



14 March 2019

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Development Committee to be held in The Chamber, Magherafelt at Mid Ulster District Council, Ballyronan Road, MAGHERAFELT, BT45 6EN on Thursday, 14 March 2019 at 19:00 to transact the business noted below.

Yours faithfully

Anthony Tohill  
Chief Executive

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## AGENDA

### OPEN BUSINESS

1. Apologies
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Chair's Business
4. Deputation - Out and About Community Transport & CDM Community Transport

### Matters for Decision

- |  |           |
|--|-----------|
| 5. Economic Development Report   | 3 - 20    |
| 6. Community Development Report  | 21 - 26   |
| 7. Draft Response to Arts Council of Northern Ireland Public Consultation on Strategic Framework 2019-2024 | 27 - 54   |
| 8. Sperrin Future Search Update  | 55 - 58   |
| 9. Scoping Studies: Davagh to Beaghmore Solar Walk & Fivemiletown Round Lake Activity Centre Projects      | 59 - 66   |
| 10. Parks Service Events Programme 2019-20   | 67 - 72   |
| 11. Leisure and Outdoor Recreation Service Level Agreements 2019/20  | 73 - 76   |
| 12. Path and Angling Stands at Glenone and Newferry  | 77 - 110  |
| 13. Provision of Leisure Uniforms  | 111 - 112 |
| 14. Sports Representative Grants   | 113 - 116 |

### Matters for Information

- |   |           |
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| 15. Minutes of Development Committee held on 14 February 2019 | 117 - 134 |
| 16. Mid Ulster Rural Development Partnership - Update on      | 135 - 138 |

**Items restricted in accordance with Section 42, Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014. The public will be asked to withdraw from the meeting at this point.**

Matters for Decision

18. Tender Report for the Appointment of a Contractor to deliver the Mid Ulster Tender Ready Programme
19. Community Development - Grant Appeal
20. Award of Tender for catering services at Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House
21. Cookstown Town Twinning Moto Club de Plerin Visit 4-7 May 2019
22. Growth and City Deals

Matters for Information

23. Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 14 February 2019

<b>Report on</b>	1) Association of Town Centre Management (ATCM) - Membership Renewal 2) Mid Ulster Regeneration Action Plan (2019/20) 3) Mid Ulster Town and Village Spruce Up Scheme 4) Coalisland Great Places Project 5) Public Art - Maghera Walkway Project
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	14 March 2019
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Fiona McKeown, Head of Economic Development

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To provide Members with an update on key activities as detailed below.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	<b>Association of Town Centre Management (ATCM) - Membership Renewal</b> ATCM is a respected voice for town and city management at both a European and wider global level. They are a not-for-profit organisation with membership from the public, private and third sectors. They include key stakeholders and leaders who develop and implement shared visions, strategies and action plans for town and city centres throughout the UK and Ireland.
2.2	<b>Mid Ulster Regeneration Action Plan (2019/20)</b> Town Centre regeneration and revitalisation is a key priority identified in the Mid Ulster Economic Development Plan (2019/2020). The Mid Ulster Regeneration Action Plan 2019/2020 addresses the key priorities for the five Town Centres of Mid Ulster District Council and regeneration of 37 villages.
2.3	<b>Mid Ulster Town and Village Spruce Up Scheme</b> As part of Mid Ulster's Regeneration Action Plan (2019/2020), the delivery of Mid Ulster Town and Village Spruce Up Scheme forms an integral part. The successful delivery of previous schemes involved the employment of a Chartered Architect to oversee the assessment, management and delivery.
2.4	<b>Coalisland Great Places Project.</b>

	<p>Lough Neagh Partnership have secured funding from the Heritage Lottery Scheme to implement the 'Coalisland Great Places Project'. Mid Ulster District Council had previously agreed to financially support this project.</p>
2.5	<p><b>Public Art - Maghera Walkway Project</b></p> <p>Maghera Development Framework and Action Plan 2017 identified the need to investigate opportunities for on road / off road network and the development of linkages around from other facilities including The Walled Garden. A successful application was made to the Rural Development Programme under the Villages Renewal Theme for the redevelopment of a walkway from Maghera Walled Garden to Tobermore Road.</p>
3.0	<p><b>Main Report</b></p>
3.1	<p><b>Association of Town Centre Management (ATCM) - Membership Renewal</b></p> <p>Mid Ulster District Council has been a member of ATCM for several years. The annual membership renewal request (<b>Appendix 1</b>) is enclosed and members are requested to consider renewal of membership for a further year from January to December 2019 for a fee of £495 (+Vat).</p> <p>The benefits for the Council to joining this organisation in general are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Events delivered in relation to Town and City Centre Management</li> <li>- Platform for knowledge exchange in Town and City Centre Management</li> <li>- Access to written resources in Town and City Centre Management.</li> </ul>
3.2	<p><b>Mid Ulster Regeneration Action Plan (2019/20)</b></p> <p>The Draft Action Plan aims to prioritise the development of integrated, cohesive, and comprehensive Town Centre activities for 2019/20. The initiatives proposed address the key town centre issues for the five main towns of Dungannon, Cookstown, Magherafelt, Coalisland and Maghera.</p> <p>The proposed Draft Town Centre Action Plan is contained on <b>Appendix 2</b>, lists a variety of initiatives under the four main thematic headings as set out below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Marketing &amp; Promotion</li> <li>2. Business Support &amp; Investment</li> <li>3. Key Events</li> <li>4. Physical Regeneration &amp; Improving Infrastructure</li> </ol> <p>These themes have been used to develop a number of projects that will address these needs under the following aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To maximise the profile of the five town centres and reinforce the existing town centre brands</li> <li>• To support the growth and development of a competitive retail sector across Mid Ulster</li> </ul>

- To develop and deliver a number of key events that adds vitality and vibrancy to the five town centres
- To improve the townscape quality of the five town centres

3.3

### **Mid Ulster Town and Village Spruce Up Scheme**

Within the Mid Ulster Regeneration Action Plan (2019/2020) it is proposed to deliver a Town and Village Spruce Up Scheme. The scheme will offer businesses/commercial properties in the town/village grant aid of up to 75% per property for eligible works, capped at £5,000 per property. Due to the expected high level of interest in the scheme, it is anticipated that the scheme will be delivered over a two/three year period, dependent upon number of eligible applications, available budget and staff resources.

The proposed Towns and Villages for inclusion in the scheme are as follows;

- **Towns**; Dungannon, Cookstown, Magherafelt, Coalisland and Maghera;
- **Village Settlements** based upon the draft Local Development Plan (2030), published in February 2019, under the Mid Ulster Settlement Hierarchy (Table 2, page 37), the following villages are identified;  
Aghaginduff/Cabragh, Annaghmore, Ardboe, Augher, Aughnacloy, Ballinderry, Ballygawley, Ballylifford, Ballynakilly, Ballyronan, Bellaghy, Benburb, Brockagh/Mountjoy, Caledon, Cappagh, Castledawson, Castlecaulfield, Churchtown, Clady, Clogher, Coagh, Creagh, Desertmartin, Donaghmore, Draperstown, Drummullan, Edendork, Eglish, Fivemiletown, Galbally, Granville, Gulladuff, Killyman, Money more, Moortown, Moy, Newmills, Orritor, Pomeroy, Sandholes, Stewartstown, Swatragh, Tamnamore, The Bush, The Loup, The Rock, Tobermore and Upperlands. Furthermore, as per the previous Village Spruce Up Scheme, it is recommended that '**Moygashel**' is included also as an eligible area within the new Town and Village Spruce Up Scheme as it is currently classified within the settlement limits of Dungannon town but does not receive direct town centre regeneration funding, nor is it eligible for funding support from the Rural Villages Scheme under the auspices of the Rural Development Programme.

There is a need to employ a Chartered Architect to oversee the assessment, management and delivery of the scheme from start to finish. Approval is therefore, sought to procure by way of Council's public tender process, a Chartered Architect to independently oversee a Mid Ulster Town and Village Spruce Up Scheme for a period of two/three years, at an indicative cost of approx. £50,000 from Council's economic development budget.

The delivery costs of the Town and Village Spruce Up Scheme in Year 1 (2019/2020) is estimated at £120,000. This will include year 1 costs for employment of Chartered Architect, marketing and promotion of the scheme and the first tranche of grant payments to applicants.

### 3.4 Coalisland Great Places Project

In September 2018, Council approval was granted to support Lough Neagh Partnership (LNP) by providing funding of £30,000 over a 3 year period to deliver various aspects of the 'Coalisland Great Places Project'.

LNP originally provided Council with a profile of when the funding was required for each of the three years, and funding was agreed on that basis. However, subsequently, LNP has requested a revision in years 2 and 3 as to the amount of funding required from Council in each of these years. This request has no material impact in the overall amount of funding sought from Council (ie, £30,000) over the three-year period.

It is recommended that approval is granted to LNP's request and Council funding be provided as per breakdown in Table 2 below (instead of Table 1).

Table 1 – Original Funding Request from Coalisland Great Places Project

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Original Request from LNP	£10,000	£16,000	£4,000	£30,000

Table 2 - Revised Funding Request from Coalisland Great Places Project

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
New Request from LNP	£10,000	£11,000	£9,000	£30,000

### 3.5 Public Art - Maghera Walkway Project

A request has been received from Maghera Cross Community Link (**Appendix 3A**) seeking permission to place a piece of Public Art on the Maghera Walkway following the completion of the project.

Maghera Cross Community Link received a Letter of Offer from the Peace IV Programme for £24,030 towards the "Sculpting Communities and Changing Perception" project. The project involves bringing young people of Maghera together through a series of good relations workshops and the development of a sculpture depicting cultural identities.

Local artist Billy McCaughan was appointed to develop the sculpture and has worked with local children to create a design representing the four seasons and reflecting the nature of the walkway. (**Appendix 3B**)

Maghera Cross Community Link has requested Council situate the public art on the Maghera Walkway Project and approval is sought for such in addition to Council undertaking the maintenance and insurance of the public art piece once it is installed.

	Officers are working with the appointed artist to ensure the artwork complies with all health and safety regulations and to identify the most suitable location. ( <b>Appendix 3C</b> ).
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	<p>Financial:</p> <p><b>Association of Town Centre Management (ATCM) - Membership Renewal</b> ATCM Membership - £495 (+Vat) from within economic development budget.</p> <p><b>Mid Ulster Regeneration Action Plan (2019/20)</b> £484,000 Programme Costs from Town Centre Budget. These funds will be used as a mechanism to attract further funding leverage, where possible.</p> <p><b>Mid Ulster Town and Village Spruce Up Scheme</b> Employment of Chartered Architect, Project Grant Aid and Marketing &amp; Promotion to value of £120,000 from within economic development budget (Year 1 costs)</p> <p><b>Coalisland Great Places Project</b> Amendment to fund Coalisland Great Places Project as follows; Year 1 £10,000, Year 2 £11,000 and Year 3 £9,000. No change to the overall funding provided of £30,000</p> <p><b>Public Art - Maghera Walkway Project</b> £12,900 secured from Peace IV towards sculpture (includes installation costs). Costs to Council relate to the proposed annual maintenance and insurance.</p> <p>Human: staff time</p> <p>Risk Management:</p>
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications:
	Rural Needs Implications:
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
	It is recommended that Members;
<b>5.1</b>	<b>Association of Town Centre Management (ATCM) - Membership Renewal</b> Approve the renewal of ATCM membership for a fee of £495 (+Vat) for the period of January to December 2019.
<b>5.2</b>	<b>Mid Ulster Regeneration Action Plan (2019/20)</b> Approve the projects and indicative costings contained within the Mid Ulster Regeneration Action Plan for the financial year 2019/20.

5.3	<p><b>Mid Ulster Town and Village Spruce Up Scheme</b>  Approve the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procure by way of Council's public tender process, a Chartered Architect to independently oversee a Mid Ulster Town and Village Spruce Up Scheme for a two/three year period, at an indicative cost of £50,000 from Council's economic development budget.</li> <li>• Deliver Mid Ulster Town and Village Spruce Up Scheme over a period of two/three years to the towns and villages as outlined within Section 3.3 of the above report, with estimated year 1 costs of £120,000 from Council's economic development budget.</li> </ul>
5.4	<p><b>Coalisland Great Places Project</b>  Approval of Lough Neagh Partnership's request to amend Council's profiled funding towards the Coalisland Great Places Project as set out below, with no overall impact on value of funding previously agreed by Council of £30,000;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 1 £10,000,</li> <li>• Year 2 £11,000</li> <li>• Year 3 £9,000</li> </ul>
5.5	<p><b>Public Art - Maghera Walkway Project</b>  Members to approve the request from Maghera Cross Community Link to place the Public Art at a suitable location on the refurbished walkway in Maghera and take on the maintenance and insurance costs once installed.</p>
6.0	<p><b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b></p> <p>Appendix 1 - Association of Town Centre Management (ATCM) - Membership Renewal</p> <p>Appendix 2 - Mid Ulster Regeneration Action Plan (2019/20)</p> <p>Appendix 3A – Request from Maghera Cross Community Link</p> <p>Appendix 3B – Artists Impressions of Public art</p> <p>Appendix 3C – Proposed Location for Maghera Public Art Walkway Project</p>

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Westerham  
TN16 9EU

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Telephone: 44 (0) 300 330 0980  
Email: accounts@atcm.org



Mid Ulster District Council  
FAO Mary Mc Cullagh, Town Strategy  
Burn Road  
Cookstown  
Co Tyrone  
BT80 8DT  
VAT Reg No:

Invoice Number:	19105
Invoice Date:	22/01/2019
Order Number:	
Our Ref:	COOKSTO

**Quant Details**

1.00 2019 Full Band 1 Membership  
1.00 (Lynn Shiels)

Unit	Net	VAT	VAT
495.00	495.00	20.00	99.00
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

**Terms: 21 days from invoice date - please ensure invoice number is quoted on payment**

**BACS Details**

Bank: Lloyds TSB  
Account Name: ATCM  
Sort Code: 30-92-32  
Account Number: 01440295

<b>Total Net Amount (£)</b>	495.00
<b>Total VAT Amount (£)</b>	99.00
<b>Invoice Total (£)</b>	594.00



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

# Mid Ulster Regeneration Action Plan

## 2019 / 2020

## Mid Ulster Regeneration Action Plan 2019 /2020

Theme	Projects	Outputs	Methodology	Indicative Budget	Outcomes
<b>1. Marketing &amp; Promotion</b>	1.1 Seasonal Marketing Campaigns	1.1 Number of marketing campaigns delivered for the 5 towns.	1.1, 1.2 & 1.3  Outdoor Advertising Radio Print Materials Social Media	£50,000 in total	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute to increased footfall across the towns.</li> <li>Contribute to increased visitor numbers in towns.</li> <li>Contribute to increased traffic on Council's social media channels.</li> </ul>
	1.2 Shop Local Campaigns	1.2 Implement a joint shop local campaign in the 5 towns for Small Business Saturday.			
	1.3 Social Media Promotion	1.3 Build the refreshed/new brands of the 3 main town centres through social media channels.			
<b>2. Business Support / Attracting Investment</b>	2.1 Provision of Wi-Fi in 5 town centres & Bellaghy	2.1 Maintain free Wi-Fi in the town centres of Coalisland, Cookstown, Dungannon, Maghera and Magherafelt and Bellaghy.  Upgrade Dungannon & Coalisland Wi-Fi.	2.1 Ongoing contributions to businesses hosting access points.  Liaise with IT to appoint company to upgrade Cookstown Network.	2.1 Ongoing Wifi costs £15,000  Up to £30,000 to replace Wifi in Dungannon  Up to £20,000 to replace Wifi in Coalisland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To invest in wifi infrastructure and improve the customer experience in key towns across the Mid Ulster District.</li> </ul>

	2.2 Provision of Reduced Christmas Car Parking Charges	2.2 Provision of reduced Christmas car parking charges in charged car parks.	2.2 Council approval on reduction to fee for a 6 week period.	2.2 £35,000 to cover reduced Christmas car Parking charges	To encourage shoppers to Mid Ulster's main towns during the peak trading period at Christmas
	2.3 Business Improvement Districts (BIDs)	2.3 Carry out a BID(s) Development Phase in one or more of the towns	2.3 Appoint company to develop BID application.	2.3 BID's development £10,000	Maintain / reduce the current vacancy rates in the five town centres.
<b>3. Strategic Events</b>	3.1 Calendar of Events in 5 town centres  (Events detailed on <b>Annex 1</b> )	3.1 Minimum of 2 Strategic Events delivered in each town annually.	3.1 Economic Development Team delivery of events in conjunction with Events Team.	3.1 £140,000 events budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased profile of the towns, increased footfall and visitor numbers.</li> <li>• Increased engagement with town centre businesses.</li> </ul>

<b>4. Physical Regeneration / Improving Infrastructure</b>	4.1 Urban Regeneration Projects	4.1.1 Work in partnership to develop and deliver Coalisland and Maghera Public Realm Schemes	4.1 Appoint ICT Team(s) working with Technical Services.	4.1.1 Capital Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhanced townscape quality in the five town centres in the Mid Ulster District.</li> </ul>
		4.1.2 Identify and secure funding to carry out regeneration projects in the 3 main town centres. (e.g. Dungannon Dereliction Project)		4.1.2 £64,000 to act as DFC Match Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved town centre environment and 'place' collateral.</li> </ul>
	4.2 Rural Regeneration Projects	4.2 Work in partnership with RDP to deliver Village Regeneration projects in up to 37 villages across Mid Ulster District Council over 4 years through the Rural Development Programme.	4.2 Officers work in partnership with Technical Services & ICT Team to deliver Projects.	4.2 Capital Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased quality of life and civic pride in rural villages through enhancement works in rural areas.</li> </ul>

	4.3 Mid Ulster Town and Village Spruce Up Scheme	<p>4.3 Deliver Town &amp; Village Spruce Up Scheme across Mid Ulster (Year 1 of 3)</p> <p>Year 1 costs for Chartered Architect, marketing/publicity of scheme, venue hire, grants to applicants.</p>	4.3 Procure Architect and Deliver Grant Scheme	4.3 £120,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhanced image of towns and villages via grant scheme to improve frontages and internal areas of business premises to which the public have access to.</li> <li>Enhanced civic pride.</li> </ul>
				<b>Grand Total £484,000</b>	

## Annex 1 Town Centre Events Programme 2019/2020

Event	Date (2019)	Budget	Attendance
<b>Cookstown Continental Market</b>	2 & 3 June	£30,000 £5,000* (£3,000 income)	25,000
<b>Tafelta Festival</b>	21 & 22 June	£8,000	5,000
<b>Coalisland Event</b>	June (Date TBC)	£7,000	3,000
<b>Walled Garden Maghera</b>	24 August	£15,000	5,000
<b>Heels on the Hill Dungannon</b>	w/c 24 <sup>th</sup> September	£6,000	1,000
<b>Halloween in Coalisland</b>	31 October	£8,000	4,000
<b>Halloween Dungannon</b>	October (Date TBC)	£15,000	4,000
<b>Christmas Lights Switch On Cookstown</b>	23 November	£10,000*	3,500
<b>Christmas Kingdom &amp; Switch On Dungannon</b>	24 & 25 November	£29,000	10,000
<b>Magherafelt Christmas Market &amp; Switch On</b>	23 & 24 November	£8,000 £20,000 market* £10,000 switch on*	25,000
<b>Christmas in Coalisland</b>	1 December	£7,000	2,500
<b>Christmas in Maghera</b>	30 November	£7,000	2,500

Events marked with \* are paid through other Council budgets

## **Appendix 3A – Request from Maghera Cross Community Link**

Email from: Heather Boyd

Maghera Cross Community Link were successful in securing funding for the “Sculpting Communities and Changing Perception’s” project in Maghera through Peace IV. One of the elements of the project is the development of a public art piece. The children have worked together with local artist Billy McCaughan to create a proposal representing the four seasons in the form of a tree representing the four seasons on each quarter.

I am writing to request permission to install the artwork on the refurbished pathway between the Walled Garden and Tobermore Road and that Council would undertake the maintenance and insurance of the art piece once it is installed.

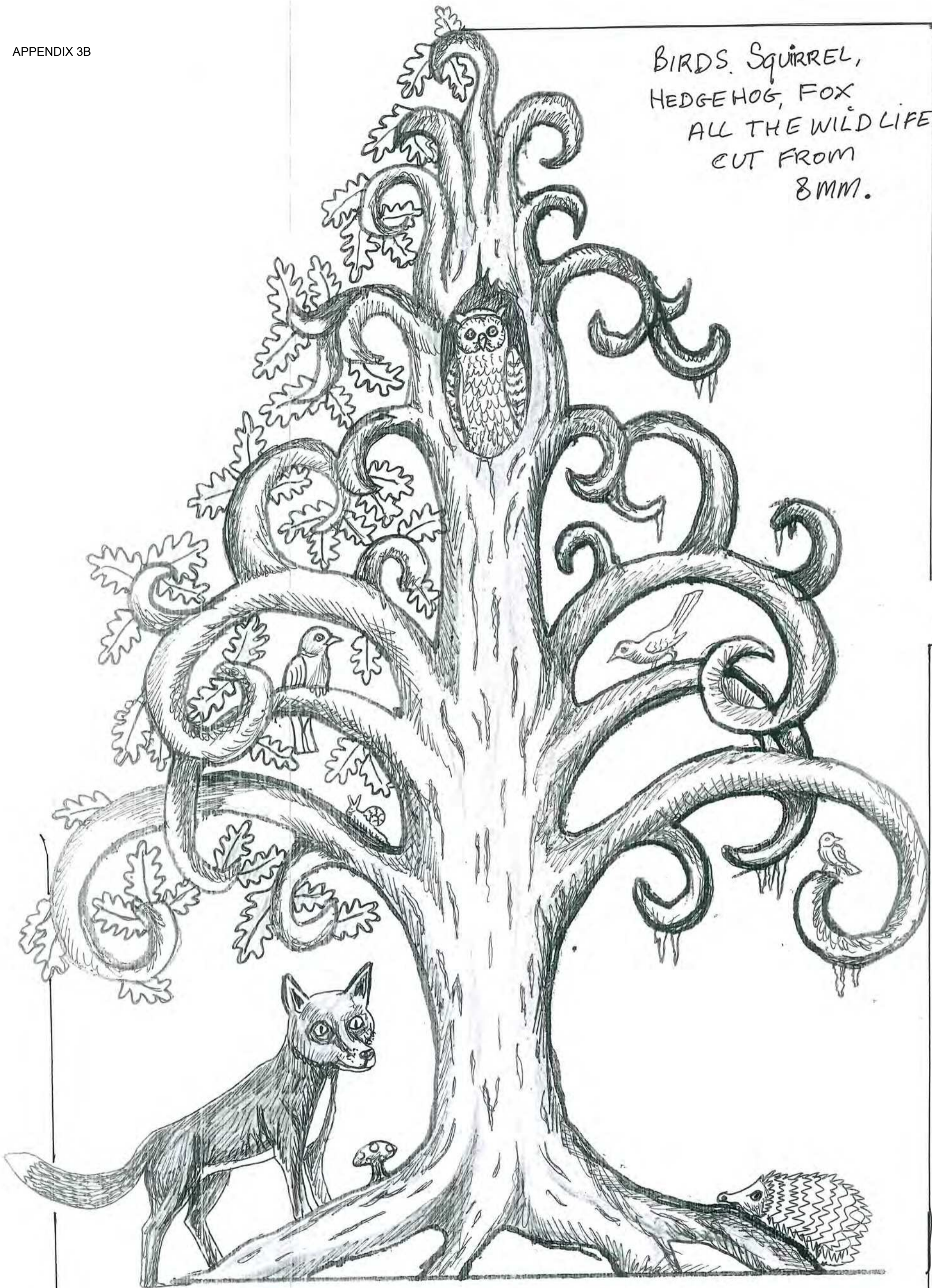
If you need any further information, do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards

Heather

BIRDS. SQUIRREL,  
HEDGEHOG, FOX  
ALL THE WILD LIFE  
CUT FROM  
8MM.

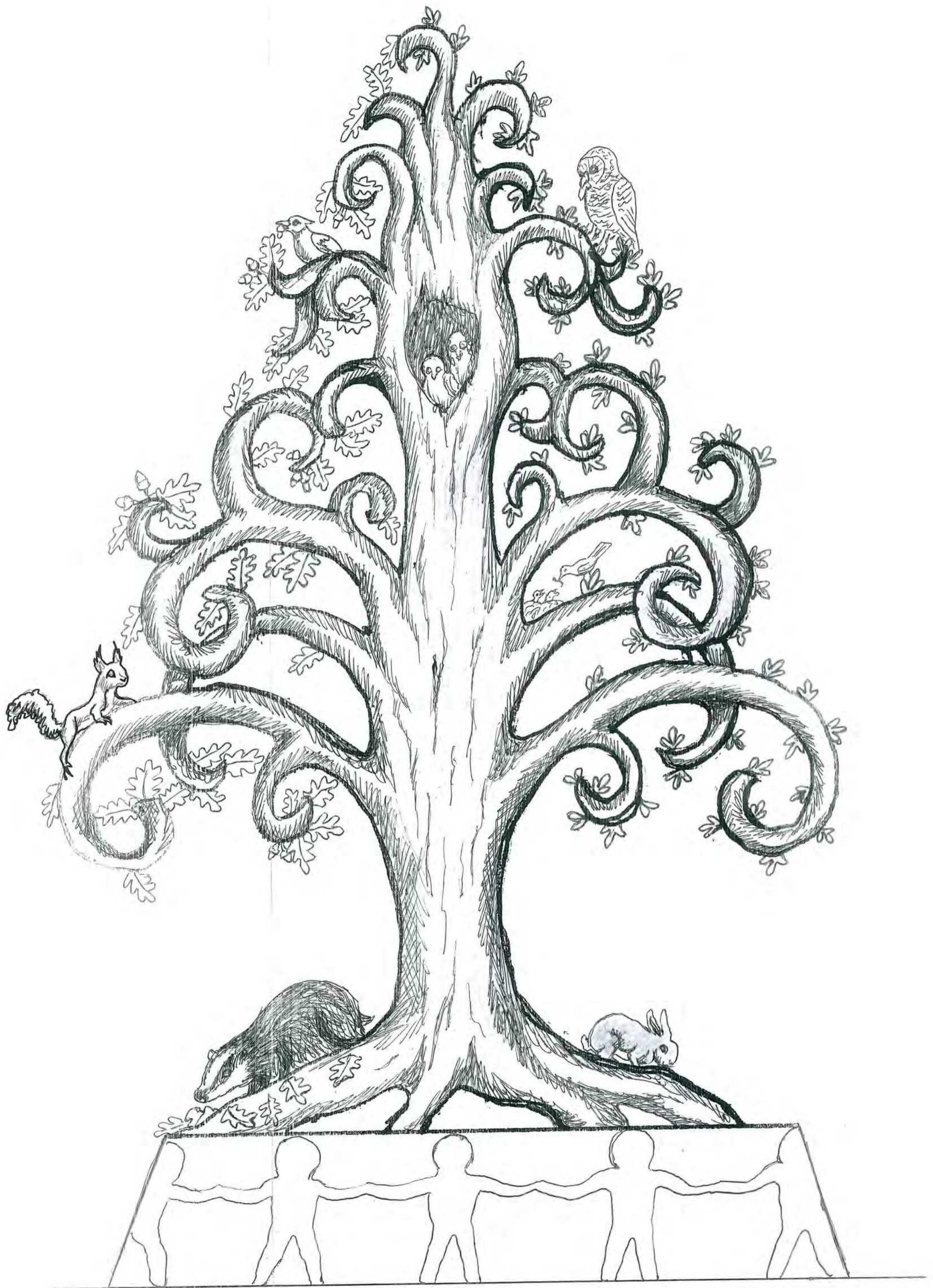
APROX  
3.0m.

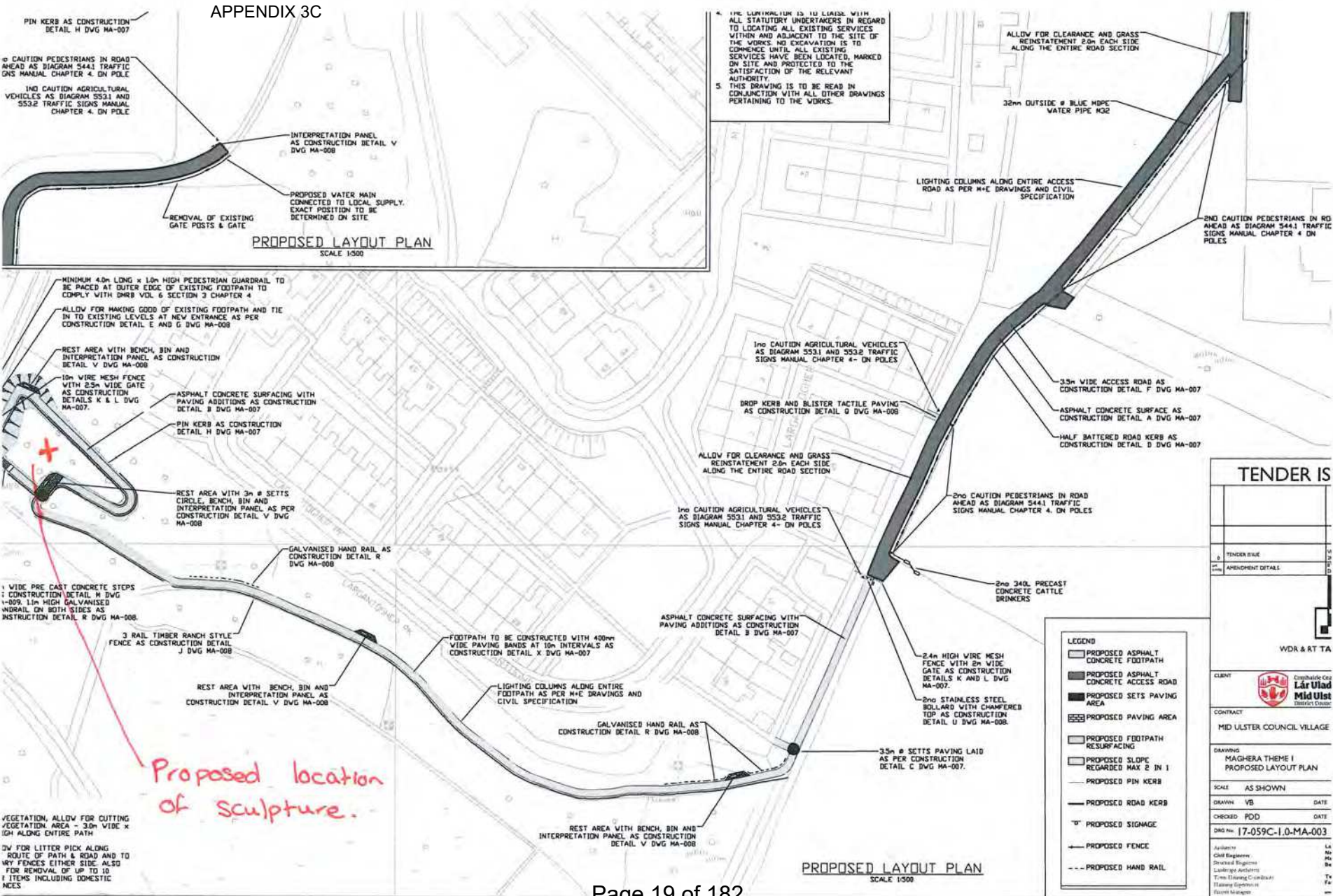


1.5  
APROX

TREE CUT FROM  
8mm STEEL PLATE

Page 17 of 182 LEAVES. CUT FROM 4mm.







