Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

12 September 2019

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Development Committee to be held in The Chamber, Cookstown at Mid Ulster District Council, Council Offices, COOKSTOWN, BT80 8DT on Thursday, 12 September 2019 at 19:00 to transact the business noted below.

Yours faithfully

Anthony Tohill
Chief Executive

AGENDA

OPEN BUSINESS

1. Apologies
2. Declarations of Interest
   Members should declare any financial and non-financial interests they have in the items of business for consideration, identifying the relevant agenda item and the nature of their interest.
3. Chair's Business
4. Deputation: Lissan House Trust

Matters for Decision

5.	Economic Development Report	3 - 146
6.	Community Development Report	147 - 170
7.	Proposal to name the Sensory Garden at Seamus Heaney HomePlace	171 - 172
8.	Forest Service NI Consultation Forestry Planning in the East Fermanagh/East Tyrone Area	173 - 214
9.	Mid Ulster District Council and DAERA (RDP/TRPSI) Capital Works Programme	215 - 220
10.	Sports Representative Grants	221 - 224
11.	Schools Sports Facilities Grant	225 - 228
12.	Update on Capital Projects - DAERA Funding	229 - 232
13.	Darina Allen Visit	233 - 236
14.	Corporate Events 2019	237 - 238
15.	Stone Mountain Highland Games	239 - 242

Matters for Information

16	Minutes of Development Committee held on 3 July 2019	243 - 256
17	2019 Summer Activities	257 - 262
18	US Ulster Scots Familiarisation Trip	263 - 268

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

19. Tender Report for the Appointment of a Contractor to deliver the Mid Ulster Transform Programme
20. Review of Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House Arts & Visitor Centre Education Programme Charges
21. Department for Communities Access and Inclusion Programme 2019/20

Matters for Information

22. Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 3 July 2019

Report on	1) Mid Ulster Social Enterprise Programme 2020-2022 2) Christmas Off Street Car Parking Charges - Dungannon & Magherafelt 3) Coalisland Christmas Lights Switch-On Event 4) Business in the Community Proposal 5) Town Centre Visitor Information Points 6) Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt Branded Jute Shopping Bags 7) Branded Town Centre Merchandise 8) PLATO Mid Ulster Programme 2018/19 9) Town Centre Enhancement Works 10) Management & Leadership Network Event 11) NI Chamber of Commerce Networking Event 12) Full Fibre Northern Ireland (FFNI) Launch Event 13) Mid Ulster Business Excellence Awards 2019 14) Women in Business Awards and Conference Request 15) Social Enterprise NI Awards 2019 & Conference 2020 Request 16) Mid Ulster Entrepreneurship Week 17) Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes – 5.6.19 18) Business Improvement District Feasibility Study 19) Cookstown Continental Market Evaluation Report 2019 20) Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme 21) 5G Rural Connected Communities Grant Competition 22) Invest NI - Flexible Workspace Loan Scheme 23) DAERA Rural Policy Framework Objectives and Interventions – MUDC Draft Recommendations 24) Mid South and West Region Growth Deal
Date of Meeting	12 September 2019
Reporting Officer	Fiona McKeown, Head of Economic Development

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

1.0	**Purpose of Report**

1.1	To provide Members with an update on key activities as detailed below.
2.0	**Background**
2.1	**Mid Ulster Social Enterprise Programme 2020-2022** The current Mid Ulster Social Enterprise Programme (2017-2019) is scheduled to complete in December 2019, following which a Report will be submitted to Council in February 2020 detailing work completed and the achievement of targets. Progress Reports received demonstrate that there is a strong need for a programme aimed at supporting the growth and sustainability of Mid Ulster's social enterprise sector and the type of assistance being delivered is addressing the needs of the sector. To ensure there is no 'gap' in the provision of support approval is sought to develop a new Programme to commence in early 2020.
2.2	**Christmas Off Street Car Parking Charges - Dungannon & Magherafelt** Over the last four years, a car parking scheme was implemented in Dungannon and Magherafelt town centres to boost trading over the key Christmas period. Following positive feedback from businesses and the public, it is proposed to bring into effect a similar scheme this year to support the local retail sector.
2.3	**Coalisland Christmas Lights Switch-On Event** CRAIC Theatre Company has submitted a request for funding towards the Christmas Lights Switch-on event as per previous years. Historically, the legacy Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough supported Christmas events in Coalisland and the annual lights switch-on event was organised by CRAIC Theatre Company. Last year, the Council continued this support and the event was organised by CRAIC Theatre Company.
2.4	**Business in the Community Proposal** Business in the Community (BITC) works with local businesses helping them to develop their responsibility towards their People, the Planet and the Places. They have approached Council to fund a pilot proposal for 6 months.
2.5	**Town Centre Visitor Information Points** In recent months Officers have explored the possibility of developing a joint project between the economic development and tourism sections. This project relates to the introduction of outdoor digital visitor information points, initially in the three main town centres of Dungannon, Cookstown and Magherafelt. These information points or kiosks will be extremely useful to inform and publicise forthcoming Council events, facilities, etc. Whilst officers recognise there are Visitor Information Centres in each of these towns, the VIC's are weak in providing 24 hour visitor information to locals/tourists/out of district visitors etc. Obviously the units required will need to be robust and fit for purpose and reach the appropriate ratings for a town centre environment, but at the same time be attractive and blend in with the recent public realm schemes.

