55,000 from existing town centre budget to purchase a supply of new jute branded shopping bags for Dungannon, Cookstown and Magherafelt; and obtain prices for Coalisland branded jute shopping bags, should these be required within the next twelve months.
 - Approve officers progress to seek competitive tenders from suitably qualified companies and provide approval for authority to be delegated to the Chief Executive to appoint the successful tenderer during the period when Council is in summer recess.

Matters for Information

D089/23 Minutes of Development Committee held on 5 April 2023

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

Councillor Burton referred to item D069/23 – Granville Industrial Estate (Dungannon) Report and that she had welcomed the money spent in that area. The Councillor asked that it be put on record at the start of the electoral term that many of villages in the District have no decent footpath to walk on and that Council take this on board as the issue is raised regularly by Members. Councillor Burton asked that going forward in this term that Council supports villages in whatever way it can on these type of projects.

D090/23 Regional Public Analyst Contract for Environmental Health

Members noted previously circulated report which advised of an extension of the current regional Public Analyst contract with Eurofins Food Testing Ireland Ltd and Councils for the provision of public analyst services to Council.

D091/23 Affordable Warmth Scheme

Members noted previously circulated report which outlined correspondence received from Department for Communities on the Affordable Warmth Scheme.

Councillor Corry expressed disappointment that Council will no longer be targeting towards the Affordable Warmth Scheme. Councillor Corry stated that the Council and Councillors had one to one knowledge of those who needed support and could benefit from this Scheme. The Councillor asked if there were going to be contacts for Councillors to put people forward to the Scheme in the future.

Councillor Monteith stated that he felt the end of targeting is a retrograde step as Council staff provided an excellent service in relation to the Affordable Warmth Scheme and that he was not hopeful that where the Scheme is going the service will be the same. The Councillor felt that if this Scheme does not have a number of dedicated officers then it will grind to halt and proposed that Council should seek an urgent meeting with the management of Housing Executive locally on how they propose to deliver the Scheme in the future. Councillor Monteith stated that the Affordable Warmth Scheme has been excellent and that many residents across the District have availed of it. The Councillor also highlighted that the way Council staff have conducted themselves has been excellent and that feedback from those referred to the Scheme has been very positive and that this attitude and ethos needs to transfer across.

Councillor Corry seconded Councillor Monteith's proposal.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee stated he could not see the Housing Executive having the same energy towards the Scheme.

Councillor Burton concurred with the previous comments and the proposal to seek a meeting with Housing Executive. The Councillor stated that the Scheme has worked well to date and expressed disappointment in the decision to end targeting. Councillor Burton asked if what remains in the system has been delivered or if there was anyone still waiting.

The SD: C&P stated that the Scheme is one of the casualties of the central government budget process and that officers have raised concerns with DfC in response to the EQIA as there is potential risk whenever targeting is removed. The SD: C&P stated

that officers will seek meeting with Housing Executive so that they can provide overview on how the Scheme will be delivered going forward.

The AD: HL&W stated he would echo Councillor's comments and concerns and that officers have relayed these concerns with the Department and Housing Executive in recent weeks particularly when an SLA was agreed at Committee in March between Council and DfC for the delivery of the Scheme April 2023 to March 2024. The AD: HL&W stated that there was now a transition period for June, July and August and that the arrangements are that there is the capability to put through 20 referrals a month plus or minus five. It was advised that this Council and its officers have continually successfully demonstrated over the years the ability to maximise referrals on a monthly basis. The AD: HL&W advised that officers will continue to push hard and ask for an urgent meeting and also ask for local contacts which will be provided to Councillors. The AD: HL&W stated that there is still the Energy Efficiency Scheme which is funded through the Public Health Agency and also the Council Fuel Stamp Scheme and that these advisory services are still very important. The AD: HL&W advised that officers will take forward the actions and report back.

Councillor Monteith asked if detail could be provided for the meeting on the number of hours Council officers put into the Scheme on a weekly basis as the same equivalency is needed from the Housing Executive. The Councillor also put on record thanks to the officers who have worked on the Affordable Warmth Scheme to date.

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council –
- To seek meeting with Housing Executive on how they propose to deliver the Affordable Warmth Scheme in the future
 - That detail be provided on the number of hours Council officers put into the Affordable Warmth Scheme.

D092/23 Food Service Plan for 2023/2024

Members noted previously circulated report which outlined the Environmental Health Food Service Plan 2023/2024.

D093/23 Communities and Place Departmental Service Plan 2023-2024

Members noted previously circulated report which outlined the Communities and Place Departmental Service Plan 2023-2024.

D094/23 Economic Development Report – June 2023 – OBFI

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

- Events to Celebrate International Womens Day 2023
- Tourism Development Group Minutes – 25.01.23
- UK Tentative List Process of World Heritage Sites Update
- Mid Ulster Town Centre Summer Saturdays

Councillor Clarke referred to the UK Tentative List Process of World Heritage Sites Update and expressed his disappointment that Council's application was not successful. The Councillor stated he was also disappointed in the report that came back and felt that the point had been totally missed. Councillor Clarke stated that the Sperrins area is unique and has a unique timescale of over a billion years and that he felt this had been pushed to the side. The Councillor stated that he felt more research should be done as whilst a lot is known about what is there, there is also a lot which is not known about and that the report that came back said this was a disadvantage. The Councillor stated it was essential to review what has been done to date, the report that came back and explore how the matter can be taken forward. Councillor Clarke stated that Council is also involved with Sperrins Partnership and that this needs to be progressed as he had some concern that there has been no meeting of the Partnership for nine months and there needs to be a handle on where this is going as well.

The TSM referred to comments in relation to Sperrins Partnership and advised that an update report will be brought to the Development Committee in September and that an update will also be brought in relation to the AONB. The TSM advised that Sperrins Partnership are awaiting a letter of offer from Department of Communities and when received an AONB officer can then be appointed to undertake the completion of the action and management plans. The TSM advised that she will liaise with Sperrins Partnership to seek a board meeting of the Partnership as soon as possible. In relation to the UK Tentative List Process of World Heritage Sites the TSM stated that the report that came back was disappointing and highlighted that there was only one property in Northern Ireland who got on the list which was Gracehill Church Settlements and she was aware that they have been working on this for twenty years. The TSM stated that she took on board Councillor Clarke's comments and that a meeting will be set up to discuss a way forward and to look at Heart of Ancient Ulster again and how that can be taken forward

**D095/23 Departmental Service Improvement Plan for Chief Executive's Office
2023-2024**

Members noted previously circulated report which outlined the Departmental Service Improvement Plan for the Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes Service for 2023-2024.

Councillor Corry thanked officers for their work on the plan and asked if more could be included on heritage in order to progress in the future.

The TSM noted the Councillor's comments.

The live broadcast ended at 7.44 pm

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Burton and

Resolved 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 D096/23 to D099/23.

Matters for Decision

D096/23 Clean Neighbourhood Action Plan

D097/23 Economic Development Report – June 2023 - Cbfd

Matters for Information

D098/23 Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 5 April 2023

D099/23 Economic Development Report – June 2023 - Cbfi

D100/23 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7pm and concluded at 8.00 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

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Report on | Update on Gambling Reform / Legislation |
| Date of Meeting | 5 th July 2023 |
| Reporting Officer | Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing |
| Contact Officer | Melanie Patterson, Environmental Health Service Manager |

| | | |
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| 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 provide an update to Members on the reform of gambling legislation within Northern Ireland. |
| 2.0 | Background |
| 2.1 | In Northern Ireland gambling (other than the National Lottery) is regulated under the Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (NI) Order 1985 (the 1985 Order) |
| 2.2 | This complex legislation regulates a wide range of betting, gaming, lotteries and amusement activity within Northern Ireland. The 1985 Order (as amended) regulates the following activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Betting in bookmaking offices and on tracks; • The use, supply and maintenance of gaming machines; • gaming in bingo clubs; • small scale amusements with prizes; and • Lotteries (other than National Lottery) |
| 2.3 | The 1985 Order sets out the procedures for the licensing of gambling activities and the offences and penalties for breaches of associated licensing conditions. |
| 2.4 | Whilst Council undertakes some limited administrative and permitting roles under the 1985 Order, the primary responsibility for enforcement under gambling law in Northern Ireland, lies with the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI). |
| 3.0 | Main Report |
| 3.1 | In May 2021, the Minister for Communities announced plans for a two-phased review of existing gambling law in Northern Ireland. The first phase of that review was completed in 2022. |
| 3.2 | Following this initial review of existing legislation, an amendment, namely - the Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (Amendment) Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 (the Act) was introduced: |

| | |
|-----|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) To address anomalies contained within the original 1985 Order, and (ii) To give the 'Department for Communities' more power in certain areas to encourage and promote socially responsible practices. |
| 3.3 | The amendment to the legislation received Royal Assent on 26 April 2022 and all but four parts of it became law in Northern Ireland. The excluded provisions covered: - the new offence around inviting, causing or permitting an individual under the age of 18 to play a gaming machine other than a lower limit machine; the revised definition of cheating; the power for the Department to issue Codes of Practice; and the proposed industry levy. |
| 3.4 | Mid Ulster District Council received a letter from The Department for Communities on 3 rd May 2023 (Appendix A) confirming the intention to commence three of these remaining provisions on 1 October 2023. |
| 3.5 | Therefore, from 1 October 2023, the following provisions of the Act are operational: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the new offence around inviting, causing or permitting an individual under the age of 18 to play a gaming machine other than a lower limit machine; • the revised definition of cheating which makes it an offence for any person to either cheat at gambling or do anything to enable or assist another person to cheat at gambling; and • the Department has the power to issue one or more Codes of Practice about the manner in which facilities for gambling are provided. |
| 3.6 | In relation to the proposed industry levy, there are no plans to commence this provision at this time. Any decision to impose a levy will be a matter for a future Minister and Assembly. |
| 3.7 | Further reform to gambling legislation, including changes to stakes and prizes for gaming machines and changes to society lottery rules, cannot be progressed in the absence of a Minister. |
| 3.8 | Although the power has been commenced which allows the Department to issue Codes of Practice, there is no intention to issue any codes until a Minister is appointed. Any such codes will be consulted upon in accordance with the requirements set out in Article 180A. |
| 3.9 | The Department for Communities' website content has been updated now includes further detail on relevant helplines and websites that offer support and advice to those affected by gambling. See link below, for more information: https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/topics/law-and-legislation/betting-gaming-lotteries-and-amusements |

| | |
|------------|---|
| 3.10 | <p>There has also been an update to the Department for Communities' 'Law on Lotteries in Northern Ireland' leaflet, with section 6.5 being updated in respect of selling societies' lottery tickets.</p> <p>https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/publications/leaflet-lottery-law</p> |
| 4.0 | Other Considerations |
| 4.1 | Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications |
| | Financial: None anticipated at this juncture. |
| | Human: None anticipated at this juncture. |
| | Risk Management: Considered in line with relevant policies and procedures. |
| 4.2 | Screening & Impact Assessments |
| | Equality & Good Relations Implications: None anticipated at this juncture. |
| | Rural Needs Implications: None anticipated at this juncture. |
| 5.0 | Recommendation(s) |
| 5.1 | Members are asked to note the contents of this report. |
| 6.0 | Documents Attached & References |
| 6.1 | Appendix A – Letter from Department for Communities – update on gambling reform (3.5.23) |
| 6.2 | Appendix B –Department for Communities' 'Law on Lotteries in Northern Ireland' revised leaflet |