<b>Report on</b>	Community Development
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> March 2019
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Claire Linney, Head of Community Development
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Philip Clarke Community Support, Oliver Morgan Good Relations & Peace, Michael McCrory PCSP

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 seek Committee approval for Good Relations and Community Festivals rolling grant awards.
1.2	To consider and approve the Peace IV recommendations. To note correspondence from SEUPB re the Peace funding post Brexit.
1.3	To note the update on Community Development.
1.4	To approve community engagement and support for the implementation of Council proposed policy 'Community Events on Council Land'.
2.0	Background
2.1	Community Grants Rolling Programme - The Grant Aid Programme for the 2018/19 financial year facilitates applications being made on a rolling basis for Community Festivals and Good Relations.
2.2	Peace IV Local Action Plan 2017 – 2020 and Partnership oversees the delivery of the Plan and recommendations to Council.
2.3	Community Development Update - An update is provided on the following areas: Community Support – Grants, Support, Village Planning, Community Centres, DFC Neighbourhood Renewal Peace IV and Good Relations PCSP
2.4	Council as part of its governance process is proposing a policy to provide for Community Events on Council Land. This policy is being proposed through Policy and Resources Committee in March. As part of the recommendation for agreement to the Policy it is proposed that 'The Community Services team hope to appoint a respected and experienced community adviser who can meet with the groups/communities identified through the consultation to discuss the policy and identify if there is a need for capacity building support to meet the aims of the policy. It will also allow for discussion with communities on the identification off further

	support that Council could consider including diversionary activities and other forms of cultural expression’.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Community Grants Rolling Programme</p> <p>There is one Community Festival application with a recommended award totaling £480.</p> <p>There is one Good Relations application with a recommended award totaling £1,080. Please refer to Appendix 1 for detail.</p>
3.2	<p>Peace IV; It was agreed through the Peace IV Partnership and Council to go to quotation for the Cross Border Literary Programme. A specification was issued for management and delivery of the Cross Border Literary Programme to 22 companies both NI and ROI. One submission was received and assessed. The submission price is £22,074; the budget estimate is £18,000 - £20,000. To allow the project to commence it is proposed to accept the quotation at £22,074 which can be accommodated within the overall programme with a virement within the budget; pending final agreement of procurement outcome with SEUPB.</p> <p>Correspondence has been received from SEUPB re the funding for Peace IV post Brexit and assurances that have been provided. Please see attached in Appendix 2.</p>
3.3	<p>Community Development Update</p> <p><u>Community Support</u></p> <p>Community Development team working with groups re grant support for new grants round 2019 – 2020. Grants close 15<sup>th</sup> March.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Renewal: DFC projects for 2018 – 2019 are ongoing. The DUY capital build is on progress. The application for support funding for Gortgonis has been submitted for £950,000 and queries are being addressed.</p> <p><u>Peace and Good Relations</u></p> <p>Good Relations Action Plan 2018 – 2019 has been submitted to the Executive Office for funding. All projects 2018 – 2019 are being completed.</p> <p>Peace IV delivery is ongoing – All programmes are progressing to schedule. The Peace cross border literary project quotation is being proposed for decision. The Peace Arts Engagement Phase II is at tender. The Phase IV grants are currently open with groups being supported. The Phase II heritage cross border programme is being developed with SEUPB to add to the phase I delivery. The shared space design tender is being finalized for decision through Policy and Resources.</p> <p><u>PCSP</u></p> <p>The 2018 – 2019 is being finalized at present through the Partnership in consultation with DOJ and the NIPB. A final copy will be presented to the next Committee.</p> <p>Ongoing support to communities on a range of initiatives to help keep people and communities safe.</p>

3.4	<p>Community Events on Council land proposed policy and Community Engagement Support</p> <p>The draft Policy for 'Community Events on Council Land' is designed to assist with practical arrangements for safety at all community led events held on Council land . The revised Policy will provide guidance and good practice to enable residents to use Council land for public events and communities to celebrate safely while reducing the potential for issues of neighbour nuisance or dangerous behaviour in accordance with Good Relations guidance.</p> <p>As part of the consultation process there were issues identified that communities felt the policy could potentially alienate some PUL communities who would be organising bonfire events, and also that there may be communities who may not have the structures or capacity for implementing the policy.</p> <p>To support the community with regard to the proposed policy it is being proposed that a respected and experienced community adviser would meet with the groups/communities identified through the consultation to discuss the policy and identify if there is a need for capacity building support to meet the aims of the policy. It will also allow for discussion with communities on the identification off further support that Council could consider including diversionary activities and other forms of cultural expression.</p>
4.0	<b>Other Considerations</b>
4.1	<p><b><u>Financial &amp; Human Resources Implications</u></b></p> <p>Community Local Festival awards £480 Good Relations awards £1,080</p> <p>Peace IV Cross Border Literary Programme; management and delivery £22,074 to be accommodated within the overall programme with a virement within the budget.</p> <p>Community engagement and support for Community Events on Council land; Up to £10,000 to appoint an Independent advisor to meet and support groups/communities on the implementation of proposed Council policy.</p> <p><b><u>Professional Support</u></b></p> <p>As above.</p>
4.2	<p><b><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></b></p> <p>None</p>
4.3	<p><b><u>Risk Management Implications</u></b></p> <p>None</p>

<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	To approve the grant award recommendations under the Community Local Festivals Grant and Good Relations Grant as per Appendix 1.
5.2	Peace IV Cross Border Literary Project – To accept the quotation at £22,074 for management and delivery of the project; pending final agreement with funder SEUPB.
5.3	To note the community development update report.
5.4	To approve community engagement and support for the implementation of Council proposed policy 'Community Events on Council Land'.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	<p>Appendix 1 Grant award recommendations Good Relations and Community Festivals.</p> <p>Appendix 2 SEUPB Correspondence on Peace IV Funding post Brexit</p>

## Appendix 1

## Community Local Festival – January 2019

No	Organisation Name	Organisation	Title Of Event/project	Band	Request	Award
1	Coalisland Clonoe Comhaltas Ceoltori Eireann	Culture	St Patrick's Concert - 10th March 2019	7	£1,200	£480
					<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£480</b>

## Good Relations – January 2019

No	Organisation Name	Organisation	Title Of Event/project	Band	Request	Award
1	Pomeroy CCE	Culture	Sowing in Autumn, Reaping in Spring	2	£1,200	£1,080
					<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£1,080</b>

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

## Appendix 2

**20 February 2019**

**Dear Lead Partner**

### **Implications on PEACE IV and INTERREG VA funding of the UK withdrawal from the EU**

The PEACE IV and INTERREG VA Programmes have received extensive support and commitments from all parties involved, to ensure that they can be continued until their conclusion, and this commitment has been agreed to and included within the Withdrawal Agreement between the UK and the EU.

As part of the EU contingency planning to prepare for the withdrawal of the UK, in December 2018 the Commission developed an EC Regulatory proposal which is going through the EU legislative process and is due to be approved by the European Council of Ministers and the European Parliament during March 2019. This has been proposed with the support of the UK and Ireland representatives, and it is anticipated that this will be in place before 29 March 2019.

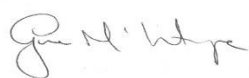
This proposal aims to ensure, if the Withdrawal Agreement is not ratified, the continuation of two bilateral cooperation programmes involving Ireland, namely the PEACE IV (Ireland-United Kingdom) programme and the United Kingdom-Ireland (Ireland-Northern Ireland-Scotland) programme, without modifying the amounts allocated to them and their financing.

The link to that proposal is attached below:

<http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regdoc/rep/1/2018/EN/COM-2018-892-F1-EN-MAIN-PART-1.PDF>

Consequently, it is the SEUPB's understanding that funding to all projects under the PEACE IV and INTERREG VA Programmes is guaranteed under the current programming period, irrespective of the Withdrawal Agreement between the UK and the EU.

Yours sincerely



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Gina McIntyre  
Chief Executive

<b>Report on</b>	Draft response to Arts Council of Northern Ireland Public Consultation on Strategic Framework 2019-2024
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup> March 2019
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Tony McCance
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Tony McCance

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To seek approval from Council to issue the attached response (Appendix 1) to the Draft 5 year Strategic Framework on behalf of Mid Ulster District Council and to submit the approved response to the Arts Council of Northern Ireland by the closing date of 4pm on Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2019
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	The Arts Council of Northern Ireland has developed a draft Strategic Framework for the Arts 2019-2024 in consultation with the sector and key stakeholders. The draft strategy establishes the key priorities and actions that the Arts Council will pursue over the next five-year period.
2.2	The draft Strategic Framework is now out to full public consultation. The draft strategic Framework document is attached as appendix 2.
2.3	Public consultation closes at 4pm on Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2019, with the publication of the completed strategy scheduled for April 2019.
2.4	<p>The Arts Council of Northern Ireland has provided a number of ways in which individuals and organisations can respond to the public Consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete an online survey accessed from the Arts Council website</li> <li>• Submit views via email to: <a href="mailto:strategy@artscouncil-ni.org">strategy@artscouncil-ni.org</a></li> <li>• Write to the Arts Council, referencing: Five-year Strategy Response, Arts Council of Northern Ireland, to: 1 The Sidings, Antrim Road, Lisburn BT28 3AJ</li> <li>• Attend one of three public consultation workshops taking place in February. (Mon 11<sup>th</sup> February, Belfast, Wed 13<sup>th</sup> February, Derry/Londonderry, Thurs 14<sup>th</sup> Feb, Armagh)</li> </ul> <p>Or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By joining the online debate (facebook discussion) – <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups240313556558939/">https://www.facebook.com/groups240313556558939/</a></li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>

3.1	The framework provides an overview of the strategic direction the Arts Council is proposing to take over the next five year period (2019-2024). An accompanying Business plan will be produced each year, setting out the actions to be taken in order to deliver upon the strategic objectives. The annual Business Plans will be linked to the Programme for Government and its associated outcomes.
3.2	The Arts Council acknowledge that the five year strategy needs to address some difficult issues (such as funding, Brexit implications and the absence of a sitting Assembly and Executive). However it also acknowledges that the strategy needs to be realistic as well as being ambitious in meeting the creative expectations of the Arts sector, key stakeholders (including Local Authorities) and the wider public.
3.3	In developing the draft strategy, the Arts Council carried out extensive consultation with a range of key stakeholders. As part of this consultation process there is acknowledgement of the role that Local Authorities play in Local arts provision and that the Arts Council will work more strategically with Councils.
3.4	The draft response (see appendix 1) emphasises the need for the Arts Council to work more strategically with Mid Ulster District Council and all Local Authorities and also reinforces the need to have stand-alone funding programmes to support such strategic alliances and funding programmes specifically designed to support specific challenges encountered by arts organisations based in rural areas of Northern Ireland.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	Financial: N/A
	Human: N/A
	Risk Management:  The purpose of the draft strategy is to identify the priorities for the Arts Council of Northern Ireland from 2019 to 2024. In order to minimise the risks to the development of the Arts sector and arts infrastructure, it is imperative that the Arts Council collaborate and develop the strategic framework in full consultation, with the full support of and in partnership with all 11 Local Authorities as key strategic delivery partners of the arts within Northern Ireland.

	Funding reductions to the Arts Council will have a negative impact on the Arts sector as a whole. This will also put additional pressures on already stretched local authority funding support structures for the sector within Mid Ulster.
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	<p>Equality &amp; Good Relations Implications:  The Arts Council state that it is committed to equality of opportunity and good relations in all of their work. The Arts Council has stated that it wants to make a clear commitment to addressing key inequalities, particularly those experienced by Section 75 groups, through this strategy and its associated performance measurement framework.</p>
	<p>Rural Needs Implications:  The Arts Council of Northern Ireland draft Strategic framework must clearly demonstrate that rural needs and equality in access to arts funding is being addressed. It is therefore incumbent upon all individuals/organisations submitting a response to the draft strategy that the inequalities in arts support between urban and rural areas are highlighted and addressed through this consultation process.</p>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	It is recommended that the draft response to the Arts Council of Northern Ireland 5 year Strategic Framework is approved and, the response is submitted to the Arts Council of Northern Ireland by the closing date of 4pm on Friday 22nd March 2019
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	Appendix 1 - Draft response to the Arts Council of Northern Ireland 5 year Strategic Framework
6.2	Appendix 2 - Arts Council of Northern Ireland draft five year strategic framework for developing the arts 2019-2024



Five-year Strategy Response  
Arts Council of Northern Ireland  
1 The Sidings  
Antrim Road  
Lisburn  
BT28 3AJ

27 February 2019

**RE: Response submission by Mid Ulster District Council to Arts Council of Northern Ireland Five Year Strategic Framework for Developing the Arts 2019-2024**

Further to the Arts Council of Northern Ireland's call for feedback on the proposed five year strategy, Mid Ulster District Council would respond as follows.

From the outset it is important to note that the draft document makes limited reference to rural needs and the limited financial support for the arts in rural areas in comparison to urban areas of Northern Ireland. This is a matter that needs to be addressed by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland within the next five year period

It would also be remiss not to reference from the outset the significant impact of the Arts in maintaining, sustaining and developing rural communities, particularly in areas of Mid Ulster, where many arts organisations have become the social and cultural focus of an entire community.

Arts organisations and indeed Local Authorities, operating in rural areas are a significant contributor to the arts infrastructure within Northern Ireland, therefore it is imperative that the strategy acknowledges the invaluable contribution made by these organisations, many of whom are required to address more barriers to arts participation than those encountered by their urban counterparts and who quite often deliver arts product and programmes under difficult financial circumstances and in many cases in the absence of funding from the Arts Council of Northern Ireland. The imbalance of funding needs to be addressed by the Arts Council.

With regard to the draft Strategy prepared by the Arts Council, Mid Ulster District Council (MUDC) would accept the stated vision that *the Arts are placed at the heart of our social, economic and creative life*, however it would challenge the Arts Council of Northern Ireland that this has not been the case in the past. The opportunity now exists for the Arts Council to treat all local authorities and arts organisations, both rural and urban, in a fair and equitable manner. MUDC would also concur with the ACNI position that "the Arts Council's overriding commitment should be to ensure that artists and arts organisations, working in all artforms, receive the support they need to continue to develop and work with confidence, vision and ambition". MUDC would strongly suggest that this is extended to include local authorities"

(page 2 par 1), MUDC would propose that this should be amended to include the following (see underlined),

“the overriding commitment will be to ensure that artists and arts organisations, working in all artforms, across all parts of Northern Ireland, in both rural and urban areas, including local authorities, receive the support they need to continue to develop and work with confidence, vision and ambition”.

**The new five year strategy needs .....to be realistic, yet sufficiently ambitious to meet the creative expectations of the sector, our stakeholders and the wider public (page 3)**

This is all against a backdrop of budget constraints and real term budget cuts to the sector, not to mention the uncertainty around Brexit. All of which makes it increasingly difficult to be *ambitious* in terms of a vision for the Arts over the next five year period, while at the same time being *realistic* in terms of what can be achieved (given the constraints outlined) and what can be delivered for the sector, and what needs to be done in order to rebuild and develop the arts infrastructure across Northern Ireland.

If the arts is to be *placed at the heart of our social, economic and creative life* and if the vision to achieving this is through *championing the arts and developing and investing in artistic excellence, which ultimately create experiences that enrich people's lives*, MUDC would comment that this cannot be achieved unless there is as refocused, partnership approach to the development of the Arts within Northern Ireland.

This partnership approach must operate at a strategic level and include, the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, the Department for Communities Arts practitioners, Arts organisations and the 11 Local Authorities.

As the Arts Council will be aware, All 11 Local Authorities within Northern Ireland place the arts at the heart of the social, economic and cultural lives of the inhabitants of our respective Districts and each is responsible for the delivery of comprehensive and customer focused Arts and Cultural programme of activity that is specifically designed to *create experiences that enrich peoples lives*. Yet in the draft strategy the need for Councils to be key strategic partners of the Arts Council in terms of *championing the Arts* or identification of Local Authorities as key partners in the delivery of the Arts Council vision, or how Local Authority Arts programming and arts activity contributes to the social, economic, creative and cultural development of our regions, is not adequately reflected. The Arts Council need to identify the significant contribution made by Local authorities and none more so than Mid Ulster District Council. While the draft document does *acknowledge the role that Local Authorities play in Local Arts Provision*, there would appear to be a lack of understanding or awareness as to the exact level of direct support and intervention made by Mid Ulster District Council and other Local Authorities, to the development and sustainability of the Arts sector both within our respective regions and indeed across Northern Ireland, which contributes directly to the Arts Council vision and indeed the Department for Communities Strategic priorities.

As a result there is a clear opportunity within the strategy to have this highlighted and for the Arts Council to be *innovative* in the delivery of what could be a meaningful, creative and *ambitious* strategy for the arts by identifying the key strategic partnerships required that will assist in achieving in the vision for the Arts over the next five year period as outlined i.e. by working with and providing support to Local authorities such as Mid Ulster District Council.

The draft document acknowledges the opportunities presented through the Programme for Government and the Community Planning Process and indeed the role of the arts in contributing to Health and Well-being and to the creation of vibrant and safe communities, Mid Ulster District Council also welcomes that the strategy acknowledges the need for the Arts Council to work in partnership with Local Authorities and other key partners and would concur with the statement presented that *“This presents a golden opportunity that is too important to be missed”*. The challenge now for ACNI is to ensure that this now happens.

(page 5 – **Working with Government**, par 5) The Arts Council states,

*“there are many tangible examples of how engagement with the Arts impacts on our health and well being, but we urgently need to reinvest in the arts to ensure artists and the arts sector continue to make a difference”*.

MUDC would propose that this is amended to read as follows:

*“there are many tangible examples of how engagement with the Arts impacts on our health and well being, and we are mindful of the significant level of activity currently being delivered by local authorities in partnership with a range of stakeholder bodies through the Community Planning Process, but in addition to this we recognise that there is an urgent need to reinvest in the arts to ensure artists and the arts sector across Northern Ireland continue to make a difference.*

(Page 6 – Bullet point 1) –

- *Supporting Local Authorities in the delivery of their Community Plans*

On a point of clarification, the Community Plans do not belong to Local Authorities, While Local Authorities **lead** on the process the Community Plans are **delivered** by Community Planning Partnerships, which include Local Authorities, statutory bodies, agencies and the wider community, including the community and voluntary sector. The bullet point above would suggest that Community Plans are Local Authority community plans, which is not the case. This need to be amended and articulated correctly

(Page 6 – **Strategic Priorities of the Department for Communities**)

The draft document refers to DfC strategic priorities which are also important areas for the Arts. These include;

- More confident people, living their lives to the full.
- More engaged communities and
- Improved communities.

MUDC would strongly argue that nowhere is this more relevant an issue that needs addressing than in areas of high disadvantage and high deprivation. This is also a significant issue in terms of lower levels of engagement and inequality of access to the arts particularly in rural areas of Mid Ulster.

The strategy must highlight the need to develop a more confident people, living their lives to the full, the need to engage more communities and the need to improve communities through the arts as a result of *supporting equitable access across Northern Ireland, specifically within rurally disadvantaged communities*, where in many cases, participation and involvement in the arts is limited only by the lack of investment in arts activity and arts resources by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland.

(Page 7 – Ambitions/Priorities for the next five years)

MUDC would support the guiding principles identified as

- **Inspire**
- **Connect**
- **Lead**

However under the **Connect** principle, MUDC would request that the Arts Council expand the descriptor to specifically mention the need to reach out across Northern Ireland and specifically to disadvantaged rural areas of Northern Ireland, where the impact of the Arts Council of Northern Ireland funding support has been limited in the past.

Under the **Lead** principle, there is also an opportunity to specifically detail the stakeholders that the Arts Council needs to work together with in order to deliver on the *promise* (otherwise it is simply open to interpretation as to who the stakeholders are) and clearly one of the key stakeholders that need to be detailed is all 11 Local Authorities and not just the two main city based Local Authorities.

(Page 9 – Objective 7 – Inspire local Communities to engage in transformative high quality arts experiences)

Mid Ulster District Council welcomes the need identified in the report for the Arts Council *to Improve the regional and rural reach of funding through joint projects with Local government*, however this should not be limited to *place based cultural initiatives*. MUDC would strongly argue that there is a need for the establishment of a dedicated Rural Arts Funding Programme specifically designed to support the development of the arts in rural areas. This would also ensure the need to work collaboratively and in partnership with local authorities to identify funding criteria in order to ensure that the funding support is specifically designed to support key projects, address equitable access and meet Rural needs. A partnership approach would require Local authorities assisting in processing and assessing applications submitted.

(Page 10 – Objective 1 Transform the relationship with local government through partnership working to strengthen local arts provision)

MUDC would strongly propose that in order to transform the relationship with local government in a meaningful and strategic way, the Arts Council should consider **not** excluding Local Authorities from applying to specific funding programmes and MUDC would also request the inclusion of additional actions under this objective, for example:-

d) Support of innovation through collaborative initiatives/projects with local government delivered as part of Community Planning process.

e) Support of a new Challenge Fund initiative (such as a collaborative programme Initiative) delivered in partnership with Councils and in partnership with Arts Council. This should be a more strategically focused programme than the previous Challenge Fund Programme. MUDC would also argue that the term “Challenge” Fund would suggest that local authorities need to be challenged to invest in the arts infrastructure. MUDC can assure the Arts Council that as a local Authority that contributes in excess of £2million annually to the development of the arts not to mention the level of Council capital investment in facilities such as Seamus Heaney HomePlace, The Burnavon Theatre and Ranfurly House and Hill of the O'Neill, that we do not require to be “challenged” by the Arts Council in terms of our support and investment in the arts infrastructure of this region. Perhaps the challenge should be levelled at the Arts Council to do the same.

Under Objective 3 – Accelerate growth opportunities in the creative industries through R&D partnerships with FE/HE and Industry Partners

Mid Ulster District Council recognises the potential of the creative industries. As a local authority MUDC see the creative industries as a potential growth area within our region. As such we would encourage the further exploration of the potential to link with Arts Council and FE/HE and other industry partners, through our Economic Development Unit to develop our Creative industries and harness the potential of our home grown talent.

Under Objective 5 – Capitalise on increased tourism through *creating* compelling visitor experiences and generate increased revenues

MUDC would propose amending to read – Capitalise on increased tourism through *the development of* compelling visitor experiences and generate increased revenues. Thus ensuring that existing visitor experiences are not excluded, particularly facilities such as the Seamus Heaney HomePlace.

Under this section a key action has been identified as

- a) To work with Belfast City Council on the development of a major city centre cultural and visitor attraction

This is a very specific action identifying Arts Council's intention to work specifically with one Local authority over any other Local Authority.

MUDC would strongly request that the Arts Council includes the following additional action:

- c) To work with Mid Ulster District Council on the development of the Seamus Heaney HomePlace as a major international arts and cultural visitor attraction

Under Action b) Increase strategic engagement with Tourism NI to increase market visibility and brand awareness of arts and Culture

MUDC would request that ACNI also include Tourism Ireland and also add to the above to include “and to develop and enhance the arts offering within Northern Ireland on an International stage

Page 13 under **Lead** principle - Objective 2 Make the case for a better resourced arts sector

MUDC would be of the opinion that this is not a new objective, but a restate of a previous objective that has failed to be achieved in previous strategies by the Arts Council. There is scope here to change the focus of how the decision makers and key stakeholders are engaged and how the case for the support of the arts should be made. Page 15 **Our partnerships**, the draft strategy states “The arts are recognised as an increasingly important delivery mechanism to enhance the services of other key agencies: Public Health Agency, Education Authority, Urban Villages, Local Government”. That being the case, it is evident that the previous approaches adopted in lobbying for further investment in the arts has simply not worked. Simply repeating the mistakes of old is only going to lead to the same outcomes. A new approach to lobbying for investment in the arts must be a task for any Consultative assembly to be established (Objective 6 page 14), however MUDC would strongly propose that the consultative assembly to be created must have involvement and representation from Local Authorities and not just arts professionals.

Page 13 under **Lead** principle - Objective 3 - Ignite the imagination of the public by articulating how the arts improve our lives.

MUDC would propose as an additional action that the Arts Council include the provision of additional support to Local Authorities to roll out the Culture night Concept across NI, which would greatly enhance the value of the arts and ignite the imagination of the public.

The new five year strategy presents a unique opportunity for the Arts Council to work strategically with local authorities such as Mid Ulster District Council. As such the potential to collaborate and cooperate on this basis over the next five year period should be embraced by the Arts Council for the benefit of the sector and the long term sustainability of the Arts within Northern Ireland.

Should you require further clarification on any of the issues raised within this submission, please contact:

Mr Adrian McCreesh  
Director of Business & Communities  
[adrian.mccreesh@midulstercouncil.org](mailto:adrian.mccreesh@midulstercouncil.org)

or

Mr Tony McCance  
Head of Culture & Arts  
[tony.mccance@midulstercouncil.org](mailto:tony.mccance@midulstercouncil.org)

Yours sincerely,

**Cllr Sean McPeake**  
Chair  
Mid Ulster District Council



# **INSPIRE | CONNECT | LEAD**

A five year strategic framework for developing  
the arts 2019-2024

Draft for Consultation

## Introduction

In developing this strategic framework for the arts over the next five-year period, 2019-2024, we are mindful of the wider context and of the many uncertainties affecting society as a whole – constraints on public spending, Brexit, lack of a sitting Assembly, for instance. The challenges are significant, and the arts will not be exempt. However, in certain knowledge of the unique and irreplaceable benefits that the arts bring to society, our overriding commitment will be to ensure that artists and arts organisations, working in all art forms, receive the support they need to continue to develop and work with confidence, vision and ambition.

To achieve this outcome, we will need to think creatively, offer fresh solutions, and lead the sector in a strategic direction that will not only add strength and resilience, but will create opportunity and growth. That is the role of the current strategic framework. It has been developed in consultation with the arts sector and key stakeholders, as well as our partners in local and central government, and the wider public sector. We are now pleased to put the framework out to full public consultation until April 2019.

We look forward to hearing your views.

**‘Placing the arts at the heart  
of our social, economic  
and creative life’**

## A framework not a plan...

Because we are experiencing a period of unprecedented uncertainty and there are operational challenges which will not be resolved in the short-term. The framework provides an overview of the strategic direction we are proposing to take over the next five-year period, 2019-2024. An accompanying business plan will be produced each year, setting out in detail the actions we will take in order to deliver our strategic objectives. The business plans will be linked to the Programme for Government and its associated outcomes.

The new five-year strategy needs to address some difficult issues. It needs to be realistic, yet sufficiently ambitious to meet the creative expectations of the sector, our stakeholders, and the wider public.

## Context

The context and strategic challenges that give rise to the current uncertainties:

- Funding: the Northern Ireland Budgetary Outlook notes that, while the block grant will stay broadly level, rising inflation has created a reduction in real terms in public spending power.
- Brexit: the impact of Brexit remains unknown but could affect creative migration, workforce mobility, visa issues, tariffs, markets, and create disruption to touring and barriers to sponsorship.
- The absence of a sitting Assembly and Executive in Northern Ireland is affecting many areas of life. Without an Executive there is no mechanism to enact any significant change in public spending decisions. The vacuum is escalating concerns over public financing of the arts.

A framework provides a more flexible way of managing uncertainty.

## Continuing the Journey

We are proud to continue our support of artists, arts practitioners and arts organisations. Our vision is to 'place arts at the heart of our social, economic and creative life'. We work to achieve this by championing the arts, developing and investing in artistic excellence and enabling the creation of experiences that enrich people's lives.

As part of the development of the Arts Strategy 2019-24, we commissioned an independent review of the outgoing strategy *Ambitions for the Arts* (See appendix 1).

## **“You spoke, we listened”**

In developing the strategy we carried out extensive consultation with a range of key stakeholders. We have summarised the most frequently expressed responses.

- The role of the Arts in society cannot be viewed in isolation; they permeate all aspects of life, transforming people's environment, their education and their place within society. The sector wants to make society and decision makers aware of the benefits the arts bring – intrinsically, socially and economically.
- The Arts Council is seen as an advocate; a representative to engage with politicians, government departments and public agencies. The sector's perspective is that the Arts Council's role is to spread an understanding of the value the Arts and how they contribute towards public service goals. There is acknowledgement of the role that Local Authorities play in local Arts provision and the request that the Arts Council works more strategically with them.
- The sector generally supports the role of the Arts Council as an arm's length body and its function in distributing grants.
- There is a call for the Arts Council to communicate more regularly with artists and organisations and to provide stronger feedback in the post-award phase, especially to artists who have been unsuccessful in their applications for grants.
- Organisations and artists express concerns about funding, in terms of the reduction and the lack of security; especially the loss of multi-annual awards. The sector stresses the need to continue investing in artists and organisations to maintain the high standards and showcasing of their work.
- In the current funding environment it is vital to ensure that access is maintained to the arts and that understanding and developing the audience base is critical to reaching as many in society as possible.
- The arts sector is ambitious and thrives on experimentation. Despite the current funding pressures, artists seek to create ground-breaking work.

## **Shared Vision**

Because we have engaged widely with our stakeholders this is a shared vision that...

- Celebrates arts and creativity.
- Links us to a shared heritage of ideas, words and images.
- Helps us to be connected, confident and outward looking.

# The Creative Ecology

We support artists and arts organisations, but they in turn are part of a wider ecology with overlapping connections in the creative industries, digital production, screen, cultural tourism, creative learning and numerous forms of applied practice in social settings.

It is no longer appropriate to define the sector in terms of single artform priorities. The sector itself is exploring new ways of working, converging platforms and presenting work through digital media. This calls for a new approach to planning for arts and creativity.

## Working with Government

The Arts Council has a strong track record of working with Government and its institutions to advance shared agendas and maximise resources.

In addition to their strong intrinsic value, arts and culture have a wider, more measurable impact on our economy, health, wellbeing and education. Participation in the arts can help build cohesive communities, make communities feel safer and reduce social exclusion and isolation. The economy is bolstered by visitors engaging in arts and culture and creative interventions can have a positive impact on, for instance, specific health conditions such as dementia, Parkinson's and depression.

A key feature of the draft Programme for Government is its commitment to an outcomes-based accountability model. It provides a framework that can be applied to services to improve their impact on people's lives, and it can bring about generational change for our communities. This presents a golden opportunity that is too important to be missed; one that recognises the importance of collaborative working between government departments, local government, the private sector, ALBs and the voluntary and community sectors.

We welcome this new way of thinking, with its emphasis on improving outcomes for people, placing wellbeing at the heart of the Programme for Government, embracing the principles of partnership working and co-design. There remain areas of persistent inequality in Northern Ireland where concerted effort is required across government to positively influence the reform agenda and where partnerships with local actors, creative agents and the third sector can help animate change.

51% of the funding invested by the Arts Council goes to the most deprived areas of Northern Ireland, helping to deliver social change, economic prosperity and build a strong and a shared community. There are many tangible examples of how engagement with the Arts impacts on our health and wellbeing, but we urgently need to reinvest in the Arts to ensure artists and the arts sector can continue to make a difference.

The scale and ambition of the Programme for Government calls for a change of culture in the public sector that encourages and enables those working in the arts to fully play their part.

The following list summarises some of the ways in which we work with government and its departments:

- Supporting local authorities in the delivery of their Community Plans.
- Partnering the Public Health Agency in the design and delivery of a wellbeing programme, targeted at the most vulnerable young people in Northern Ireland.
- Partnering the Education Authority and Strategic Investment Board (tasked with delivery of the Executive's Urban Villages Initiative) to pilot a Creative Schools Scheme.

We feel the arts can make a meaningful contribution to a the following Outcomes identified in the Draft Programme for Government (2016 to 2021).

**Outcome 4:**

We enjoy long, healthy, active lives.

**Outcome 5:**

We are an innovative and creative society where people can fulfil their potential.

**Outcome 7:**

We have a safe community where we respect the law, and each other.

**Outcome 9:**

We are a shared society that respects diversity.

**Outcome 10:**

We are a confident, welcoming, outward-looking society.

## Strategic Priorities of the Department for Communities

Our parent department, the Department for Communities, has established its own strategic priorities. These are also important areas for the arts:

1. A more confident people living their lives to the full
2. More engaged communities
3. Lower levels of economic inactivity and unemployment
4. Improved communities and better housing

## Ambitions / Priorities for the next five years, structured under three headings:

Our guiding principles for the next five years are summarised in three words...