2.6	**Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt Branded Jute Shopping Bags** Jute shopping bags have proven to be a successful way to promote the town brands messages in the public domain. It is now timely to make a new order for bespoke jute bags for each of the three towns to ensure delivery prior to Christmas 2019.
2.7	**Branded Town Centre Merchandise** In 2017/2018, the three town brands were refreshed and merchandise was purchased to promote the new brands and enhance a positive image of the town centres. This action is ongoing and permission is now sought to purchase additional town centre merchandise to continue the brand promotion campaign to various user audiences for the year ahead.
2.8	**PLATO Mid Ulster Programme 2018/19** Following a Proposal from the PLATO EBR Network (East Border Region) in 2017, Council agreed to the delivery of a PLATO Networking Programme in Mid Ulster over a 10-month period from 2018/2019 to a minimum of 12 companies at a cost of £15,000. In addition to the Mid Ulster programme of monthly meets, participants would also have access to a number of inter-group/inter-region training and networking events within the larger regional network.
2.9	**Town Centre Enhancement Works** From time to time it is necessary to undertake a review of our five town centres with a view to looking at gap sites and how we make them more visually attractive, as well as undertaking other minor works to tidy up the town's appearance.
2.10	**Management and Leadership Network Event** The Management and Leadership Network has advised they wish to hold one of their signature events outside of Belfast. Mid Ulster was selected due to its strong business base. The event will be held on **24 September 2019** in the Burnavon Theatre, Cookstown and MLN has sought Council sponsorship towards hosting the event.
2.11	**NI Chamber of Commerce Networking Event** The NI Chamber of Commerce has advised that they propose to deliver one of their popular Regional Networking Events on **9 October 2019** in Mid Ulster as part of their 'Business Development & Networking Series' in 2019 and have requested Council sponsorship towards hosting this event.
2.12	**Full Fibre Northern Ireland (FFNI) Launch Event** The Full Fibre Northern Ireland (FFNI) is a project designed to deliver Full Fibre Broadband into semi-rural areas, by utilising Council buildings as start and finish points in its delivery. The project is being delivered by a consortium of 10 local Councils, excluding Belfast City Council.

2.13	**Mid Ulster Business Excellence Awards 2019** At a meeting of the Council's July 2019 Development Committee it was agreed the Council would provide sponsorship for the Awards Category of 'SME Business of the Year'. The Awards were formally launched at The Hill of the O'Neill, Ranfurly House on 14 August 2019, attended by the Council Chair.
2.14	**Women in Business Awards and Conference Request** Women in Business have approached Belfast City Council to request a contribution from all 11 Councils under the regional 'Go For It' brand, towards the Women in Business Awards and Conference (in November 2019) for the Award Category 'Best New Start-Up'
2.15	**Social Enterprise NI Awards 2019 & Conference 2020 Request** Social Enterprise NI have approached Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council (L&CCC) to request a contribution towards their Annual Awards Ceremony (October 2019) and Conference (January 2020).
2.16	**Mid Ulster Entrepreneurship Week** 18- 22 November 2019 marks Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW) and Council is planning to deliver its first ever 'Mid Ulster Entrepreneurship Week' to include 2 large scale events and a range of smaller workshops all geared to assist local businesses.
2.17	**Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes – 5.6.19** Coalisland Town Centre Forum was established in March 2019 along similar lines to the Forums / Partnerships already operating in Cookstown, Dungannon, Magherafelt and recently Maghera. The Forum is a strategic body providing advice and guidance to Strategic Bodies and others regarding the growth of Coalisland town.
2.18	**Business Improvement District Feasibility Study** A Business Improvement District (BID) is a collaborative partnership between a local Council and local businesses to provide a sustainable funding mechanism that will improve and manage a clearly defined commercial area. It is based on a mandatory levy on all defined ratepayers within the defined area following a majority vote and is established for up to five years for a prescribed set of services additional to those already provided by the local Council.
2.19	**Cookstown Continental Market Evaluation Report 2019** Cookstown Continental Market was held Saturday 1 – Sunday 2 June 2019, in William Street, Cookstown. The Market was delivered in association with Marketplace Europe, Mid Ulster District Council and Cookstown Town Centre Forum.

2.20	**Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme** Council approval was granted to deliver Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme to offer businesses/commercial properties grant aid of up to 75% per property for eligible works, capped at £5,000 per property. Eligible commercial premises within the town centre boundaries, as per Area Plans are eligible to apply (Coalisland, Cookstown, Dungannon, Maghera & Magherafelt). Eligible commercial premises within the development limits of the villages as per the draft Local Development Plan (2030), published in February 2019, under the Mid Ulster Settlement Hierarchy, with the additional village of Moygashel.
2.21	**5G Rural Connected Communities Grant Competition** The Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) announced on 27 August 2019 a new 5G Rural Connected Communities Grant worth £30m for 10 innovative projects from across the UK.
2.22	**Invest NI – Flexible Workspace Loan Scheme** Invest Northern Ireland has recently completed an economic appraisal looking at the availability of early stage and grow-on workspace across Northern Ireland. The appraisal has shown that occupancy levels in early-stage workspace is high and there appears to be demand for new early-stage accommodation, with the availability of suitable “move-on” space (up to c4,000 sq. ft. units) being highlighted as a constraint on availability of early-stage accommodation.
2.23	**DAERA Rural Policy Framework Objectives and Interventions – MUDC Draft Recommendations** DAERA has published their 5 key Rural Policy Framework Objectives and Council believe it is an opportune time to forward DAERA our views and recommendations on these.
2.24	**Mid South and West Region Growth Deal** Significant progress has been made on the Mid South and West Region Growth Deal, details of which are outlined in the main report below.
3.0	**Main Report**
3.1	**Mid Ulster Social Enterprise Programme 2020-2022** Approval is sought to progress and procure delivery agents for a follow-on three year Social Enterprise Programme to be delivered from 2020 to 2022. Specific criteria, targets and bespoke support requirements have been established. It is proposed this Programme would again provide a range of interventions to build on the success of the current Programme including assistance to groups to explore new ideas, establish a new enterprise and help existing social enterprises grow and become more sustainable. The Contract will be awarded for up to 2 years with the possibility to extend to December 2022, depending on delivery agent performance, and will include targets such as a minimum of 40 new and existing