Social Policy Unit
Causeway Exchange
1-7 Bedford Street
BELFAST
BT2 7EG
Email: social.policy@communities-
ni.gov.uk

Date: 3 May 2023

To: All Stakeholders

**The Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (Amendment) (2022 Act)
(Commencement No.1) Order (Northern Ireland) 2023**

I am writing to update you on developments since the last correspondence you received in November 2022.

The last letter explained that there were four provisions within the Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (Amendment) Act 2022 ('the 2022 Act') that did not come into operation on 27th April. These provisions cover: - the new offence around inviting, causing or permitting an individual under the age of 18 to play a gaming machine other than a lower limit machine; the revised definition of cheating; the power for the Department to issue Codes of Practice; and the proposed industry levy.

The Department is now in a position to commence three of these provisions on 1 October 2023. This means that from this date the following are operational: -

- the new offence around inviting, causing or permitting an individual under the age of 18 to play a gaming machine other than a lower limit machine;
- the revised definition of cheating which makes it an offence for any person to either cheat at gambling or do anything to enable or assist another person to cheat at gambling; and

- the Department has the power to issue one or more Codes of Practice about the manner in which facilities for gambling are provided.

In relation to the proposed industry levy, there are no plans to commence this provision at this time. Any decision to impose a levy will be a matter for a future Minister and Assembly.

As explained in the last update, further reform to gambling legislation, including changes to stakes and prizes for gaming machines and changes to society lottery rules, cannot be progressed in the absence of a Minister.

Although the power has been commenced which allows the Department to issue Codes of Practice, there is no intention to issue any codes until a Minister is appointed. Any such codes will be consulted upon in accordance with the requirements set out in Article 180A.

We have also taken the opportunity to update the Department's website content further and have included detail on relevant helplines and websites that offer support and advice to those affected by gambling.

There has also been an update to our Law on Lotteries in Northern Ireland leaflet, with section 6.5 updated in respect of selling societies' lottery tickets.

I would finally like to take this opportunity to advise you that I have recently replaced Martina Campbell in the Gambling team and look forward to future engagement with you.

Yours sincerely

Carol Reid

The Gambling Policy Team



Department for
Communities

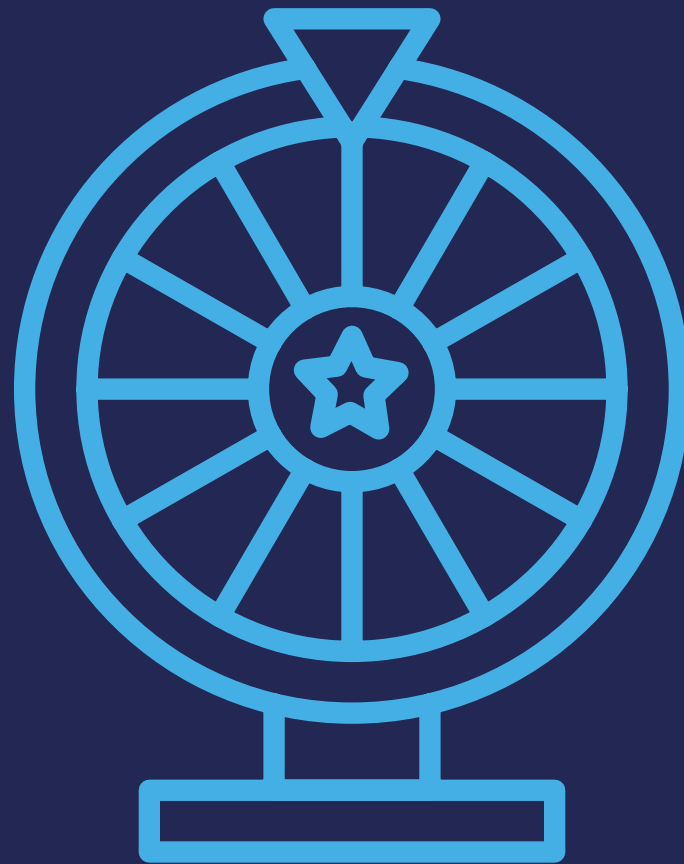
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www.communities-ni.gov.uk



The law on lotteries in Northern Ireland

February 2023

Alternative formats

Versions of this leaflet in other languages and formats may be made available from:

Department for Communities
Social Policy Unit
8th Floor, Causeway Exchange
1-7 Bedford Street
Belfast BT2 7EG

Tel: 028 9082 3140

Email: social.policy@communities-ni.gov.uk

Contents

| | | |
|----|--|----|
| 1. | Purpose of leaflet | 4 |
| 2. | What is a lottery? | 4 |
| 3. | Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (Northern Ireland Order 1985 | 5 |
| 4. | Small lotteries incidental to an exempt entertainment | 5 |
| 5. | Private lotteries | 6 |
| 6. | Societies' lotteries | 7 |
| | Introduction | 7 |
| | Registration | 8 |
| | Promoter | 9 |
| | Tickets and date of lottery | 9 |
| | Frequency of lotteries | 10 |
| | Price of tickets | 10 |
| | Identification of winning tickets | 11 |
| | Prizes | 11 |
| | Expenses | 12 |
| | Records | 12 |
| | Inspection | 13 |
| | Lottery consultant or manager | 13 |
| | Offences and defences | 13 |
| 7. | General advice | 13 |
| | The Legislation | 15 |
| | Society's Lottery - Return by Promoter | 16 |

The Law on Lotteries in Northern Ireland

1. Purpose of leaflet

- 1.1 This leaflet provides information on some aspects of the law on lotteries in Northern Ireland. It is not an authoritative nor a complete statement of the law in this area and is only intended to provide a plain guide to the main requirements of the lottery law. Those planning to promote lotteries should refer to the Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 as amended and related Regulations and Orders or seek professional advice to ensure that they comply with the law. The relevant legislation in force when this leaflet was prepared is listed at Annex A; readers should ensure they are aware of any subsequent legislative changes.
- 1.2 This leaflet does not cover the National Lottery.

2. What is a lottery?

- 2.1 There is no statutory definition of a lottery in Northern Ireland. The courts in Great Britain, through judgements in the House of Lords, have, however, established that:

“a lottery is the distribution of prizes by chance where the persons taking part in the operation, or a substantial number of them, make a payment or consideration in return for obtaining their chance of a prize. There are really 3 points one must look for in deciding whether a lottery has been established: first of all, the distribution of prizes; secondly, the fact that this was to be done by means of a chance; and thirdly, that there must be some actual contribution made by the participants in return for their obtaining a chance to take part in the lottery.” (Lord Widgery 1976)

- 2.2 Under Article 131(2) (Illegality of lotteries) of the Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 as amended an arrangement is not a lottery unless persons are required “to pay to participate”. For the purposes of Article 131(2) “pay” means paying money, transferring money’s worth and paying for goods or services at a price or rate which reflects the opportunity to participate in an arrangement. The ‘normal’ purchase cost of goods or services are excluded from the meaning of “pay to participate”. The type of

purchase costs that are not therefore regarded as 'paying' include:-

the 'normal' purchase cost of a product (eg a chocolate bar, newspaper, household appliance);

the 'normal' costs of receiving hospitality;

the 'normal' costs of receiving financial services (eg holding a specific type of bank or building society account or having a specified amount of savings therein); and

'normal' rate expenses of sending a letter by ordinary post, making a telephone call or using any other method of communication (eg sending a telephone text).

Schedule 15A of the 1985 Order (Lotteries and competitions: requirement to pay in order to participate) makes provision as to the circumstances in which a prize competition arrangement is to be or is not to be treated as requiring persons to pay in order to participate.

3. Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (Northern Ireland Order 1985 (the Order))

3.1 Under the Order all lotteries are unlawful unless they are:

- a) small lotteries incidental to an exempt entertainment;
- b) private lotteries;
- c) societies' lotteries; or
- d) part of the National Lottery

3.2 This leaflet is essentially concerned with societies' lotteries but it may be helpful to mention briefly the law covering small lotteries and private lotteries.

4. Small lotteries incidental to an exempt entertainment

4.1 An "exempt entertainment" is defined in Article 2(2) of the Order as a "bazaar, sale of work, fete, dinner, dance, sporting or athletic event or other entertainment of a similar character, whether limited to one day or extending over 2 or more days".

4.2 Article 133 of the Order gives full details of the conditions which must be observed in promoting a lottery as an incidental part of an exempt entertainment. Some examples of these conditions are:

- a) the whole proceeds, except for specified deductions, of the lottery and of the entertainment as a whole must be used for purposes other than private gain; the organisers may deduct from the proceeds of

the entertainment the expenses of the entertainment but not all the expenses incurred in connection with the lottery; the only expense in connection with the lottery which may be deducted is the cost of printing the tickets;

- b) the sale of tickets or chances and the declaration of winners can only take place on the premises, and during the course, of the entertainment;
- c) participating in the lottery must not be the only or the only substantial inducement to attend the function.

