

<b>Report on</b>	A29 Cookstown and Dungannon by-passes
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	10 September 2020
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Adrian McCreesh, Director of Business & Communities
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Martina Totten, Community Planning Coordinator

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	<p>To update members on the progress of the A29 Cookstown by-pass project.</p> <p>To seek agreement with Dungannon DEA elected members to form a working group with officials from the Department of Infrastructure (DfI) to progress a by-pass scheme for Dungannon.</p>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	<p>A by-pass for Cookstown has been pursued for over 40 years by Cookstown District Council and then Mid Ulster District Council, having first been identified in the East Tyrone Area Plan (1974-1994), which was published in 1978. It was again identified in the Cookstown Area Plan (2010) published in 2004 and more recently in Mid Ulster District Council's Local Development Plan 2030 (Draft Plan Strategy), Community Plan 2017-2027 and Economic Development Plan.</p> <p>Known as the Eastern Distributor it was acknowledged as being able to relieve the town centre traffic congestion.</p> <p>A number of meetings have taken place with officers from the Department for Infrastructure (DfI), elected members and council officers, since January 2020, to discuss the progress of the Cookstown by-pass scheme.</p>
2.2	<p>Similarly, the proposal for a Dungannon Bypass has existed for over 40 years. Mid-Ulster District Council has identified a need for such a scheme and it has been included in the Council's Local Development Plan 2030 (Draft Plan Strategy), Community Plan 2017-2027 and Economic Development Plan.</p>
2.3	<p>Both by-pass schemes have been identified within the Mid South West (MSW) Regional Economic Strategy under the 'Enabling Infrastructure' pillar and have been prioritised under the Growth Deal for the MSW region.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p>At a meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2020, DfI informed elected members and Council officers of the following progress made on the A29 Cookstown by-pass scheme:-</p>

3.2	<p>A preferred Route was announced by DfI for the scheme in June 2010. Due to the time that then lapsed, much of baselining work was out of date and needed updating, along with a review of the Preferred Route. An updated Preferred Route announcement was anticipated for spring 2020, however, with the pandemic this is now scheduled for December 2020, along with a Public Information Day.</p> <p>DfI then anticipate that all environmental assessments will be completed and Statutory Vesting orders published, by late 2021.</p> <p>At this stage it will be determined if a Public Inquiry is required. If so, DfI would aim to have this completed by Mid 2022. If not, they would move to the next and final steps.</p> <p>The next steps are Ministerial Approval, procurement and construction. This timeframe is based upon satisfactory completion of statutory procedures and funding secured. DfI are confident that funding will be made available for the scheme development up to 2021/22. Thereafter, funding for delivery of the new road will depend on the Minister's priorities.</p> <p>Discussion also took place on the impact the new road will have on Killymoon Golf Club (the loss of two holes and timescale of 2 years to redesign the course) and the importance of liaison with the Club and other landowners in order to move the scheme forward successfully.</p> <p>It was agreed that meetings would take place with DfI officers, Cookstown DEA elected members and Council officers every 2 months, to update members on the progress of the scheme.</p> <p>Unlike the A29 Cookstown by-pass, a by-pass scheme for Dungannon has not progressed as far. One of the first steps in the development process will be to ensure that a proposed by-pass scheme for Dungannon is included in the DfI's Regional Strategic Transport Network Transport Plan (RSTNTP). DfI have advised that timescales on the consultation on the next RSTNTP have been affected by the COVID-19 emergency which has impacted upon staff resources and work priorities. It is now expected to be available in early 2021.</p> <p>DfI have agreed to also meet with Dungannon DEA elected members, every 2 months, to progress a potential by-pass scheme in Dungannon.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
4.1	<p><b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b></p> <p>Financial:</p> <p>None</p> <p>Human:</p> <p>None</p> <p>Risk Management:</p> <p>None</p>
4.2	<p><b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b></p> <p>Equality &amp; Good Relations Implications:</p> <p>None</p>

	Rural Needs Implications: None
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	To note update on the progress of the A29 Cookstown by-pass scheme
5.2	To form a working group comprising Dungannon DEA elected members and officers from the Department of Infrastructure (DfI) to progress the development of a by-pass scheme in Dungannon.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	Report of the Cookstown by-pass Meeting held with DfI officers, Cookstown DEA elected members and Council Officers on 4 <sup>th</sup> August 2020.