	enterprises supported, the creation of 20 new jobs and funding leveraged of £250,000. This will require a budget of up to £90,000 (including expenses and excluding vat) over 3 years, from the economic development budget.
3.2	**Christmas Off Street Car Parking Charges - Dungannon & Magherafelt** As part of this year's Christmas Promotional Campaign, officers have considered options for a car-parking scheme in Dungannon and Magherafelt town centres aimed at encouraging footfall and spend during the critical festive trading period. Following positive feedback from trader groups, it is proposed to implement a similar scheme to last year as follows: - The first 3 hours parking for 10 pence in <u>all</u> Pay & Display Car Parks (except Central car park in Magherafelt) from Saturday 23rd November 2019 to Saturday 4th January 2020 (6-week period). The total cost of implementation will be £23,400. The normal tariff is 40 pence for 1 hour (except for Central car park in Magherafelt, which has a tariff of 40p per three hours) and the proposed pricing arrangements are intended to boost town centre trade at one of the busiest times of year. The very nominal fee of 10p for the first three hours is being charged to prevent 'all day parkers' and ensure town centre car parks are available to visitors and shoppers. The car parks included in the scheme are: • Ann Street East, Castle Hill, Perry Street West and Scotch Street North in Dungannon. • Rainey Street, Union Road and Central in Magherafelt.
3.3	**Coalisland Christmas Lights Switch-On Event** CRAIC Theatre Company has submitted a request for funding towards the Christmas Lights Switch-on event as per previous years (Appendix 1). Officers have requested further information on the proposals and when this is received and if deemed acceptable, it is proposed that Council fund the initiative to the value of £4,200 in Coalisland for a switch-on event on 1st December 2019 and permit officers to work with CRAIC Theatre Company to deliver the event. Funding for the event is included in this year's economic development budget.
3.4	**Business in the Community Proposal** Attached is proposal from Business in the Community (BITC) to Mid Ulster District Council. The BITC proposal requests funding for 'Transformational Level Support' from Mid Ulster Council of £3,300+Vat for an intensive 6-month pilot period (Oct 2019-Mar 2020) to deliver a range of actions as identified within the attached proposal on Appendix 2. The Director of Organisational Development and the Head of Economic Development is aware of the proposed activities contained within the action plan and are satisfied they align with work priorities within the Human Resources and Economic Development Sections.

3.5	**Town Centre Visitor Information Points** Officers are seeking approval to purchase three digital information kiosks for Dungannon, Cookstown and Magherafelt to display visitor information and to advertise and promote special Council events throughout the year. In addition to the purchase of the hardware (units), software will also be required to manage the displays. It is important that Council attains a solution that has the ability to take feeds from Council's website and social media channels. An indoor solution is also available and the tourism section is keen in future to look at this and extend the original proposed solution beyond the three towns and into wider strategic points within the district, such as hotels, shopping centres and visitor attractions etc. It is anticipated a budget of up to £29,000 for the hardware and software (including expenses and excluding Vat) will be required to introduce the initial 3 digital visitor information points in Dungannon, Cookstown and Magherafelt, subject to Members approval.
3.6	**Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt Branded Jute Shopping Bags** The branded jute bags for each town have proven to be a success and as such a new order for the same is required. Therefore, it would be prudent to procure the jute bags as one tender for the 3 towns which should provide better value for money. It is recommended that a budget of up to £60,000 (excluding vat) is set aside for the procurement of jute bags before we approach one of the busiest periods in the retail calendar and where the demand for bags is greatest.
3.7	**Branded Town Centre Merchandise** To maintain the longevity of the three town centre brands (for Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt) there is a need to sustain its profile within the towns. Therefore, it is recommended to purchase further merchandise materials which can be distributed at key signature town events and to the various town centre user groups. Therefore, approval is sought to set aside up to £60,000 (excluding Vat) from within the economic development budget for 2019/20, to procure the supply of a variety of merchandise materials which can be used to promote the 3 town centres.
3.8	**PLATO Mid Ulster Programme 2018/19** The Mid Ulster PLATO Programme completed in June 2019 and the programme activities delivered and the impact and outcomes achieved are detailed in the Final Report on Appendix 3.
3.9	**Town Centre Enhancement Works** Across the five main towns there are many areas which need some enhancement works. For example, there are gap sites which look unsightly and would benefit from hoarding erected to make the area more appealing to town centre users/visitors. Even some of the previous hoarding erected has faded and is in a poor state of repair and does not project a positive image of our town centres. A number of town centre banners are broken and in need of replacement and some areas which attract heavy footfall would benefit from power hosing, where Council's gum-buster/cleansing machines cannot access.