**Inspire**

**Connect**

**Lead**

Simple, yes, but they reflect our ambition and our passion for the arts.

### **INSPIRE**

Great art inspires us, nurtures our understanding of who we are and the world around us, and brings us together.

### **CONNECT**

The Arts are without boundaries. They connect communities, help build creative places, define a new sense of identity, help us tell our stories, seek out and engage wider audiences. We want to reach out and reach further.

### **LEAD**

We see our role as enabling and empowering the sector to achieve its ambitions, and to speak out for the arts; but we won't be able to do that alone – we will need to work together with other stakeholders to deliver on this promise.

In the following pages, this framework outlines strategic objectives and actions under each guiding principle; informed by the needs of the sector.

Principle	Objective	Actions
INSPIRE	1. Create the conditions in which work of excellence is made	a. Place quality and creative risk-taking at the centre of a revised assessment framework to ensure work of vision, power and imagination is made Years 1 - 5
		b. Incentivise innovation and experimentation through our grant-making processes Years 1 - 5
		c. Develop good-practice guidelines with the sector for self-assessment of creative work Year 2
	2. Create a confident, vibrant arts infrastructure	a. Invest in strategic programmes (Resilience and Blueprint) that build capacity in the sector Years 1 - 3
		b. Consider reinstatement of multi-annual funding Year 1
		c. Introduce a small-scale asset purchase / maintenance scheme to ensure arts organisations have the right equipment to deliver their work Year 2
		d. Encourage more private giving by helping organisations build their fundraising capacity Years 1 - 5
	3. Invest in workforce, skills and leadership development	a. Commission a review of leadership needs and skills shortages and establish the extent of workforce diversity in the sector Year 2
		b. Support the arts sector to invest in workforce development and succession planning to meet future leadership needs Years 3 - 5

Principle	Objective	Actions	
	4. Invest in accessible career pathways in the creative and cultural industries	a. Enhance the quality of creative careers advice in schools in partnership with NI Screen and the Department for the Economy	Years 1 - 5
		b. Create a dedicated career pathway component within the Creative Schools Partnership programme	Years 1 - 3
	5. Renew art form policies to reflect current needs	a. Review art form classifications to ensure their continued relevance in light of digital developments and implement a rolling policy review.	Year 2
		b. Involve an independent multi-disciplinary arts panel in the review process (Consultative Assembly)	Year 1
	6. Create more opportunities for children and young people to explore and engage in creative practice	a. Invest in arts organisations which create high-quality learning experiences in and out of schools	Years 1 - 3
		b. Invest in the Creative Schools Partnership (The Executive Office, Education Authority & ACNI) to improve creative and educational outcomes for children living in deprived areas	Years 1 - 3
	7. Inspire local communities to engage in transformative, high-quality arts experiences	a. Improve the regional and rural reach of funding through joint projects with local government, such as local place-based cultural initiatives.	Years 1 - 5
		b. Strengthen arts activity in areas of low engagement	Years 1 - 5

Principle	Objective	Actions
CONNECT	1. Transform the relationship with local government through partnership working to strengthen local arts provision	<div>a. Formalise bilateral relations with individual councils through Service Level Agreements. Years 2 - 3</div> <div>b. In conjunction with local government hold a biennial conference on the role of the arts in place making Year 2</div> <div>c. Develop guidance on common data collection on the social impact of the arts Year 2</div>
	2. Improve access to / participation in the arts for people with a disability	<div>a. Renew the Disability Action Plan Year 1</div> <div>b. Carry out a Disability Audit of funded arts venues Years 1 - 2</div> <div>c. Rebrand and launch Equality Access Charter with improved processes and usability; advocate its use within the sector Year 2</div> <div>d. Introduce the Hint Card for people with disabilities to Northern Ireland Year 3</div> <div>e. Scope a Northern Ireland-wide Buddy Scheme for people with disabilities amongst core funded organisations Year 3</div>
	3. Accelerate growth opportunities in the Creative Industries through R&D partnerships with FE/HE and industry partners	<div>a. Establish a working partnership with the Creative Industries Institute to create research and career opportunities for artists Years 1 - 5</div>

Principle	Objective	Actions	
	4. Work with sector partners to improve market intelligence and increase audiences for the arts	a. Evaluate current audience development practice b. Build marketing capacity for arts organisations through programmes such as Pathway to Blueprint c. Create dedicated digital training for arts organisations to exploit market opportunities	Year 3 Years 1 - 5 Years 1 - 3
	5. Capitalise on increased tourism through creating compelling visitor experiences and generate increased revenues	a. Work with Belfast City Council on the development of a major city centre cultural and visitor attraction b. Increase strategic engagement with Tourism NI to increase market visibility and brand awareness of arts and culture	Years 1 - 5 Years 1 - 5
	6. Connect to the world by supporting artists and arts organisations to present their work internationally, and thereby strengthen our cultural profile and global reputation	a. Sustain international residencies and showcasing opportunities to enhance the global reputation of artists from Northern Ireland b. Support international touring through funding programmes	Years 1 - 5 Years 1 - 5
	7. Encourage innovative practice that cross artform boundaries	a. Create a seed fund to support new ideas that use digital technology in the arts	Year 2

Principle	Objective	Actions
		<div>b. Broker a partnership that connects the Creative Industries Institute and industry leaders to build digital capability within the sector</div> <div>Years 3 - 5</div>
	8. Promote knowledge exchange through funding better networks for the arts	<div>a. Invest in resource organisations to support practitioners through the creation of networks and the provision of training and professional development</div> <div>Years 1 - 5</div>

Principle	Objective	Actions	
LEAD	1. Demonstrate the important role of the arts to society through research and evaluation	a. Establish a research partnership with the Policy Evidence Centre at the Ulster University to promote critical thinking and analysis to inform policy development	Years 1 - 5
		b. Commission evaluations of strategic programmes	Years 1 - 5
	2. Make the case for a better resourced arts sector	a. Grow public investment in the arts	Years 1 - 5
		b. Build public and political support for a better resourced arts sector by engaging with decision makers	Years 1 - 5
		c. Commission an attitudinal survey of stakeholders (MLAs, local government, departments and agencies) to assess perceptions of the value of the arts	Year 2
	3. Ignite the imagination of the public by articulating how the arts improve our lives	a. Capture the value of the arts through communication campaigns, case studies and video interviews	Years 1 - 5
		b. Establish a Northern Ireland Arts Week with activities in core funded venues as part of an annual celebration of creativity	Year 2
		c. Commission a biennial survey on changing public perceptions of the arts	Years 2, 4
	4. Future-proof the investment in the sector by helping organisations grow by generating income from more diverse sources	a. Prepare funded organisations for future challenges through the Resilience and Pathways to Blueprint programmes	Years 1 - 5

Principle	Objective	Actions	
		b. Support the development of tailored fundraising measures for the sector	Years 1 - 5
	5. Provide sectoral leadership by producing new thinking on challenges that the sector faces	a. Identify emerging opportunities through horizon scanning; hold advice clinics and other dissemination events	Years 1 - 5
	6. Establish a Consultative Assembly of arts professionals to provide independent advice on sectoral issues	a. Establish a multi-disciplinary arts assembly to involve artists in policy issues (assessment of quality, review of grant processes) and provide a touchstone for sectoral opinion	Year 2
	7. Create shared opportunities for the arts through engagement with stakeholders to achieve broader outcomes	a. Establish data sharing agreements with local government and the Policy Evidence Centre	Years 2 - 5
		b. Build ongoing relations with a range of public and philanthropic funders to achieve broader social outcomes	Years 1 - 5
	8. Improve the living & working conditions of artists	a. Re-test the findings of the Living & Working Conditions of Artists survey	Year 3
		b. Develop a new scheme aimed at emerging artists	Years 1 - 5
	9. Be advocates for change, supporting sector organisations to empower deaf/disabled artists	a. Increase programming and touring opportunities for disability-led performances	Years 1 - 5

## Statement of purpose

The Arts Council of Northern Ireland is the development and funding agency for the Arts in Northern Ireland.

We distribute public money and National Lottery funds to develop and deliver a wide variety of arts projects, events and initiatives across Northern Ireland.

From theatre and literature to art in the community, we work in partnership with hundreds of artists, arts organisations and venues. Art has the ability to reach across boundaries, inspiring, teaching and bringing people together.

That's why we believe in placing "Art at the Heart", because we know that art makes a difference.

## Statement of functions

The Arts Council is the statutory body through which public and National Lottery funding for the arts are channelled. We are also responsible for a number of important functions, including: developing and improving the knowledge, appreciation and practice of the arts; increasing public access to, and participation in, the arts; and advising the Department for Communities and other government departments, district councils and bodies on matters relating to the arts. The Arts Council is the principal advocate for the arts in Northern Ireland.

## Our partnerships

We are committed to supporting a range of partnerships and community engagement for the benefit of audiences and cultural life.

The Arts are recognised as an increasingly important delivery mechanism to enhance the services of other key agencies: Public Health Agency, Education Authority, Urban Villages, local government.

# Appendix 1

## The last 5 years: what the independent review says in summary

The desk-based review cast a critical eye on the Arts Council's performance over the last five years, drawing evidence from evaluations, survey findings and interviews to identify what was achieved, what wasn't achieved, and what the key challenges are.

- The arts sector faced exceptional stress: Government and National Lottery investment fell significantly. This reduction meant the Arts Council received less per head of population compared to other UK regions. In 2017-18 the Arts Council of Northern Ireland received £5.31 per capita compared with £10.03 in Wales and £12.79 in the Republic of Ireland.
- Societal changes are creating increased opportunities for the arts. The Creative Industries is a growth sector; young people are moving from a value system based on possessions to ones focused on experiences; digital technologies are making creative resources available to more and more people.
- However, arts organisations are showing signs of real financial stress: in order to safeguard artists' costs, expenditure on publicity, marketing and promotion are falling. This will have a long-term impact on organisations' ability to build audiences and hence generate income through box office.
- Core funded arts organisations have increased their level of activity. Participation levels have increased but audiences have fallen.
- Despite the prevailing uncertain financial environment, the Arts Council delivered a portfolio of targeted programmes which impacted on individuals and communities. New, innovative programmes such as Creative Schools Partnerships, the Arts and Older People programme and the Intercultural programme have extended the reach of the arts to address societal challenges around mental health, isolation, loneliness and cohesion.
- Strong partnerships at a strategic and operational level have been built with the education, health and the community sectors. The Arts Council now works closely with the community, voluntary and statutory sectors to deliver its work in an efficient and targeted way.
- The Arts Council has been successful in supporting volunteering activity through its Annually Funded Organisations. Findings suggest that volunteer engagement is relatively deep and therefore likely to be impactful.

Overall, the review reported that the Arts Council has delivered a diverse and high quality programme with broad reach within the arts sector and local community. This was considered a "remarkable achievement" by the report's author, given successive funding cuts.

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<b>Report on</b>	Sperrin Future Search update
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> March 2019
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Michael Browne
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Mary McKeown

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

1.0	Purpose of Report																				
1.1	To update the council on Sperrin Future Search and appoint two elected members to sit on the Sperrin Future Search Board.																				
2.0	Background																				
2.1	<p>The Sperrins Future Search conference held in the Glenavon House Hotel Cookstown on 27th – 29th September brought together a group of key stakeholders to make an action plan for the future of the Sperrins Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) summed up in the words ‘reaching new heights, realising our potential’.</p> <p>The event was initiated by the four local councils, Derry and Strabane District Council, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council and Mid Ulster District Council. These councils are responsible for the area and initiated the event with a view to enabling participants to agree a common mission, to take responsibility for action and to develop commitment to implementation. The conference took place over three days and involved 60 participants drawn from a wide range of stakeholder groups: community, land owners/farmers, government departments &amp; statutory agencies, tourism, heritage &amp; environment, outdoor recreation, business &amp; industry, elected representatives and young people.</p> <p>The conference embarked upon a collective journey that developed over five sessions labelled Past, Present, Future, Common Ground, and Action. Each involved gathering information, sharing understandings in small groups, reports to the whole, and large group dialogues. Each session built on the previous one and the product was a number of ‘common ground statements’ and an action plan.</p> <p>Five thematic groups were created to develop and deliver action plans in each of the mentioned groups below. The five groups are as follows and are led by the following councils:</p> <table><tr><td>1.</td><td>Environment &amp; Heritage</td><td>-</td><td>Mid Ulster District Council</td></tr><tr><td>2.</td><td>Infrastructure</td><td>-</td><td>Fermanagh &amp; Omagh</td></tr><tr><td>3.</td><td>Brand &amp; Tourism</td><td>-</td><td>Causeway Coast &amp; Glens</td></tr><tr><td>4.</td><td>Community</td><td>-</td><td>Derry &amp; Strabane</td></tr><tr><td>5.</td><td>Management Structures</td><td>-</td><td>Mid Ulster District Council</td></tr></table> <p>The five thematic working groups Environment &amp; Heritage, Infrastructure, Brand &amp; Tourism, Community and Management Structures have met and agreed their short term and long term action plans.</p>	1.	Environment & Heritage	-	Mid Ulster District Council	2.	Infrastructure	-	Fermanagh & Omagh	3.	Brand & Tourism	-	Causeway Coast & Glens	4.	Community	-	Derry & Strabane	5.	Management Structures	-	Mid Ulster District Council
1.	Environment & Heritage	-	Mid Ulster District Council																		
2.	Infrastructure	-	Fermanagh & Omagh																		
3.	Brand & Tourism	-	Causeway Coast & Glens																		
4.	Community	-	Derry & Strabane																		
5.	Management Structures	-	Mid Ulster District Council																		

	It was approved by each Council that they provide budget to support the post of a Project Coordinating Officer and part time Administrator. The budget included administration support and associated running costs.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p>The relevant councils met on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February to discuss next steps for the future search project now that funding had been secured. It was agreed to convey a meeting with the management structures team to establish the board and its role which is not to exceed 20 members this would consist of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chairman representing each Thematic Group – 4 in total</li> <li>• 2 Council Members from each Council – 8 in total</li> <li>• Key Stakeholders</li> <li>• Council Officers observers only role</li> </ul>
3.2	It was advised that the structure establishes a Statutory Partnership sub-group, this group would meet on a quarterly basis and feed into the board. This group would include the following organisations, such as, Lough Agency, NIEA, Forestry, Tourism NI, DFC etc.
3.3	The Council now seeks two nominations from elected members to sit on the Sperrin Future Search board.
3.4	Launch of the Actions Plans will take place in the Derry and Strabane council area in June 2019.
3.5	The recruitment process will now commence to appoint the Project Coordinating Officer and part time Administrator through an internal trawl in all councils.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	<p>Financial:</p> <p>Council has provided funding to employ a Project Coordinating officer,</p> <p>P01 – SCP 33 – 36</p> <p>Administration officer (Part time)</p> <p>Scale 4 – SCP 18 – 21</p> <p>The costs will be equally divided between all councils. The cost per council will include running cost which include salary costs:</p> <p><b>The cost per council for 18/19 – £4,162</b></p> <p>Total running costs for 19/20 £65089.50</p> <p><b>The cost per council for 19/20 £16,273</b></p>

	Human: Training were identified
	Risk Management: none
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: none
	Rural Needs Implications: none
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	It is recommended that each council nominate two elected members to represent their council area on the Sperrin Future Search Board.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	N/A



<b>Report on</b>	Scoping Studies: Davagh to Beaghmore Solar Walk & Fivemiletown Round Lake Activity Centre projects
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	March 2019
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Michael Browne/Nigel Hill
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Michael Browne/Nigel Hill

<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 Council on the requirement to commission Scoping Studies to be undertaken for:</p> <p>a) Davagh Forest to Beaghmore Stone Circles Solar Boardwalk and b) Fivemiletown Round Lake Activity Centre Scoping Study.</p>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	<p>Following a number of meetings with Mid Ulster Council Officers and Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) representatives during December 2018 and early January 2019, Mid Ulster District Council have been invited by DAERA to submit two applications to the Rural Tourism Scheme for two potential projects.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Davagh Forest to Beaghmore Solar Walk</li> <li>2. Fivemiletown Round Lake proposals.</li> </ol>
2.2	<p>At this stage and prior to making application a scoping study is require, which DAERA will fund up to 75%. The scoping study/appraisal along with all procurement needs to carry out, and needs to submitted, along with the application on, or before 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019.</p> <p>When the calls for Expressions of Interest was issued the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs provided clear indication of the priorities it was intending to address, namely that proposed projects should:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) be flagship, Iconic, Unique</li> <li>b) increase out of State visitors</li> <li>c) create capital infrastructure</li> <li>d) create Job(s)</li> </ol>

	<p><u>Davagh Forest to Beaghmore Stone Circles Solar Boardwalk.</u></p>
2.3	<p>The Davagh Forest to Beaghmore Stone Circles Boardwalk, has been identified by Mid Ulster District Council as one of its core projects which links strategically to two of the three themes identified with the Council's tourism strategy, Heritage and Outdoor Hubs.</p>
2.4	<p>The basis of this project is to provide a unique first of its kind in Ireland Davagh Solar Walk, which will be a 4.25km walkable with scale model of the solar system, between Davagh Forest and Beaghmore Stone Circles. The walk will be combination of board and mountain walks along with a digitally immersive experience, linking the surrounding heritage of the area. The walk will provide both a daytime and a night-time experience, which will complement the local built heritage and the unique natural heritage.</p>
2.5	<p>During the day, the walk will emphasize the beautiful Sperrins landscape and heritage that, connects the landscape with the sky above. In contrast, the evening walk will be an immersive experience, which will go from the Visitor Centre to Beaghmore Stone Circles. The walk will comprise of both boardwalks to protect the ground and hard-core trails with a small pedestrian bridge taking you over the Davagh River.</p>
2.6	<p>This unique solar walk will complement the current developments of the new Davagh Dark Sky Visitor Centre, both physically and an animated guide, presented in a digital format of the solar system and the wider galaxy and beyond.</p>
2.7	<p>This will present the visitor with an experience exploring space and planets in real time, whilst getting a sense of distance and space. This project will also link the night sky to the uniqueness of the local ancient and natural heritage.</p>
	<p><u>Fivemiletown Round Lake Activity Centre</u></p>
2.8	<p>Round Lake Caravan Park is located amidst the lush Clogher Valley and is a short walk from busy Fivemiletown. The existing Round Lake a caravan park that is close to the Blessingbourne Mountain Bike Trails, beautiful Fermanagh Lakelands, Carleton Trail, is a 20-minute drive from the bustling shopping Centre of Enniskillen and within walking distance of the Fivemiletown.</p>
2.9	<p>Presently the site has a range of facilities for the camper including 12 fully serviced hard standing pitches, space for tents, coarse angling facilities with slipway for boat anglers, lakeside walks, children's play area, picnic site, television lounge and a visitor amenity.</p>

2.10	We are proposing to add to and upgrade the facility at the Round Lake, Fivemiletown, to broaden the appeal of this beautiful area to a wider potential audience that will encourage the visitor to stay and play in the Fivemiletown area.
2.11	This will include an on water/floating glamping village with a water ski/wake board cable line in the middle of the lake. In addition, we are proposing to upgrade the existing building as a central facility building for administration and changing.
2.12	With the addition of the floating glamping pods village and the Water Ski/Wakeboard, this will create a different experience and attraction to the area and will broaden the demographic appeal and complement and enhance the recent village enhancement scheme.
2.13	<p>Cable water skiing and wakeboarding offers the most cost effective and sociable way to take to the water and can accommodate both beginners and advanced users.</p> <p>This facility will appeal to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Social Energisers</li> <li>• Great Escapers</li> <li>• The Culturally Curious</li> </ul> <p>With the unique experience of the on water glamping pods and the wakeboard/water-ski cable facility, this will also have an international appeal.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	DAERA have now asked the Council to proceed to full capital application stage for both projects. In order to complete the full capital application, it is a requirement of the Funder that all procurement and planning needs to be secured in advance.
3.2	In addition, a request to DAERA will be submitted to DAERA to access Technical Assistance funding to develop Scoping Studies for both the Davagh Forest to Beaghmore Stone Circles Solar Boardwalk and Fivemiletown Round Lake Activity Centre.
3.3	A Letter of Offer has now been received by Mid Ulster District Council for the two projects. We now recommend to progress with the Scoping Studies for both the Davagh Forest to Beaghmore Stone Circles Solar Boardwalk and Fivemiletown Round Lake Activity Centre, in preparation of full capital applications, which we are required to submit on 31 <sup>st</sup> July 2019.

<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	<p>Financial:</p> <p>Scoping Study for the Davagh Forest to Beaghmore Solar Walk, total of £19,450 match funding required is £4,863, subject to approval by DAERA.</p> <p>Scoping Study for Fivemiletown Round Lake Activity Centre, total £19,450 match funding required is £4,863, subject to approval by DAERA.</p> <p>Financial support from Mid Ulster District Council for each scoping study can be met from within the current Tourism and Parks Budgets.</p>
	<p>Human:</p> <p>Staff time.</p>
	<p>Risk Management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specific conditions within the Letter of Offer states that all overrun costs in the development of the projects will be met by council.</li> <li>• Failure to apply for the full capital grant may lead to clawback of the Technical Assistance grant award.</li> </ul>
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	<p>Equality &amp; Good Relations Implications:</p> <p>All Equality and Good Relations Implications will be considered and addressed within Scoping Studies undertaken</p>
	<p>Rural Needs Implications:</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications will be considered as part of the Scoping Studies undertaken.</p>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	To approve signing of Letters of Offer for commissioning of Scoping Studies for a) Davagh Forest to Beaghmore Solar Walk and b) Fivemiletown Round Lake Activity Centre
5.2	To approve 25% match-funding requirement for scoping Studies, to be met from within existing Tourism and Parks and to fund an economic appraisal, if required.

<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	Letter of Offer - Davagh Forest to Beaghmore Solar Walk and Fivemiletown Round Lake Activity Centre



Mary McKeown  
Tourism Manager  
Mid Ulster Council  
Burn Road  
Cookstown  
BT80 8DN

Dundonald House  
Upper Newtownards Road  
Ballymiscaw, Belfast BT4 3SB  
Tel: 028 9052 4597

20 February 2019

Dear Mary

**RE: APPLICATIONS TO THE RURAL TOURISM SCHEME – Dark Sky Solar Walk  
and Fivemiletown Round Lake Activity Centre**

The Department has carried out a review of your 2 expressions of interest applications for the Rural Tourism Scheme.

When the call for expressions of interest was issued, the Department gave a clear indication of the priorities it was trying to address, namely :-

- a. Be flagship, iconic, unique.
- b. Increase out of state visitors.
- c. Create capital infrastructure.
- d. Create Job(s).

When examining the projects, there was sufficient evidence to demonstrate compliance with the above criteria and therefore I am now inviting you to submit technical assistance applications for assessment. A guidance note and application are attached.

I would urge you to submit your applications during the current call which opened on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2019 and will close on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019. This is the final call for applications and will also require you to submit your full applications within that timescale as well.

It will be a condition of applying to this scheme that procurement is completed pre application and details of same should be submitted with your application.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your current application and if you have any queries please contact Pauline Donaldson by email on [pauline.donaldson@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:pauline.donaldson@daera-ni.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Evans', with a stylized, cursive script.

Gareth Evans

Leader & Rural Tourism Implementation Manager

<b>Report on</b>	Parks Service events Programme 2019-20
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> March 2019
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Head of Parks Service
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Nigel Hill

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

1.0	Purpose of Report																													
1.1	To update Members of the progress regarding activities and associated to Parks Services and highlight events that are scheduled for 2019-20.																													
2.0	Background																													
2.1	Mid Ulster District Council recognises the important role that Parks, Countryside recreation and play has in today's society and the ease of accessible, open space can have on basis quality of life issues and the health and wellbeing of the local community. The facilities and programmes provided in Mid Ulster are designed to maximise participation from all sections of the community and provide opportunities to maximise quality outdoor experiences for our residents across the district.																													
3.0	Main Report																													
3.1	<table><tr><th><u>MONTH</u></th><th><u>EVENT</u></th><th><u>LOCATION</u></th><th><u>ACTIVITIES</u></th><th><u>COST/ES TIMATE</u></th></tr><tr><td>JAN</td><td>Bird Day</td><td>Ballyronan</td><td>Bird ringing</td><td>Nil</td></tr><tr><td>MARCH</td><td>Big Spring Clean</td><td>Ballyronan</td><td>Environmental event</td><td>Nil</td></tr><tr><td>APRIL 07.04.19 2-5pm</td><td>Forest Schools Family Day</td><td>Ballyronan</td><td>Forest School activities</td><td>£800.00 (to include other forest school/fa mily days through year)</td></tr><tr><td>APRIL Sat 13.04.19</td><td>Have a Go – Angling Taster Experience</td><td>Dungannon Park</td><td>Coarse/Fly Angling taster sessions &amp; Fly tying demonstrations</td><td>£1500.00</td></tr></table>					<u>MONTH</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>ACTIVITIES</u>	<u>COST/ES TIMATE</u>	JAN	Bird Day	Ballyronan	Bird ringing	Nil	MARCH	Big Spring Clean	Ballyronan	Environmental event	Nil	APRIL 07.04.19 2-5pm	Forest Schools Family Day	Ballyronan	Forest School activities	£800.00 (to include other forest school/fa mily days through year)	APRIL Sat 13.04.19	Have a Go – Angling Taster Experience	Dungannon Park	Coarse/Fly Angling taster sessions & Fly tying demonstrations	£1500.00
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	12.00-5.00pm Sun 14.04.19 12.00-5.00pm			Limited numbers FOC Photographer etc.	
	APRIL Sat 13.04.19 Times TBC Sun 14.04.19 Times TBC	Canoeing & Sailing Sessions	Ballyronan Marina	Taster Sessions	Nil
	APRIL Tues 23.04.19 2.00-5.00pm	Environmental Day	Dungannon Park	Forest School activities TCV (Bird Feeders/Fat balls workshops) Shauna McCann (Clay) Hazel Boland (Craft activity) Mark Edgar/Aidan Crane	£2000
	MAY Sun 05.05.19 2.00-5.00pm	Summer Sundays In the Park	Manor Park	Children's activities Photographer/marquees/first aid/Advertising	£2000 £800
	MAY	Moyola Angling Assoc. Open Day	Bradleys Lake	One day in partnership with club. Assist with gazebos, supply Fly-tying by Frankie and coaching by Joe & Ray	£750
	JUNE Sun 02.6.19 Sun 16.6.19 Sun 23.6.19 Sun 30.6.19	PRE SUMMER BANDS Tamlaghtmore Silver Murley Silver Band Tamlaghtmore Silver Tamlaghtmore Silver	Tobermore Roundlake Moneymore Ballyronan	Music  Music	£1450 (£300 per band) Plus Photographer, sundries etc.
	JUNE 02.6.19 2-5pm	Summer Sundays In the Park	Swatragh	Children's activities Photographer/marquees/first aid/advertising	£2000 £800
	JUNE 27- 29.06.19	International Coarse	Portglenone	Event Support	£5000

		Angling Competition			
	JULY Sun 07.7.18 2-5pm	Summer Sundays In the Park	Dungannon Park	Children's activities Photographer/marques/first aid/Advertising	£2000  £800
	JULY Fri 05.7.18 Fri 12.7.18 Fri 19.7.18 Fri 26.7.18	Taster Sessions	Dungannon Park	Coarse Angling – 6.30-8.30pm 25 minute sessions (5 Sessions) Photographer/Advertising/Equipment	£1000
	JULY – AUGUST 1.7.19 - 5.7.19 29.7.19 – 02.8.19 05.8.19 – 09.8.19	Canoeing	Ballyronan	Outdoor activity taster course	£1000
	JULY – AUGUST 21.7.19 28.7.19 04.8.19 11.8.19	Parklake Concerts Coalisland Silver Band Murley Silver Band Roughan Silver Band D'gannon Silver Band	Dungannon Park	Music	£1400 (£300 per band) Plus Photographer, sundries etc.
	JULY – AUG 31.7.19 – 02.8.19	Coarse Angling School	Dungannon Park	3 Day Coarse Angling School 2 Sessions 9.30am-12.30pm & 1.30pm-4.30pm (10 children per group) Photographer/equipment etc.	£1500
	AUG Sun 04.8.19 2-5pm	Summer Sundays In the Park	Ballygawley	Children's activities Photographer/marques/first aid/Advertising	£2000  £800
	AUG 07.8.19 2-5pm	Play Day	Meadowbank , Magherafelt	Jungle Playbus Friendly Faces Dr Funnybone Jump Jiggle Jive Shauna McCann Go Fly your kite	£3500     £3000

				Photographer/marques/first aid/Advertising	
	AUG 25.8.18 2-5pm	Summer Sundays In the Park	Tobermore	Children's activities Photographer/marques/first aid/Advertising	£2000 £800
	AUG 10.08.19	Triathlon	Ballyronan		£800
	AUG 16 & 17.08.19 Times TBC	Lumarina	Ballyronan	Fireworks etc.	£10000
	NOV Sat 04.11.18	Big Screen Scream	Dungannon Park or Ballyronan	Drive in movie	£500
	SEPT Date TBC	Allotment Day	Dungannon Park		£3500
	DEC	Santa's Elves Workshop	Dungannon Park	Decoration of lodge/lights etc.	£300
	DEC Date TBC	Double Bill	TBC	Double bill Frozen It's a wonderful life	£500
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>				
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>				
	Financial: Projected Events expenditure as per programme £52,500 is included in 2019/20 revenue budgets.				
	Human: Event support staff time subject to event plans.				
	Risk Management: In accordance with Council risk management procedures and policy				
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>				
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: In accordance with council policy and procedures				
	Rural Needs Implications: In accordance with council policy and procedures				
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>				
5.1	Members approval is sought for the delivery of the schedule of events for the 2019/20 Parks Service Events Programme as presented at a cost of £52,000.				

<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	None.