4.3 There is no statutory limit on the price of tickets or chances or on the value of prizes (which may be donated) in this type of lottery. The organiser must, however, keep records and accounts relating to the whole entertainment. He must also inform the local police at least 7 days beforehand that the entertainment is to take place.

5. Private lotteries

- 5.1 A private lottery is a lottery in Northern Ireland in which the sale of tickets or chances is confined to either:
- a) members of one society, eg a club, established and conducted for purposes not connected with gaming, betting or lotteries and any other people on the society's premises; or

b) people, all of whom either work or live on the same premises.

5.2 Society is defined in the 1985 Order as including any club, institution, organisation or association of persons, by whatever name called, and any separate branch or section of such a club, institution, organisation or association. It is important to note that, in so far as private lotteries are concerned, each local or affiliated branch or section is regarded as a separate and distinct society. Accordingly a local branch or section which runs a private lottery may only sell tickets to members of that branch or section (and, of course, to any other people on the society's premises.)

5.3 The lottery must be promoted by people who are themselves members of the society or of the group of people who work or live together.

5.4 Article 134 of the Order gives full details of the conditions which must be observed in promoting a private lottery. Some examples of these conditions are:

- a) the whole proceeds ie the money raised from the sale of tickets or chances, after deducting only the expenses allowed for printing and stationery, must be devoted to:
 - the provision of prizes; or

- where the lottery is run for the members of a society, to the provision of prizes, to purposes of the society or to both;
- b) the amount of the proceeds deducted for expenses (printing and stationery) must not exceed whichever is the less of:
 - the expenses actually incurred; or
 - 10% of the proceeds;
- c) the total value of tickets or chances sold must not exceed £1,000; there is no restriction on the price of an individual ticket or chance or on the value of prizes (which may be donated);
- d) the lottery may only be advertised on the lottery tickets, on the premises of the society or on the premises on which the people for whom it is promoted work or live;
- e) the price of every ticket or chance must be the same and must be stated on the ticket;
- f) each ticket must show:
 - the name and address of each of the promoters;
 - a statement of the persons to whom the sale of tickets or chances is restricted; and
 - a statement that no prize won will be paid or delivered to anyone other than the person to whom

the winning ticket or chance was sold;

- g) no ticket or chance may be issued except by way of sale and the full price must be paid for it when it is issued. Thus no tickets or chances may be sold at a discount eg 5 for the price of 4.

5.5 The private lottery provisions are intended to allow for traditional sweepstakes in work places etc and small-scale, fund-raising ballots by societies. Tickets or chances must not be sold to the public at large.

6. Societies' lotteries

Introduction

6.1 A society's lottery is one in which tickets or chances may be sold to the general public. Article 2(2) of the Order defines society and society's lottery as follows:

“society” includes any club, institution, organisation or association of persons, by whatever name called, and any separate branch or section of such a club, institution, organisation or association;

“society's lottery” means a lottery promoted on behalf of a society established and conducted wholly or mainly for one or more of the following purposes:

- a) charitable purposes;

- b) participation in, or support of, athletic sports or games or cultural activities; or
 - c) other purposes which are not purposes of private gain or of any commercial undertaking.
- 6.2 Each branch or section of a society may be treated as a society in its own right so that each may register (see paragraph 6.6) for the purpose of running its own lotteries.
- 6.3 The whole proceeds, ie the money raised from the sale of tickets or chances, of a society's lottery, after deduction of allowable expenses and prizes, must be applied to the purposes of the society.
- 6.4 A society's lottery must be promoted in Northern Ireland, the society must be registered with the district council in whose area its office or head office is situated and the lottery must be promoted in accordance with the lottery scheme approved by the society. Tickets or chances may be sold throughout Northern Ireland subject to the restrictions in paragraphs 6.23 to 6.26.
- 6.5 It should be noted that Great Britain has its own legislation on lotteries contained in the Gambling Act 2005. Tickets in a Northern Ireland society's lottery may not be lawfully sold in Great Britain by a person in Great Britain.

Similarly, tickets in a Great Britain society's lottery may not be lawfully sold in Northern Ireland by a person in Northern Ireland. The law in Great Britain and Northern Ireland is not clear on whether the sale of a GB society's lottery tickets by post or telephone directly to a person in Northern Ireland is lawful. The law is also not clear on whether it is lawful to sell Northern Ireland society's lottery tickets by post or telephone directly to a person in Great Britain. However, the sale of tickets in foreign lotteries in Northern Ireland, although lawful in their country of origin, is prohibited. Whilst the Lotteries (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021 permits the online sale of tickets, these regulations only apply to lotteries that are permitted under the 1985 Order.

Registration

- 6.6 To register with the district council, a society must:
- a) apply to the council for registration, specifying the purposes for which the society is established and conducted;
 - b) provide any other details which the council may require; (the council may already have an application form drawn up for this purpose;)
 - c) specify the address of its office or head office;

- d) attach a copy of its lottery scheme showing how it proposes to run its lotteries; (the council may have a model scheme available;)(e) copy the application to the local police district commander.
- 6.7 Before deciding whether or not to grant an application, the council will hear any representations which the police may make. The application must be refused if the conditions in the definition of a society's lottery (see paragraph 6.1) are not satisfied or if the lottery scheme does not conform to the law.
- 6.8 The application **may** be refused if:
- a) anyone connected with a lottery promoted or proposed to be promoted on behalf of the society has been convicted of an offence involving lotteries, fraud or dishonesty; or
 - b) the address of the office or head office of the society is the same as that of the office or head office of another registered society established for the same or a connected purpose; or
 - c) any lottery promoted by or on behalf of the society within the last 5 years has not been properly conducted.
- 6.9 If the district council refuses the application, the society may appeal to the county court.
- 6.10 If the district council registers the society, a fee of £35 is payable. On 1 January of each following year, a fee of £17.50 is payable to maintain the registration.
- 6.11 A registered society must notify the district council:
- a) of any change in the address of the society's office or head office within 21 days of the change taking effect; and
 - b) of any change in its lottery scheme before any tickets are sold under the amended scheme. (A lottery scheme being contrary to law is one of the grounds upon which a district council may revoke a society's registration.)
- Promoter**
- 6.12 The lottery must be promoted by a member of the society who has been authorised in writing by its governing body to act as the promoter.
- Tickets and date of lottery**
- 6.13 Each ticket must specify the name of the society, the name and address of the promoter and the date of the lottery.
- 6.14 The date of a lottery is defined in Article 2(2) of the Order as the date on which the winners in that lottery are ascertained. If the winners are selected

by a draw, the date of the lottery will be the date of the draw.

6.15 The law is not specific about the date of what is usually referred to as an “instant” lottery ie where there is no draw and the winners are ascertained solely by reference to what is printed on the tickets eg scratch cards where numbers or symbols are concealed with a substance which has to be removed to show if the ticket is a winner. In the absence of a definitive interpretation by the courts, it is considered that the date of an “instant” lottery should be taken as the last day on which the tickets are to be on sale.

6.16 If a society promotes 2 or more lotteries with the same date, the tickets sold in each lottery must bear a serial number to show to which lottery they relate.

6.17 Where the information appearing on a ticket includes any reference to an external lottery consultant or manager (see paragraph 6.39) employed in the promotion of the lottery, the size of the lettering used in that reference must be no bigger than the smallest lettering used for the name of the society promoting the lottery and the reference must be no more prominent than the society’s name.

6.18 Each ticket must also specify the name of the district council which registered the society (see also paragraphs 6.21 and 6.28 for content of tickets).

Frequency of lotteries

6.19 There are currently no restrictions on the number and frequency of lotteries which may be promoted by a society.

Price of tickets

6.20 A person cannot participate in a lottery unless the whole price of the ticket or chance has been paid to the society. In addition, once money has been received for, or on account of, a ticket or chance, it cannot be refunded.

6.21 The price of every ticket or chance must be the same and must be shown on the ticket. It is, therefore, not permitted to offer say, 5 tickets or chances for the price of 4.

6.22 The maximum price of a ticket or chance is £100.

6.23 No ticket or chance may be bought or sold by anyone under the age of 16.

6.24 Tickets or chances must not be sold in any street. Street is defined as including any bridge, road, lane, footway, subway, square, court, alley or passage, whether a thoroughfare or not, which is open to the public without payment.

This restriction does not apply to the sale of tickets or chances by a person in a kiosk or shop premises with no space for the accommodation of customers. The shop premises envisaged would be the type with a side window or a counter opening directly on to the street through which, or over which, goods such as ice-cream, newspapers etc are sold to people in the street.

- 6.25 Except for the sale of tickets or chances in a lottery by means of the internet, no tickets or chances in a lottery shall be sold by means of a machine.
- 6.26 Tickets or chances may not be sold by anyone when visiting another person at his home in the discharge of any official, professional or commercial function not connected with lotteries. Door to door selling is otherwise permitted.
- 6.27 The total value of tickets or chances sold in any one lottery must not exceed £80,000. The total value of tickets or chances sold in all the lotteries promoted by one society in any year must not exceed £1,000,000.

Identification of winning tickets

- 6.28 A company supplying “instant” tickets (see paragraph 6.15) must not be asked to supply them in such a way that winning tickets can be identified as such before they are sold.

Prizes

- 6.29 No more than 50% of the proceeds (the amount raised from the sale of tickets or chances) of a lottery may be used to provide prizes. Prizes may, however, be donated at a reduced cost or free of charge. Prizes donated free of charge would not be regarded as having been appropriated from the lottery proceeds.
- 6.30 No prize may exceed, in amount or value, £25,000 or 10% of the lottery proceeds, whichever is the greater and regardless of whether or not the prize is donated. In effect, the current ceiling is £25,000 (subject to the 50% limit on the use of proceeds for prizes - see paragraph 6.29) as the maximum possible proceeds of a lottery are £80,000 - see paragraph 6.27.
- 6.31 Value is not defined in the Order. It is suggested, however, that the value of a prize should be based on the recommended retail price plus any relevant taxes or other associated charges, but less any discount generally available to any member of the public at the time the tickets or chances are offered for sale.
- 6.32 No prize can be offered on such terms that the winning of the prize depends on the purchase of more than one ticket or chance in the lottery. This prohibition does not apply where winning depends on the purchase of

more than one chance if the total price of those chances is no more than £100. (£100 being the current maximum price of a ticket or chance in a lottery - see paragraph 6.22).