	Much of this can be undertaken by seeking competitive quotations to carry out enhancement works, however, there is a need to procure by way of public tender, bespoke hoarding at various sites across the 5 main towns. Economic Development staff have undertaken a stock take of each of the 5 towns and identified areas where they believe enhancement works would be of benefit. Indeed, it is important that such enhancement works occurs on a regular basis to keep the look and feel of the town centres fresh and appealing to visitors.
3.10	**Management and Leadership Network Event** The Management and Leadership Network (MLN) wish to hold one of their signature events outside of Belfast for the first time. Mid Ulster was selected as the desired location due to the large number of businesses located in the region. The event is scheduled to take place on **24 September 2019** from 8am to 11am in the Burnavon Theatre, Cookstown. MLN has sought Council sponsorship towards venue and catering costs for hosting the event (and depending on attendance numbers) may include costs of up to £1,040 (excluding Vat). Speakers will include the Chair, Mid Ulster District Council, a few prominent business representatives from Mid Ulster who serve on the MLN, and a variety of other key business speakers. MLN has indicated that Council funding will be acknowledged in all event publicity and materials. The event is open to all local businesses to attend free of charge.
3.11	**NI Chamber of Commerce Networking Event** As part of their Business Development & Networking Series, the NI Chamber of Commerce plan to deliver an event in the Burnavon Theatre on **Wednesday 9 October 2019** from 11am to 1pm. The Chamber have held a Networking event in Mid Ulster over the past two years and these have attracted in the region of 100+ delegates. Speakers will include the Chair, Mid Ulster District Council; a Chamber representative and a successful Mid Ulster entrepreneur(s) who will also participate in a Q&A session. The Council has been requested to sponsor the venue and catering costs which (depending on numbers) may total approximately £850 (excluding vat). It is recommended Council support the Mid Ulster Business Networking event from Council's economic development budget to cover venue and catering costs, with the Chamber being required to ensure that Council support is acknowledged in the event promotion and post event publicity, and the business fee being waived for Mid Ulster businesses.
3.12	**Full Fibre Northern Ireland (FFNI) Launch Event** Elected members and officers are invited to attend the Full Fibre Northern Ireland (FFNI) launch event on Friday 20 September 2019 in the Canal Court Hotel, Newry. Copy of invite enclosed in Appendix 4. The purpose of the FFNI Programme will be explained and how it will be delivered connecting public sector buildings in each Council area throughout Northern Ireland (outside of Belfast).

3.13	**Mid Ulster Business Excellence Awards 2019** The 9th annual Mid Ulster Business Awards will take place as follows: Date: Wednesday 20 November 2019 Time: 7pm Venue: Corick House Hotel & Spa Two complementary tickets have been allocated to Mid Ulster District Council and it is proposed that the Council Chair attends along with an officer. If additional Members wish to attend, tickets can be purchased directly through Julie Forde at JPI Media for a fee of £65 per person (rather than booking online as this will incur an additional charge for which category sponsors are exempt). Costs for additional tickets will have to be charged to individual Member's Annual Allowance budget.
3.14	**Women in Business Awards and Conference Request** The total requested is £4,000 from all 11 Councils towards the 'Best New Start-Up Award' Category; Councils contributing will each have the opportunity of one place at the Awards, which will take place as follows: **Date:** Thursday 7 November 2019 **Time:** 7pm **Venue:** Crowne Plaza, Shaw's Bridge Belfast Full details are provided in Appendix 5 The cost to Mid Ulster Council will be in the region of £375. One complementary ticket has been allocated to each Council. It is proposed that the Council Chair attends. Any additional Members interested in attending should express their interest to the Head of Economic Development by 7 October 2019. Costs for additional tickets are £110 which will be charged to individual Member's Annual Allowance budget.
3.15	**Social Enterprise NI Awards 2019 & Conference 2020 Request** The recommended contribution is for the 'Bronze' package of £3,000 from all 11 Councils, under the 'Go For It' brand, which will include 4 free places (and 2 places at the Conference). As there are 4 places available this will be co-ordinated by Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council. The Social Enterprise NI Awards will be held on; **Date:** Friday 11 October 2019 **Time:** 7pm **Venue:** Crowne Plaza, Shaw's Bridge Belfast The cost to Mid Ulster will be in the region of £280. Four free tickets have been provided to the 11 Councils; decisions on attendance will be made once level of interest from all Councils is identified. It is recommended the Council Chair's name is put forward for consideration to attend the Awards, if he or his nominated representative wishes to go, subject to the availability of tickets. Full details are provided in Appendix 6.
3.16	**Mid Ulster Entrepreneurship Week** Two large scale events have been scheduled to take place during entrepreneurship week in Mid Ulster:

- Mid Ulster Business Showcase event on Tuesday 19 November 2019 in the Burnavon Theatre, Cookstown and
- Mid Ulster Jobs Fair on Wednesday 20 November 2019 in Cookstown Leisure Centre

Officers are also liaising with key economic stakeholders to put together a package of short business workshops / seminars covering a broad range of business topics including start up clinics, digital, funding/finance, winning new work, managing employees' mental health etc over the course of the week. These will either be delivered in partnership with the Council or, if being run separately, will be included in Council's promotion of the week. Events will take the form of workshops/seminars during mornings, afternoons and evenings of the week. It is anticipated that some will be delivered by key figures from local businesses and that the majority of events will be held in venues across the entire District.

Members will be provided with full details, once the Programme for the week is finalised.

3.17 **Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes – 5.6.19**

Minutes of the meeting of Coalisland Town Centre Forum held on the 5th June 2019 is enclosed for information on Appendix 7.

3.18 **Business Improvement District Feasibility Study**

Northern Ireland BIDs was appointed by Council in June 2018 to carry out a feasibility study for the five town centres in the Mid Ulster Council area (Coalisland, Cookstown, Dungannon, Maghera and Magherafelt). The study provided a comprehensive assessment of the potential for developing a BID in each of the five towns, and ultimately recommend whether this is a viable proposition for each.