<b>Report on</b>	Leisure and Outdoor Recreation Service Level Agreements 2019/20
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	14 March 2019
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Nigel Hill/Oliver McShane
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Nigel Hill/Oliver McShane

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To agree proposals on Service Level Agreements (SLAs) for the financial year 2019/20 only.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	<p>In the Financial Year 2018/19 the following SLAs have been in place within Leisure Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fivemiletown College Youth and Community Dept. for provision of leisure services programmes including swimming activities in Fivemiletown College Youth Annexe, Fivemiletown. Cost: £50,000 per annum on completion of pre-agreed Performance Indicators</li> <li>• Workspace, Draperstown for provision of leisure service programmes in Backrow Recreation Centre, Draperstown. Cost: £10,000 on completion of pre-agreed Performance Indicators. Workspace also pay Council £10,000 for lease of land that the Backrow Recreation Centre is built on.</li> </ul>
2.2	<p>In the Financial Year 2018/19 the following SLAs have been in place between community groups and the Parks Service for agreed maintenance, services and activity programmes based on agreed performance indicators.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Battery Harbour Management Company, Battery Harbour £9,925.</li> <li>• Muintor na Mointeach Ltd, Washingbay Wetlands Park £1,126</li> <li>• Pomeroy Community Projects, Pomeroy Forest, £6,500</li> <li>• TABBDA, Ballyronan Marina £6,000.</li> <li>• Kildress Community projects, Killucan Picnic Area, £3,365.</li> <li>• Traad Wildlife &amp; Conservation Club, Traad Point £2,000</li> <li>• Broughderg Area Development Association (BADA) for provision of a caretaking/maintenance service at Davagh Forest MBT Trailhead. Cost: £6,000 per annum on completion of pre-agreed Performance Indictors.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outdoor Concepts for provision of a Mobile Mountain Bike Hire, Bike Parts and Mountain Bike Coaching service at Davagh Forest MBT Trailhead. Income to Council £600.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	Fivemiletown College Youth and Community Dept. The SLA is due for renewal in April 2019. The current cost of the SLA is £50,000. It is proposed that the SLA be extended for 2019/20 on the same terms as they have met all their agreed Performance Indicators in 2018/19.
3.2	Workspace SLA is due for renewal. The current cost of the SLA is £10,000. It is proposed that the SLA be extended for 2019/20 on the same terms as previous. Workspace have met all their agreed Performance Indicators in 2018/19.
3.3	BADA have satisfactorily met all their Performance Indicators in 2018/19. The current cost of the SLA is £6,000. It is proposed that the SLA is continued as previously agreed for 2019/20. Once the Dark Sky Hub at Davagh has been built there will be an opportunity to review these arrangements.
3.4	Outdoor Concepts are providing a satisfactory service at Davagh MBT. It is proposed that they be allowed to continue the current £600 income payment for 2019/20. Once the Dark Sky Hub at Davagh has been built there will be an opportunity to review these arrangements.
3.5	Battery Harbour Management Company have met the agreed performance indicators for 2018/19 in relation to the inspection and maintenance requirements at Battery Harbour. It is proposed to continue on the basis of the current arrangement for 2019/20 with an agreed annual Service Level Agreement payment of £9,925.
3.6	Muintor na Mointeach Ltd, have met the agreed performance indicators for 2018/19 in relation to the inspection and maintenance requirements at Washingbay Wetlands Park. It is proposed to continue on the basis of the current arrangement for 2019/20 with an agreed annual Service Level Agreement payment of £1,126.
3.7	Pomeroy Community Projects, have met the agreed performance indicators for 2018/19 in relation to the inspection and maintenance requirements at Pomeroy Forest. It is proposed to continue on the basis of the current arrangement for 2019/20 with an agreed annual Service Level Agreement payment of £6,500.
3.8	Traad, Ballyronan and Ballyinderry Development Association, (TABBDA) have met the agreed performance indicators for 2018/19 in relation to the delivery of services required at Ballyronan Marina. It is proposed to continue on the basis of the current arrangement for 2019/20 with an agreed annual Service Level Agreement payment of £6,000.
3.9	Kildress Community Projects, have met the agreed performance indicators for 2018/19 in relation to the inspection and maintenance requirements at Killucan

3.10	<p>Picnic Area. It is proposed to continue on the basis of the current arrangement for 2019/20 with an agreed annual Service Level Agreement payment of £3,365.</p> <p>Traad Wildlife &amp; Conservation Club have met the agreed performance indicators for 2018/19 in relation to the inspection and maintenance requirements at Traad Point. It is proposed to continue on the basis of the current arrangement for 2019/20 with an agreed annual Service Level Agreement payment of £2,000.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<p><b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b></p> <p>Financial: All SLA payments are contained within existing budgets and there is provision within the 2019/20 Leisure and Parks budgets.</p> <p>Human: N/A</p> <p>Risk Management: In line with Council policy and procedures</p>
<b>4.2</b>	<p><b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b></p> <p>Equality &amp; Good Relations Implications:</p> <p>In line with Council policy and procedures</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications:</p> <p>In line with Council policy and procedures</p>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	<p>Members are asked to agree proposals on Leisure and Outdoor Recreation SLAs for the 2019/20 financial year only.</p>
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	<p>None</p>



<b>Report on</b>	Path and Angling Stands at Glenone and Newferry
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> March 2019
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Head of Parks
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Nigel Hill

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To seek members approval for the council to allocate capital budget resources in relation to the development of public path access and extension of public angling amenity at Glenone to Newferry.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	Mid Ulster District Council are seeking to continue with public path/trail and angling development opportunities on the Bann in conjunction with Water Ways Ireland strategic plan with a clear objective to seek an off-road link from Portglenone Town to Newferry, approximately 7 kilometres of trail. The project forms a key element of the draft Outdoor Recreation Strategy which will be presented to Committee for approval shortly.
2.2	Council have completed phase 1 works at Portglenone Bridge with the link to Glenone angling amenity supported through 100% funding package of £106,000 from Water Ways Ireland. Works on this phase are now complete.
2.3	In December 2018 the council approved a proposal to accept £70,000 funding from LNP and HLF to establish new public access opportunities and create additional angling facilities along a section of river bank from Ballymacombs to Newferry and to establish private landowner lease agreements to facilitate the proposed development.
2.4	The identification of further necessary development works to facilitate the upcoming FIPSeD European Coarse Angling Championships 2019 angling requires council to extend the scope of works at Glenone Wood and Newferry to accommodate additional angling stands. This requires refurbishment of existing stands and establishment of new stands/pegs. It also requires the provision of an upgrade to current public path and vehicular access roads. This necessitates additional stands to be provided at stage 2 of the project if the event is to go ahead.

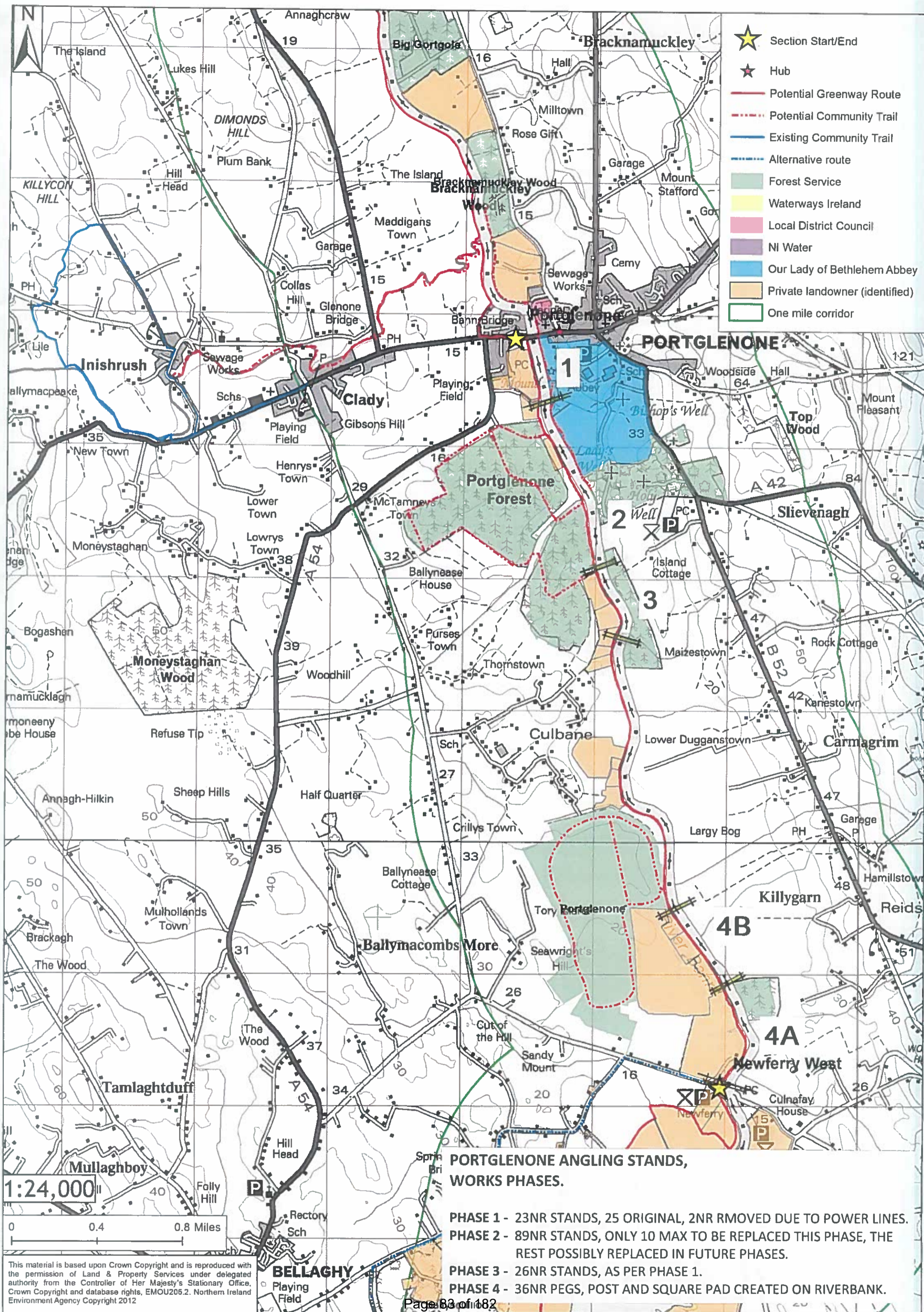
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	The EURO 25 – FIPSeD European Coarse Angling Championships 2019 is an annual event scheduled for 27 <sup>th</sup> -30 <sup>th</sup> June, which affiliated national angling associations countries from across Europe bid to host, in a format not unlike how countries bid for the hosting of the Olympic games. This year's European Championships is brought to Ireland by the National Coarse Fishing Federation of Ireland the only body representing coarse & predator angling in Ireland, North and South and the only body representing the World Sport Fishing Federation, CIPS. The achievement of scooping this event has been the culmination of two years lobbying by the National Coarse Fishing Federation of Ireland (NCFFI) and Water Ways Ireland (WWI).
3.2	The event planners anticipate 25 nations will take part in the event scheduled for the third week in June 2019 and have based their estimates on data collected from previous similar events.
3.3	In addition, the federation must supply a significant number of stewards (125) to facilitate the event, some of whom along with the organisers will choose to stay in the local area adding to the overall economic benefits this event will bring to the area.
3.4	Spectator numbers are difficult to gauge and dependant on promotion but are estimated to be in excess of 5,000 based on previous events hosted by The National Coarse Fishing Federation of Ireland (NCFFI).
3.5	Economic forecast estimations provided by NCFFI based on similar events hosted in Ireland based on a profile of 25 attending nations suggests that up to 2,000 bed nights for the region will be generated over the period in advance of the competition and during the actual event weekend. With additional visits for training outside of the championships and an increase in the number of events on the venue, NCFFI believe the event has the ability to deliver a direct economic benefit of up to £2m and will leave a legacy for angling in the region
3.4	In December 2018 members approved to accept Lough Neagh Partnership and Heritage Lottery Fund financial contributions of £70,000 towards the project. Currently other funding opportunities are limited. Mid Ulster District Council is seeking potential additional funding opportunities for 2019-20 with Waterways Ireland, SportNI and DAERA under Tackling Rural poverty and Social Isolation (TRPSI) programmes, however at this stage there is no confirmation.
3.5	Nevertheless the short and longer-term net benefits associated to the development of the venue in managed phases coupled with the hosting of the prestigious EURO 25 will have an instant and lasting impact on the region and provide a basis for a

	continued programme of development that will underpin the importance of the River Bann and Mid Ulster to an audience across the countries of Europe and further afield as a result of this initiative and the infrastructure provided under the scope of the scheme.
3.6	Portglenone Angling and Blueway Project has the capacity to deliver a world class-angling venue fit to compete on any comparable stage. The quality of the River Bann and accessible green/open space is an instant attraction to visitors and anglers alike. The project will open the countryside for members of the community of all abilities as well as visiting tourists, increasing economic opportunities and developing cross community cohesion and increased social inclusion seamlessly.
3.7	In order to advance the necessary elements of the stage 2 development proposal an estimated capital resource contribution of £315,883 from council is requested (projections are based on actual tendered costs associated to phase one, similar programme of works). The figure does not include 10% contingency or professional fees).
3.8	<p>The extension to the scope of works will require additional land take. Landowner agreements will be required on the basis of a lease to council of identified strips of land totalling approximately 1500 - 2000 metres long and 10-15 metres wide to create a development corridor to permit public access and the creation of additional angling stands. The main terms of the Lease will follow the current draft template and include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 25 year term with option to renew;</li> <li>• 5 yearly rent reviews linked to market rent;</li> <li>• The Council will provide and maintain all agreed accommodation works associated to boundary stock proof fencing, gates or styles;</li> <li>• The Council will bear the initial cost of a water supply to the lands for the purposes of watering stock;</li> <li>• The Council will inspect and maintain the public car park area, public access pathways, angling stands and all furniture and signage associated to the amenity; and</li> <li>• The Council will provide public liability insurance.</li> </ul>
3.9	Land & Property Services will be required to provide a valuation on the measured land take to facilitate the development proposal.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	<p>Financial:</p> <p>Council Capital Fund Allocation to project of £315,883.</p> <p>Council will be responsible for the payment of the Lessor's reasonable legal fees and Agent fees in respect to a Lease.</p>

	<p>Council is also responsible for LPS valuation costs and the annual rent agreed between the parties.</p> <p>Council will be responsible for annual insurance, inspection and maintenance costs associated to operational management.</p>
	<p>Human: Council Officers time.</p>
	<p>Risk Management:</p> <p>In accordance with current Council risk management procedures</p>
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	<p>Equality &amp; Good Relations Implications:</p> <p>In accordance with council policies and procedures.</p>
	<p>Rural Needs Implications:</p> <p>In accordance with council policies and procedures.</p>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	That Members note the level of external funding secured to date and the strategic importance of continued public access and angling developments on the River Bann in conjunction with MUDC's objective to establish a continuous trail link from Portglenone to Newferry.
5.2	Members recommend to Policy and Resources Committee that approval is sought for the allocation of £315,883 funding from 2019-20 Council Capital Programme Fund. The figure does not include 10% contingency or professional fees).
5.3	Members approval is sought to establish all necessary landowner lease agreements in relation to the council's objective to link Glenone to Newferry.
5.4	Members approval is sought to seek all necessary valuations and to engage LPS on all further landowner lease agreement valuations associated to the Glenone to Newferry development plan.
5.5	For Members approval to engage, tender and procure the necessary ICT and capital works contractors, were necessary, in order to deliver the project as proposed.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	Appendix 1 Plan map

	Appendix 2 Business Plan Appendix 3 Event summary Appendix 4 Letter from NCFFI
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## **BUSINESS CASE/ECONOMIC APPRAISAL FOR: -**

**Portglenone/Blueway Angling Project**

## **Department and Author: -**

**NIGEL HILL**

## **Date: -**

**7<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

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- 8.0 Organisational Areas Affected**
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# **Business Case/Economic Appraisal**

## **1. Executive Summary**

EURO 25 – FIPSeD European Coarse Angling Championships 2019 is annual event scheduled for 27<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup> June, which affiliated national angling associations countries from across Europe bid to host, in a format not unlike how countries bid for the hosting of the Olympic games. This year's European Championships is brought to Ireland by the National Coarse Fishing Federation of Ireland the only body representing coarse & predator angling in Ireland, North and South and the only body representing the World Sport Fishing Federation, CIPS. The achievement of scooping this event has been the culmination of two years lobbying by the National Coarse Fishing Federation of Ireland (NCFFI) and Water Ways Ireland (WWI).

Mid Ulster District Council became directly involved as a result of having the potential to host the event at Glenone, on the River Bann. Mid Ulster District Council in conjunction with Waterways Ireland initiated the first stage development of the access trail and upgrade/development of fishing stands from Portglenone to Newferry West as these infrastructural improvements were crucial in assisting with their bid to bring the European Coarse Angling Championship to the area in 2019. Waterways Ireland views the development not only as a means of encouraging angling in the area but also as the first part of the developing a Blue Way on the Lower Bann.

The Council meeting in December 2017 resolved to accept an offer of funding for £106k from Waterways Ireland in respect of the initial element of the proposed Blue Way Trail (Portlenone Bridge to Glenone Coarse Angling Amenity) and thereafter to engage with Land and Property Services and landowners to establish access agreements.

A Project Steering Group was established with representation from Council Officers, Waterways Ireland, local councillor's/MLA, The Honourable Irish Society, Ulster Coarse Fishing Federation/National Coarse Fishing Federation and Angling NI. The steering group meets on a scheduled basis to coordinate the plan to develop the proposal to host the EURO 25 – FIPSeD European Coarse Angling Championships 2019.

Phase one development at Portglenone to the value of £106k has been completed and was opened to the public in December 2018. This section provided new multi-use public path along the river bank and an additional 23 fishing stands. Mid Ulster District Council entered into a twenty-five year lease agreement with the relevant landowner as a requirement by the funder WWI.

Mid Ulster District Council have identified Glenone Coarse Angling Amenity as a capital development project and have currently secured NIEA/Landscape Partnership funding of £70k and are seeking to establish a match funding package of £120K (£87k DEARA and £30k MUDC) under the Rural Development Programme, Lough Neagh Co-operation fund. The proposal has been worked up with initial feasibility reports presented to the LAG and council are awaiting a potential Letter of Offer in Sept 2019. If successful this funding will assist with the ongoing development and upgrade of current infrastructure along the designated sections of angling stands and access path that will ultimately link Portglenone to Newferry.

Negotiations and agreements with local landowners have taken place and will continue on a rolling basis in order to successfully link from Portglenone to Newferry. Consultations with DAERA/Forest Service (NI) and other private landowners are currently live to develop access

agreements within the scope of the Blue Way proposal to link Portglenone to Newferry.

Council have appointed Robinson and Sons (architects/civil engineers) to design and project manage the project works. The procurement of a contractor for the next phases is ongoing at this stage. Projected costs for the phases are summarised below.

Phase 1 £106,000 (completed 100% funded)

Phase 2 £96,545 (RDP £87k subject to LoO Sept 19)

Phase 3 £117,000

Phase 4 £289,338 (£70K funding secured)

**OPTION 1 Total Projection Costs £608,883k**

Funding potential for the scheme is projected at £263k (approx. 43%) as of this date.

**OPTION 2 Cost to progress project**

Phase 2 & 4 Costs      £385,883

Less secured funding   £ 70,000

**Projected Council Capital funding required £315,883**

Mid Ulster District Council are seeking potential additional funding opportunities for 2019-20 with SportNI and DAERA under Tackling Rural poverty and Social Isolation (TRPSI) programmes, however at this stage there is no confirmation.

**To progress the project at this stage a financial contribution of £315,883k from council capital funds is required as indicated under option 2.**

## **2. Introduction & Overview**

Give a brief description of the proposal including the key objectives.

### **EURO 25 – FIPSeD European Coarse Angling Championships 2019**

The 25th FIPSeD European Championships is brought to Ireland by the National Coarse Fishing Federation of Ireland the only body representing coarse & predator angling in Ireland, North and South and the only body representing the World Sport Fishing Federation, CIPS.

The importance of the Championships is the opportunity to host a European level event and provide a top ranking angling venue for the visiting teams who will stay, compete and contribute to the local economy in advance of and over the period of the event. Also the media exposure of what Mid Ulster has to offer will be promoted throughout Europe for months in advance of the event. The event will showcase the River Bann as a world class angling destination leaving a legacy for angling tourism in the area with an opportunity for the local clubs to increase the size of existing competitions or indeed introduce more.

A Fáilte Ireland survey taken during a large competition in the border region showed us that the visiting angler spends double that of the normal holidaymaker. Based on this Cork County Council calculations showed a Total Direct Economic Benefit for a previous FIPS-ed event, World Youth Angling Championships in Inniscarra, Coachford, County Cork in 2017 of €2.6m. This event was a junior championship accommodating 286 anglers over an average stay of eight

nights.

The Championships event we are hosting in 2019 was held in Italy in 2017 and saw teams from 24 different countries including the home nation take part; in 2017 in Slovenia 30 nations attended. There will be 9 members of each team as a minimum with many countries bringing more, representing 1600 to 2000 bed nights approx. We anticipate 25 nations will take part and have based our estimated running costs on this. In addition, the federation must supply a significant number of stewards (125) to facilitate the event some of whom along with the organisers will choose to stay in the local area. Spectator numbers are difficult to gauge and dependant on promotion but could be in excess of 5000. The venue is closed to competitors the two weeks prior to the event and therefore a number of teams will make a separate visit for practise prior to this.

Aside from the benefit to the local community and wider area the championships will serve to provide a legacy for coarse angling on the Lower River Bann and highlight the multi-purpose use Blueway. Already additional festivals and events are being planned along with a junior angling hub.

### **Promotion**

This event will showcase the fine angling facility enhanced to international status.

Both the World Organisation CIPS and Freshwater body FIPs-ed will promote the event through their own channels with a worldwide following.

The NCFFI has popular social media channels that will capture this specialist market live from the bank and followed up with press releases to the angling press. Angling journalists are being encouraged to attend.

The prestige of the anglers on the bank and their sponsors will showcase the individuals fishing through their own platforms followed by coarse angling enthusiasts, match and leisure anglers.

Coarse angling is an under-developed tourism product with stunning potential. Tourism NI have committed to work with us to help with the creation of an angling experience to enhance the leisure product. We hope they will come onboard with media investment to secure a legacy for the area and utilise the imagery opportunities.

### **Key Objectives:**

To host the EURO 25 – FIPsEd European Coarse Angling Championships 2019

To develop infrastructure along the River Bann capable of accommodating 180 anglers and 5,000 spectators for the European Coarse Angling Championships 2019.

## **3. Market analysis/Strategies?**

Identify aspects of the Organisational Strategy.

### **Mid Ulster District Council Corporate Plan 2015 – 2019**

The overarching vision of the Council's Corporate Plan is 'Mid Ulster Council aspires to be at the heart of our community'.

The Council has identified a number of key issues of importance to the people across Mid Ulster including; education, the economy, the environment, safety, a sense of belonging, partnership working, improved infrastructure, accessible amenities and attractive vibrant, tourism villages and open spaces. These issues are reflected in four themes namely:

1. Delivering for our People

## 2. Creating Growth

## 3. Sustaining our Environment

## 4. Building Unity

Theme 1: 'Delivering for our People' includes as its priorities for action: 'High quality, responsive, indoor and outdoor recreational services with increased customer numbers and satisfaction'.

Theme 2: 'Creating Growth' recognises the importance of a capital investment and improvement programme for the area including improving the physical infrastructure and connectivity of Mid Ulster and the importance of optimising the tourism potential of Mid Ulster'.

Theme 3: 'Sustaining our Environment' recognises the important of the environment which the Plan notes as deserving to be protected, preserved and enhanced for the enjoyment of everyone. Specific priorities include:

- maximising potential of the area's natural and built attractions and facilities, building collaborative partnerships and strategic alliances
- realising the tourism potential of Mid Ulster, being clear upon the opportunities and targeting resources
- developing and enhancing parks, play areas and open spaces to encourage physical activity and open the countryside in a sustainable manner to our community.

The importance of community planning is recognised in Theme 4: 'Building Unity', whereby a key priority of the Council is to use Community Planning and consequently Community Trails to connect communities and form collaborative partnerships.

### **Mid Ulster District Council Community Plan**

Community Planning is a significant new statutory power which has been presented to Councils within Northern Ireland as a result of local government reform. Mid Ulster's first Community Plan published in 2016 sets out the vision of:

'Mid Ulster – a welcoming place where our people are content, healthy and safe; educated and skilled; where our economy is thriving; our environment and heritage are sustained; and where our public services excel'.

The Plan sets out 15 outcomes to be achieved through a number of actions that have been structured into 5 themes namely:

- Economic growth
- Infrastructure
- Education and Skills
- Health and Well Being and Vibrant and;
- Safe Communities

Running across the five themes are three cross cutting themes which impact on all aspects of life in Mid Ulster. One of these is 'sustainable environment' which recognises that Mid Ulster is home to many precious environments which its people have fostered and cherished for generations.

Four of the five themes include actions relating directly to the wider agenda of outdoor recreation as follows:

#### **Economic growth**

- maximise tourism investment and employment concentrating on the three strategic tourism themes of Seamus Heaney, Activity and Heritage.

#### **Infrastructure**

- secure the transfer of Lough Neagh into public ownership.
- progress the reinstatement of the Ulster Canal and its greenway links.

- increase the protection of, and access to and development of heritage assets – both natural and man-made including; Seamus Heaney countryside, O'Neill heritage, Lough Neagh, Sperrins, Beaghmore and the area's forests.

#### Health and Well Being

- deliver a Recreation and Active Lifestyle Plan which will provide formal and informal recreation and play opportunities.

#### Vibrant and Safe Communities

- promote and develop shared space across the area.

### **Tourism Strategy and Action Plan for 2016 – 2021 for Mid Ulster District Council**

Prepared by BTS, the Action Plan sets out the vision for tourism in Mid Ulster as;

'to enhance Mid Ulster's image and reputation for visitors and grow the visitor economy to £50m by 2021 as measured by overnight visitor expenditure'.

In order to achieve this vision the Plan highlights five strategic themes and interrelated actions for delivery one of which is the:

- development of three strategic tourism strands (Seamus Heaney, Archaeological Sites history and heritage and Outdoor Activities).

The development of outdoor activities in the area is therefore recognised as serving as one of the three strategic core propositions for Mid Ulster to attract visitors, encourage them to stay longer in the area and ensure that tourism contributes to the local economy.

The Action Plan states that 'the objective of focussing on the outdoor activity market lies in its scale and size and the opportunity of strengthening the competitiveness of the Mid Ulster destination, by building on this underdeveloped sector'.

Key actions identified in the Plan to improve the economic contribution of outdoor and activity tourism include:

- creating a coherent and compelling range of outdoor activity sites and facilities by pulling all existing and potential new sites under one umbrella.
- positioning Mid Ulster as a centre of excellence for the visitor, thus encouraging them to visit the area, stay longer and spend more.
- the development of the outdoor and activity tourism product comprising both physical development and management and organisational dimensions – marketing, interagency collaboration and cluster development.
- the development of key Forest Parks – Parkanaur, Knockmany and Drum Manor.
- the delivery of a year round programme of events.

#### 4. Links to Council Policy/Strategic Context

Identify aspects of the Divisional/Unit Plan that are addressed.

**CRP 1.3 Delivering for Our People** - High quality, responsive indoor and outdoor recreational services with increased customer numbers and satisfaction

**CRP 3.4 Sustaining our Environment** - Develop & enhance parks, play areas & open spaces to encourage physical activity and open the countryside in a sustainable manner to our community

#### Strategic Context

Link to Community Plan Theme:	Corporate Plan Theme						
CMP 2.2 Infrastructure - We increasingly value our environment	CRP 3.4 Sustaining our Environment - Develop & enhance parks, play areas & open spaces to encourage physical activity and open the countryside in a sustainable manner to our community.						
Service Objective	How Will we measure the impact of our work (PI's)	Where are we now? (Baseline data)	What do we want to achieve?	How Will we get there?			
				Key Actions	Dates	Owners	Outcome
Access to the Countryside development via long distance trails	Creation of a Blueway Trail on the Lower Bann from Portglenone to Newferry in partnership with Waterways Ireland (WI) and community stakeholders	Conceptual proposals for the route have been created through partnership with WI and ORNI. Stage one Initial funding offer from Waterways Ireland £106k.	Complete multiple landowner agreements for identified sections of the route.  Seek second stage funding from RDP  Major European angling event August 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public/Landowner/stakeholder consultation</li> <li>Access agreements</li> <li>Project Tender brief/procurement</li> <li>Design Planning and construction</li> <li>Stage 1 completion</li> <li>Stage 2 funding DRP</li> <li>Stage 2 Project Tender brief/procurement</li> <li>Stage 2 Design planning and construction</li> <li>Stage 2 completion</li> </ul>	May 2018 June 2018 May 2018 Aug 2018 Sept 2018 Mar 2019 May 2019 July 2019 Sept 2019	MUDC Waterway Ireland Ulster coarse Anglers Federation Forest Service NI Angling NI Honourable Irish Society Local Communities Landowners	Creation of five kilometres of off-road public path. Provision and refurbishment of 150 angling stands. Walk and cycle link from Portglenone town to Blueway trial Establishment of significant water recreation hub in Northern Ireland

Link to Community Plan Theme:	Corporate Plan Theme						
CMP 4.2 Health & Wellbeing - We have better availability to the right service, in the right place at the right time.	CRP 1.3 Delivering for Our People - High quality, responsive indoor and outdoor recreational services with increased customer numbers and satisfaction						
Service Objective	How Will we measure the impact of our work (PI's)	Where are we now? (Baseline data)	What do we want to achieve? (Targets)	How Will we get there?			
				Key Actions	Dates	Owners	Outcome
<p>Deliver event and activity programmes at the core MUDC venues</p> <p>Support event and activity programmes in Forest &amp; Countryside venues managed by Mid Ulster District Council</p> <p>Deliver Parks Marketing Plan in conjunction with MUDC Marketing &amp; Communications</p>	<p>Delivery of Parks Service events programme to schedule and within allocated budget</p> <p>Support programme of public and community events to schedule and within allocated budget</p> <p>Delivery of integrated marketing plan for Parks 2018/19 Spring/Summer Programme</p>	<p>Delivered 26 events in 2017</p> <p>Supported 8 events in 2017</p> <p>Initial Parks Marketing Plan established in 2017</p>	<p>Delivery of 29 Council Events as part of Parks Service calendar</p> <p>Support 10 Events as part of a wider programme of public and community events calendar</p> <p>Establish Parks identity and increased Parks Service profile with 1 publication and 4 specific event campaigns</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review budget allocation</li> <li>Establish programme of events</li> <li>Tender/procurement of services</li> <li>Link with marketing and communications</li> <li>Produce marketing campaigns</li> <li>Coordinate logistical resources</li> <li>Deliver events programme</li> <li>Evaluations/Feedback analysis</li> <li>Review marketing budget</li> <li>Development marketing plan with Marketing &amp; Communications</li> <li>Deliver Marketing Plan objectives</li> <li>Evaluations/Feedback analysis</li> </ul>	<p>April – Oct 2018</p> <p>April – Oct 2018</p>	<p>Parks Service Marketing and Communications Stakeholder and participating Community groups/organisations</p>	<p>Programme of varied events and activities across Parks Service / MUDC venues throughout the spring/summer /autumn period seeking to engage a broad spectrum of participant and spectator audience</p> <p>Promoted effectively and delivered to a high standard in term of quality, public satisfaction and safety</p>

## 5. Assessment of Benefits/Need

What are the opportunities and benefits for the Organisation and User(s)?

### Blueway development -Phase 1

- **Opportunity** - to host 2019 European Coarse Angling Championships on Lower Bann through NCFFI
- **Funding opportunity** arose –WWI
- Glenone –**existing 89 stands Need approx. 170!**
- Potential to build access path but leave blueway legacy
- **Link to town** of Portglenone –cafes, bars ,restaurants –create a hub
- **Possible link up** on Eastern shore with Mid and East Antrim Council proposed riverside path –extended path creation



**BLUEWAY,  
DO IT YOUR WAY!**



## LOCAL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Product and Brand developed by WI in response to consumer demand for outdoor activities and experience-based tourism

Opportunity to use the Blueways Brand as a hook

Backed by domestic and international marketing campaigns

Success through collaboration and cross-selling



**BLUEWAY,  
DO IT YOUR WAY!**



The Championships event planned for Portglenone in 2019 was held in Italy in 2017 and saw teams from 24 different countries including the home nation take part. In 2015 in Slovenia 30 nations attended.

The championship angling event teams are comprised of up to 9 members on each team as a minimum with many countries bringing more. This will likely require the availability of up to 1600 and even to a maximum of 2000 bed nights over the period of the practice week and actual competition weekend.

The event planners anticipate 25 nations will take part in the event scheduled for the third week in June 2019 and have based their estimates on data collected from previous similar events.

In addition, the federation must supply a significant number of stewards (125) to facilitate the event some of whom along with the organisers will choose to stay in the local area adding to the overall economic benefits this event will bring to the area.

Spectator numbers are difficult to gauge and dependant on our promotion but are estimated to be in excess of 5000 based on previous events hosted by The National Coarse Fishing Federation of Ireland (NCFFI).

The venue will be closed to competitors the two weeks prior to the event, which is normal practice for such national angling events and as a result this stimulates early pre-event visits to the venue by potential teams in advance of the actual competition dates and therefore further increase and spreads the opportunity for local businesses to benefit from the pre-event build-up that is a feature of this nature of event. It is anticipated that a significant number of teams will make a separate visit for practise sessions in the lead up to the scheduled June competition dates.

Aside from the benefit to the local community and wider area the championships will serve to provide a legacy for coarse angling on the Lower River Bann and highlight the multi-purpose use Blueway. Already additional festivals and events are being planned along with a junior angling hub.