Expenses

6.33 The amount of the lottery proceeds which may be deducted to meet expenses (exclusive of prizes) is the expenses actually incurred or 20% of the whole proceeds (whichever is the lesser amount).

6.34 For the purposes of determining expenses limits, the law requires that the amount of any expenses met by:

- a) the society on whose behalf the lottery is promoted, or
- b) any beneficiary of the lottery, must be treated as having been taken for expenses from the proceeds of the lottery.

Records

6.35 Promoters should ensure before proceeding with a lottery that adequate record keeping and accounting procedures are in place. It is recommended that, at the very least, the following basic records should be maintained for each lottery:

- a) details of tickets ordered and received from the printer;
- b) details of all tickets issued to each point of sale; details of tickets sold, returned unsold and not returned

(together with brief reason for the failure to return unsold tickets);

- c) details of all income received from the sale of tickets or chances, together with banking records in support;
 - d) details of all expenses, together with relevant invoices; it is advisable to differentiate between expenses appropriated directly from the lottery proceeds, those met by the society promoting the lottery or the beneficiary and thus treated as appropriated from the proceeds, and expenses donated by a third party;
 - e) details of all prizes together with relevant invoices;
 - f) details of winners and winning tickets (it is accepted that for "instant" lotteries it will be inappropriate to maintain lists of small winners but major winners should be duly listed together with winning tickets);
 - g) details of the distribution of the proceeds to each beneficiary where the beneficiary is other than the society conducting the lottery (including receipts from beneficiaries);
 - h) where agents are employed, records should be maintained showing their remuneration and the number of tickets sold and returned.
-

6.36 Not later than the end of the third month after the date of a lottery, the promoter must send a completed return, certified by a qualified accountant (see footnote 1 on page 15) to the district council which registered the society. A copy of this return form is attached at Annex B. A copy of a ticket sold in the lottery must be attached to this return.

6.37 The society must keep copies of these returns, together with copies of supporting bills, receipts and accounts for at least 18 months. If asked to do so during this period, the society must supply copies to the district council or the police.

Inspection

6.38 An officer of the district council or the police may enter the office of a registered society and inspect its records and the promotion of any lottery.

Lottery consultant or manager

6.39 A society may wish to employ an outsider to organise or run its lottery. Such a person is called an external lottery consultant or manager and must hold a lottery certificate granted by the court before he can act in this capacity. Before a society employs such a person, it must ensure that he holds a lottery certificate.

Offences and defences

6.40 If any requirement of the law on societies' lotteries is contravened, the promoter, and any other person who was a party to the contravention, is guilty of an offence. The punishment on conviction can range from a fine to a fine and imprisonment for up to two years. Defences are, however, available if, for instance, the promoter can prove that the contravention occurred without his consent or connivance, the proceeds of the lottery fell short of those reasonably estimated or the date of the lottery was unexpectedly or unforeseeably delayed.

7. General advice

7.1 Further information on the lotteries law may be obtained from Social Policy Unit (address below) or the local district council. Legal advice on the law should be obtained from a professional legal adviser.

7.2 Additional copies of this leaflet are available from:

Social Policy Unit
Department for Communities
8th Floor, Causeway Exchange
1-7 Bedford Street
Belfast BT2 7EG
Tel: 028 9082 3140
Email: social.policy@communities-ni.gov.uk

7.3 The Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action (NICVA) provides advice and information to voluntary and community groups on lottery law in Northern Ireland. NICVA's pamphlet "Lotteries - A Guide for Voluntary Groups" is available, free of charge, by contacting the Charity Advice Officer at:

Governance and Charity Advice Team

Northern Ireland Council for
Voluntary Action

61 Duncairn Gardens

Belfast

BT15 2GB

Tel: 028 9087 7777

Email: denise.copeland@nicva.org

The Legislation

Primary legislation

The Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 as amended (S.I.1985 No. 1204 (N.I. 11))

The Betting and Lotteries (Northern Ireland) Order 1994 (S.I. 1994 No. 1893 (N.I. 8))

The National Lottery etc Act 1993 c. 39

Subordinate legislation

The Lotteries Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1994 (S.R.1994 No. 467)

These regulations relate to the conduct of societies' lotteries and prescribe the form of the return (see Annex B) to be made to the district council for each lottery.

The Lottery (Form of Certificate) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987 (S.R.1987 No.194)

These regulations prescribe the form of the lottery certificate, granted by a court, which an external lottery consultant or manager must hold.

The Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements with Prizes (Variation of Fees and Monetary Limits) Order (Northern Ireland) 1995 (S.R. 1995 No. 343)

This Order prescribes the current fees for the registration of a society - £35 for the initial registration and £17.50 for the annual fee to be paid by a registered society.

The above legislation may be accessed at:
www.legislation.gov.uk

ANNEX B

Society's Lottery - Return by Promoter

**(Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements
(Northern Ireland) Order 1985)**

(To be sent by the promoter of the lottery to the district council named below not later than the end of the third month after the date of the lottery)

Part 1

To.....Council
(name of district council by whom the society is registered)

I,
(full forenames and surname of promoter of lottery)

of.....
.....
.....
(full residential address)

being the promoter of a lottery promoted on behalf of.....
.....
(name of registered society)

registered by the above-named district council under Article 136 of the Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 hereby make the following return in respect of that lottery:

1. The date of the lottery was
.....
2. The total proceeds from the sale of tickets or chances were £.....
3. The amount of the total proceeds appropriated on account of expenses (exclusive of prizes) was £....., including an amount of £.....* met by the registered society on whose behalf the lottery was promoted and an amount of £.....* met by the following (beneficiary) (beneficiaries) of the lottery;
.....
.....
.....
(full forenames and surname of beneficiary, or, where beneficiary is a society, the name of the society)
of.....
.....
(full residential address, or, where beneficiary is a society, that of its office or head office) (give separate details if more than one beneficiary) (insert nil if appropriate)*

4. The amount of the total proceeds appropriated for the provision of prizes was £.....

5. The purpose(s) to which the proceeds of the lottery were applied (was)(were)
.....
.....
(give separate details if more than one purpose)

6. The amount of the proceeds which was applied for the purpose(s) named above was.....
.....
.....
(give separate details if more than one purpose)

7.
(full forenames and surname of holder of lottery certificate, or, where holder of certificate is a body corporate, title of body) of.....
.....
(full address, or, where holder of certificate is a body corporate, that of its registered or principal office)

acted as an external lottery consultant or manager in the promotion of the lottery

8. A copy of a ticket sold in the said lottery is attached.

I hereby certify that I am a member of the said society and have been duly authorised in writing by the governing body of that society to act as the promoter of this lottery.

Dated theday of 20....

Signed

Occupation.....

Part II

Certification of Lottery Return

I, the undersigned, being a qualified accountant within the meaning of Article 2(2) of the Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (Northern Ireland) Order 1985¹ hereby certify that

I have examined the accounts relating to the above lottery and to the best of my information and belief the information contained in this return is correct.

Dated the day of 20....

.....
(signature of qualified accountant)

.....
.....
(address)

¹ "qualified accountant" means a person who is eligible for appointment as a company auditor under Article 28 of the Companies (NI) Order 1990 - Article 2(2) of the Betting etc Order as amended by S.R. 1993 No. 67



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|--------------------------|--|
| Report on | Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Achievements 2022/2023 |
| Date of Meeting | 5 July 2023 |
| Reporting Officer | Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism & Strategic Programmes |

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

| | |
|------------|---|
| 1.0 | Purpose of Report |
| 1.1 | To provide Members with an update on key activities as detailed below. |
| 2.0 | Background |
| 2.1 | <p>Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes Achievements 2022/23</p> <p>A significant volume of Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic programmes have been delivered during the 2022/23 financial year, much of which has included a range of new interventions, as well as continued delivery of existing programmes, to support Mid Ulster businesses and promote the District's tourism offering. It is an opportune time to summarise these and reflect on our achievements.</p> |
| 3.0 | Main Report |
| 3.1 | <p>Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes Achievements 2022/23</p> <p>A high-level summary of Council's Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programme Achievements for 2022/23 is outlined below. The full report is contained in Appendix 1, with some of our headline achievements as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Levelling Up Fund - £9M secured from Levelling Up Fund (LUF) to deliver a large capital regeneration project in Maghera. • Business Start Programme - 169 new jobs created through the business start programme. 278 Business Plans created • ESF Programmes supported 643 participants as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Helped 229 people gain employment. - Assisted 643 participants to achieve 1004 new qualifications. - Helped 64 participants progress to Further Education/Training |

- **Four Business Programmes** have:
 - supported 537 businesses.
 - created 296 F/T equivalent jobs (259 Full Time and 74 Part Time) (equating to a value of £7,021,427.20)
 - helped 32 businesses win 32 tenders (total value of £28,453,400)
 - referred 41 businesses to Invest NI
- **Village Projects** - 50 villages being supported to develop projects with a total cost of £5.9M
- **Public Realm Scheme** delivered in Coalisland with £4.7m & £250,000 Revitalisation scheme completed.
- **Mid Ulster Enterprise Week (14-17 November 2022)** - Over 370 people participated in Mid Ulster's fourth Enterprise Week (14-18 November). There were 13 free online and in-person events.
- **Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP)** - 50 participants gained employment with a further 36 gaining a new qualification and currently seeking employment opportunities.
- **DAERA Rural Tourism Scheme** - Sperrins Sculpture Trail total project costs of £568,337.33, receiving 75% funding.
- **Tourism NI (TNI) Market Led Programme** - TNI's Market Led Product Development Programme launched on January 23 making a call for programme submissions. The devised programme submitted to TNI was successful to the value of £33,000.
 - Assisted in the enhancement of four emerging tourism experiences.
 - Banquet event delivered to TNI Meet the Buyer, including 20 international tour operators and 11 trade experiences.
- **Shared Island Local Authority Development Fund**
 - Sliabh Beagh total grant awarded €145,475 plus match funding of €17,500 from the three partner Councils, with a total projected spend of €162,975.
 - Tullaghoge Fort grant awarded £20,000 to investigate the feasibility of further development at Tullaghoge Fort, linking the site with Tullaghoge Village.
- **Summer/Winter Marketing Campaign 2022**
 - Online campaign had a reach of 260,000.
 - 150,000 engagements of click through, comments and shares.