The Feasibility Study is now complete and recommendations are made for each town as set out below. An Executive Summary of the full BIDs Feasibility Study is contained on Appendix 8.

Town	Recommendation
Dungannon	Proceed to full BID development in the first instance, acting as a pilot project from which the other locations within Mid Ulster can learn from.
Magherafelt	BID for Magherafelt Town Centre is viable, but that given the relatively low levels of engagement from the business community at this stage, the decision on whether to proceed to full BID development should be reviewed following the Dungannon Town Centre BID Development pilot and with further consultation and engagement with the local business community.
Cookstown	BID for Cookstown Town Centre is viable, but that given the issues surrounding the identification of the BID Boundary and the relatively low levels of engagement from the business community at this stage, the decision on

	whether to proceed to full BID development should be reviewed following the Dungannon Town Centre BID Development pilot and with further consultation and engagement with the local business community.
Maghera	BID for Maghera Town Centre is not viable, given the financial analysis, which clearly shows that the amount generated from the BID levy would not have a significant impact on the regeneration of the town centre, when assessed against the costs of operating a BID. It is recommended that further intensive work is required to enhance the level of business engagement and alternative avenues to generate additional income are investigated.
Coalisland	BID for Coalisland Town Centre is not viable, given the financial analysis, which clearly shows that the amount generated from the BID levy would not have a significant impact on the regeneration of the town centre, when assessed against the costs of operating a BID. Furthermore, the Town Centre Forum is still very new. It is recommended that further intensive work is required to enhance the level of business engagement and alternative avenues to generate additional income are investigated.

3.19 **Cookstown Continental Market Evaluation Report 2019**
To receive Evaluation Report on Cookstown Continental Market held Saturday 1 June – Sunday 2 June 2019 (Appendix 9)

3.20 **Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme**
The Chartered Architects appointed through a tender process are Knox & Clayton, Lisburn.

The scheme opened for applications on Monday 19 August 2019 and will close for applications Wednesday 18 September 2019 at 4pm. A number of workshops will take place geographically spread over the Mid Ulster District Council area to advise and assist applicants with completion of applications. Following applications closing, a rigorous assessment process will be conducted by Chartered Architects Knox & Clayton, with assessment report presented to October 2019 Development Committee. Information regarding the scheme is available at www.midulstercouncil.org/spruceupscheme

3.21 **5G Rural Connected Communities Grant Competition**
The Rural Connected Communities (RCC) competition will fund up to 10 5G research and development projects to run over the course of two years. There will be grant funding ranging from £2 million to £5 million for around 10 projects, totalling up to £30 million. The funding does require match funding. The deadline for RCC applications is 25 October 2019 with the winning projects expected to be announced before the end of the year.

Connectivity applications are expected to show a combination of societal and economic benefits that will together create a stronger case for investing in the

	deployment of 5G infrastructure for rural areas. This competition is open to applications from consortia which are a mixture of organisations including the public, private and third sectors, and academia. The consortium must include one or more organisations capable of owning and operating 5G infrastructure and services in the area. Note that this is not designed as a network roll-out programme, but a series of trials and testbeds to de-risk and inform future network roll-out programmes. Further information on the 5G Rural Connected Communities Grant is available on Appendices 10A and 10B.
3.22	**Invest NI – Flexible Workspace Loan Scheme** Invest NI recently invited expressions of interest from property developers with plans to develop start-up and early stage grow-on workspace. The scheme offered loans up to a maximum of 40% of total development costs. Subsidized interest rates will only apply for the initial loan period and interest rates will revert to commercial rates thereafter. Proposals submitted were required to align with both Council and Invest NI strategic priorities. The deadline for expressions of interest from property developers was 5pm on Friday 30 August 2019. Further details on the scheme is available at https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/content/flexible-workspace-loan-scheme Mid Ulster District Council issued 3 letters to prospective developers to accompany their application, none of which contained any formal commitment from Council.
3.23	**DAERA Rural Policy Framework Objectives and Interventions – MUDC Draft Recommendations** It is recommended that Mid Ulster District Council write to DAERA to enclose our recommendations/comments on their 5 Rural Policy Framework Objectives. The five objectives are as follows; *Policy Objective 1 – to create a rural society where innovation and entrepreneurship flourish* *Policy Objective 2 – to maximise the contribution that sustainable rural tourism makes to rural society and to the wider economy and environment* *Policy Objective 3 - To reduce loneliness and social exclusion in rural areas, to minimise the impacts of rural isolation and to promote the health and wellbeing of rural dwellers;* *Policy Objective 4- To increase employment opportunities available to people living in rural areas;* *Policy Objective 5 - To improve connectivity between rural and urban areas;* Council's draft response and recommendations on each Policy Objective is contained on Appendix 11.