## Benefits for Local Communities

- **Contribution to health and well-being** by providing outdoor trails and linkages to products
- **Tourism potential of the area is increased**
- **Economic and social benefits are realised** with increased potential to stimulate local businesses and regenerate local areas
- **Blueways provide an effective model of partnership** between private, community, and voluntary sectors and relevant public bodies.



**BLUEWAY,  
DO IT YOUR WAY!**





## 6. Implications of not undertaking Proposal

What problems will arise if the proposal does not go ahead?

EURO 25 – FIPSeD European Coarse Angling Championships 2019 is an annual event which affiliated national angling associations from across Europe bid to host, in a format not unlike how countries bid for the hosting of the Olympic games. This year's European Championships is brought to Ireland by the National Coarse Fishing Federation of Ireland, the only body representing coarse & predator angling in Ireland, North and South and the only body representing the World Sport Fishing Federation, CIPS. The achievement of scooping this event has been the culmination of two years of lobbying by the National Coarse Fishing Federation of Ireland (NCFFI) and Water Ways Ireland (WWI). Should this proposal not be progressed, Mid Ulster District Council would miss an important opportunity to host the prestigious angling event and jeopardise the image of the council in successfully bidding for future events.



# FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DE LA PÊCHE SPORTIVE EN EAU DOUCE



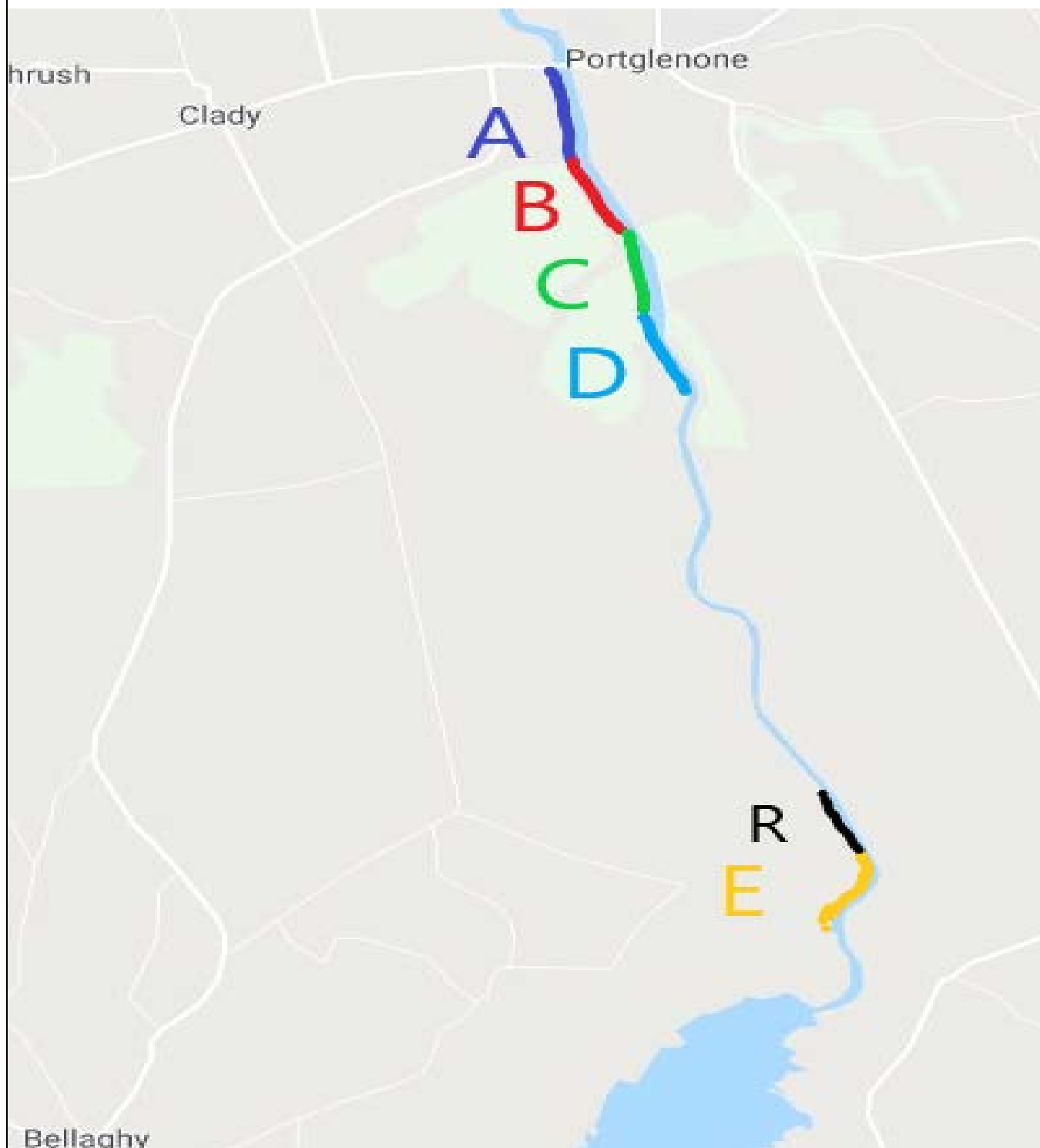
## WORLD & ZONE CHAMPIONSHIPS

CHAMPIONSHIPS	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
ICE FISHING	<b>16<sup>th</sup> BULGARIA</b> January 26-27 Batak/ Shiroka Poliana Lake	POLAND USA LITHUANIA	LITHUANIA			
CARNIVOROUS A.B. SHORE	<b>17<sup>th</sup> FRANCE</b> June 1-2 Aurillac/Cère River	BULGARIA PORTUGAL				
COARSE ANGLING CLUBS	<b>39<sup>th</sup> CROATIA</b> July 20-21 Prelog/Orehovica Channel	SERBIA PORTUGAL SLOVENIA	SLOVENIA ITALY			
COARSE ANGLING EUROPE	<b>25<sup>th</sup> IRELAND</b> June 29-30 Lower River Bann	PORTUGAL		HUNGARY		
COARSE ANGLING VETERANS	<b>12<sup>th</sup> ITALY</b> June 15-16 Pisa/Scolmatore Channel	SLOVENIA	SPAIN HUNGARY SLOVENIA	HUNGARY		
COARSE ANGLING MASTERS	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> SOUTH AFRICA</b> February 14-15 Vereeniging/Vaal River	SLOVENIA	SPAIN HUNGARY SLOVENIA	HUNGARY		
COARSE ANGLING DISABLED	<b>21<sup>st</sup> ITALY</b> June 15-16 Pisa/Scolmatore Channel	SLOVENIA	SPAIN HUNGARY SLOVENIA	HUNGARY		
COARSE ANGLING YOUTH U15 – U20 - U25	<b>SPAIN</b> <b>24<sup>th</sup> U15</b> <b>23<sup>rd</sup> U20</b> <b>12<sup>th</sup> U25</b> August 10-11 Ciudad Real/El Vicario	SLOVENIA POLAND HUNGARY	PORTUGAL SLOVENIA			
COARSE ANGLING LADIES	<b>26<sup>th</sup> SOUTH AFRICA</b> February 15-16 Vereeniging/Vaal River	SERBIA ITALY	SPAIN ITALY	PORTUGAL		
COARSE ANGLING NATIONS	<b>66<sup>th</sup> SERBIA</b> September 7-8 Novi Sad/Canal DTD	ITALY CROATIA	SPAIN CROATIA ITALY			
TROUT WITH NATURAL BAITS CLUBS	<b>27<sup>th</sup> BULGARIA</b> September 28-29 Devin/Vacha River					
CARNIVOROUS A.B. BOATS	<b>12<sup>th</sup> SOUTH AFRICA</b> February 12-13 Loskop Dam/Mpumalanga	POLAND	IRELAND			
BLACK-BASS	<b>15<sup>th</sup> SOUTH AFRICA</b> February 12-14 Vanderbijlpark/Vaal River	ITALY VENEZUELA USA	PORTUGAL ITALY			
CARP	<b>21<sup>st</sup> SOUTH AFRICA</b> February 10-13 Bloemhof Dam/Bamboesspruit	UKRAINE	ITALY	PORTUGAL		
FEEDER	<b>9<sup>th</sup> SOUTH AFRICA</b> February 16-17 Bloemhof Dam/Sandveld	FRANCE NETHERLANDS	BULGARIA UKRAINE	PORTUGAL		
FEEDER CLUBS	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> PORTUGAL</b> May 18-19 Cabeçao	IRELAND BULGARIA ITALY SOUTH AFRICA	SOUTH AFRICA ITALY			

**CHAMPIONSHIPS ASSIGNED AFTER VENUES INSPECTIONS: Nations quoted in bold and underlined**  
**CANDIDATURES TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION: Nations quoted in bold (still pending for the definitive allocation)**  
 CANDIDATURES TO BE CONFIRMED: Nations without underline and bold font.

## EURO 25 – FIPSeD European Coarse Angling Championships 2019

### DESIGNATED ALLOCATION OF 180 ANGLING PEGS PORTGLENONE TO NEWFERRY



In order to host a championship at this level NCFFI need to be able to accommodate participating teams from 25 to 30 nations. The required number of fishing pegs/stands for the event is from 150 to 180 with 6 pegs/stands required per participating nation in training and 5 for competition. The plan is to utilise all available stands/pegs in the current development plan whether it be for training and/or competition.

## 7. Alternatives/Describe the options available

What are the alternatives/options to undertaking the proposed development?

The options below provide the opportunity to scope the overall project in terms of cost and associated funding as of this date. Future additional funding opportunities may well be available in 2019-20 funding programme, which have not yet opened. These are currently being pursued with funding organisation such as DAERA and Sport NI.

Projected costs for the phases are summarised below.

### **PORTGLENONE ANGLING & BLUEWAY PROJECT**

Phase 1 £106,000 (completed 100% funded)

Phase 2 £96,545 (RDP £87k subject to LoO Sept 19)

Phase 3 £117,000

Phase 4 £289,338 (£70K funding secured)

#### **OPTION 1 Total Projection Costs £608,883k**

Funding potential for the scheme is projected at £263k (approx. 43%) as of this date.

#### **OPTION 2 Cost to progress project (complete phases 2 & 4 only)**

Phase 2 & 4 Costs      £385,883

Less secured funding   £ 70,000

#### **Projected Council Capital funding required £315,883**

Funding potential for the scheme is projected at £70k (approx. 18%) as of this date.

Mid Ulster District Council are seeking potential additional funding opportunities for 2019-20 with SportNI and DAERA under Tackling Rural poverty and Social Isolation (TRPSI) programmes, however at this stage there is no confirmation.

**To progress the project at this stage a financial contribution of £315,883 from council capital funds is required as indicated under option 2.**

## 8. Organisational Areas Affected

What staff, processes and systems will be affected by the proposed development?

The existing MUDC organisational staffing structures are sufficient to develop and deliver the project in partnership with suitably qualified ICT personnel commissioned for the project.

## 9. Risks

What risks are involved in implementing the proposal and how will they be managed?

Risk Description	Risk management / mitigation measures
Failure to secure the necessary funding to allow sufficient work to be done at any one time to make an 'impact' on the ground.	<p>There are few eligible funding programmes currently open due to the time of year for this project. Council will therefore need to include the project costs within its own capital budget. There is a risk that other projects will take priority within the Council and insufficient funding is available to deliver on the ground in a meaningful way.</p> <p>To mitigate against this risk, Council should commit to phasing the project over several concurrent years. Phase 2 and Phase 4 to be prioritised at this stage.</p>
Increasing costs due to phasing	<p>Given the time frame pressures and costs involved, it will be necessary to phase the projects over several years. There is a risk that with development taking place in a 'piecemeal fashion' over a longer period of time, the costs of construction may increase by the time each phase of the project has been tendered.</p> <p>To mitigate against this risk, Council should commit to starting phase 2 and 4 of the project in the 2019-2020 financial year.</p>

Time frame schedule associated to procurement and project delivery. The table indicated the extreme pressure associated to the various elements of the project. Any delay on associated actions will have a negative impact and likely to jeopardise the deliverability of meeting the competition dates of 27 <sup>th</sup> -30 <sup>th</sup> June 2019.	ACTIVITY	PQQ & ITT
	Topographical survey of the site	
	Board review meeting to discuss Project overview paper	5 <sup>th</sup> March 2019
	ITT Documents ready for MUDC review	12 <sup>th</sup> March 2019
	ITT Documents ready for Procurement review	13 <sup>th</sup> March 2019
	Release of ITT documents following “design freeze”.	15 <sup>th</sup> March 2019
	Date for return of tenders of ITT tender documents	29 <sup>th</sup> March 2019
	Moderate ITT Tenders	1 <sup>st</sup> – 2 <sup>nd</sup> April 2019
	Papers to be ready for Full council	4 <sup>th</sup> April 2019
	Present IST award at Full Council	15 <sup>th</sup> April 2019
	Award of contract	23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2019
	1 week mobilisation for Contract – Commence on site	25 <sup>th</sup> April 2019
	Completion of project (following 6 week of construction)	9 <sup>th</sup> June 2019 ( 6 week construction period )
	MUDC mobilisation of Park staff ready for occupation	11 <sup>th</sup> June 2019
	CRITICAL KEY DATES	
	50% funding to be spent by end of March 2019	
	w/c 24 <sup>th</sup> June 2019 – practice and competition later in week ( 29 <sup>th</sup> and 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2019 )	
The Employer reserves the right to amend these timescales.		
Planning permission and Legal agreements with landowners.	Full planning permission is not required for the main elements of the project. These are deliverable within the scope of Permitted Development includes the access paths and angling pegs and associated accommodation works, specific to landowner requirements.  There is a risk that legal agreements could result in delays in	

	<p>delivery or key elements of the project not happening at all, which would then have a knock on effect on other elements of the project.</p> <p>To mitigate against this risk, Council Officers leading on the project will work closely with landowners and our legal colleagues to ensure that sufficient binding permissions are in place. Letters of Comfort exchanged to permit progress.</p>
Insufficient on-going revenue funding.	<p>Maintaining the current site costs approx. £15,000 per annum in relation to staff time and maintenance. The extension to the trails will add to the revenue costs incrementally.</p> <p>Glenone Angling and Blueway litter is inspected three times per week for inspection and litter collection. Maintenance on hedge/shrubbery and boundary maintenance are undertaken as required during the winter months and during the grass cutting season a mobile 3-person squad attends every 2 weeks to cut grass and pathways blown. This currently costs approx. £12,000</p> <p>There is a risk that if no additional revenue funding is made available for a part-time Park Attendant that the new facilities will not be sufficiently inspected and maintained to meet visitors' experience, elements will become the target of anti-social behaviour causing the local community to feel unsafe again and ultimately not use the Park.</p> <p>To mitigate against this risk, Council must recognise the importance of sustaining annual revenue budgets.</p>
Local community support diminishes from local communities and landowners	<p>Certain aspects of this overall project has been on-going for years from a legacy and MUDC perspective. Local communities and landowners have witnessed tangible outcomes on the ground to a varying degree.</p> <p>There is the risk that the local community will lose their enthusiasm for the project and their 'buy in' required moving</p>

	<p>forward to the project's ongoing sustainability in terms of willingness to support and being ambassadors for the on-going improvements that the Blueway can deliver medium and long-term.</p> <p>To mitigate against this risk, the local community must be kept informed and involved in progress throughout and given the opportunity to raise any concerns and issues related to the project through an open public forum/consultation on a regular basis. The established steering group will manage this role.</p>

## 10. Investment Costs

What is the summary of capital investment costs for the proposed development?

## **PORTGLENONE ANGLING & BLUEWAY PROJECT**

Phase 1 £106,000 (completed 100% funded)  
Phase 2 £96,545 (RDP £87k subject to LoO Sept 19)  
Phase 3 £117,000  
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### **OPTION 1 Total Projection Costs £608,883k**

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### **OPTION 2 Cost to progress project (complete phases 2 & 4 only)**

Phase 2 & 4 Costs      £385,883  
Less secured funding   £ 70,000

### **Projected Council Capital funding required £315,883**

Funding potential for the scheme is projected at £70k (approx. 18%) as of this date.

**The project is currently on hold without council capital commitment.**

**To progress the project at this stage a financial contribution of £315,883 from council capital funds is required as indicated under option 2.**

## **11. Running Costs**

*What are the costs to run this proposal as a service/system?*

*Projected running costs based on a percentage of current annual budget allocations for annual*

council budget allocations. Maintaining the current site costs approx. £15,000 per annum in relation to staff time and maintenance. The extension to the trails will add to the revenue costs incrementally. With significant investment and the anticipated increased use, an additional Part-time Park Attendant (7hrs/week) is required to cover in both terms of work and physical presence. This will cost an additional £5,400 per annum

Staff

£ 5,400 Park Attendant Service.

Operational General Costs £15k Total annual running costs £20,400\*

\*estimated cost

## 12. Payback/NPV (Net Present Value)

How and on what timescales will the projected costs be recouped as savings or benefits?

One off economic forecast estimations provided by NCFFI based on similar events hosted in Ireland based on a profile of 25 attending nations suggests that up to 2000 bed nights for the region will be generated over the period in advance of the competition and during the actual event weekend.. With additional visits for training outside of the championships and an increase in the number of events on the venue, NCFFI believe the event has the ability to deliver a direct economic benefit of up to £2m and will leave a legacy for angling in the region.

This is underpinned by the volume of new and returning users, the benefits associated to health and wellbeing and the quality of feedback and levels of satisfaction across a full range of users especially those from sections of the community that are identified as underrepresented. Community involvement and participation levels in future events will be the unit of valuation on which to assess the short and long-term benefit of the project.

## 13. Timescales/Phasing

What are the timescales and deadlines for the proposed development?

Release of ITT documents following “design freeze”.	15 <sup>th</sup> March 2019
Award of contract	23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2019
Completion of project (following 6 week of construction)	9th June 2019 ( 6 week construction period )

## 14. Conclusion

It is EURO 25 – FIPSeD European Coarse Angling Championships 2019 is annual event scheduled for 27<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup> June, which affiliated national angling associations countries from across

Europe bid to host, in a format not unlike how countries bid for the hosting of the Olympic games. This year's European Championships is brought to Ireland by the National Coarse Fishing Federation of Ireland the only body representing coarse & predator angling in Ireland, North and South and the only body representing the World Sport Fishing Federation, CIPS. The achievement of scooping this event has been the culmination of two years lobbying by the National Coarse Fishing Federation of Ireland (NCFFI) and Water Ways Ireland (WWI).

The event planners anticipate 25 nations will take part in the event scheduled for the third week in June 2019 and have based their estimates on data collected from previous similar events.

In addition, the federation must supply a significant number of stewards (125) to facilitate the event some of whom along with the organisers will choose to stay in the local area adding to the overall economic benefits this event will bring to the area.

Spectator numbers are difficult to gauge and dependant on our promotion but are estimated to be in excess of 5000 based on previous events hosted by The National Coarse Fishing Federation of Ireland (NCFFI).

Economic forecast estimations provided by NCFFI based on similar events hosted in Ireland based on a profile of 25 attending nations suggests that up to 2000 bed nights for the region will be generated over the period in advance of the competition and during the actual event weekend.. With additional visits for training outside of the championships and an increase in the number of events on the venue, NCFFI believe the event has the ability to deliver a direct economic benefit of up to £2m and will leave a legacy for angling in the region

However, there are risks as identified in section 9. Failure to secure the necessary funding to allow sufficient work to be done at any one time to make an 'impact' on the ground. Increasing costs due to phasing. The time frame schedule associated to procurement and project delivery. The extreme pressure associated to the various elements of the project. Any delay on associated actions will have a negative impact and likely to jeopardise the deliverability of meeting the competition dates of 27<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> June 2019. Planning permission and Legal agreements with landowners and insufficient on-going revenue funding and community support diminishing from local communities and landowners.

Issues such as the fact that Council may have limited capital financial resources, along with current limited opportunities at present to secure additional external grant aid for the project and that several of the key proposals are dependent on securing landowner agreements means that the options all carry a degree of risk. However the short and longer-term net benefits associated to the development of the venue in managed phases (2 and 4) coupled with the hosting of the prestigious EURO 25 will have an instant and lasting impact on the region and provide a basis for a continued programme of development that will underpin the importance of the River Bann and Mid Ulster to an audience across the countries of Europe and further afield as a result of this initiative and the infrastructure provided under the scope of the scheme.

Portglenone Angling and Blueway Project has the capacity to deliver a world class angling venue fit to compete on any comparable stage. The quality of the River Bann and accessible green/open space is an instant attraction to visitors and anglers alike. The project will open the countryside for members of the community of all abilities as well as visiting tourists, increasing economic opportunities and developing cross community cohesion and increased social inclusion seamlessly. Ideally, the full project as indicated in option 1, however with limited external funding and time available, phasing the project as indicated in option 2 is considered a more realistic proposition moving forward. If a phased approach is taken, it will assist with the aim to develop sufficient infrastructure to permit the hosting of the EURO 25 Championships in June 2019.

## 15. Recommendations

Has the proposal been approved, rejected, deferred etc. and do any conditions apply?

The proposal to progress requires Mid Ulster District Council to lead on the project and commit resources both in capital contributions and staff time to deliver on the rolling phases of the Portglenone to Newferry. The business case identifies two options, the second of which is the preferred option

Estimated phased option 2 at a Project cost of £385,883 less the secured funding of £70,000 providing for a capital fund allocation from council of requirement £315,883. It is recommended that this business case be presented to support the Council Report for approval.

### **PORTGLENONE ANGLING & BLUEWAY PROJECT**

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Phase 2 & 4 Costs      £385,883

Less secured funding   £ 70,000

#### **Projected Council Capital funding required £315,883**

Funding potential for the scheme is projected at £70k (approx. 18%) as of this date.

Recognition of the level of external funding secured to date and the strategic importance of the Euro 25 Angling Championships Event and the continued rolling programme to develop public access and angling developments on the River Bann in conjunction with MUDC's objective to establish a continuous trail link from Portglenone to Newferry.

The business case and Council Report to be recommended to Policy and Resources Committee for approval for the allocation of £315,883 match funding from 2019-20 Council Capital Programme Fund. (The figure does not include 10% contingency or professional fees).

Members approval is sought to establish all necessary landowner lease agreements in relation to the council's objective to link Glenone to Newferry.

The business recommends to seek all necessary valuations and to engage LPS on all further landowner lease agreement valuations associated to the Glenone to Newferry development plan.

The business case recommends to engage, tender and procure the necessary additional ICT services and capital works contractors, were necessary, in order to deliver the project as proposed.

<b><i>Developed by</i></b>	<b><i>Post</i></b>	<b><i>Date</i></b>
<b>NIGEL HILL</b>	<b>HEAD OF PARKS</b>	<b>07 03 19</b>

<b><i>Authorised by</i></b>	<b><i>Post</i></b>	<b><i>Date</i></b>
ANNE MARIE CAMPBELL	DIRECTOR OF LEISURE AND OUTDOOR RECREATION	07 03 19

<b>Name of Assigned Project Manager</b>	<b>Date</b>
NIGEL HILL	07 03 19



## **EURO 25 – FIPSeD European Coarse Angling Championships 2019**

The 25<sup>th</sup> FIPSeD European Championships is brought to Ireland by the National Coarse Fishing Federation of Ireland the only body representing coarse & predator angling in Ireland, North and South and the only body representing the World Sport Fishing Federation, CIPS.

The importance of a Championships at this level is the benefit of the anglers that come and see the area and their spend but also the media promotion during the event. The event will showcase the River Bann as a world class angling destination leaving a legacy for angling tourism in area with an opportunity for the local clubs to increase the size of existing competitions or indeed introduce more.

A Failte Ireland survey taken during a large competition in the border region showed us that the visiting angler spends double that of the normal holidaymaker. Based on this Cork County Council calculations showed a Total Direct Economic Benefit for a previous FIPSeD event, World Youth Angling Championships in Inniscarra, Coachford, County Cork in 2017 of €2.6m. This event was a junior championship accommodating 286 anglers over an average stay of eight nights.

The Championships event we are hosting in 2019 was held in Italy in 2017 and saw teams from 24 different countries including the home nation take part; in 2017 in Slovenia 30 nations attended. There will be 9 members of each team as a minimum with many countries bringing more, representing 1600 to 2000 bed nights approx. We anticipate 25 nations will take part and have based our estimated running costs on this. In addition, the federation must supply a significant number of stewards (125) to facilitate the event some of whom along with the organisers will choose to stay in the local area. Spectator numbers are difficult to gauge and dependant on our promotion but could be in excess of 5000. The venue is closed to competitors the two weeks prior to the event and therefore a number of teams will make a separate visit for practise prior to this.

Aside from the benefit to the local community and wider area the championships will serve to provide a legacy for coarse angling on the Lower River Bann and highlight the multi-purpose use Blueway. Already additional festivals and events are being planned along with a junior angling hub.

### **Promotion**

This event will showcase the fine angling facility enhanced to international status. Both the World Organisation CIPS and Freshwater body FIPSeD will promote the event through their own channels with a worldwide following.

The NCFFI has popular social media channels that will capture this specialist market live from the bank and followed up with press releases to the angling press. Angling journalists are being encouraged to attend.

The prestige of the anglers on the bank and their sponsors will showcase the individuals fishing through their own platforms followed by coarse angling enthusiasts, match and leisure anglers.

Coarse angling is an under-developed tourism product with stunning potential. Tourism NI have committed to work with us to help with the creation of an angling experience to enhance the leisure product. We hope they will come onboard with media investment to secure a legacy for the area and utilise the imagery opportunities.



## Total Estimated Expenditure

£42,620

ITEM	ESTIMATE
EVENT WEBSITE DESIGN AND HOSTING	£1,600.00
ACCOMODATION AND MEALS FIPS DELEGATES	£1,350.00
ACCOMODATION AND MEALS NCFFI ORGANISERS	£1,350.00
CLOSING CEREMONY DINNER (250-300 GUESTS) @£32.50	£9,750.00
CLOSING CEREMONY ENTERTAINMENT INCLUDING BAND	£1,000.00
CLOSING CEREMONY WINE 30 X 2 PLUS 20 FOR VIPS (80)	£800.00
COMPETITOR ID's, BIBS AND LANYARDS (250)	£2,200.00
OPENING CEREMONY BUFFET (250 -300) GUESTS) @8	£2,000.00
OPENING CEREMONY MARCHING BAND	£500.00
STEWARDS CHAIR HIRE (125)	£500.00
STATIONARY & PRINTING	£850.00
STEWARDS PACKED LUNCHES X 125 x 2 days @£5	£1,250.00
EMERGENCY SERVICES DONATION	£500.00
SIGNAGE	£2,500.00
INSURANCE	£500.00
PORTALOOS	£1,500.00
AIR HORNS	£70.00
SECURITY 2 NIGHTS	£600.00
RADIO HIRE	£500.00
FLAGS	£300.00
TROPHIES AND MEDALS	£2,000.00
HALL/ROOM HIRE FOR HQ/FIPS	£1,000.00
ANTI DOPING COST SPORT IRELAND	£1,000.00
DAERA LICENSES 9 x 25 - 225	£4,500.00
HON.IRISH PERMITS 9 x 25 - 225	£4,500.00
	£42,620.00

All items are estimates and will be negotiated. This is based on the attendance of 25 nations and some costs may be adjusted should the expected numbers not be reached. The hospitality provided is as regulated by CIPS.

## Funding Secured from Other Sources

£4500 Hon.Irish Society  
£4500 DAERA Inland Fisheries  
£15000 Requested from Waterways Ireland

Mr Nigel Hill  
Mid Ulster District Council  
6<sup>th</sup> March 2019

57 Ferney View  
Ballinamallard  
Co Fermanagh  
BT94 2EZ

## **DEVELOPMENT FOR THE FIPSED EUROPEAN COARSE ANGLING CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Dear Nigel,

On behalf of the NCFFI I would like to thank Mid Ulster Council for their commitment to the enhancement of the Glenone Angling facility to enable us to host the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition of the FIPS-ed European Championships on the River Bann. The development will provide an international coarse angling venue in Northern Ireland on which we can attract similar competitions in the future. The event and its promotion through the NCFFI, FIPS-ed and the World Sporting Organisation CIPS will leave a legacy for coarse angling in the region along with the impact to the local economy the event itself will bring.

In order to host a championship at this level we need to be able to accommodate participating teams from 25 to 30 nations. The required number of fishing pegs/stands for the event is from 150 to 180 with 6 pegs/stands required per participating nation in training and 5 for competition. The plan is to utilise all those in the current development plan whether it be for training and/or competition.

The NCFFI are dedicated to promoting the event which we estimate will deliver economic benefits of up to £2m, but also the on-going promotion to anglers worldwide thereafter. Opening up the venue to provide vehicular access to the pegs necessary for the event will see the pegs utilised on a much more regular basis thereafter by domestic and visiting coarse anglers for whom accessibility of a fishing spot is based around how far they have to carry their equipment.

Yours in Sport,

Jack Tisdall  
Vice Chairman NCFFI  
Office Tel: 02866 347692  
[jacktisdall@btinternet.com](mailto:jacktisdall@btinternet.com)

<b>Report on</b>	Provision of Leisure Uniforms
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	14 March 2019
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Oliver McShane
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Chris Busby

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To obtain approval regarding provision of leisure staff uniforms within Mid Ulster District Council.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	Mid Ulster District Council currently employs around 300 leisure staff within a range of sites who currently wear a corporate uniform. These items include a variety of t-shirts, tracksuit bottoms, shorts and fleeces.
2.2	Previously, leisure uniforms were procured under a PPE tender which has now expired.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	Within the leisure transformation process, a project team was established to consider the provision of uniform for leisure staff. This included representatives from a variety of leisure sites and sports arenas.
3.2	As part of this process, a survey was conducted with all staff to establish satisfaction levels with current provision. This found that a generally unfavourable opinion of uniform current exists, with staff, on average, rating the current uniform at 4/10.
3.3	While there was a wide range of opinions regarding current uniform, many staff considered items to be unfit for purpose, particularly in regards to their weight and 'breathability' within the often hot and humid leisure environment. Additionally, there was a concern that many items were ill-fitting, and offered no provision for 'ladies fit' which many staff felt portrayed an unprofessional image of the service.
3.4	Benchmarking with other local facilities found that recent procurement of uniforms has taken into account requirements for lighter, more breathable uniform available in a range of sizes and styles.

3.5	Within the survey, staff showed a strong preference for being allocated a better quality uniform less often, with 82% indicating a preference for 'quality over quantity'. It was considered that replacement of uniform on a bi-annual basis would meet this need, and mirror practices within benchmarked facilities within other Council areas.
3.6	Indicative costing of uniform identified that a better quality, and more fit-for-purpose uniform, could be purchased within existing budgets based on bi-annual replacement. Uniform colours and branding will remain unchanged.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	Financial: Indicative costing of leisure uniforms for all currently employed staff is approximately £29,000. This is in line with current budgets if uniforms are replaced bi-annually.
	Human: None
	Risk Management: None
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: None
	Rural Needs Implications: None
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	This report recommends that Council approves the commencement of a procurement for the provision of leisure uniforms. This contract should be awarded for an initial 2-year period, with the option to extend, at Council's discretion, for two 1- year periods.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	None.

<b>Report on</b>	Sports Representative Grants
<b>26<sup>th</sup> February</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> March, 2019
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Oliver McShane
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Oliver McShane

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To present to members the proposed community grant allocations for the range of Sports Representative Grant ~ Team and Individuals
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	<p>The Sports Representative Grants (Individual and Team) is a continuous rolling programme.</p> <p>Eligibility criteria compliance was completed by officers followed by grant programme assessment.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	Detailed analysis of the proposed grant awards are attached for your information.
3.2	<p>Summary detail is as follows: The Sports Representative Grant:</p> <p>3 Individual applications were received and awarded a total of £675</p> <p>1 Team application was received which received an award of £500.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
4.1	<p><b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b></p> <p>Financial: Total finance allocated:</p> <p>The Sports Representative Grant is a continuous rolling programme with current allocation for 18/19 of £17,275 from the revised budget of £22,000.</p>

	Human: None.
	Risk Management: N/a
4.2	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications N/a
	Rural Needs Implications: N/a
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	To agree the recommendation for sports grant allocations.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	Grant recipients and amount of grant award.