| | |
|------------|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring Marketing Campaign 2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Online campaign had a reach of over 274,000. - 135,000 engagements of click through, comments and shares. • Business Engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mid Ulster Whatsapp group contains up to 198 Hospitality and Tourism businesses who are receiving current updates from the industry, TNI and Hospitality Ulster. - To date 52 webinars have been hosted targeting issues relating to our Tourism and Hospitality sector, with an average of 25 businesses dial in to each session. |
| 4.0 | Other Considerations |
| 4.1 | Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications |
| | Financial: Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes Achievements 2022/23 Not applicable. |
| | Human: Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes Achievements 2022/23 Not applicable. |
| | Risk Management: Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes Achievements 2022/23 - Not applicable. |
| 4.2 | Screening & Impact Assessments |
| | Equality & Good Relations Implications: Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes Achievements 2022/23 - Not applicable. |
| | Rural Needs Implications: Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes Achievements 2022/23 - Not applicable. |
| 5.0 | Recommendation(s) |
| 5.1 | It is recommended that Members; Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes Achievements 2022/23 Note the report on Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programme achievements in 2022/23. |

| | |
|------------|---|
| 6.0 | Documents Attached & References |
| | Appendix 1 – Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes Achievements 2022/2023 |

SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM AND STRATEGIC PROGRAMMES SECTION 2022/23

This Report provides an overview of the comprehensive range of work delivered across the Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes section in 2022/23 and details some of the year’s highlights and initiatives delivered under each of the 4 key Themes of the Council’s economic development strategy, ‘Our Plan for Growth’ and the Tourism Section.

THEME 1: ENABLING ECONOMIC GROWTH

Business Programmes

NI Business Start Up Programme ‘Go For It’



In the twelve-month period to March 2023 282 local entrepreneurs were supported, to develop Business Plans, thus promoting 169 jobs in the Mid Ulster area.

Suite of Four Business Programmes ‘Advance your business in Mid Ulster’

Launched in August 2020, these were designed to build the capacity, resilience and growth prospects of 690 Mid Ulster micro and small businesses (<49 employees) to Dec 2022.



- 1. Gearing for Growth Programme...** offered up to 5 days’ support in key business areas (business planning, effective pricing, financial management, steps to exporting, marketing, social media, customer care and industry standards)

2. **Tender Ready Programme** ... provided up to 5 days' assistance for businesses to win new work, develop compliant tendering documentation to industry standards, respond to live tendering opportunities, and mobilise contracts
3. **Digital First Programme**...provided up to 4 days' support to build businesses' digital capacity, grow their online presence and sales through adopting new digital strategies and technologies.
4. **Transform Programme**...delivered support of up to 5 days to help businesses enhance their attractiveness to the labour market and implement tailored and sustainable measures to recruit and retain staff and flex in response to the impact of Covid.



By March 2023, 706 businesses had received support, achieving the following:

- 299 jobs created (equating to a value of £6.8m)
- 21 business have won 25 tenders valued at £14.783m
- 42 businesses have been accepted by Invest NI as Quality Referrals
- Businesses supported to access £1.273m of additional funding /grants

Mid Ulster Social Enterprise Programme (2021/23)

In May 2021, Council appointed Workspace Enterprises to deliver the new Social Enterprise Programme, which is currently providing support to 36 new and existing social enterprises in Mid Ulster (to support 40 by September 2023).



On 29th March 2023, over 40 representatives from social enterprises across Mid Ulster attended the 'Spring into Social Enterprise' seminar in the Burnavon to hear from social enterprise leaders about potential approaches to addressing current challenges and becoming more sustainable.

Mid Ulster Rural Business Development Scheme 2022 (RBDS)

The Rural Business Development Scheme is funded under the DAERA Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation (TRPSI) initiative and aims to support the sustainability, survival and development of rurally based micro businesses across Northern Ireland by offering a small capital grant at 50% up to £4,999.

In 2022/23:

- 126 rural micro businesses received a letter of offer from Mid Ulster District Council to the value of £437,064.18.
- Match funding by project promoters resulted in a minimum of £600,000 investment by rural micro businesses in business development and recovery activities.

Business Events

Transform Webinars

In May 2022, the Transform Programme delivered two Webinars to 84 participants. The Webinars focussed on Workforce Planning - Right People, Right Skills and Recruitment Matters – How to Attract Staff.



Digital First Webinars

In April 2022, the final webinar was delivered attracting 41 participants. The Webinars focussed on the topics of Ecommerce, SEO and Digital Advertising. In total 9 webinars were delivered throughout the duration of the programme attracting a total of 444 participants.



Mid Ulster Enterprise Week 2022 (4th annual event (14th – 17th November 2022))



To mark Global Entrepreneurship Week 2022, Mid Ulster District Council's fourth Enterprise Week took place from Monday 14th to Thursday 17th November 2022. The week's theme was *Adapt, Evolve, Overcome* to connect with the current economic situation. There were with three in-person events and 10 online free events. A total of 384 people attended the programme of events.

Council's E-shot Service

Over the year, Council issued 42 comprehensive e-shots to registered businesses, providing information, as it emerged, on key issues such as latest government advice and guidance on Covid regulations and recovery grants, EU Exit changes, as well as any other events, opportunities and sources of support for Mid Ulster businesses.

THEME 2: ENABLING SKILLS & EMPLOYABILITY

Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP)

The Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP) is focused on improving Mid Ulster's employability outcomes and labour market conditions by working with a wide range of partners, being flexible to meet local needs and helping to connect employers with employees.



The Partnership received £368k funding from the Department for Communities to deliver the 2022/23 Mid Ulster LMP Action Plan. This enabled Mid Ulster LMP to implement a range of projects and initiatives aimed at directly impacting the local labour market by bringing unemployed or economically inactive constituents back into work or assisting in upskilling or reskilling those at risk of redundancy.

Such initiatives included a HGV/PCV Academy and a Childcare Academy, as well as Sectoral Academies across 5 key industry sectors, which offer a range of routes back to employment whilst providing one to one mentoring and support in employability skills and guaranteed job interviews. In addition, the LMP is engaging with a number of local employers to raise awareness and understanding of the special needs of those with disabilities and how to bring them back into the workforce to fill skills and labour shortages. To date 50 participants are in employment with a further 36 gaining a new qualification and currently seeking employment opportunities.



Construction Sector Consortia

A Consortia of key employers within the local Construction sector has been established and a new 3-year Employability & Skills Action Plan has been developed with the support of Mid Ulster LMP.

MEGA

Council continues to support the MEGA Collaborative Network to address immediate skills and labour issues in the manufacturing and engineering sector.

ESF Employability & Skills Programmes

Following the success of the ESF1 (2015/18), and ESF2 Programmes (2018/22) Council committed to a providing match funding for one year towards:

- Step Up to Sustainable Employment (SUSE+) – South West College
- Exploring Enterprise 4 – Local Enterprise Network
- Women Towards Education and Employment – First Steps Women’s Centre
- ‘Verve’ Project – NOW Group

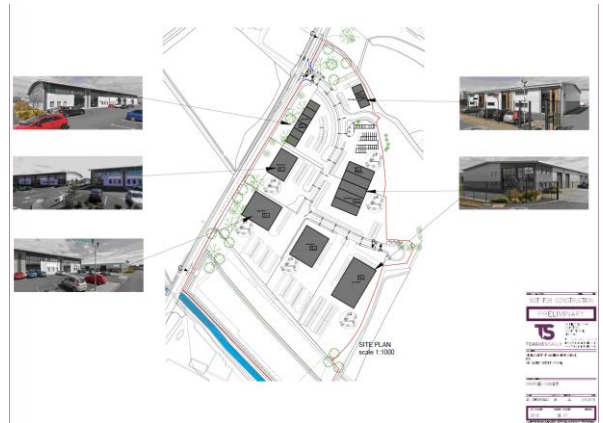
Council funding of £41,774 leveraged £2,106,973 and resulted in a total investment of £2,148,747:

- Supporting 643 participants
- Helping 229 people into employment
- 675 qualifications achieved.
- 701 progressing to Further Education / training
- 35 participants achieving Essential Skills
- 899 Specialist Qualifications being achieved

THEME 3: ENABLING URBAN & RURAL REGENERATION

Maghera Regeneration Project

Council secured £9 million Levelling Up funding to support economic growth and drive regeneration in the town. Under the investment, Maghera is set to benefit from extensive public realm improvements. The much-needed public realm scheme will transform the look of the town centre with new paving, street lighting, planting and street furniture, and address substandard footpath widths, poor pedestrian access and traffic flow issues. Other elements in the project will go towards boosting outdoor recreation and biodiversity through the creation of a new wetlands park, and the revitalisation of local business through the proposed creation of a new business park at the former High School site from local businesses.



Gas to the West

Significant works have been completed in the towns of Dungannon, Cookstown, Magherafelt and Coalisland. Works to connect homes and businesses to the network in the Towns is ongoing.

Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme (2019 - 2023)

The final Phase 4 of the scheme was completed and resulted in £104,425.15 of Grant Aid awarded to 29 properties across the Council area with private sector leverage of £66,378.34.



Phases 1 to 4 of the Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme has resulted in £699,454,52 of Grant aid awarded to 200 properties across the Council area. The private sector leverage amounts to £427,097.85 for the 4 Phases.

Marketing & Promotion

Marketing Campaigns were delivered for the town centres at key periods as part of the town centre recovery plan using print media, outdoor advertising and social media as the key channels.

Mid Ulster Gift Card

Since its launch back in November 2021, a total of 214 businesses across the district have registered to participate and accept the Mid Ulster Gift Card.