3.24	**Mid South and West Region Growth Deal** On 29 July 2019 the Prime Minister Boris Johnston MP announced the government's commitment to a growth deal for the Mid, South and West region of Northern Ireland. This announcement is a good news story and acknowledges the work that has taken place over recent months in lobbying for investment for a regional economic approach to support growth and development. Further discussions are taking place with officials from the NIO and the Ministry of Housing, Local Government and Communities on the next stages of the process which will require meetings with Treasury officials in London. Work has commenced on the compilation of a Regional Economic Strategy which will provide details of an outline bid and identify the economic interventions required as part of a growth deal. In parallel work will start on developing the promotional messaging and narrative on promoting the region. The Governance Working Group met on the 18th June 2019 and received a briefing on the economic analysis and performance of the region. Professor Gordon Matheson who led the Political Cabinet for the Glasgow and Clyde Valley City Deal will provide an overview to the next Governance Working Group of the stages involved and the governance requirements for working with Treasury. A business engagement event has been arranged for early September 2019 which will enable businesses to identify the challenges impacting on growth and the interventions needed to support increased economic output. Two officers have been appointed to the project team and will commence employment in the next few weeks. Over the next twelve months a significant amount of work will be required from those involved at Councillor and senior officer level in developing the bid and negotiating the financial level of investment. A request will be made to meet with the Secretary of State and government ministers to brief them on the growth deal proposals. Continued engagement will take place with MP's and political parties. Further updates will be provided through Committee.
4.0	**Other Considerations**
4.1	**Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications**
	Mid Ulster Social Enterprise Programme 2020-2022 A budget of up to £90,000 (including expenses and excluding Vat) provided for over 3 years within economic development budget 2020-2022.

Christmas Off Street Car Parking Charges Dungannon & Magherafelt
£23,400 available from within Economic Development Budget in 2019/20.

Coalisland Christmas Lights Switch-On Event
£4,200 available from within Economic Development budget in 2019/20.

Business In The Community Proposal
£3,300 available from within Economic Development budget in 2019/20.

Town Centre Visitor Information Points
A budget of up to £29,000 (excl Vat) will be required to purchase the hardware and software for the digital information points in the 3 towns of Dungannon, Cookstown and Magherafelt, split as follows from each existing budget during 2019/20;

- Economic Development budget £25,000
- Tourism budget £4,000

Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt Branded Jute Shopping Bags
Up to £60,000 (excluding Vat) available within the Economic Development Budget 2019/20.

Branded Town Centre Merchandise
Up to £60,000 (excluding Vat) available within the Economic Development Budget 2019/20.

PLATO Mid Ulster Programme 2018/19
Final payment of £2,500 from Economic development budget

Town Centre Enhancement Works
Budget for town centre enhancement works in Dungannon, Cookstown, Magherafelt, Maghera and Coalisland of up to approx. £100,000 (excluding Vat) from existing Economic Development budget.

Management and Leadership Network Event
Costs up to £1040 excluding Vat (dependent on attendance numbers which will be confirmed nearer the time). Funds available in economic development budget in 2019/20.

NI Chamber of Commerce Request
Costs in region of £850 excluding vat (costs dependent on attendance numbers which will be confirmed nearer the time). Funds available in economic development budget in 2019/20.

Women in Business Awards and Conference
Up to £375 is available from the 2019/20 economic development budget.

Social Enterprise (NI) Awards and Conference
Up to £280 is available from the 2019/20 economic development budget.

Mid Ulster Entrepreneurship Week
Costs included with Council's Business Events budget in economic development.

	Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme Employment of Chartered Architect, Project Grant Aid and Marketing & Promotion to value of £103,000 from within economic development budget (Year 1 Costs) **5G Rural Connected Communities Grant Competition** If Council submits a funding bid, between 40%-60% match funding will be required from the project partners, however, at this juncture costs are unknown but can be reported upon at future meetings.
	Human: Officer Time
	Risk Management: Key risks identified and monitored regularly.
4.2	**Screening & Impact Assessments**
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: **Mid Ulster Social Enterprise Programme 2020/22** – Underway **Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme:-** Completed
	Rural Needs Implications: **Mid Ulster Social Enterprise Programme 2020/22** – Underway **Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme:-** Completed
5.0	**Recommendation(s)**
	It is recommended that Members:
5.1	**Mid Ulster Social Enterprise Programme 2020-2022** (i) Approve for a budget of up to £90,000 (including expenses and excluding Vat) to be granted from Council's economic development budget over a period of 3 years (2020-2022) to develop and deliver a new Mid Ulster Social Enterprise Programme; and (ii) Approve for officers to proceed to procure a suitably qualified organisation(s) to deliver the Mid Ulster Social Enterprise Programme (2020-2022)
5.2	**Christmas Off Street Car Parking Charges - Dungannon & Magherafelt** Approve the temporary reduced tariff for the first 3 hours of 10 pence in all Off Street Pay & Display Car Parks in Dungannon and Magherafelt from Saturday 23rd November 2019 to Saturday 4th January 2020 (6-week period) at a cost of £23,400.

5.3	**Coalisland Christmas Lights Switch-On Event** Approve the request for financial support received from CRAIC Theatre Company in Coalisland to the value of £4,200 to deliver the Coalisland Christmas Lights Switch-on event, subject to Officers being satisfied with the proposals submitted.
5.4	**Business in the Community Proposal** Approve the funding proposal received from Business in the Community for 'Transformational Level Support' in relation to delivering a range of activities during an intensive 6 month pilot period from October 2019-March 2020, at a cost of £3,300+Vat.
5.5	**Town Centre Visitor Information Points** (i) Approve a budget of up to £29,000 (excluding Vat) is granted from the existing economic development and tourism budgets during 2019/20 for the purchase of 3 number visitor information kiosks to be located in Dungannon, Cookstown and Magherafelt town centres. **(ii)** Approve officers proceed to procure a suitably qualified organisation(s) to provide the 3 number visitor information kiosks.
5.6	**Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt Branded Jute Shopping Bags** (i) Approve that up to £60,000 (excluding Vat) is granted from the economic development budget in 2019/20 to purchase branded jute shopping bags for Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt. (ii) Approve officers proceed to procure by way of tender, a suitably qualified organisation(s) to provide the relevant quantities of the town branded jute bags.
5.7	**Branded Town Centre Merchandise** (i) Approve that up to £60,000 (excluding Vat) is granted from the economic development budget in 2019/20 to purchase new town centre merchandise for Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt. (ii) Approve officers proceed to procure a suitably qualified organisation(s) to supply and deliver the relevant quantities and types of branded town centre merchandise.
5.8	**PLATO Mid Ulster Programme 2018/19** Note the PLATO Final Report and approve the release of the final payment of £2,500.
5.9	**Town Centre Enhancement Works** (i) Approve budget for town centre enhancement works of up to £100,000 across the towns of Dungannon, Cookstown, Magherafelt, Maghera and Coalisland from the existing economic development budget.