**Sportsperson Representative on eligible cost to a max of £250**

Name		Project Title	Amount Requested	Band	Amount Awarded
Liam	Corr	Mayor's Cup ~ Las Vegas IFA	£400	2	£225
Kyle	McKinstry	Darts Celtic Challenge	£250	2	£225
Mark	Robinson	Indoor Tug of War Championships	£360	2	£225
Total					<b>£675</b>

Band	Amount
1	<b>£250.00</b>
2	<b>£225.00</b>
3	<b>£200.00</b>
4	<b>£175.00</b>
5	<b>£150.00</b>

**Sports Team Representative 75% grant on eligible cost to a max of £500**

Name	Project Title	Amount Requested	Band	Amount Awarded
Goldrush Cheerleading	World Street Cheer Dance Championship	£500	1	£500
Total				<b>£500</b>

Band	Amount
1	<b>£500.00</b>
2	<b>£450.00</b>
3	<b>£400.00</b>
4	<b>£350.00</b>
5	<b>£300.00</b>



**Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council  
held on Thursday 14 February 2019 in the Council Offices, Burn Road,  
Cookstown**

<b>Members Present</b>	Councillor McNamee, Chair  Councillors Burton, Clarke, Cuddy, Doris, Elattar, McAleer, McFlynn, Milne, Molloy, Monteith, G Shiels,
<b>Officers in Attendance</b>	Mrs Campbell, Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation Mr Browne, Head of Tourism Mr Hill, Head of Parks Ms Linney, Head of Community Development Mr McCance, Head of Culture and Arts Ms McKeown, Head of Economic Development Mr McShane, Acting Head of Leisure Mrs Grogan, Democratic Services Officer
<b>Others in Attendance</b>	Deputation - Breakthru Ms Bernie McHugh – Service Manager Ms Hazel Kennedy – Administration/Finance Manager Mr Gerry Boyle - Chairperson

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

**D023/19 Apologies**

Councillors Forde, Mulligan, J Shiels and Director of Business and Communities.

**D024/19 Declaration of Interests**

The Chair drew members attention to Agenda Item 6 - Community Development Report, particularly Good Relations and Community Festivals rolling grant awards and Peace IV grant awards. He also drew attention to Agenda Item 22 – Capital Discretionary Grant.

Councillor Monteith declared an interest in Agenda Item 22 – Capital Discretionary Grant – Eoghan Ruadh Hurling Club Dungannon.

**D025/19 Chair's Business**

The Chair, Councillor McNamee advised that a request had been made by the Head of Economic Development to address the committee.

The Head of Economic Development brought to Members attention that work was due to commence, next week, on the refurbishment of the two alleyways leading from Broad Street in Magherafelt to the Central and Union Road Off Street Car Parks. This work will commence with the small alleyway on the Central car park side of Broad Street and will require the occupation of a number of car parking spaces in both car

parks. A full report on these and other car park requests would be brought to the February 2019 Council meeting for further consideration. Whilst some disruption and loss of car parking during the works was inevitable this would be kept to a minimum. She sought approval from Members to proceed with the works.

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn  
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

**Resolved:** That it be recommended to the Council to proceed with the works as outlined.

## **D026/19      Deputation – Breakthru**

The Chair, Councillor McNamee welcomed representatives from Breakthru to the Committee and invited them to make their presentation.

The representatives circulated a copy of presentation to members present.

Mr Boyle thanked the committee for the opportunity to present to the meeting and advised that Breakthru had currently 6 funded projects providing a range of prevention, interventions and support in the areas of drugs, alcohol, gambling and mental health. He said that on average 2,000 children and young people benefit from awareness raising sessions and programmes in schools and community groups and a further 1,000 young people and adults benefits from targeted one to one work, counselling and group work.

He said that while the organisation acknowledges that there are other providers in the area Breakthru have always looked at the needs and examined the gaps in service provision by consulting with communities, service users, stakeholders and funders to make sure that the projects and services delivered are relevant and necessary.

He advised that the organisation work with:

- Young people in Care, Care experienced or at risk due to parental substance misuse
- Young people who are at risk of exclusion from school due to behaviour issues or who have come to the attention of the PSNI prior to involvement in the Youth Justice System and prosecution
- Young people involved in Anti-Social Behaviour
- Young people struggling with drug and or alcohol misuse
- Adults with addiction issues
- Gambling awareness and support
- Building community cohesion
- Promoting health and wellbeing to vulnerable groups
- Working with the PSNI to deliver our Community Resolution Programme as an alternative to prosecution

He said that referrals to Breakthru come from GP's, Social Work Teams, Gateway, 16+, Family Intervention and Residential Care Teams, Addiction Services SHSCT,

CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service) PSNI, Youth Diversion Officers (PSNI), Schools, Dunlewey, Barnardos, Action for Children, BCM, Must Hostel, Youth Clubs, First Steps Women's Centre and Coalisland Training Services. Breakthru also sit on and take referrals from the Family Support Hubs.

Ms McHugh advised that the staff at Breakthru are recognised for their professionalism, skills and knowledge, with 14 employees in various roles but all are committed and dedicated and will go the extra mile to help their clients/service users.

She referred to partnership working and said that the organisation increased its impact on the communities and that it was their belief that working in partnerships can enhance delivery and make outcomes better for all. She said that the organisation works closely with the PSNI, the Policing and Community and Safety Partnership, Council, Local Youth Provision, Schools and local Community Volunteer Partners.

She concluded by saying if the organisation continues that they would like to:

- Continue and provide and extend current services
- Extend their Social Economy Project SCLC to other areas
- Adapt the existing programme to address the increased number of drug related offences
- Explore the development of Drug Court System
- Extend provision of group support for the Addiction Services

The Chair thanked the representatives for their impressive presentation and asked for members comments.

*Councillor Cuddy declared an interest in Breakthru as a past member of Dungannon Development Association.*

Councillor Cuddy said that he was all too aware of the invaluable work being carried out by Breakthru and enquired if the group wasn't in a position to continue who would be in a position to take over their role.

Ms McHugh advised that there were other service providers available but Breakthru go far and beyond as they investigate where the gaps are which are not covered by other service providers.

Councillor Molloy said that the community would not know how important this service was until it was gone and enquired about issues relating to staff financial matters.

Ms McHugh advised that some staff are salaried, and some are funded, but not all funded projects cover central salaries and that is where the shortfall is emerging. She also said that there is a very dedicated team of volunteers who work tirelessly.

Councillor McAleer said that the service Breakthru provides is priceless and enquired how referrals were made by Social Workers and GPs and asked if any financial contribution made towards Breakthru from the Trust.

Ms McHugh advised that referrals are made to them from the Health Professionals but that there were no financial contributions made towards their services.

In response to Councillor McAleer's query about feedback from the Southern Trust, Ms McHugh advised that a meeting had been convened with Council officers in Magherafelt where the Chief Executive from SHTU and Head from the Children's Trust and representatives from the Supervisory Board, Social Justice and the Department of Communities had been invited.

Councillor G Shiels said that he would have a lot of empathy for the organisation and can witness for himself the strain that this was having on the representatives present here tonight. He said that he had noticed the long list of groups which are referring people to Breakthru and said that it seemed to him that the organisation was being used as a dumping ground and felt that the Southern Trust should be taking some responsibility. He referred to the management levels and asked if there was any other way of exploring options and asked if the Probation Service was involved.

Ms McHugh said that there was involvement with Probation Service in the past, but this had come to an end.

In response to a query, Ms McHugh advised that the Southern Trust pays towards funding for an employee to carry out community addictions as a team, but there are some seasonal members of staff which have to cease working once funding comes to an end. She said that overheads were problematic.

Councillor G Shiels advised that he knew very little about the Southern Trust but said that the Northern Trust had slippage money available from last year and enquired when the meeting was due to take place as it would be worthwhile investigating this.

Ms McHugh advised that the meeting was due to take place next week. She said that the Southern Trust was under severe pressure regarding their addictions service as they cannot meet their targets. She said that the timeframe was between 10-12 weeks to be seen by the Southern Trust team and this was having a detrimental effect on other health services. She said that she hoped that the Southern Trust would recognise the importance of Breakthru and bring funding to the table.

Councillor Burton referred to the £40K funding needed per year for the 3 year period and said that if this could be secured for this period, then this could be built up over time for the future. She said that as a member of PCSP she visited the Centre on numerous occasions and wanted to commend the work that the staff and volunteers do. She felt that it was important that the Council was on board to liaise with the Southern Trust and help find a solution to keep this organisation going. She enquired if the Community Development department could investigate options through Grant Tracker to see if funding can be sourced as this was a valuable service to the whole community.

Councillor Molloy enquired if there was anything else on offer regarding premises like the South Tyrone Hospital site which may lighten the load for Breakthru.

Ms McHugh said that this situation had not been looked at strategically as the current building creates income from other service users who hire out their rooms, but this was not enough to keep it going.

Councillor Monteith said that there was a need to lobby the Southern Trust to seek funding for this initiative as the organisation was covering the gap which is being overlooked by others. He said that there was a serious need to investigate Community Support and to also include other groups as these are the groups that are in dire need of Council support.

In response to Councillor G Shiels, Ms McHugh advised that Breakthru had lobbied MP, MLA's etc and that First Minister Arlene Foster had met with the Permanent Secretary and that the group has on board Ministers Michelle Gildernew and Rosemary Barton working in trying to secure funding.

Councillor G Shiels said that it may be worthwhile for Ms McHugh contacting Department for Communities, Volunteering section to see if they could assist the group.

The Chair thanked the representatives from Breakthru for their attendance and wished them well and said that Council Officers would try and do everything they could to try and support the group.

Mr Boyle thanked the Committee for their time and said that this was much appreciated.

*Representatives from Breakthru left the meeting at 7.30 pm.*

The Head of Community Development provided members with an update regarding Community Development involvement with Breakthru and advised that the Community Development Manager and herself had met with group and offered support re governance and community development support. The Chief Executive and Director of Business and Communities also met the project and agreed to host a meeting with key agencies regarding potential support.

In response to Councillor Molloy, the Head of Community Development said that the only grant that Council would have that they may be eligible for would be the Community Development Strategic Grant.

Councillor Monteith said that Council funding needs to be reviewed to be brought back to the Development Committee and look at increasing the grants in line with inflation. He also stated that community based groups were coming to a crisis point and that the Council would have to look at its funding contribution in line with others including the Health Trusts who use community led services. He stated that an increase in Council grant funding would need to be met year on year and consider 3 year funding to provide some level of security of funding. He asked that Community Development look at different grant schemes and build a year on year increase as there was ample amount of money within the Council for other matters.

Councillor Cuddy said that although he agreed with Councillor Monteith's suggestion, there were a lot of organisations reducing their funding and it would be important that any proposals would support funding being distributed sensibly and target those in real need of it.

He further stated that Breakthru was a good organisation which carry out magnificent work and that the community would miss it if it wasn't there. He did agree that there was an onus on the Council to look at its funding regarding support them and other similar groups. He asked if they group could survive in the short term on and if there was potential solutions ahead.

The Head of Community Development advised that Breakthru was a project of Dungannon Development Association and it as stated in the presentation it was getting to the stage that their assets weren't there to continue to subsidise the project re full cost recovery for core staff. She said drugs and alcohol services are mainly contracted under PHA and that she thought some of the tendered services may be opening again in October. The Trust do link PHA service provision but do avail of other community led provision. Representatives are at a meeting next Friday. The Chair said that things may become clearer after next Friday's meeting.

Councillor Elattar referred to STEPS Ballinascreen. She updated that STEPS in Ballinascreen was the same situation as the group provided a free counselling service and that the Trust were referring people to them but that they do not receive Trust funding. She advised that a family member with mental health issue had been referred to STEPS which wasn't the correct service for them. It was felt that there needs to be greater engagement with the Trust to ensure people are not being passed on to groups that are not the correct service. She said that community groups are coming under pressure due to the level of referrals by Trusts and GP's and other organisations and that discussion is required.

In response to Councillor Burton's query regarding officer support to the group to help develop a way forward. The Head of Community Development advised that Community Development had met with the group and looked at options and would continue to work with the group as needed. She did state that they did need to get to a position of continuation to allow them to progress a number of options.

Councillor G Shiels said that government departments like 'passing the parcel' and should be required to pay pound for pound for responsibility of the department. He stated that third party organisations were being required to run these projects on the cheap and depend on volunteers, who have excellent skills but are not being paid, which is a bonus for the Trust. It is important that credit should be given where credit is due and that the Council should also recognise this.

Councillor McAleer referred to the need that Breakthru stated of £40k per annum for 3 years and that this would sustain them. She updated that she had noted Start 360 had an attractive initiative on their website which invited people to donate to their organisation and this may be worthwhile for Breakthru investigating this as a way of attracting donations as people would be very supportive of the project.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith  
Seconded by Councillor G Shiels and

**Resolved:** That it be recommended to Council to undertake a review of Council community funding and investigate annual increases and longer term funding periods. To bring a report back to Development Committee.

## **Matters for Decision**

### **D027/19 Economic Development Report**

The Head of Economic Development presented previously circulated report which provided an update on the following –

- **Invest NI Letter of Offer: Gearing for Growth Programme**

Proposed by Councillor Clarke  
Seconded by Councillor Milne and

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

- a) Accept Letter of Offer from Invest NI (dated 8 January 2019) for the Gearing for Growth Programme offering up to £316,160 (80%) grant towards total programme costs of £395,200 (including expenses and excluding vat), following which the Letter of Offer will be presented for sealing at the next Statutory Council meeting.
- b) Approve Officers to work with CPD to procure a suitably qualified organisation(s) to deliver the Gearing for Growth Programme.

- **Invest NI Letter of Offer: Transform Programme**

Proposed by Councillor Clarke  
Seconded by Councillor Milne and

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

- a) Accept Letter of Offer from Invest NI (dated 8 January 2019) for the Transform Programme offering up to £210,400 (80%) grant towards total programme costs of £263,000 (including expenses and excluding vat), following which the Letter of Offer will be presented for sealing at the next Statutory Council meeting.
- b) Approve Officers to work with CPD to procure a suitably qualified organisation(s) to deliver the Transform Programme.

- **Renewal of Membership with Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce**

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy

Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

In response to Councillor Burton's query about inclusion of Fivemiletown Chamber of Commerce, the Head of Economic Development advised that this is a separate matter.

**Resolved:** That it be recommended to the Council to approve the Corporate Membership of NI Chamber of Commerce and Industry costing £2,500+Vat for the period of 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019.

- **Celebration of Mid Ulster Business Starts**

Note event on 19 March 2019 from 3pm to 8pm in the Burnavon Theatre, Cookstown.

- **Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme – Final Evaluation Report on Phase 2**

Members to note Final Evaluation Report on Mid Ulster Village Spruce Up Scheme – Phase 2 (the Reserve List).

- **Magherafelt Town Centre Wi-Fi**

Note Progress.

- **Brexit Working Group**

Proposed by Councillor Clarke

Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

**Resolved:** That it be recommended to the Council to approve the Brexit Working Group – Terms of Reference and the membership therein.

Councillor Molloy advised that a meeting had taken place on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2018 and another meeting was due to take place on 27 February 2019 in Mid Ulster District Council, Dungannon Office.

- **Broadband Working Group**

Note Progress and minutes of meetings held on 10 September 2018 and 18 October 2018.

- **Strategic Review of Council's Economic Development Online Services to Businesses**

Note Progress.

- **Department of Finance re Rates Relief for Town Centre Businesses**

Consider response from Permanent Secretary, Department of Finance re Rates Relief for town centre businesses.

Councillor Monteith raised concern about the response received from the Permanent Secretary and that there was a need to make it public and a corporate response returned highlighting this Council's disgust. He said that there was a need to have the same models available in England and Wales accessible to us as this was not indicated in the response received and action was needed as a business rate policy would go nowhere.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith  
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

**Resolved:** To write back to the Permanent Secretary, Department of Finance to:

- (a) advise her response is unacceptable and request a meeting;
- (b) strongly lobby the Department of Finance to investigate the possibility of implementing the same business rating system as England and Wales which offers rates relief to beleaguered town centre businesses.

- **Department for Infrastructure re Sewerage Treatment Works**

Note Response.

- **Retail NI, Manufacturing NI and Hospitality Ulster – A New Deal for Northern Ireland**

Councillor Molloy referred to commercial rates and said that it was well known that the Council wasn't gifted control over freezing commercial rates.

Councillor Cuddy referred to Northland Surgery and said that at a meeting on 11 December 2019 with Dungannon DEA's it was indicated that further meetings would be held but then members received a letter recently to say that things were moving along. He felt that it wasn't a priority and that the Trust weren't treating this Council with respect and we were left in the dark as to what is going on.

Councillor Monteith said that the Council were receiving emails from the Trust which were utter nonsense and that the Chief Executive was receiving update emails after they were published in the press.

It was agreed that the CEO's of Retail NI, Manufacturing NI and Hospitality Ulster be invited to a separate meeting which is open to all Councillors to attend to discuss their report 'A New Deal for Northern Ireland' and concerns around business rates.

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy  
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

**Resolved:** That it be recommended to the Council that the request from the CEO's of Retail NI, Manufacturing NI and Hospitality Ulster to meet with Members to discuss their recent report 'A New Deal for Northern Ireland' and concerns regarding business rates be invited to a separate meeting which is open to all Councillors to attend.

- **City/Growth Deals**

Councillor Monteith asked that this be raised in Confidential Business.

## **D028/19      Community Development Report**

The Head of Community Development presented previously circulated report which sought approval for the following –

- **Good Relations and Community Festivals Rolling Grant Award**

Proposed by Councillor Molloy  
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

**Resolved:** That it be recommended to Council to approve the grant award recommendations listed on appendix 1 of the report – Community Local Festivals (£1,025) and Good Relations (£1,510).

- **Peace IV**

Proposed by Councillor Clarke  
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

**Resolved:** That it be recommended to Council to agree to go to a further grant call for Phase IV Grants at a budget of £177,457.

- **Good Relations Action Plan 2019-2020 under TBUC (Together Building a United Community Strategy)**

Proposed by Councillor Clarke  
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

**Resolved:** That it be recommended to Council to approve the Good Relations Action Plan 2019-2020 for submission to the Executive Office for match funding as per appendix 3 – at a value of £414,000 with 75% funding from NI Executive Office. To confirm within the plan that the primary school programme is delivered in partnership with Speedwell.

- **Tender for CCTV Monitoring in Towns in Mid Ulster**

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn  
Seconded by Councillor Clarke

**Resolved:** That it be recommended to Council that approval be granted to go to tender for a new Town CCTV contract for monitoring and maintenance at a budget up to £30,000.

- **Community Development Report**

Note the contents of the report.

#### **D029/19      Hospitality Mentor Programme**

The Head of Tourism drew attention to the previously circulated report to seek approval for the delivery of a Hospitality Mentor Programme to the Hotel and Accommodation sectors in Mid Ulster.

Proposed by Councillor Doris  
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

**Resolved:** That it be recommended to the Council to approve the proposal and agree to deliver the Hospitality Mentor Programme as a Phase 1 with an option, budget permitting to deliver a Phase 2 in FY 2019/2020.

Councillor Cuddy said that it was important to measure this and would like to see how it does improve the whole sector.

#### **D030/19      The Outdoor Weekend in Mid Ulster**

The Head of Tourism drew attention to the previously circulated report to seek approval for the delivery and promotion of Mid Ulster's First Outdoor Weekend proposed to be held on 13 and 14 April 2019 as follows –

- **The Jungle NI** – Family Fun package with additional taster activities
- **Todds Leap** – Open Park Day and additional taster activities
- **Torrant Warfare** – Airsoft play, 13 April 2019, 3 x 1.5 hour game sessions
- **Portglenone Paddlers** – Canoeing and Kayaking for 8 years +, leaving from Newferry max 24 people
- **Dungannon Park** – Course Angling Taster 13 & 14 April 2019
- **Rock n Go Mobile Climbing Wall** – Davagh Forest Trails 13 April and Dungannon Park 14 April 2019
- **Brendan Adams Hillwalk** – The Sperrins, 14 April 2019
- **Annaglinny Fishery** – Fishing lessons 13 & 14 April 2019
- **Davagh Forest Trails & Blessingbourne Mountain Bike Trails** – Mountain Biking 14 April 2019, morning and afternoon session (10 per session)
- **Ballyronan Marina** – Canoe and Sailing Taster sessions, 13 & 14 April, 2 hr morning and afternoon sessions both canoe and sailing

Proposed by Councillor Doris  
Seconded by Councillor Milne and

**Resolved:** That it be recommended to the Council to approve the Event.

Councillor Monteith said that it would be worthwhile enhancing this product and investigate other opportunities as within the Area Plan there was an intention to

examine old railways and the statement of intent should be to promote this to enhance walking opportunities.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation advised that the Outdoor Strategy would be brought to committee in June which would provide an analysis of current provision across the district and maps highlighting walking trails etc.

Councillor Burton commended the staff on the magnificent work which was carried out on Knockmany Forest and ongoing works at Brantry, but would like to ask if it would be possible to investigate Lumford's Glen in the Clogher Valley as it has got very dilapidated and unsafe for walkers. She said that unless farmers agree to work with local people for a safe walking place it's not possible, and drew attention to some towns not having adequate footpaths and would ask that this be also looked at.

#### **D031/19      Arts Council of Northern Ireland Public Consultation on Draft Five Year Strategic Framework 2019-2024**

The Head of Culture and Arts drew attention to the previously circulated report to:

- Inform members of the current public consultation exercise being undertaken by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland with regard to the Draft 5 year Strategic Framework for Developing the Arts 2019-2024
- Seek approval from Council to prepare a draft response to the Draft 5 year Strategic Framework on behalf of Mid Ulster District Council and to seek Council's approval to issue a response to the Arts Council of Northern Ireland by the closing date of 4pm on Friday 22 March 2019

Councillor Molloy enquired if the Council submitted their own response and whether the Council were in contact with their Strategic Partners to issue the response.

The Head of Culture and Arts advised that the response would be made on behalf of MUDC but would largely be reflective of the views of Council and strategic partners. He said that there was little mention of rural issues and support of rural projects and we should be mindful of this in formulating our response. Strategic Partners should be highlighting the same issues.

The Head of Culture & Arts also advised that all Strategic partner organisations had been contacted to notify them of the deadline for responses and the dates of the various consultation workshops taking place which are designed to obtain feedback from the sector on the draft framework document.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy  
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

**Resolved:** That it be recommended to the Council that a response to the Draft 5 year Strategic Framework is prepared on behalf of Mid Ulster District Council (to be submitted for consideration by the Development Committee at its meeting of Thursday 14 March 2019) and subject to

approval, issue a response to the Arts Council of Northern Ireland by the closing date of 4pm on Friday 22 March 2019.

**D032/19      Glenone Wood Development Agreements Mid Ulster District Council and Forest Service Northern Ireland**

The Head of Parks drew attention to the previously circulated report to seek approval for development proposal at Glenone Wood, Portglenone in partnership with Forest Service NI.

Proposed by Councillor Milne  
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

**Resolved:** That it be recommended to the Council that approval be given to:

- a) Note the strategic importance with the establishment of Lease and Licence Agreements between Mid Ulster District Council and Forest Service NI in relation to the recreational management of Glenone Wood, Portglenone.
- b) Approve in principle the establishment of Lease and Licence Agreements with Forest Service NI.
- c) Present Lease and Licence Agreements and associated LPS valuation (not in excess of £2,500) for Policy and Resources Committee approval.

**D033/19      Hendersons Play Park, Stewartstown Lease Agreement**

The Head of Parks drew attention to the previously circulated report to seek approval for formalisation of lease agreement in relation to a parcel of land adjacent to 29-41 Henderson Park, Stewartstown from Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

*Councillor Elattar declared an interest in Hendersons Play Park, Stewartstown Lease Agreement as a member of NIHE.*

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn  
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

**Resolved:** That it be recommended to the Council that approval be given to:

- a) Seek formalisation of a Lease Agreement from Northern Ireland Housing Executive in relation to a proposed 25 year lease for the designated land at Henderson Park, Stewartstown for the development of public play facilities.
- b) Formalise retrospectively a Lease Agreement from Northern Ireland Housing Executive in relation to the 8 year period of possession from 2011 to June 2019 associated to the designed parcel of land at

Henderson Park, Stewartstown in relation to the provision of legacy Council public play facilities.

- c) Present Lease Agreements and associated LPS valuations on receipt, for Policy and Resources Committee approval.

#### **D034/19      Security Provision for MUDC Camping and Caravan Amenities**

The Head of Parks drew attention to the previously circulated report and sought approval to procure the services of a professional security provider in order to deliver seasonal services at Mid Ulster District Council Camping and Caravan Park facilities.

Proposed by Councillor Doris  
Seconded by Councillor McAleer and

**Resolved:** That it be recommended to the Council that approval be granted to:

- a) Note the content of the report and approve the proposal to seek the appointment of a suitable qualified service provider to deliver the specified security services as tendered.
- b) An initial contract period of one year with two, one year extensions subject to satisfactory performance. These extensions are an optional annual award, which are at the total discretion of the Council.
- c) Estimated year one expenditure of £10,000 and optional extensions for two additional years for specified security services as tendered. Estimated total expenditure £30,000 subject to council approval of 2019/20 and subsequent annual revenue budgets.

#### **D035/19      Recommendations on Allocation of Schools' Sports Facilities Access Grants**

The Acting Head of Leisure drew attention to the previously circulated report to advise on the Schools' Sports Facilities Access Grants and advise that there was one application which passed the eligibility check for eligible funding.

Proposed by Councillor McAleer  
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

**Resolved:** That it be recommended to the Council to approve the grant application of £4,295 to Michael Davitt's Camogie Club in partnership with St John's Primary School Swatragh.

Councillor Cuddy said that this grant seemed to be undersubscribed and asked if this could be re-opened and re-advertised again as he was aware of some Hockey clubs missing the opportunity to apply previously.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation advised that there was still some funding available and could re-advertise the grant call again subject to funding being accrued from 2018/19 budget into 2019/202 budget.

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy  
Seconded by Councillor Elattar and

**Resolved:** That it be recommended to the Council to agree to re-advertise a further call for Sports Facilities Access Grants subject to adequate funding still being available and accrued from 2018/19 budget into 2019/20 budget.

#### **D036/19 Sports Representative Grants**

The Acting Head of Leisure drew attention to the previously circulated report to present to members the proposed community grants allocations for Sports Representative Grant – Team and Individuals.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy  
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

**Resolved:** That it be recommended to the Council to approve the Sports Grant Allocations as previously presented.

#### **Matters for Information**

#### **D037/19 Minutes of Development Committee held on 10 January 2019**

Members noted minutes of Development Committee held on 10 January 2019.

#### **D038/19 Great Days Out Event on 28 March 2019**

Members noted previously circulated report which provided an update on Great Days Out Event which is taking place on 28 March 2019 at Corick House in the Clogher Valley.

#### **D039/19 Lough Neagh Partnership CORE Funding 18-19**

Members noted previously circulated report which provided an update on progress to date and approve payment of first claim totalling £11,783.23

#### **D040/19 Regional and Minority Language Implementation Working Group Minutes of Meeting of 14 January 2019**

Members noted previously circulated report on Regional and Minority Language Implementation Working Group Minutes of Meeting of 14 January 2019.

Councillor Monteith raised concern regarding the vandalism to signage at Castleview Heights, Dungannon and stated that it was an attack on people's Irish heritage which should be respected.

The Chair said that the amount of money spent on signage was continuously being raised at Council and Committee meetings and when this sort of thing happens the same people do not ridicule the perpetrators who carry out the vandalism even though it's costing additional funding to replace the signage.

Councillor Cuddy said that it would be interesting to see who the preparators were.

Councillor Molloy enquired if there was any work ongoing with the PCSP regarding this and whether there was any way of monitoring the situation.

The Chair advised that the Police should have monitoring cameras available.

Councillor Monteith said that this was a blatant campaign to intimidate the local people and afterwards it's put on facebook to gloat about. He said that this type of vandalism was not a random attack but an ongoing operation to intimidate local people and disrespect their Irish identity.

#### **D041/19      Leisure Services Update**

The Acting Head of Leisure drew attention to the previously circulated report to provide update on progress being made regarding activities in Leisure Services and highlighting a number of key events/activities.

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

Proposed by Councillor Burton  
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

**Resolved**      In accordance with Section 42, Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 that Members of the public be asked to withdraw from the meeting whilst Members consider items D042/19 and D047/19.

#### **Matters for Decision**

D042/19	Dungannon Leisure Centre Refurbishment Plan
D043/19	Coalisland Town Centre Forum – Proposed Membership
D044/19	Capital Discretionary Grant
D045/19	Seamus Heaney HomePlace US Visit Update
D046/19	Request for Support of NEST Project Bellaghy Village Regeneration

#### **Matters for Information**

**D047/19 Duration of Meeting**

The meeting commenced at 7 pm and concluded at 8.35 pm.

CHAIR \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_



<b>Report on</b>	Mid Ulster Rural Development Partnership – Update on Local Rural Development Strategy
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	14 March 2019
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Head of Economic Development

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To update members on progress with the Local Action Group (LAG) Rural Development Strategy for Mid Ulster.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	<p>Mid Ulster Rural Development Partnership has been allocated £10.16m for the roll out of a local rural development strategy for Mid Ulster funded under the 2014-2020 NI Rural Development Programme. £8.33m will be directed to project spend and the remainder for LAG administration.</p> <p>The Schemes within the local rural strategy are now:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rural Business Investment Scheme</li> <li>• Rural Services Scheme</li> <li>• Village Renewal</li> <li>• LAG Co-operation</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p><b>Schemes update</b></p> <p>An update on progress against each scheme is shown below.</p> <p><b>Rural Business Investment Scheme (RBIS)</b> The primary aim of this scheme is to support business creation and development activities within rural businesses which lead to job creation.</p> <p>£2.83m in grant support was allocated to this scheme which is now fully committed with 96 businesses supported.</p> <p>To date, 58 new jobs have been created (57 TF and 1 PT). This is against an overall LAG Strategy target of 100. The overall number of new jobs projected within issued letters of offer is 229 to be created over the next 12-18 months. Monitoring of job creation across all funded RBIS projects will be ongoing.</p>

**Rural Services Scheme**

The aim of this scheme is to improve access to basic services for those living in rural areas across the district. The scheme offers capital grants for the development of community hubs to serve as a focal point for the local community.

£2.75m was made available for this scheme (inc a transfer of £350k from Rural Broadband) which has now been allocated in full across 20 projects approved by the LAG over two calls of application. 8 letters of offer have been issued to date and the remainder can only be issued after evidence of title checks are completed by DAERA solicitors relating to legal charges for each project. This process is taking considerable time in some cases.

**Village Renewal Scheme**

This Scheme is being delivered by Council with 37 villages identified for village enhancement works across the district.

£2.15m in grant support was allocated to this Scheme. To date £1.45m in letters of offer have been approved by the LAG to the villages listed below:

Ballygawley	Fivemiletown	Upperlands
Ardboe	Augher	Caledon
Granville	Tobermore	Benburb
Castlecaulfield	Gulladuff	Newmills
Maghera	Swatragh	Glenone
Loup	Ballinakilly	Killyman
Ballinderry/Ballylifford	Desertmartin/Longfield	Clogher
Ballyronan		

Design work on the remaining village schemes is ongoing.

**LAG Co-operation**

This Scheme provides support for projects developed in partnership with other Local Action Groups. Council will act as the lead applicant with the LAG as co-applicant under these projects.

Projects current being investigated by LAG and Council include:

**Lough Neagh Co-operation:**

This project includes the LAG's in Antrim/Newtownabbey and ABC Council areas. Within Mid Ulster, the project actions are to focus on the development of angling infrastructure at Portglenone and a wild campsite at Washingbay. Joint marketing of the project is also to be included.