This includes Council leisure facilities and cultural venues. Registrations continue to increase as a result of ongoing awareness campaigns and promotion. Over £57k has been uploaded onto the gift cards, to be spent in participating businesses across the district. Mid Ulster Gift Cards can be collected free of charge from Ranfurly House, Dungannon, The Burnavon, Cookstown and The Bridewell in Magherafelt. Then simply choose your card amount and upload the value by visiting www.midulstergiftcard.com. Alternatively, you can purchase online at the same website address.



International Woman's Day 2023

To mark International Women's Day on Wednesday 8th March 2023, Mid Ulster District Council proudly supported this annual international campaign through a series of successful events, which celebrated the achievements of inspirational local women who are making a major impact in the world of business, community and all areas of society.

Representatives from Causeway and Mid Ulster Women's Aid, also spoke at the events, highlight the significant challenges facing the charity with growing numbers of women coming forward for help.

Adopting the theme of Embracing Equity, Council held two events, the first on Wednesday 8th March 2023 at the Terrace Hotel, Magherafelt and the second on Wednesday 15th March 2023 in the Ryandale Inn Moy with a total of 163 people attending both events. All money raised was donated to Causeway and Mid Ulster Women's Aid.

Town Centre Events

Cookstown Continental Market 2022

Mid Ulster District Council, in partnership with Cookstown Town Centre Forum, hosted **Cookstown Continental Market**, from Saturday 28th May – Sunday 29th May 2022 - the first corporate event delivered since 2019. The market returned to Cookstown as part of Marketplace Europe Spring Tour of Northern Ireland bringing lots of delicious food, treats and entertainment to enjoy. The market was located along William Street Cookstown Town Centre. A schedule of street entertainment, children's activities and live music was delivered over the two days.



Maghera Walled Garden Family Fun Day 2022

This took place on Saturday 25th June 2022 with a theme 'Go Wild'. The event was attended by over 2,300 people enjoying the activities and entertainment in the Garden and surrounding areas.

Tafelta Festival 2022

This took place on Saturday 6th August 2022 and was aimed at children and young families. It attempted to engage businesses to host a series of events throughout Magherafelt Town Centre. In total activities took place in 20 locations throughout the town centre including 17 businesses, on the street and in The Bridewell.



Coalisland Summer Bash 2022

This event attended by over 1,500 took place on Friday 24th June 2022 in the Cornmill car park, with an evening of free family fun activities organised by Council to coincide with the annual Newell 10K and 5K run.

Music in Town Centres

Live music was provided in Dungannon, Cookstown and Magherafelt Town Centres every weekend in September 2022.

Dungannon Halloween Event 2022

This was in its nineteenth year and the event took place on Friday 28th October 2022 in Market Square, Dungannon. It is estimated that an audience of 3,000 attended throughout the evening. The programme of entertainment included face painters, balloon modellers, walk about characters, fire/LED performers, a range of Halloween workshops/activities along with on stage entertainment. To conclude the evening a ten-minute firework display took place.



Coalisland Halloween Event 2022

This was held on Monday 31st October 2022 at Gortgonis Complex. The event provided family friendly activities with amusements for all to enjoy and fireworks to end the event. It is estimated that up 2,000 people attended the event throughout the evening. In the week leading up to this event there were community activities held at various locations throughout the town and surrounding area, with the finale held at Gortgonis.

Shop Local Campaign – Christmas 2022

To coincide with the virtual Christmas lights switch on a two week “Shop Local” campaign ran with both television and outdoor advertising. A TV Advert formed part of Mid Ulster Council’s Christmas Marketing Campaign to promote the ‘shop local’ message and encourage additional footfall in our main towns in the run up to Christmas. Airtime advertising for a 30 second TV advert run on UTV from 12th December to 22nd December 2022. This campaign also promoted the Mid Ulster Gift Card.

Christmas Activities 2022

Due to relaxation of government guidelines the traditional Christmas Switch-On events were delivered in each town centre – Dungannon, Cookstown, Magherafelt, Coalisland and Maghera.

Cookstown Christmas Lights Switch On 2022 Friday 25th November 2022

It is estimated 3,500 people attended the Christmas Lights Switch on in Cookstown. The event takes place over 90 minutes and focuses on providing the opportunity for local groups to be involved in the entertainment. Activities for the children included a gaming bus, arts and crafts, face painting, character walkabouts and selfie boards.



**Dungannon Christmas Lights Switch On 2022
Saturday 26th November 2022**

Dungannon Lights Switch On took place on Saturday 26th November commencing at 1pm until 8pm. The programme of entertainment included a mix of on stage and street entertainment with performances from local choirs, the Manhattan Swing band, walkabout characters, face painters, family fun activities and arts and crafts at 'The Space' Feeney's Lane. In partnership with Dungannon Town Traders Santa arrived by Lorry into Market Square to switch on the Christmas Tree and festive lights. It is estimated that 2,000 people attended this event.



**Magherafelt Christmas Market and Lights Switch On
Saturday 26th & Sunday 27th November 2022**

Thousands of people attended the Christmas festivities in Magherafelt. For the first time, Market Square hosted an Artisans Market, which was provided by the Lough Neagh Artisans team. The market offered many delights including fare from local farmers, sweet makers, bakers and honey producers, as well as cookery demonstrations by Bronagh Duffin from BakeHouse NI. An array of arts and crafts producers were also on hand to tempt market goers with bespoke art pieces, crafts and gifts with a personal touch! Council Chair, Cllr Córa Corry helped Santa switch on the lights and countdown to a fireworks display.



**Maghera Christmas Lights Switch On 2022
Saturday 3rd December 2022**

Maghera was full of festive cheer on Saturday 3rd December 2022 as Santa took up residence in Maghera Walled Garden for the afternoon, before turning on the Christmas lights in the town!



Coalisland Lights Switch On 2022 Sunday 4th December 2022

The fourteenth annual Christmas event in partnership with CRAIC theatre saw Santa take up residence in the Cornmill Centre on Sunday 4th December 2022 where children could come, meet Santa and receive a free selection box. Entertainment and festive fun took place in the carpark of the Cornmill Centre throughout the afternoon with music by a DJ and a live band, Christmas walkabout characters along with a special appearance from the Craic Theatre's Pantomime.



The new look festive lights and Christmas Tree proved a great success and were switched on by the Chair of Mid Ulster District Council, Cllr Córa Corry, Santa & Guest Appearance from Craic Theatre pantomime. It was estimated that over 1,000 people attended this event.

In addition to the Christmas Lights Switch On Events, entertainment was provided in the five main towns on three Saturdays before Christmas, to encourage people visit the towns. This included pop up entertainment in each town centre. Local musicians played in the five towns.



Reduced Christmas Car Parking 2022

As in previous years, Dungannon and Magherafelt benefitted from reduced Christmas.

Car Parking charges from 26th November 2022 – 7th January 2023.

Town Centre Wi-Fi

Town centre Wi-Fi is installed and maintained in each of the five town centres.

Project Stratum

Project Stratum is the largest Full Fibre broadband project across NI. In Mid Ulster, it is on target to deliver broadband improvements to almost 13,000 rural premises. This is year 3 of a year roll out plan.

Employment sites

As a result of Council lobbying efforts, DfI Road invested approximately £250,000 into improving and enhancing the infrastructure within Granville Industrial Estate as well as a major carriageway and footway resurfacing scheme between Granville and Dungannon, which extends for 2km with an estimated £350,000 investment.

Strategic Transport Infrastructure

Council continues to lobby and progress the Cookstown and Dungannon bypasses and the A5 as well as rail infrastructure.

Desertcreat Industrial Lands Project

The Council is a partner in a cross-border project, which received €250k funding through the Shared Island Local Authority Development Fund. This project will see a feasibility study being completed for cross-border investment in industrial/enterprise space with border Councils including Monaghan (lead Council), Cavan, and Leitrim, as well as northern partner Councils in Fermanagh and Omagh and Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon.



Sperrins Sculpture Trail

A joint tourism initiative developed by MUDC, FODC and DCSDC to embed three iconic public art installations by international artist Thomas Dambo, based on the theme ‘The Giants of the Sperrins’.

The Sperrins Sculpture Trail will be launched early summer 2023. The project, aimed at promoting rural tourism, reflects the rich cultural and natural heritage of the region and forms the Sperrin Sculpture Trail with artwork at Davagh Forest, Cranagh and Mullaghcarn.

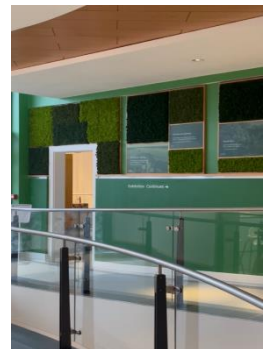
The MUDC element had total project costs of £568,337.33, receiving 75% funding under DAERA’s Rural Tourism Scheme.

Tourism NI Market Led Programme

MUDC were successful in securing £33K under Tourism NI’s Market Led Product Development Programme launched in winter of 2022.

The Market Led Programme enhanced and animated the visitor experience for NI/ROI visitors, which has encouraged opportunities to spend and thus supporting economic growth. Support was given to Tourism and Hospitality businesses across Mid Ulster under the following themes:

- 1. **Seamus Heaney HomePlace** – Creation of a Living Wall to achieve 5* attraction status in 2023 and increase footfall figures.



- 2. **The Wedding Banquet** – Following the successful launch of the Wedding Banquet in 2022, Mid Ulster District Council secured funding to enhance the experience. The launch in March 2023 of the enhanced O’Neill story, designed to bring the past to life and recreate the marriage of Hugh O’Neill and Mabel Bagenal, targeted 20 key international tour operators from Tourism NI Meet the Buyer and showcased 10 experiential providers to the group. A series of banquets have been sold commercially to be held in August, September and October.

This event again highlighted the event space and Hill of The O'Neill as a very flexible space and targeted in particular the MICE (Meetings, Incentive, Conference and Exhibitions) market as well as leisure tourism and of course weddings.

3. **Experience Development** – Purchase of headsets for outdoor use, tour guide training and events to enhance both existing and emerging visitor experiences.
4. **OM Experience Show** – a new visual experience shows developed for Christmas and Halloween events, boosting night time economy.

DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES (DFC)

Cycle Hubs

A grant award of £24,480 from Department for Infrastructure provided 6 cycling service hubs along the Dungannon to Coleraine Greenway. The proposal ensures sites are intersection with the other lateral greenways identified in the Northern Ireland Greenway Strategy. These innovative hubs combine three elements of active cycle travel into one site: security, maintenance, and shelter. The sites are also located within/near existing sports and changing /showering facilities and mainly at points where primary and secondary potential greenways meet.

The cycle service sites are located at:

- Maghera Leisure Centre
- Magherafelt Meadow Bank Leisure Centre
- Mid Ulster Sports Arena, Cookstown
- Gortgonis, Coalisland
- Dungannon Park
- Round Lake, Clogher

Each of the sites are based within Council land or facilities and provide three main elements:

1. A Cycle Repair facility
2. A Cycle Shelter
3. and security and facility



SHARED ISLAND FUNDING

Sliabh Beagh

Recreation and tourism opportunities are being investigated as part of a cross-border initiative involving three councils in the border region. Monaghan County Council together with Mid Ulster District Council and Fermanagh and Omagh District Council partnered in cross-border applications to the Shared Island Fund one of which was the Sliabh Beagh project. The purpose of this project is to develop a number of inter-connected tourism and outdoor recreation initiatives to build upon the existing services and facilities in the region. The project, which is being led by Monaghan County Council, has been awarded €145,475.

Sliabh Beagh is a protected upland area with heritage and conservation status, which covers Tyrone, Fermanagh and Monaghan.

Outdoor Recreation NI (ORNI) were appointed as consultants for the feasibility study to look at developing walking, cycling and equestrian activity in the area, as well as, signage and public art. ORNI will also investigate accommodation and ancillary services needs of the region.

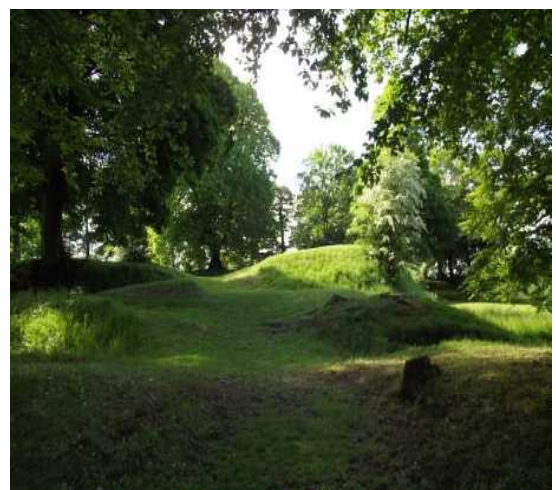


This feasibility study application to the Shared Island Local Authority Development Fund totals €145,475 plus match funding of €17,500 from the three partner Councils, with a total projected spend of €162,975.

Tullaghoge Fort

Through the Shared Island Local Authority Development Funding Scheme awarded by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, in consultation with the Shared Island Unit in the Department of the Taoiseach, Mid Ulster District Council and Leitrim County Council successfully secured funding of £20,000 to investigate the feasibility of further development at Tullaghoge Fort, linking the site with Tullaghoge Village.

The Shared Island Fund presents a cross-border collaboration opportunity for Leitrim County Council and Mid Ulster District Council, with Leitrim learning first-hand of the experience of sensitively developing the archaeological heritage and visitor facilities at Tullaghoge Fort, in transforming a similar heritage site at Killahurk. The project allows Mid Ulster District Council to identify the potential of developing a new pathway linking Tullaghoge Fort with Tullyhogue village, along with the investigation of new innovative approaches to the interpretation of a recently discovered settlement at Tullaghoge Fort.



THEME 2: BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT

Tourism NI Local Spirit Award November 2022

Mary McGee, Business Engagement Officer, was awarded the TNI Local Spirit Award for engagement with the Tourism and Hospitality sector during covid pandemic.

Webinars

To date we have hosted 52 webinars targeting issues relating to our Tourism and Hospitality sector, with an average of 25 businesses dialling into each session, such as:

- Using LinkedIN, Instagram, Facebook, Canva etc. for your business
- Economic Development Programmes
- Recruit and Retain staff
- Pricing for Success
- Branding Guidelines

WhatsApp Group

Established in response to the pandemic, membership of mid ulster WhatsApp group currently stands at 198 business representatives. It continues to highlight news, updates, and information in a fast and convenient manner for businesses, with organisations, such as, Tourism NI, NI Hotels Federation and Hospitality Ulster feeding into the group.

THEME 3: TOURISM CLUSTERS

Tourism Development Group

The Tourism Development group is comprised of Council, business, education and training representatives and statutory agencies including Tourism NI. This group works alongside officers to manage the delivery of the Council Tourism Strategy and act as an advisory body for the industry.

The following clusters are sub groups who feed into the TDG:

Loughlinsholin Cluster (formerly Seamus Heaney Cluster)

This cluster of 15 Tourism and Hospitality businesses continues to evolve and are progressing through the Invest NI Phase 2 Collaborative Growth Programme.

Outputs from the five work streams:

1. The cluster have re-branded to “Loughlinsholin, Mid Ulster Tourism Cluster” after completing a branding exercise to identify a cluster name that capsulised all its members. Loughlinsholin was launched at World Travel Market, London in November 2022.



2. Governance documents have been finalised and are operational, which include the process of increasing their membership.

3. Working collectively, the group members have devised a bespoke 4-day coach tour, “Untapped Mid Ulster”, which included a strong marketing and PR Campaign.
4. After attending trade shows such as ITOA, Meet the Buyer etc., the cluster have hosted 4 individual tour operator fam visits, with a few planned for autumn 2023.
5. Currently working on developing a festival of events to increase commercialisation and business development.

Outdoor & Events Cluster

Sperrins Hillwalking Programme

September 2022 saw the first Sperrins Walking Programme, delivered by Far and Wild in conjunction with Sperrins Partnership, DCSDC, FODC, CCG and MUDC. The programme aimed to get walkers of all abilities to enjoy the beautiful landscape of the Sperrins AONB, as well as promoting health, physical, mental and emotional wellbeing. With the use of local tour guides and community associations walkers enjoyed routes through the heartland of Mid-Ulster including Slieve Gallion, Davagh Forest, Moydamlaght Forest to Glenshane Pass over Mullaghmore, Moydamlaght Forest looped walk to Eagle’s Rock. Each walk was followed by light refreshments and local entertainment.

The Sperrins Walking Programme received both local and national media attention, which included live radio interviews on U105, BBC Your Place, and Mine, UTV Life and Belfast Times influencer, Jeff Meredith.

Over 85 walkers participated in the 2-day event with a number staying within local accommodation.



Marketing and Promotions

Outdoor activity providers continue to be promoted through seasonal marketing campaigns which include television, radio and social platforms.

Archaeology, History and Heritage Cluster

Hidden Heritage Tours

The 2022 Hidden Heritage tours proved to be extremely successful, allowing visitors the opportunity to sample unique visitor experiences whereby they could step back in time and discover ‘What’s on their Doorstep’. An additional tour, Poetry and Prayer

was included within the series. Evaluation forms proved positive and the Hidden Heritage tours will continue.

1. Killymoon Castle All-American WW2

This tour was fully booked with this new experience and resulted in Killymoon Castle delivering additional WW2 tours during the summer season.

2. Poetry and Prayers – a Spiritual Tour around Lough Neagh

Another fully booked tour and its success has resulted in securing further bookings for the tour guides who devised this unique experience.

3. The Emigrant's Walk, Maghera

Cathy O'Neill led the group up Carntogher Mountain, where the views stretched across the hill, to follow in the footsteps of our ancestors who emigrated to the America.

HERITAGE STRATEGY

Mid Ulster Heritage Strategy 2023 - 2028

A five-year plan outlining how Mid Ulster District Council can support and develop the heritage sector in Mid Ulster.

The strategy will highlight the heritage environment within Mid Ulster, enhance the visibility of the heritage offering within the region, and foster greater community participation and visitor engagement in Mid Ulster's rich and diverse built, natural and cultural heritage.

The Strategy will be presented to Council in early Autumn 2023.

Bridewell, Magherafelt

The following upgrades were made to the Bridewell:

- Changing Place facilities completed and opened to public
- Autism Impact Award achieved
- Automatic doors and loop hearing system through Access and Inclusion fund
- Storage cupboards built within Courtyard for Living History costumes
- Increase in Courtyard Room Hire use

Christmas at the Bridewell

Santa's Grotto ran successfully over weekends from 1-17 December. Children were able to write letter to Santa, make reindeer food and meet Santa to receive a small gift.



THEME 4: MARKETING AND PROMOTION

Touch Screens

A external touchscreen has been installed in the centre of Coalisland, similar to those already in position in the 3 main towns of Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt.

Touchscreen at Hill of The O'Neill



Summer Marketing Campaign 2022

Aimed at the ROI and family market focusing on Loughs and Shores, including Ballyronan, Heaney Open Ground, and Lough Neagh Stories. The campaign was £33k with £25,000 funding from TNI Co-Operative Partnership Fund.

Autumn Marketing Campaign 2022

Cool FM week long campaign offered daily prizes from tourism businesses as follows:

- Stars and Stones experience inc. accommodation with Sperrin View Glamping
- Seamus Heaney HomePlace entrance tickets
- Stay for 2 at Killymoon Castle inc. afternoon tea at Bakehouse NI
- Stay for 2 at Charlemont House, Moy inc. 'Pull a Pint' experience at Tomney's and Symphonia Gin masterclass
- Stay for 2 at Blessingbourne Apartment inc. bike hire and voucher for dinner at Valley Hotel, Fivemiletown

Spring 2023 Marketing Campaign and Launch of New Brand Unwinding Time

Aimed at ROI market, with £20,000 funding received from TNI Co-Operative Partnership Fund for spend of £25,000.

Campaign included:

- Radio promotion in Northern Sound and CoolFM
- Production of 30sec video for sponsored social posts
- 11 Tourism and Hospitality businesses included in video for promotion



Mid Ulster Website

Tourism

Continued development and maintenance of the destination website. Increase awareness by driving visitors to website through social media and marketing campaigns.