	(ii) From within the above budget of £100,000, approval is sought to seek tenders for the production and erection of hoarding around unsightly derelict/gap sites and/or replace some existing hoarding which is now in a poor state of repair.
5.10	**Management and Leadership Network Event** Approve the Management and Leadership Network's request for a contribution towards sponsorship costs (venue hire and catering) of their MLN Mid Ulster event on 24 September 2019 with costs up to £1,040 excluding Vat, subject to Council support being acknowledged in the event promotion and post event publicity, and there being no charge to local businesses to attend the event.
5.11	**NI Chamber of Commerce Networking Event** Approve the NI Chamber of Commerce's request for a contribution towards the costs (venue hire and catering) of their Mid Ulster Business Networking event on 9 October 2019 in the region of £850 (excluding vat), subject to Council support being acknowledged in the event promotion and post event publicity, and the business fee waived for Mid Ulster businesses.
5.12	**Fibre Northern Ireland (FFNI) Launch Event Full** Note receipt of invitation to FFNI Launch Event to be held on Friday 20 September 2019 in the Canal Court Hotel, Newry.
5.13	**Mid Ulster Business Excellence Awards 2019** Approve that the two complementary tickets are allocated to the Council Chair and one officer to attend the Mid Ulster Business Excellence Awards 2019 to be held on Wednesday 20 November 2019 at 7pm in Corick House Hotel & Spa.
5.14	**Women in Business Conference and Awards Request** Approve a contribution of up to £375 towards the 'Best New Start Up Category' at the Women in Business Awards and allocation of Council's complementary ticket to the Council Chair or his nominated representative to attend the Awards Evening on Thursday 7 November 2019 at 7pm in the Crowne Plaza, Shaw's Bridge Belfast.
5.15	**Social Enterprise NI Awards 2019 & Conference 2020 Request** Approve a contribution of up to £280 towards the 'Social Enterprise NI Awards 2019 and Conference 2020 and the attendance of the Chair, if he or his nominated representative, wishes to attend the Awards (subject to the availability of tickets) on Friday 11 October 2019 at 7pm at the Crowne Plaza, Shaw's Bridge Belfast.
5.16	**Mid Ulster Entrepreneurship Week** Note proposal to deliver a Programme of events to mark Mid Ulster Entrepreneurship Week taking place during 18-22 November 2019.

5.17	**Coalisland Town Centre Forum 5.6.19** Note minutes of Coalisland Town Centre Forum meeting held on 5 June 2019.
5.18	**Business Improvement District Feasibility Study** Approve the Mid Ulster Business Improvement District (BIDs) Feasibility Study.
5.19	**Cookstown Continental Market Evaluation Report 2019** Note Evaluation Report on Cookstown Continental Market 2019.
5.20	**Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme** Note progress regarding Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme
5.21	**5G Rural Connected Communities Grant Competition** (i) Approve Officers explore the possibility of submitting a bid to the 5G Rural Connected Communities grant competition, either from a Mid Ulster perspective, or part of a wider bid with a number of other Local Councils, if that offers greater opportunities. (ii) Approval also requested to procure any specialist technical expertise deemed necessary to assist with the bid preparation.
5.22	**Invest NI – Flexible Workspace Loan Scheme** Note update.
5.23	**DAERA Rural Policy Framework Objectives and Interventions – MUDC Draft Recommendations** Approve Mid Ulster District Council's draft Recommendations to DAERA on their Rural Policy Framework Objectives and Interventions
5.24	**Mid South and West Region Growth Deal** Note update.
6.0	**Documents Attached & References**
	Appendix 1 – Letter from CRAIC Theatre Company Appendix 2 – Business In The Community Proposal Appendix 3 – PLATO Final Report Appendix 4 – FFNI Launch Event Agenda Appendix 5 – Women in Business Awards and Conference 2019 Appendix 6 – Social Enterprise NI Awards 2019 and Conference 2020 Appendix 7 - Minutes Coalisland Town Centre Forum Meeting - 5.6.19

	Appendix 8 - Mid Ulster Business Improvement District (BIDs) Feasibility Study Executive Summary Appendix 9 - Evaluation Report on Cookstown Continental Market 2019 Appendix 10A – 5G Rural Connected Communities – Funding Notification Appendix 10B - 5G Rural Connected Communities – Overview and Application Guidance Appendix 11 - DAERA Rural Policy Framework Objectives and Interventions – MUDC Draft Recommendations

craic | & theatre arts centre

Coalisland Enterprise Centre - Dungannon Road - Coalisland - Co. Tyrone BT71 4HP - Northern Ireland
Telephone/Box Office: 028 8774 1100
Email: craicartscentre@yahoo.com - Web: www.craicartscentre.co.uk

7th August 2019

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

For over 10 years, Craic Theatre have co-ordinated and delivered the annual Christmas Switch On for Coalisland.