**Heart of Ancient Ulster / Achill Island**

This project will potentially link into the Heart of Ancient Ulster Landscape Partnership Scheme to improve access to archaeology in the Beaghmore area by developing a trail linking Beaghmore Stone Circles to other local

	<p>archaeology sites. The SW Mayo LAG are looking at a similar themed project on Achill Island.</p> <p><b>Yellow Frames (NI LAG's):</b>  This is being discussed as a <b>potential</b> NI wide project involving all 10 LAG's. The project idea centres on using the iconic National Geographic Yellow Frame border to 'frame' various locations of interest in each LAG area. If the project proceeds, the frames would be situated to capture an iconic background allowing visitors to take 'selfies' and normal photographs through the frames which would be supplemented through the development and publication of maps, brochures, interpretation panels etc. A key feature of the project is the use of a formal contract with National Geographic to promote a Northern Ireland Yellow Frames trail. The aim of the proposal would be to use the marketing power of the Nat Geo brand to raise the profile of rural areas in NI, including those sites identified for Mid Ulster and boost visitor numbers to the area as a result.</p> <p><b>International Appalachian Trail</b>  This project aims to promote the Ulster section of the International Appalachian Trail and involves the LAG's in Donegal, Fermanagh/Omagh, Mid Ulster, Derry/Strabane, Causeway Coast and Glens and Mid and East Antrim. It will support the installation of trail infrastructure, signage and interpretation along the course of the IAT. The Mid Ulster section of this trail is relatively short at approx 14km. A joint marketing campaign will form part of the project actions.</p> <p>Each of the projects listed above are at pre development stage therefore further updates will be brought to Council through the relevant service areas assisting the LAG with this stage.</p>
<b>3.2</b>	<p><b>Update on overall commitment/approval of funds</b>  From an overall allocation of £8.33m for project support, the value of grant now committed/allocated to approved projects is £7.26m. The Village Renewal and Co-operation Schemes will utilise the remaining balance of just over £1m which has to be committed by the end of September 2019.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	<p>Financial: NA</p>
	<p>Human: NA – admin costs are recovered in full from the LAG administration budget.</p>
	<p>Risk Management: Audit and compliance requirement are followed in line with the operating rules for the 2014-20 Rural Development Programme.</p>

<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: The LAG Strategy has been screened for Equality and Good Relations impacts.
	Rural Needs Implications: By its nature, the Rural Development Programme and LAG Strategy aim to promote the development of rural areas.
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	Members are asked to note progress to date with delivery of the LAG Local Rural Development Strategy.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>

<b>Report on</b>	End of Year Tourism Report 18/19
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	March 2019
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Michael Browne
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Mary McKeown

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To inform Council of Tourism activities over 2018/19 in accordance with Mid Ulster Tourism Strategy
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	The Mid Ulster Council Tourism Strategy 2017 – 2021 focuses on one new tourism strand, linked to Seamus Heaney, and two strands that are significant and prominent, but so far undeveloped, relating to Outdoor Activities and to Archaeological sites, the History and Heritage of the island of Ireland, Northern Ireland and the area itself. These strands, or themes, serve as the strategic core propositions for Mid Ulster, to attract visitors, encourage them to stay longer in the area and ensure that tourism contributes to the local economy.
2.2	This end of year report will capture the work carried out in 2018/19 financial year.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	The Delivery of Tourism Programme is in accordance with Mid Ulster Council Tourism Strategy and 3 main strands or themes of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seamus Heaney</li> <li>• Archaeological sites, history and heritage</li> <li>• Outdoor Activities</li> </ul>
3.2	The attached report captures the work carried out in 2018/19
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	Financial: Within the allocated Tourism Budget
	Human:

	Staff time.
	Risk Management: N/A
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: All Equality and Good Relations Implications were considered and addressed
	Rural Needs Implications:  Rural Needs Implications were considered
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	For information only
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	Tourism End of Year Report

# Tourism End Of Year Report 2018 / 2019



Mid Ulster District Council

# Tourism Overview 2017-2018

Tourism NI in its most recent figures estimate that during Jan-March 2018 just under one million overnight trips were taken in NI. Tourists stayed for 3.1 million nights, generating £180 million (£13 million or 8% more than in the same period in 2017). This equates to some £2.0 million spent by tourists every day during Jan-March 2018. The growth in spend, can be attributed to all markets, particularly ROI and the domestic market where growth was 11% and 16% respectively.

This growth has been reflected more locally across Mid Ulster also with our hotel bed nights increasing by 4% from 47,000 to 49,000 (2000 increase). The tourism industry supports 3,489 tourism jobs in Mid Ulster LGD in 2015 which is 7% of total employee jobs.

Our most visited site in Mid Ulster is Ballyronan Marina and it attracted 221,405 visitors in 2017 this was an increase of 15% on 2016 (this excludes country parks/parks/forests/gardens) We now have a total of 1.2 million visitors to our visitor attractions or a 30% increase in 2017 and hotel room occupancy is up 2% from 2016. Visiting Friends and Relatives makes up 66% of our visitors, Holiday/Pleasure/Leisure is 27% and Business Tourism 6%. The number of people visiting from Great Britain has increased by 6 %. People visiting from Mainland Europe has increased by 3% while the North America market has remained the same.

In 2018 tourism continued to develop and grow in the region, with the commencement of the new Dark Skies Observatory in Davagh plus exciting further phases in the development proposed, the future for tourism growth is optimistic. This project is complemented by an exciting ongoing events programme across the district including a celebration of the Summer Solstice as part of the Hidden Heritage tours, food events including the Cookstown Continental Market which continues to grow and flourish and support of local events including Clogher Valley Show in its centenary year.

Our industry representative Tourism Development Group and associated clusters continue to plan and deliver on the Mid Ulster Tourism Action Plan, with these groups benefitting from Invest NI Collaborative Growth and Tourism NI facilitation and support in 2018.

Tourism promotions, both consumer and industry facing continue to be a key aspect of delivery. For example this year staff and 6 industry representatives working with Tourism Ireland support attending World Travel Market, London to promote the region and our tourism businesses. This report outlines in full the work carried out across the district in 2018 by the tourism section with industry and partner support and gives an insight into that variety of tourism projects, promotions and events being delivered throughout the year.

# Tourism Programme Introduction

The purpose of this report is to review tourism activity over 2018/19. The content of the Tourism Programme is determined by the natural progression, development and evaluation of projects delivered within the four key priorities and projects identified below:

- 1. Tourism development**
- 2. Key events**
- 3. Business engagement**
- 4. Visitor information centre & visitor servicing**

# Tourism Development

## Davagh Forest Dark Sky Project

On October 2015 the Council's Development Committee took the decision to scope out a potential new tourist attraction for the district at Davagh Forest adding to the existing trails, utilising the potential of the site and the uniqueness of both the built and natural heritage.

On November 2015 the Council appointed Outdoor Recreation and Cogent to work up a business plan and an economic appraisal which had to be prepared and submitted with the application to DAERA.

In March 2016 the ICT tender was awarded to Teague & Sally, Cookstown for the new visitor hub building, which will be located in Davagh Forest to facilitate an application to Rural Development Programme Tourism Measure.

The Mid Ulster Davagh Forest Dark Skies project team submitted the round one application along with Economic Appraisal and Business Plan to the DAERA Rural Tourism funding programme for £500k.

At the October 2017 meeting of the Council's Development Committee permission was granted to seek additional of £245k from the Landfill Tax Fund for additional funds for the interpretation offering inside the building to ensure that the visitor would enjoy a fully immersive visitor experience. Later that month the Council received notification that the application had been successful.

On 25<sup>th</sup> July 2017 notification was received from DAERA announcing that the Rural Tourism scheme open call for full applications will be made on 14<sup>th</sup> August, with a closing date of 27<sup>th</sup> October 2017 which was extended to February 2018. An application was submitted to the DAERA on the 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Planning permission was granted for the project at the November 2017 meeting of the planning committee.

At the January 2018 Development Committee permission was granted to seek additional funding from DAERA's Rural Tourism Programme for an outdoor element of the project.

Initially Council was lead to believe that the funding application process would open before the summer of 2016. Due to internal issues DAERA delayed the opening date for the Rural Tourism Programme until the summer of 2018. This delay would have a knock on effect on the progression of the project with the selected contractor withdrawing his original tendered price due to inflation. This would result in a project review and renewed procurement process.



Tandem Consultancy advised the project team that the allocated Dark Skies exhibition area within the original building design would prove to be restrictive and would likely inhibit the capacity to offer a quality experience worth an admission fee to visitors. This was acknowledged and a redesign of the interior space was carried-out.

Traffic management infrastructure has been factored into the current project with the introduction of automated barriers with the capability to collect revenue from visitors to the Davagh Centre and the mountain bike trails. These costs are included in table 1.

Proposed construction scheme designs have been provided by ICT team Teague & Sally to show layouts accommodating exhibition space and internal lay-out within the same footprint for the building.

Facilities inside the building include:

- Exhibition space
- Grab & Go food area has been introduced to cater for visitor attraction numbers
- Floor area has been increased by reducing external canopy area and omitting bike store from the main build scheme proposals.
- Multi-purpose room has been added i.e. meeting/community space
- Changing Places
- Toilets

The Observatory is scheduled to open in Spring 2020.

Table 1 Indicative cost for project delivery for Phase 1.

<b>Construction tender amount- lowest tender received</b>	<b>£750,000</b>
Potential Additional uplift in Costs (10%) due to inflation	£75,000
Changes to internal layout to accommodate Tandem layout and provision of "Grab & Go" refreshment facility	£30,000
Additional floor space created, ICT fit out and layout changes	£80,000
Average tenders reviewed and consideration required to allow for average adjustment	£35,000
Traffic Management Infrastructure	£30,000
Internal Interpretative Fit-Out (Tandem)	£245,000
<b>Total Project Delivery Costs - Projected</b>	<b>£1,245,000</b>

*Table 1 – excludes ICT fees and statutory costs*

Table 2 Funding Streams Analysis

DEARA Funding	<b>£500,000</b>
Landfill Community Funding	<b>£250,000</b>
MUDC funding	£495,000

## Davagh Forest Outdoor Experience Phase 2

Mid Ulster District Council successfully submitted an Expression of Interest application to Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2014 -2020 to develop Davagh Forest Outdoor Experience around the Dark Sky.

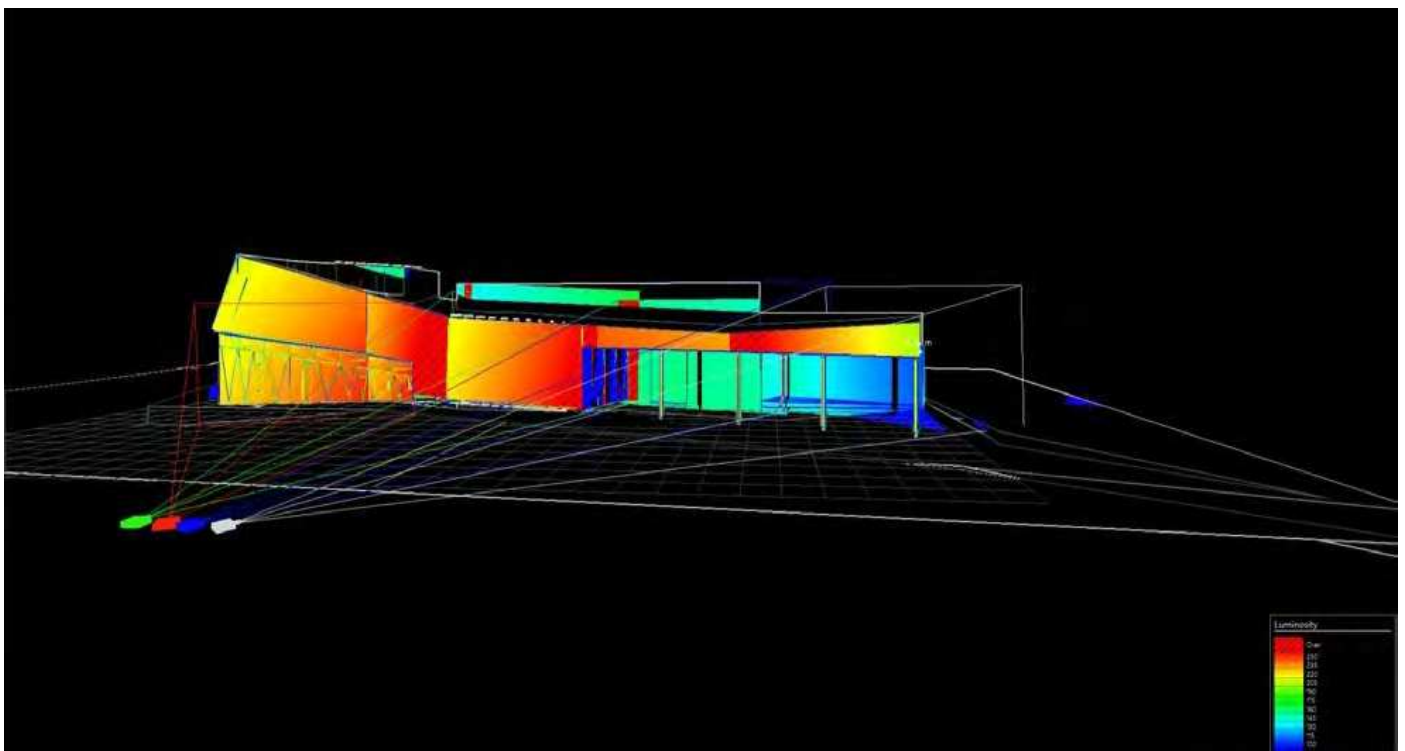
The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) invited Council to submit a capital application for this project on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2018 under the Rural Tourism funding scheme. To bring this project to a full application stage, DAERA offered Council a Technical Assistance grant to develop scoping study for the, Phase II Davagh Forest Outdoor Experience. Council received a Letter of Offer for the Technical Assistance on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2018. Tandem Design was the successful company appointed to develop a Scoping Study for Davagh Forest Observatory External Visitor.

A full application was prepared and submitted to DAERA on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019. A Letter of Offer was received on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2019.

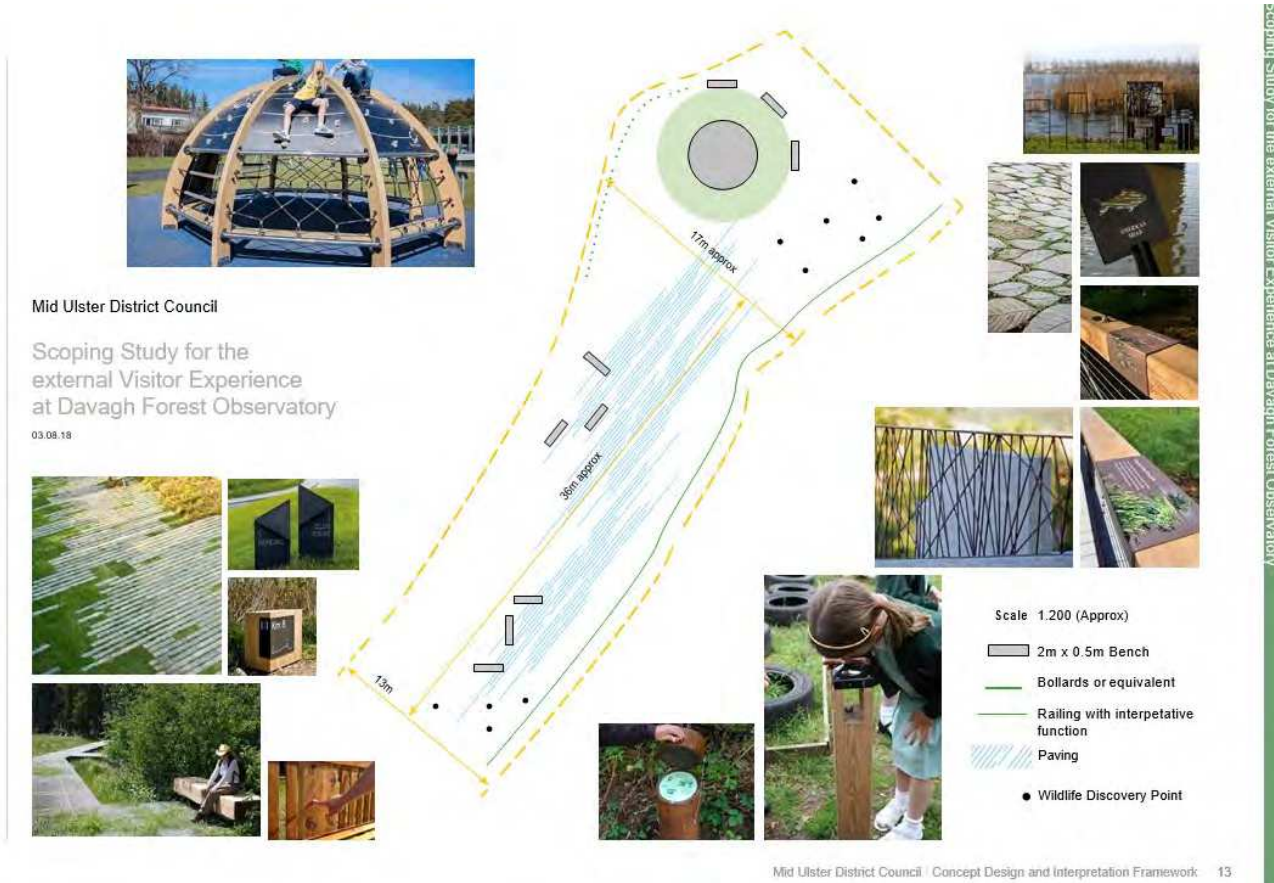
Mid Ulster District Council has been successful in its submission to DAERA to attain funding to develop an outdoor experience at Davagh Forest linking it to the new Observatory and Dark Sky park.

Within the scoping study it was recommended to implement the following:-

- Outdoor Audio Visual show with regular programme of screenings projected onto the Observatory building and the surrounding environment. The projector hardware needs to be run on a regular basis for maintenance alone, so it was advised to have 3 content changes within a year (aligned to specific events in the astronomical calendar for example), but with multiple screenings factored into an ongoing programme of events. In the winter months when the nights are longer, there could be multiple screenings for groups of 30 per night if the demand was there and/or increases.



- A Riverside activity area, this area functions as a facility for use during daylight hours. From a messaging perspective, it works in tandem with the interpretative exhibition at the Visitor Centre, helping to deliver on the secondary interpretative objectives outlined in the Interpretative Strategy.



- Amphitheatre Viewing Area (structural frame timber surface, accommodates approx.



30 people) to view the Outdoor Audio Visual show.

### **Secondary objectives:-**

- *Learning and behavioural:* Encourage visitors to compare their own experience in Davagh and the Mid Ulster region and those of our ancestors
- *Emotional:* Promote an appreciation of Davagh Forest's natural resources and outdoor recreation facilities (this objective will have particular emphasis in the Riverside area).

These objectives will be achieved through the provision of interpretative media featuring themes relating to Natural History, Archaeology and Dark Skies. This will allow the interpretative offer to be extended inwards and outwards between the Visitor Centre and River-side area. The area will consist of a hard-landscaped area to be inserted into a green space located between the car park and the Davagh River. For safety, it will feature a metal railing along the river bank and bollards along the portion that borders the car park. The landscaped area will contain a number of interesting features such as Climbing frame 'Play Planetarium', seating, landscaping and sculptural elements.

Table 3: Total project costs with Funding Streams

DEARA Funding	<b>£500,000</b>
MUDC Funding	<b>£166,000</b>
Total project cost	<b>£666,000</b>

## **Phase 3 Davagh Forest Solar Walk**

The basis of this project is to provide a unique first of its kind in Ireland Davagh Solar Walk which will be a 4.25km walkable scale model of the solar system, between Davagh Forest Observatory and Beaghmore Stone Circles. The walk will be digitally immersive linking the surrounding heritage in the area into the experience. The walk will provide a dual offering. In the day time the walk will emphasize the landscape and heritage connection with the sky above, in the evening the solar will come alive with the Visitor Centre at Davagh being the Sun and Beaghmore Stone Circles becoming Neptune. The trail will comprise of both board walks to protect the ground, hard core trails and a small pedestrian bridge taking you over the Davagh River.

This unique solar walk will compliment the current development of the new Davagh Dark Sky Visitor Centre, this animated walk will be a digital guide of the solar system to explore space and planets in real time, linking the uniqueness of the sky to the uniqueness of our heritage.

To link our natural, archaeological and astronomical heritage of the area, the Davagh Solar Walk will embrace the magnitude of the sky and actually show just how big space is, by creating a scale model of the planets along the 4.25km scenic walk between Davagh Forest and Beaghmore Stone Circles. As there is no atlas big enough to contain an accurate scale drawing of the solar system, this will provide a fantastic learning tool. As you walk, each planet will have a marker providing clear information about the planet, along with the use of an Augmented Reality App, helping to make the walk a unique out of this world experience.

An Express of Interest was submitted to DAERA on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019 to fund this project. Awaiting decision.

## Heart of Ancient Ulster Landscape Partnership Scheme

The significance of the history and built heritage of Mid Ulster is recognised in the Heritage Lottery Fund approved project under “The Heart of Ancient Ulster” which is a joint project between Mid Ulster and Fermanagh and Omagh District Councils. This project aims to address the preparation of a Landscape Conservation Management Plan stretching from the Lower Sperrins to the Carrickmore Plateau to the Pomeroy Hills, acknowledging the density and the importance of the archaeological attributes of the area.

A Letter of Offer was issued by HLF totalling £115,000, including Council's contribution of £11,025, for the Development Phase, with a Stage Two application to be submitted on 30th November 2018. If the application is successful the Delivery Phase has the potential to draw down a total of £2,932,351 over the five year life span of the project.



## Lough Neagh Partnership

Council contribute £22,000 funding toward Lough Neagh Partnership core running and marketing activities for 2018-19. Lough Neagh Partnership also receive funding from the other 4 Councils surrounding the Lough.

Lough Neagh Partnership is the main co-ordinating body for tourism, leisure, environmental, heritage and marketing activities on Lough Neagh. It delivers programmes on behalf of local and central government and provides continuous marketing that covers the whole of Lough Neagh. It has also developed the Lough Neagh and Its Waterways Destination Management Plan.

Lough Neagh Partnership co-ordinate a range of activities that will make significant impact on the economic, environmental and social wellbeing of the Lough Neagh area.

Key Primary Activities:

- Marketing & Promotion
- Tourism Promotion
- Environmental Protection, Enhancement and Sustainability
- Heritage Conservation, Management and Promotion
- Leisure, Recreation and Safety
- Attracting Investment and Financial Sustainability

## Lough Neagh Partnership HLF Landscape Partnership Programme

Lough Neagh Partnership secured a Heritage Lottery funded Landscape Partnership project of over

£3.5 million to deliver 27 capital and revenue projects, with 3 being delivered in Mid Ulster. Council agreed to match funding of £99,059 over 5 years toward:

- Lough Heritage Signage
- Archaeology Project Goals 1, 2 and 3
- *Newferry Walk and Gort Moss Access Improvement Plan*

The access element of the project has transferred from Ardboe to Newferry as part of the wider Blueway development and due to issues with permissive path agreements. MUDC Capital Projects Team are delivering this part of the project as agreed by LNP and HLF. The proposed trail will open up access along the Lower Bann corridor between Lough Beg and Newferry for the purposes of heritage interpretation and recreation. It will also provide an opportunity for users to familiarise themselves with the heritage and importance of the New Ferry site and it's links to the Seamus Heaney literary heritage and his writings of the area. The Gort Moss improvement plan will provide a series of recommendations for upgrading the existing trail with actions funded through HLF.



## Destination Marketing Plan

LNP have developed 3 new tours to promote Lough Neagh, Craic and Food Tour, Thatched Houses of Lough Neagh and Seamus Heaney Tour, as well as a 3 day itinerary to sell directly to tour operators and appeal to international markets. The Marketing Officer attended major trade shows regionally and nationally selling direct to tour operators.



## Marketing and Promotions

LNP continue to co-ordinate a marketing programme for Lough Neagh which includes the provision of press releases, features and advertorials to Tourism NI, local and regional media, quarterly E-newsletters to stakeholders and consumers, promotion of events and information automatically updated from Tourism NI website. LNP also have a very strong digital presence through social media sites Facebook, Twitter and their website [www.discoverloughneagh.com](http://www.discoverloughneagh.com).

Joe Mahon's UTV series on Lough Neagh was originally scheduled for 8 episodes, however an additional 2 episode were commissioned due to the success.

- Total Brand Reach: 10,370,925
- Broadcast: 21
- UTV 'Lough Neagh': 10 episodes
- Print: 108
- Online: 66



### ***Lough Neagh Cycle Trail***

LNP continue to promote cycle trails around the Lough and the Lough the Lap event.

### ***Lough Neagh Community Trust***

LNP staff along with Destination Trust NI were unsuccessful in their application to HLF for assistance towards Lough Neagh Community Trust, however, continue working together to secure funding and provide advice.

### ***Lough Neagh Co Operation Project***

LNP along with have prepared a business plan for the whole of the Lough, as well as Washing Bay as part of the LAG Co-Operation project.

### ***Lough Neagh Food Programme***

LNP have secured £30,000 from DAERA towards development assistance in Phase 1 of a Lough Neagh Artisan Food Chain Business Plan which can then be submitted in a funding application for phase two. Nine artisan food producers from around the Lough are participating with 3 businesses from MUDC.

### ***NIEA Shoreline Plan***

LNP staff will help implement and administer funding of £43,000 which has been secured for a second year from NIEA towards the development and implementation of management for Special Protected Areas (SPAs). Part of this project will relate to the Mid Ulster District Council area.

### ***New Group Farm Scheme***

A Farming Co-Ordinator officer has been appointed to work with farmers under the DAERA Group Farm Scheme for Lough Neagh, focusing on western shores/Mid Ulster shoreline. To date over 11 farmers from MUDC have signed up to the scheme.

### ***HLF Great Places Scheme***

LNP in partnership with MUDC have secured funding of £394,000 with over £312,000 from HLF to develop a Great Place Project in Coalisland and the wider area.



## Lower Bann Blueway

The official launch of the Phase One of the Lower Bann Blueway, linking Toome to Coleraine along the River Bann took place on Wednesday 9th January 2019.

In the joint venture between Mid Ulster District Council and Waterways Ireland, supported by Angling NI, The Honourable Irish Society, the National Coarse Fishing Federation of Ireland and the local land owner, Mr. William Chesney, a new multi-use public path along the riverbank was developed, accessing an additional 25 coarse angling stands installed as part of the phased works that complements the existing 89 angling stands and associated facilities already at the site.



This new site will host for the first time the European Coarse Angling Championships in June 2019. Since autumn 2018, the tourism team have been working with the Euro 25 event organisers providing detailed information on angling-friendly accommodation within a 15 mile radius of the fishing pegs. The Bridewell Visitor information Centre is being used as a main point of contact for teams booking accommodation, and providing additional visitor information.



## Boyne Valley Learning Journey, September 2018

A trip to the Boyne Valley on Friday 28th September was a huge success. Slane Castle, Slane Distillery and Newgrange all formed part of the visit. Feedback was excellent with all in attendance finding it a very beneficial and a worthwhile learning journey. The trip generated useful ideas and built relationships amongst the industry.

The whole day demonstrated how effective collaboration amongst the tourism/hospitality industry has had a huge impact on developing the success of Boyne Valley region.

Expenditure for this Learning Journey was £2669 and income generated was £360 (£15 per head).



Mid Ulster Tourism Businesses and staff at Newgrange during the

## U.S. Grant Homestead

Through the Ulster Scots Agency further funding of £30k has been secured for Phase 2 of the refurbishment work at U.S. Grant Homestead. This phase will enhance the interpretive treatment of the site including the introduction of welcome signage at the entrances and exits to the site; directional signage to help visitors to navigate the site and suitable interpretive displays within and around the buildings.



The beautifully restored U.S

The Agency will also include audio interpretation at the site, as well as upgrading the existing audio / visual offering.

It is envisaged Phase 2 will be completed by April/May 2019.

## U.S. Grant Homestead Grading

An application was made in April 2018 to TourismNI for grading U.S. Grant Homestead. A visit to the site took place at the beginning of June 2018. Following the report from the Assessor, U.S.G. was successfully awarded a “3 star” grading under the category “Historic Attractions”. Following the visit and subsequent report there are a number of points that can be improved upon in order to achieve a 4 star grading for 2019. As part of our Corporate objective we will be looking at this within the next 12 month period.



## U.S. Consulate General visit to U.S. Grant Homestead

MUDC welcomed U.S. Consul General Daniel Lawton to U.S. Grant Homestead on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2018 as part of the “Five Presidents in Five Days” initiative. As well as celebrating the birthday of Ulysses Grant on that day, Consul General Lawton was also given a tour of the Homestead which has recently been refurbished and restored to its original state in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century when the Simpsons lived there.



*U.S. Consul General Daniel Lawton, Ulysses S Grant and Chair of MUDC, Cllr. Kim Ashton*

# Key Events

# Hidden Heritage Programme

## Discover Whats On Your Doorstep

On completion of the success of the 2017 Hidden Heritage programme the Tourism department agreed to host a further Hidden Heritage Programme throughout 2018 based around the key heritage in Mid Ulster such as Tullaghoge Fort, Hill of the O'Neill, Beaghmore Stone Circles, Maghera Hidden Heritage and Blessingbourne Estate.

## Hidden Heritage Programme Summer 2018

Events were delivered in association with the Department for Communities, Craic Theatre which included living history, storytelling and entertainment on site.

Maximum Capacity per session on the coach was 35 persons but this figure was exceeded to cope with demand.

Transport was provided from Burnavon and Dungannon Park.

Admission £8

- The O'Neill's Story, Tullaghoge Fort & Hill of the O'Neill  
Saturday 12th May 2018
- Summer Solstice at Beaghmore Stone Circles  
Thursday 21st June 2018
- Discover Maghera's Hidden Heritage  
Saturday 7th July 2018
- Who lives in a house like this? Blessingbourne Estate  
Saturday 5th September 2018
- 

**Attendance: 265**

**Income: £2,120**



**Tourism end of year report 2018 / 2019**

## Corporate Events

### Cookstown Continental Market

Cookstown turned continental when the food and flavors, sights and sounds of Europe and beyond returned to the town centre for two days on 2 – 3 June! Organised in partnership with Cookstown Town Centre Forum, the continental market was part of Market Place Europe's spring tour, and featured over 40 traders from as far afield as Morocco, India, Belgium, France, Russia, Holland, Spain and China, who set up stalls alongside local traders from the weekly street market.

As well as mouth-watering dishes, from freshly made Paella to delicious Bratwurst Sausages, visitors to the market over the two day event were kept entertained with a variety of street entertainment and music.

An added feature to this year's market was 'The Brickx Club' which provided an opportunity for both children and adults to utilise LEGO through creative brick building, at the two hour session in the Burnavon over the Continental Market weekend.



### Coalisland Summer Bash



A new signature event was developed this year at Lineside Coalisland. The Summer Bash was organised in conjunction with Keep 'Er Lit Running Clubs annual Newell 10K and 5K run.

Nearly 4000 people recently enjoyed a fantastic evening of free family fun and entertainment which was organised during and after the run.

Live music was provided by Brian Mills and Declan McGrath of Reverb, as well as Coalisland Silver Band; and a host of children's entertainment including dance workshops and demonstrations, face painting, balloon modelling, arts and crafts and other activities were enjoyed by kids.

### Lumarina

Thousands of people attended this year's Lumarina which took place at Ballyronan at the weekend. The free 2-day event, took place at Ballyronan Marina on Friday 17 August from 6pm-10pm and Saturday 18 August from 2pm-6pm.

The Friday night saw the Council 'Light Up the Lough' with stunning fire performances and a spectacular fireworks display. As well as this there was plenty of entertainment for the whole family including a fun fair, live music from The Bellas, a



climbing wall, vortex tunnel and food stalls.