HEADLINE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM AND STRATEGIC PROGRAMMES ACHIEVEMENTS 2022/23

The activities the Council's Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes sections have undertaken over the past 12 months have resulted in the achievement of some key outputs, which include:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & STRATEGIC PROGRAMMES

| |
|--|
| ✓ £9M secured from Levelling Up Fund (LUF) to deliver a large capital regeneration project in Maghera. |
| ✓ 169 new jobs created through the business start programme |
| ✓ ESF Programmes supported 643 participants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Helped 229 people gain employment ○ Assisted 643 participants to achieve 1004 new qualifications ○ Helped 64 participants progress to Further Education/Training |
| ✓ 4 business programmes have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ supported 537 businesses ○ created 296 jobs (equating to a value of £7,021,427.20) ○ helped 32 businesses win 32 tenders (total value of £28,453,400) ○ referred 41 businesses to Invest NI |
| ✓ Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 50 participants gained employment with a further 36 gaining a new qualification and currently seeking employment opportunities. |
| ✓ Mid Ulster Enterprise Week (14th – 18th November 2022) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Over 370 people participated in Mid Ulster's fourth Enterprise Week (14th - 18th November 2022) ○ There were 13 free online and in-person events |
| ✓ The Rural Business Development Scheme funded under the DAERA Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation (TRPSI) - 136 Businesses supported to the grant value of £478,099 |
| ✓ Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme Phase 4 completed- 29 schemes completed (MUDC Grant Aid £104,424.15; Private Sector Leverage £66,378.34) |
| ✓ Mid Ulster Village Renewal Scheme Total investment of £5.9m across the 50 village renewal projects in Mid Ulster completed in March 2023. |
| ✓ £4.27m Public Realm Scheme completed in Coalisland <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Revitalisation scheme completed for Coalisland Town Centre £250,000 |

TOURISM

DAERA Rural Tourism Scheme

- Sperrins Sculpture Trail total project costs of £568,337.33, receiving 75% funding

Tourism NI Market Led Programme

- TNI's Market Led Product Development Programme launched on January 23, made a call for programme submissions. The devised programme submitted to TNI was successful to the value of £33k - Assisted in the enhancement of 4 emerging tourism experiences.
- Banquet event delivered to TNI Meet the Buyer, including 20 international tour operators and 11 trade experiences.

Shared Island Local Authority Development Fund

- Sliabh Beagh total grant awarded €145,475 plus match funding of €17,500 from the three partner Councils, with a total projected spend of €162,975.
- Tullaghoge Fort grant awarded £20,000 to investigate the feasibility of further development at Tullaghoge Fort, linking the site with Tullaghoge Village.

Summer/Winter Marketing Campaign 2022

- Online campaign had a reach of 260,000
- 150,000 engagements of click through, comments and shares

Spring Marketing Campaign 2023

- Online campaign had a reach of over 274,000
- 135,000 engagements of click through, comments and shares

Business Engagement

- Mid Ulster WhatsApp group contains up to 198 Hospitality and Tourism businesses who are receiving current updates from the industry, TNI and Hospitality Ulster.
- To date 52 webinars have been hosted targeting issues relating to our Tourism and Hospitality sector, with an average of 25 businesses dial in to each session.

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Report on | Sliabh Beagh Public Engagement Consultation |
| Date of Meeting | 5 July 2023 |
| Reporting Officer | Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism & Strategic Programmes - Fiona McKeown |

| | | |
|--|-----|---|
| 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 provide Members with an update on key activities as detailed above. |
| 2.0 | Background |
| 2.1 | Sliabh Beagh Shared Public Engagement Consultation Sliabh Beagh is a special landscape with a wealth of natural and cultural assets which straddles North County Monaghan and counties Fermanagh and primarily the Clogher Valley in South Tyrone. The three partner councils (Mid Ulster Council, Monaghan County Council and Fermanagh & Omagh District Council) have demonstrated a commitment to collaboration and partnership by setting up the Sliabh Beagh Partnership Committee which represents the interests of communities, businesses, and local authorities. This Partnership, established in 2021 and facilitated by the local authorities, is working to advance shared projects which will benefit the entire Sliabh Beagh region. As part of this approach a successful Shared Island application for a feasibility study is currently being developed. |
| 3.0 | Main Report |
| 3.1 | Sliabh Beagh Shared Public Engagement Consultation Monaghan County Council, together with Mid Ulster District Council and Fermanagh and Omagh District Council partnered in cross-border applications to the Shared Island Fund one of which was the Sliabh Beagh project. This purpose of this project is to develop a number of inter-connected tourism and outdoor recreation initiatives to build upon the existing services and facilities in the region. The project which is being led by Monaghan County Council has been awarded €145,475. Outdoor Recreation NI (ORNI) were appointed as consultants for the feasibility study. This study will look at developing walking, cycling and equestrian activity in the area, as well as signage and public art. |

| | |
|------------|---|
| | <p>ORNI will also investigate accommodation and ancillary services needs of the region.</p> <p>As part of the feasibility study, it involves public consultation which will take place on Thursday 27 July 2023 from 6pm – 9pm at the Sliabh Beagh Hotel, Knockatallon, Co. Monaghan. In addition to this an online survey will be made available via social media platforms and email.</p> |
| 4.0 | Other Considerations |
| 4.1 | Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications |
| | Financial: Within existing Shared Island budget to deliver the feasibility study |
| | Human: Tourism Officers' will deliver this event with Outdoor Recreation NI |
| | 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 | Sliabh Beagh Public Engagement Consultation Note the content of the report and the date of the Sliabh Beagh Public Engagement Consultation on Thursday 27th July 2023 from 6pm – 9pm at the Sliabh Beagh Hotel, Knockatallon, Co.Monaghan |
| 6.0 | Documents Attached & References |
| | N/A |

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Report on | Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP) 2023-24 Funding |
| Date of meeting | 5 July 2023 |
| Reporting Officer | Fiona McKeown, Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes |

| | | |
|---|-----|---|
| 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 Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP) 2023-34 funding. |
| 2.0 | Background |
| | <p>Council previously agreed to participate in the development and delivery of a Local Labour Market Partnership (LMP) under the Employability NI Programme led by the Department for Communities.</p> <p>The Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP) was established in October 2021 and is focused on improving Mid Ulster's employability outcomes and labour market conditions by working with a wide range of partners, being flexible to meet local needs and helping to connect employers with employees. It is the Council's intention that the Mid Ulster LMP will be industry-led, developing and delivering activities relating to skills development, training and employability programmes in the local area.</p> <p>Members will be aware that the Department for Communities (DfC) previously issued correspondence to LMP Chairs and Council Senior Officers in May 2023 advising that due to a significant budget shortfall of around £111m or 15.5% of its budget requirement this financial year, funding for LMP activity would be paused from 30 June 2023 and LMPs would receive only 25% of their anticipated budget.</p> |
| 3.0 | Main Report |
| | <p>On Wednesday 21 June 2023, DfC issued a letter to LMP Chairs advising that the Department received over 185 responses to the initial phase of the consultation around the Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) on the budget proposals for 2023/24.</p> <p>The Department considered the responses and despite the challenging budget position and continuing financial constraints, confirmed funding will be sustained at last year's levels for Labour Market Partnerships (see Appendix 1).</p> <p>The Department will now move to complete approvals for 2023/24 Action Plans to progress funding offers to enable the progression of LMP delivery. Members will</p> |

| | |
|------------|--|
| | be aware that an Action Plan for 2023-24 was approved by Council and submitted to the Regional LMP Board for approval in March 2023. |
| 4.0 | Other Considerations |
| | Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications |
| | Financial: Council is awaiting a Letter of Offer for £369,005.21 for 2023-24. |
| | Human: Officer time. |
| | Risk Management: LMP activity is 100% externally funded by DfC. |
| 4.2 | Screening & Impact Assessments |
| | Equality & Good Relations Implications: It is not anticipated LMP activity will have an adverse impact upon equality or good relations. |
| 4.3 | Rural Needs Implications: To be considered. |
| 5.0 | Recommendation(s) |
| 5.1 | It is recommended that Members: (1) Note the content of the report. (2) Note correspondence from the Department for Communities dated 21 June 2023, re: Labour Market Partnership (LMP) 2023/24 funding. |
| 6.0 | Documents Attached & References |
| | Appendix 1 – Letter from DfC to LMP Chair - 21.6.23 |



APPENDIX 1

Labour Market Partnership Team
Department for Communities
Causeway Exchange
1-7 Bedford Street
Belfast
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Email: LMP@communities-ni.gov.uk

Date: 21 June 2023

Dear LMP Chair,

LOCAL LABOUR MARKET PARTNERSHIP (LMP) – LMP 2023/24 FUNDING

I am writing to provide an update following on from my letter dated 9th May 2023 in relation to the challenging budget position and proposed pause of LMP funding in 2023/24.

You will be aware of that the initial phase of the consultation around the Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) on the budget proposals for 2023/24 closed on 7 June. The Department received over 185 responses including a significant number on the impact of the pause in LMP funding.

The Department has considered the responses and recognises the important work that LMPs were planning to deliver in 2023/24 as well as the difficulties faced in pausing this provision. Despite the challenging budget position and the continuing financial constraints the Department is facing, I am pleased to inform you that the Department has confirmed today that funding will be sustained at last year's levels for Labour Market Partnerships.

Labour Market Partnerships are the centre of the Department's approach to developing employability provision and the Department remains committed to working in partnership with local stakeholders. I recognise the difference that LMPs propose to make within the local labour market and I look forward to seeing these plans come to fruition over the 2023/24 period.

The Department will now move to complete approvals for 2023/24 Action Plans and the Department's LMP Team will be making contact with local LMPs to progress funding offers to

enable the progression of LMP delivery. I trust that this news will be welcomed by local LMPs and I want to thank you for your input to the EQIA consultation and for your continued patience whilst this process was completed.

Thank you again for your dedication and hard work. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me or the wider LMP Team on LMP@communities-ni.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Deirdre Ward". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly informal style.

Deirdre Ward
Director, Work & Wellbeing