The fun continued on Saturday afternoon with a Pirate and Princess Party offering a selection of fun, free activities including face painting, balloon modelling, an inflatable jungle playground and arts and crafts. DJ Glackin provided the live music for the afternoon. Approximately 4000 attended this event.

The caravan site was almost at capacity, enhancing the overnight visitor number to the Marina and the Mid Ulster Area. This events continue to developed, attracting both repeat visitors and new visitors to the event.

### Talfeta Festival



The first ever Talfeta Festival took place in Magherafelt Town Centre from 10 – 12 August. The 2-day music and entertainment event was organised by Mid Ulster District Council in partnership with Magherafelt Town Centre Forum and local hospitality businesses.

From Monday 6 – Friday 10 August, Beyond Skin delivered an Orchestra of Change Makers Project in the Bridewell where young people learned about performing, producing and choreographing a musical piece that was showcased in the Bridewell on Saturday 11 August.

On Saturday 11 August free family entertainment took place in the town centre including face painting, balloon

modelling, street entertainment and a street art workshop where children participated with graffiti and chalk art. Drop in arts and craft workshops will also take place during the same time in Bank of Ireland.

Meadowlane Shopping Centre was the focus of family entertainment on Sunday 12 August including face painting, balloon modelling and walkabout characters.

A number of Hospitality businesses also took part in the festival putting on various promotions and entertainment over the weekend.

The event was very well received by the local community and provides an opportunity to build on and develop more entertainment and activities for next year.

### Tales and Trails

On Saturday 8th September, Peter the playful rabbit and friends took over Maghera Walled Garden for an afternoon of fun and mischief at Peter's Tales and Trails!

Over 3000 people attended the event. Lots of entertainment and activities were free to enjoy including, a programme of entertainment has been arranged around this year's theme, to include 10 interactive stations around the garden an outdoor cinema, theatre show, potting your own vegetables, real furry animals and an interactive treasure trail. Food and tasty treats were on offer. A fantastic day was had by all who stopped by.



### **Dungannon Halloween**

The Hill of The O'Neill was packed to capacity on Friday 26 October, as just under 4,000 people braved the cold to enjoy the fun and fireworks.

The fun kicked off with free Halloween Freaky Tales and art workshop sessions taking place at Dungannon Library and Ranfurly House from early afternoon, as children created some spooky art work, and the drop-in Make Your Own Halloween Bats and Spiders workshop certainly got the little terrors into the Halloween spirit before the frighteningly fang-tastic fun started on the Hill. Halloween party goers enjoyed ghastly games, mystifying music, freaky face painting, brilliant balloon modelling, and dance along with some scary characters, as stilt walkers and fire jugglers helped to set the freaky, Halloween mood. The evening finished with the highly anticipated spectacular fireworks display, which lit up the night sky above the town.

### **Mid Ulster Sports Arena Halloween**

Approximately 5,000 people turned out in Cookstown for Mid Ulster Sports Arena's Halloween Fun, Food and Fireworks Display on Saturday 27 October 2018.

The arena played host to spooky shenanigans with lots of fun had by little monsters and a fantastic firework display courtesy of Mid Ulster District Council. There were lots of free activities to enjoy including a climbing wall, crazy karts, amusements, fire jugglers, spooky train, Vortex tunnel, arts and crafts and face painters. The evening rounded off with a fantastic 15 minute firework display.

### **Coalisland Halloween**

Over 2000 people attended Coalisland's spooktacular programme of fun and fireworks on Halloween night, Wednesday 31 October.

The Halloween activities begun at 6pm with an evening of entertainment with funfair rides at Gortgonis Park. The night was brought to a close with a spectacular 15 minute fireworks display.

### **Maghera Hooley and Fireworks Display**

Just under 3,000 people attended Maghera's Halloween Hooley and Fireworks Display on Wednesday 31 October 2018, Halloween Night.

Maghera Leisure Centre played host to an afternoon with lots of fun had by families who had attended. The finale of the evening was the fire juggling and the 15 minute Firework Display which took place at St Patrick's college pitch, O'Hara Drive



### **Cookstown Christmas Lights Switch On**

Huge crowds wrapped up warm in Cookstown on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November to kick off the Christmas Light Switch On celebrations in the Mid Ulster District Council area. Nearly 4,000 people enjoyed



the free family entertainment, Art Cart, Gaming bus, face painting and balloon modelling as well as a host of cartoon characters as they waited for Santa to arrive.

Local band, Crafty Crows were on stage to liven up the festivities, and with their renditions of classic Christmas tunes, they had the crowd in the seasonal spirit of things very quickly. The musical entertainment continued with Tullylagan Pipe Band piping and drumming a number of tunes, with a highlight being a haunting rendition of 'Hallelujah'.

The cast of Stewartstown Amateur Dramatic Society also gave a sneak peek from their pantomime 'Alice in Wonderland'.

Followed by a magical street parade by Bardic Theatre's Showstoppers, which made its way through the town performing

musical hits from a family favourite movie.

The highlight of the evening and moment everyone was waiting for was the arrival of Santa Claus himself, and the switch on of the renowned Christmas lights with the Chair of Mid Ulster District Council, Councillor Sean McPeake.

### **Dungannon Magical Christmas Kingdom**

Record crowds attended Dungannon Magical Christmas Kingdom and Christmas Lights Switch On on Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 November.

The Hill of The O'Neill was transformed into a Magical Christmas Grotto experience. Activities included, toasting marshmallows on an open fire, letter writing to Santa Claus, a naughty or nice machine, a giant selfie teddy bear, Fun Fair amusements and much more.

Children could also visit 'Santa's Christmas Stables' where they will come face-to-face with Santa's reindeers and other friendly animals before travelling through the magical realms on their journey to meet the man himself, Santa, in his cosy grotto.



The Christmas Lights Switch On took place on the evening of Saturday 24 November in the town centre, which saw the arrival of Santa by horse and carriage.

Over 14,000 people attended the activities over the weekend!

### **Magherafelt Christmas Market and Christmas Lights Switch On**

The streets of Magherafelt were filled with festive shoppers, with over 20,000 people having attended this year's Magherafelt Christmas Market and Christmas Lights Switch On event on Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 November 2018.



A fantastic array of artisan food and craft stalls selling local high quality products was the centrepiece of the 2018 market. Those who attended enjoyed browsing and sampling the locally produced food and drink, and took time to unwind in the lounge, where they could choose a craft beer, hot mulled wine or even just sit and relax. This year the format and layout were changed to make the environment friendlier. This proved very popular.

There were lots of hints and tips for Christmas feasts on

offer and local bands and school children, including the troop from Groogan Creative Dance, Caitriona Lagan Music, and pupils from St Mary's Grammar School and Magherafelt High School performed on stage over the weekend, with lots of family entertainment across the stages from local acts, including Sollus Highland Dancers Mid Ulster and Mid Ulster School of Music. Children also visited Santa and enjoyed storytelling from Mrs Claus at the Bridewell on Saturday. Sunday was a relaxing afternoon as the Ulster Youth Jazz Orchestra and the Ireland String Quartet provided soothing sounds for the shoppers as the market ended. The Lights Switch On and spectacular fireworks display which was undoubtedly the highlight of the weekend took place on Saturday evening where a record crowd gathered for the Magherafelt Christmas Street Party on Broad Street before Chair of Mid Ulster District Council, Councillor Sean McPeake and Santa himself hit the button to switch on the lights with much applause. A dazzling firework display then followed as the Market and festivities continued into the night as Anna's Number rocked the night away under the Christmas tree.

### **Maghera Christmas Lights Switch On**

Maghera was full of festive cheer on Saturday 01 December as Santa took up residence in Maghera Walled Garden for the afternoon, before turning on the Christmas lights in the town in front of a capacity crowd. Approximately 2,000 people attended the activities and the Lights Switch On.

The day began in the Lurach Centre with lantern making, face painting, balloon modelling and letter writing to Santa, before crowds moved to the Walled Garden. Mrs Claus was on hand to help post all the children's letters back to the North Pole, along with festive Elves that lit up the Garden with a spectacular LED display.



### **Coalisland Christmas Lights Switch On**

Almost 2,000 people attended the Christmas Lights Switch On in Coalisland which took place on Sunday 02 December.



The day had something for everyone with the Na Fianna Craft Fayre at the Parochial Centre, and free family entertainment outside the Cornmill Centre including face painting, balloon modelling and walkabout characters, including the Dame from Craic Theatre's pantomime Aladdin.

DJ Marty Lowe, local artists Brian Mills and Declan McGrath and a performance from CRAIC Theatre ensured the crowds were musically entertained throughout the day and Santa in his cosy corner was a big hit with children.

In accordance with our service improvement plan, we exceed our action to deliver 20 Corporate Strategic Events per annum through 2017 - 2019 attracting an increase of 5% attendance figures of 2016-2017

## Training associated with corporate events:

### Corporate Events Training



Corporate Risk and Health and Safety organised an Event Management Course which took place on Tuesday 21 August 2018.

A number of Lead officers from corporate events attended this training. Officers were taken through the process of Event Management and reminded of the legal Health and Safety obligations and Risks involved with events.

This course will enhance officer's current knowledge to ensure the interests and reputation of the Council are protected at front facing events.

### Steward Training

The Corporate Learning & Development Manager organised Steward Training on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> October Tower Room, Ranfurly Arts & Visitors centre. This training was for staff who require refresher training and/or other staff who are now stewarding at events.



## Teddy Bears Picnic 2018

Approximately 400 nursery and primary school children attended the annual Teddy Bears Picnic event at USG Ancestral Homestead from 4th- 8th June 2016. The event was extremely successful and with positive feedback from both teachers and children. The programme consisted of a magic show provided by Colin Walker and interactive dance for fun and exercise with Jump, Jiggle and Jive.

Expenditure for this event was £2.5k and income generated was £1287. The event is scheduled to take place from 3rd- 7th June 2019 .



(Jump, Jiggle & Jive)



(Colin Walker Magic)

# Santa's Grotto

## Project Details

The Tourism Department once again hosts Santa in his Magical Grotto from 6th December until the 19th December. During their visit children will have the opportunity to write and post their special letter, meet and chat with Santa and receive a special gift and a photograph of their visit. The older children got the opportunity to throw snowballs at Santa's elves through Virtual Reality. Admission to the grotto is £8.00 per child, adults go free

## 2018 / 19 Outputs

Designed and built with support from Signworks, the Grotto was located in the Burnavon and opened to the public from 6th until 19th December 2018.

Admission to the grotto was £8 per child.

Visits included:

- Opportunity to write letter
- Meet Santa
- VR
- Receive gift & picture

**Budget: £3000**

**Income : £3168**

## 2019/ 20 Objectives

To build on the 2018 programme by delivering a series of co-ordinated Christmas events/ activities commencing late November and December 2019. Exact times and opening hours yet to be considered.

**Budget: £3000**



# Business Engagement

# Tourism Development Group

Mid Ulster District Council approved The Mid Ulster Tourism Strategy 2016-2021 document in July 2016 and one of its recommendations was to establish a Tourism Development Group to oversee and advise on the delivery of the strategy document and to provide tourism representation from across sectors and the region. The group continue to meet once every two months in venues across the region and have gone from strength to strength.

## Role

The main roles of the Group are to:

- Help set the tourism priorities for the area.
- Comment on and contribute to the thinking behind the branding, marketing, annual marketing plans and product development opportunities across the area.
- Help generate operator contributions to such thinking and marketing delivery, including generating collateral for campaigns.
- Support partnership arrangements locally (within Mid Ulster and NI) and with Tourism Ireland and the travel trade.
- Act as ambassadors for the area in all matters relating to tourism.

### *Mid Ulster District Council, Development Committee*

Membership of the Tourism Development Group also includes 5 Council members drawn from the membership of the Councils Development Committee and be 2 Sinn Fein, 1 DUP, 1 UUP and 1 SDLP.

Members are as follows:

Kieran Bradley/ Cathy O'Neill - Walsh's Hotel, Maghera  
Colleen Lowry – Blessingbourne, Fivemiletown  
Hazel McDermott – Ashbrook House Bed & Breakfast, Carnteel  
Hugh McCloy - Jungle NI (Vice Chairman)  
Norman Bell - Lissan House, Cookstown  
Neil Somerville - Horses Welcome, Clogher  
Anna Marie McFerran - The Old Thatch Inn, Castledawson  
Terry McCrory – Heraldic Craft  
Allastar McGarry – North West Regional College, Magherafelt  
Grainne Mulholland/Simon Wiggins– South West College, Dungannon  
Bobby Bell/Mark McGeehan – J&K Coaches  
Councillor Martin Kearney  
Councillor Walter Cuddy  
Councillor Niamh Doris  
Councillor Sean Clarke (Chairman)  
Councillor Frances Burton

## Review

Members commenced a review of the Tourism Development Group and its workings in February 2018 and published a final report on this in April 2018.

The objectives of the review were:

- a) to consider the main roles of the Development Group and Clusters;
- b) to identify progress on fulfilling each of the main roles;
- c) to assess the practical working of the Development Group and Clusters;
- d) to propose recommendations for action and/or change.

A questionnaire was issued to all members in order to elicit feedback on the workings of the Tourism Development Group and the clusters. Workshops were also held with members to get one to one feedback in a structured discussion session.

Recommendations on the review included:

### (1) Development Group

The Group should retain its strategic focus and:

- a) Encourage and facilitate greater partnership working between tourism providers within the district;
- b) Disseminate and build on learning from the Heaney Cluster;
- c) Work with MUDC and others to maximise linkages and spin-off benefits for tourism providers from the: Heart of Ancient Ulster; Dark Skies; and Coalisland International Motor Sport Centre – Lake Torrent projects;
- d) Develop social media platforms and seek consultancy advice on market branding;
- e) Support the Clusters to develop their marketing and packaging ideas and to promote tourism activities and facilities locally; and
- f) Influence the plans and strategies of tourism agencies for the benefit of the district.

### (2) Clusters

- a) The Events and Outdoor Activities Clusters should merge and prioritise strategic marketing and “packaging” and local promotion.
- b) The Heritage and History Cluster should meet more regularly and build on the focus provided by the Heart of Ancient Ulster initiative.

### (3) Roles

The roles of the Development Group and Clusters and their members should be to:

- a) Help set the tourism priorities for the area.
- b) Contribute to marketing and branding plans and product development opportunities.
- c) Support partnership arrangements locally, regionally and with Tourism NI, Tourism Ireland and the travel trade.
- d) Act as tourism ambassadors for the area.



## Seamus Heaney Cluster

Seamus Heaney Cluster – Invest NI Collaborative Growth Programme/ NI Industry Support programme – Tourism NI

On the 6th February 2018, Lough Beg Mews – Ballyscullion Park, were awarded funding to conduct an Industry Led Scoping Study as part of the INI Collaborative Growth Programme. On appointment of the facilitator's the program began in May 2018 under the working title Seamus Heaney Collaborative Growth Cluster.



The essence of the program was to develop new and existing synergies, networks, models of best practice and partnerships that can help sell the Seamus Heaney cluster proposition and enhance business opportunities and competitiveness.

Over the subsequent months the cluster established a strong working group who have invested their time to attend meetings with an average 83% turnout. Each of the 6 meetings have been structured to provide guest insight and discussion which is aligned to the overall objectives of the study.

This has included Justin Albert, National Trust Director for Wales and Hay Festival, TNI colleagues, Dr Peter Bolan from University of Ulster Hospitality Faculty, Esther Dobbin Community Engagement Director at NT Giants Causeway and Mark Rodgers, Dalriada Kingdom Tours. The group have also displayed their experiential offer to the GB Tourism Ireland team on their visit to Seamus Heaney HomePlace in November 18 and members attended World Travel market to promote the cluster and their businesses.

During the Scoping Study the members have worked collaboratively to develop new experiential offers through the TNI Industry Support Program which is running in parallel. The aim of the of TNI activity is to have Market Ready tourism product for Meet the Buyer in April'19 and the network has 7 businesses booked to attend.

As part of the Scoping Study the members have the opportunity to partake in best practice learning journeys. Early in the program Hay Festival and Cork/Kinsale were identified as potential visits and 9 members of the network have recently returned from a successful trip to Yeo Valley Farm to learn about farm diversification and tourism, and onto Hay-on-Wye to meet members of Hay Festival, Hay Castle and local business people.



The second learning journey to Cork / Kinsale will take place 24th – 26th March and is being co-ordinated in collaboration

with Enterprise Europe Network. To date 18 members have expressed an interest in travelling to Jameson Distillery, Ballymaloe House, Cork Chamber to meet peers from Pure Cork, Ring of Cork, Munster Literary Festival, Words by Water and Kinsale Food Circle.

The completion of the Scoping Study accumulates in a report detailing a summary of outcomes/ impact of project for both Network Members and Stakeholders.

The Scoping Study final report will be available at the beginning of May 2019.

## Hotel Cluster

The inaugural hotel cluster meeting took place on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at the Glenavon House Hotel, Cookstown. The nine hotels from across the district were invited to attend with the aim of collectively working together, and establishing better collection of statistics.

In attendance at the first meeting was:

- Cohannon Inn, Dungannon
- The Terrace, Magherafelt
- Walsh's Hotel, Maghera
- Glenavon House Hotel, Cookstown
- Corick House Hotel & Spa, Clogher
- 

With council officers, Mary McGee, Charmain Bell and Allison O'Keefe.

As a result of the initial meeting, a training needs analysis was issued to the hotel cluster to ascertain the skills shortage within the sector. The aim to deliver a Hospitality Mentor Programme for the cluster addressing the individual training needs of each establishment. A specification to tender for the delivery of the Mentor Programme was issued on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> February, closing on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> February.

## Guest Speakers

**Janice Gault** CEO of the Northern Ireland Hotels Federation attended the second hotel cluster meeting at Corick House Hotel & Spa on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> January. Janice provided an update on the hotel industry and collection of statistics.

**Sarah Duignan** Director of Client Relationships with STR Global, is attending the third cluster meeting on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March at Cohannon Inn. STR is a worldwide hotel data and benchmarking company providing a reliable source of premium global data benchmarking, analytics and marketplace insights. Already used by many hotels across Northern Ireland to obtain accurate, up-to-date statistics, Sarah will be advising if we can establish a specific Mid-Ulster hotel data collection report.



# Business to Business (B2B) Events

## Tourism NI Tour Guides programme

This programme funded by Tourism NI (£10,000) was targeted at future foreign language guides and 10 people who speak a range of languages completed. The programme gave them an immersive Seamus Heaney day and a visit to HomePlace, all planned to introduce them to HomePlace with a view to encouraging return visits with groups and reciprocal cross marketing benefits.

## Meet the Buyer

**Meet the Buyer on 19 April** in St Georges Market, Belfast, staff attended this B2B event and had interviews with 22 incoming tour operators plus positive contacts made with Geraldine Egan, Tourism Ireland. This resulted in Council getting Northern Ireland Industry Co Operation funding for international promotions. 10 tour Operators are now actively featuring Seamus Heaney Homeplace and Hill of The O'Neill in itineraries and this is being developed on an ongoing basis.

**Meet the Buyer Site visit on 21<sup>st</sup> April** the meet the Buyer B2B event was followed by a familiarisation trip when 15 incoming tour operators on the People, Place & Politics fam trip visited Seamus Heaney Homeplace, Ballyscullion Park and had lunch at The Old Thatch Inn.

## GB/ROI Coach & Tour Operators



The GB Coach & Tour Operators workshop was held in St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast on 13<sup>th</sup> September. Staff had meetings with 20 incoming GB and ROI operators bring groups from all over the world to visit Ireland. There is a growing demand for Northern Ireland from these operators and the challenge for us is to divert them off the honeypot routes and into this region.

## World Travel Market, WTM London

This was Mid Ulster Council's second visit to WTM, the event took place at Excel, London from the **5th – 7th November**. Following on from last year's event and contacts made with Tourism Ireland, we were successful in receiving TIL funding and this allowed us to bring 5 industry representatives to the show. Staff from J&K Coaches, Walsh's Hotel, Lough Neagh Eels, Lough Neagh Tours and Quinn's coaches attended and got the opportunity to network and sell their businesses on the Tourism Ireland stand.



To date over £300,000 of businesses has been achieved from the show with seven site visits planned to the region. Tourism staff had 22 meetings and follow up on these is ongoing.

## Digital Mentor Programme

The Digital Mentor Programme for Tourism Businesses in Mid Ulster provided 10 businesses with 10 hours of specialist one to one mentoring support, a digital baseline audit and digital action plan to help achieve the following:

- 1) Develop IT skills sets of the client
- 2) Develop usage of Online media
- 3) Facilitate usage of Social media
- 4) Explore the benefits of E Commerce with businesses
- 5) Provide website consultation, optimisation and recommendations.

This programme provided exceptional value for money by exceeding the key target outputs and delivering the following results:

- Delivering 10 baseline audits and skills assessments
- Delivering 10 IT Improvement Plans
- 10 hours of tailored mentoring support to each business
- Increasing the use of social media and technology of each business by an average of 30.34% and at least 11.72%
- 

Additionally, Facebook Advertising, Google My Business and Website development / utilization were the most in demand areas for support for the businesses who applied.

## Tourism Promotions

Staff have participated in a number of tourism promotions throughout the year showcasing Mid Ulster, these included:

### **Balmoral Show from 16-19 May**

Tourism businesses from across the region including: Walsh's Hotel, Tour Guide Brendan Adams, Island Turf Craft, Seamus Heaney HomePlace Hotel with tourism staff worked over the

three days to sell the region. Over 800 pieces of literature including the Mid Ulster Guide, special offers brochure and individual attractions literature were distributed.

### Royal Highland Show, Edinburgh 21-24 June

This is Scotland's largest consumer show, where staff worked alongside Tourism Ireland staff and trade from across Ireland promoting the Mid Ulster region.

Attendance at the show was funded by Tourism Ireland NI Industry Cooperation programme.



### Clogher Valley Show

The 100<sup>th</sup> Clogher Valley Agricultural Show was held on 25 July 2019.

This event is one of the largest one day agricultural show's in N Ireland with visitor's attending the event from all over the island of Ireland and in their centenary year proved to be a great success. Mid Ulster District Council tourism department hired 80ft by 20ft of promotional space in a very prominent location within the main field and provided gazebos/tables for up to 10 local tourism SME's, to take opportunity to promote and sell at the show.

### Antrim Garden Show

Staff worked on this promotion at Antrim Garden Show, from 4 – 6 May 2018. Antim is the largest gardening and outdoor show in Northern Ireland and attracts over 30,000 visitors every year.

Trade representatives from the region also attended, these included Killymoon Castle, Linen Green and the Jungle.

### Holiday World, Belfast & Dublin

Mid Ulster Council have exhibited at both shows in January past with business representatives. The shows were busy with over 800 pieces of literature being distributed. Dublin is certainly busier and perhaps is the one to focus on going forward. Staff are currently following up on 5 group tour requests generated in Dublin plus other media enquiries and completed a radio interview with Sunshine FM on the stand.



# Tourism Promotions

## Photography

During the summer of 2018 Brian Morrison Photography was appointed to develop and produce a suite of creative and innovative illustrative images for use in Mid Ulster promotional literature, advertising, marketing material, online and social media, as well as international platforms, within the likes of Tourism Ireland and Tourism Northern Ireland to enhance the success of Mid Ulster's tourism product.

Brian Morrison has worked with Tourism Ireland and Tourism N Ireland over many years and brought to the project not only his skills and expertise but also knowledge in what both tourism organisations will capture to use in their marketing and promotional campaigns. The project cost £8,000 and captured key product under the Strategic Tourism themes—Seamus Heaney.



## World Host Training

Licenced Trainers, Charmain Bell and Genevieve Bell have delivered the following WorldHost Workshops during the period of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.



Date of Training	Location	Number of Participants	Income
10 April 2018	Corick House Hotel	15	
12 September 2018	The Burnavon	11	£231
4 October 2018	Lake Torrent – Ambassador Training	12	£120
16 January 2019	The Valley Hotel	7	£140
	<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>£491</b>

In May 2018 funding was secured from Tourism NI to deliver the Lake Torrent WorldHost Ambassador training in Coalisland. This was a co-funded model, whereby Tourism NI paid the external trainer fees (approximately £3,000) and provided the training materials for each training session (approximately £3,600). Mid Ulster Council provided the venue, hospitality, marketing of the workshops, and coach for the familiarisation trips.

The Ambassador programme was tailored specifically to Lake Torrent and Coalisland, and included a familiarisation trip highlighting the local area.

Eight training sessions were scheduled to run from September 2018 to June 2019 with a minimum of 25 participants per session. Unfortunately these had to be cancelled due to the Lake Torrent owners going into receivership in October 2018. Engagement work is ongoing with our tourism trade to deliver the WorldHost Principles of Customer Service Training specifically tailored to each establishment.

## WorldHost Business Recognition

The Burnavaon having successfully trained over 50% of their staff and have submitted an application to obtain their WorldHost Business Recognition.

# Visitor Information Centre & Visitor Servicing

# Visitor Information Centres

The three VIC's continues to support the tourism service provided by Council. Three of thirty one Tourism Northern Ireland (TNI) networked centres, all of which have excellent facilities providing a wide array of services to the local community and visitors to the area. Cookstown VIC has been assessed as a **Destination Visitor Information Centre** by TNI with Magherafelt and Dungannon VIC holding **Local** Status

## VIC Services:

- Free information on Northern Ireland's tourist attractions, events and accommodation
- Reference material on Republic of Ireland
- Local and National Accommodation Booking Service
- Sale of Fishing Licences
- Retail outlet providing a range of literature and crafts
- Tour Guide Service
- Box Office for Burnavon and Square Box events
- Free WIFI

## Opening Hours

The centres are open on an average of 65 hours per week including nights & Weekends.

## Staffing

Head of Tourism: Michael Browne

Tourism Manager: Mary McKeown

Tourism Officers: Charmain Bell, Genevieve Bell, Mary McGee and Graeme Major

Full Time Tourism / Box Office Advisors: 5

Part-time Tourism / Box Office Advisor: 2

Casual Tourism / Box Office Advisors: 20

## Craft Sales

VISITOR FIGURES 2018/19	ORIGIN OF VISITORS 2018/19	ORIGIN OF VISITORS 2018/19
Total Visitors: <b>201,082</b>	<b>82%</b> Northern Ireland	<b>87%</b> Northern Ireland
Counter: <b>16,989</b>	<b>18%</b> Out of State	<b>13%</b> Out of State
Phone: <b>3,609</b>		
Post / Email: <b>850</b>		
Browsers: <b>184,093</b>		
VIC INCOME		
Total Sales: <b>£26,172.28</b>		
Crafts: <b>£18,386.28</b>		
Fishing licences: <b>£3234</b> (10% commission to VIC)		
Events: <b>£4552</b>		

Targeted development of the craft shop within Cookstown VIC and Magherafelt VIC has yielded a very positive growth this year. Target buying and continual rotation of stock and lines carried has resulted in a much more attractive visual merchandising look for the shop which has encouraged additional purchase.



## Development of The Bridewell and Magherafelt VIC

Formerly the Court House and jail, The Bridewell based in the centre of town now contains Magherafelt VIC and library. A listed building with enchanting history the structure and exterior of the building remain largely unchanged. It is anticipated that Mid Ulster Tourism will be successful with our application to Council as we pursue funds to modernise the toilets and complete work to the premises.

## Finance

The Cookstown craft shop made a healthy profit last year (2018). The total income for the year was **£21,620.28**. **£13,855** Cookstown, **£3,888.80** Magherafelt's and **£3,876.48** Dungannon.

## Seamus Heaney HomePlace

Although not formally recognised as part of Visitor Information Centre network, Seamus Heaney HomePlace sees a large number of visitors and tourism related queries. **51,971** visitors during 2018 from the United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland and much of Europe have attended the exhibition, The Helicon and events.

## Tourism Digital Strategy

Still to evaluate considerations from TNI its anticipated that the Digital Strategy will compliment the functions of the VIC network and play a key role in connecting a visitor to our area and the accommodation, attractions and activities contained within.

## Monitoring & Evaluation

Tourism NI as part of their commitment to ensuring high standards of service, commission an independent consultant to carry out 'Mystery Shopper' (MS) exercises on all the centres on an ongoing annual basis. The assessment consists of a site visit, where they replicate an authentic visitor's interaction covering a range of information and posing several questions about the local area and wider Northern Ireland Tourism product. The format on the 'Mystery Visit' sees the visitor or group of visitors stay in a local accommodation and visit an array of tourism sites to fully experience what the area has to offer with regards to tourist attractions, activities and services.

It is the overriding objective that all visitors and the local community receive the best possible standard of service with the key aim of meeting and exceeding customer needs. Network Centres have minimum standards to adhere to. These assessments allow Tourism NI and Mid Ulster District Council to monitor how staff perform and influence staff training requirements. In addition to this the reports also enable MUDC Tourism to measure and benchmark operational standards across the wider tourism & hospitality industry.

Dungannon and Cookstown VIC recorded 100% during the last round of mystery visits to the centres.

The VIC is scored on Customer Experience in VIC and graded against criteria as below;

- Physical features of VIC
- Welcome received
- Accessibility, formats and quality of visitor information
- Retail offering
- VIC staff – attitude, appearance, empathy, professionalism, knowledge and promotion of internal services and the local area

Above all else, the member of staff at Dungannon VIC offered a thorough and tailored solution for the visitor "Ranfurly House had an excellent VIC. The building itself is very impressive. My experience was very positive. The staff were both very helpful, friendly and knowledgeable. They went out of their way to ensure I had all the information I needed."

Cookstown VIC also received fantastic feedback "I had a terrific experience in the VIC. I walked into the VIC and walked towards the literature wall. I had hardly started to browse when I was offered assistance. I said I was gathering some ideas of things to do with children over Easter. I was asked age of children; where we lived; did I want to stay locally. I thought my needs were very well identified. I was given local suggestions plus ideas for further afield. Both ladies worked together to give me a really good solution. They both spoke passionately about the animation courses and if this was a genuine enquiry I would have signed my children up to it there and then!"

## DISTRICT WIDE MONITORING RESULTS 2018

<b>Pedestrian Counters unless otherwise stated</b>	<b>Jan-March</b>	<b>April-June</b>	<b>July-Sep</b>	<b>Oct - Dec</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Beaghmore Stone Circles</b>	1,437	4,000*	4,000*	2,180*	<b>11,617</b>
<b>Tullaghoge Fort</b>	1,400*	5,000*	2,551	2,262	<b>11,213</b>
<b>Davagh Car Park (car)</b>	2,679	4,293	5,498	5,267	<b>17,737</b>
<b>Davagh Pump Track</b>	814	1,594	2,912	1,595	<b>6,915</b>
<b>Davagh Forest</b>	1,707	3,132	3,528	2,128	<b>10,495</b>
	1,687*	2,457	2,700	2,233	<b>9,077</b>
<b>Ballyronan Marina (car)</b>	45,578	66,121	66,653	42,304	<b>220,656</b>
<b>Springhill House (car)</b>	6,893	13,432	11,840	7,486	<b>39,651</b>
<b>Wellbrook Beetling Mill (car)</b>	468	1,350	1,453	256	<b>3,527</b>
<b>Maghera Walled Garden</b>	1,452	7,000*	7,921	3,481	<b>19,854</b>
<b>Lough Fea Pedestrian</b>	8,703	20,373	31,480	10,322	<b>70,878</b>
<b>Main Car Park</b>	8,955	18,168	16,966	8,636	<b>52,725</b>
<b>Dungannon Park Car Park (car)</b>	59,247	118,789	112,695	91,782	<b>382,603</b>
<b>Roundlake Fivemiletown</b>	3,107	5,994	6,682	19,893	<b>35,676</b>
<b>Seamus Heaney</b>	11,195	14,723	14,610	11,443	<b>51,971</b>
<b>Lissan House</b>	2,500*	5,000*	6,367	3,048	<b>16,915</b>
<b>Grants Ancestral Home</b>	750*	1,500*	1,572	1,283	<b>5,105</b>

\* Estimate figures