This annual event marks the start of the festive season and brings the community together.

The community of Coalisland and from the surrounding area look forward to this event each year and we request the continued financial support of £4,200 from Mid Ulster District council to deliver this event.

We look forward to working with the council this year again.

If you have any further queries please do not hesitate to our offices on 028 8774 1100.

Yours sincerely

M. Carolan

Micky Carolan

Comhairle Ceantair Lár Uladh Mid Ulster District Council
arts council
LOTTERY FUNDED

BUSINESS IN THE COMMUNITY
The Responsible Business Network
Northern Ireland

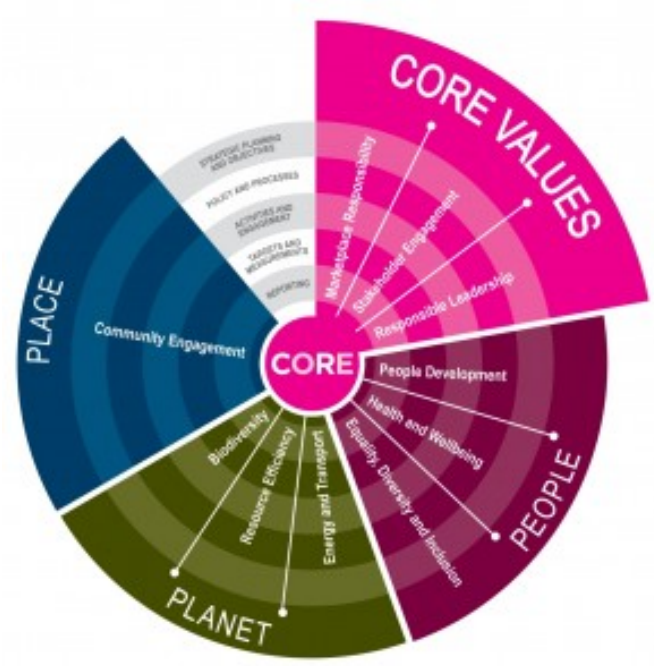
Comhairle Ceantair Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster District Council

Corporate Responsibility Action Plan

LET'S SET A COURSE FOR RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS

www.bitcni.org.uk

Introduction



This the Corporate Responsibility (CR) model that Business in the Community Northern Ireland has designed in order to support and challenge our members and to help in identifying opportunities to make CR activities more strategic.

We firmly believe that in order for your organisation to benefit most from CR, it needs to manage it in the same way it manages other aspects of the business. You may not call everything that your organisation does 'CR' but if you aim to make a positive impact on your people, the planet, the places where you operate and in your core business you may want to consider this model as a way to pull together what you currently do and identify gaps for improvement.

Your Relationship Manager

If you want to discuss any aspect of corporate responsibility or this Action Plan, get in touch with your Relationship Manager, who will be happy to support you.

Name: Margaret McCloskey

Title: NW Director

E: Margaret.mccloskey@bitcni.org.uk

T: (028) 7186 1550

Priorities for 2019

Wellbeing & Inclusion

Aims to be an employer of choice in NI and to help its employees live healthier lives

Environmental Sustainability

Aims to reduce its negative environmental impacts and to use its knowledge to help other businesses do the same

Community Resilience

Aims to invest in its local communities and use its skills to help raise the aspirations of young people, as well as raising funds for its Charity of the Year

Education & Jobs

INITIAL 6 MONTH PROPOSAL	Offer	Outline	Cost Value	Proposed Date
	6 week resilience programme	Our 6 week resilience programme is aimed at supporting employees based on CBT (Cognitive Behaviour Therapy). The programme teaches coping skills on how to deal with thoughts and beliefs that affect feelings and how to deal with different problems. The programme works on 6 themes: • Age well • Plan well • Feel well • Think well • Connect well • Live well	£1,200 (we will accommodate up to 20 personnel on this programme).	October-November 2019
	Entrepreneurship week BITC will deliver a Mental Health at Work event at an Employer's premises in Mid Ulster for up to 30 companies	• BITC to converse with an Employer in Mid Ulster to host and discuss their "mental health best practice" during the event • BITC to develop the editorial for Mid Ulster marketing material • BITC to set up and administer a bookings system for the event • BITC to converse with Employers to encourage them to attend the event • BITC to deliver a Mental Health presentation • BITC to deliver a "call to action" point during the event and follow up with Employers attending to support them post the event • BITC to promote Mid Ulster Council Enterprise week on social media	Presentation delivery £250 Management of work pre and post event- £750	November 2019

	Access to Benefits and Service	• 2 Link 'n' Learn events delivered to groups of Council staff (and Councillors) in November and January 2020. These sessions are focused on personal wellbeing topics and the sessions will be delivered by expert partners at your place of work. Sessions last for one hour and usually involve up to 30 people or so, depending on the room facilities available. Topics will be announced in September 2019 • Time to programmes with schools – starting with 2 schools in September and adding a further 2 schools later in the academic year. BITC will train volunteers in the processes involved for the programmes including Safeguard training. BITC will also process AccessNI all volunteers prior to their linkage with the schools. Correspondence has started with Marissa Canavan separate to this email. • Employee volunteering - BITC will help Mid Ulster manage the opportunities to participate in Volunteer action days for Council staff and members. o Get Online Week in October o Cares@ Christmas with Action for Children (Dec) o Bespoke challenge to support a local charity/ school/community organisation for a group of your staff at any time between Oct 2019 – March 2020	£250 per link n learn x 2 = £500 £600.00 .	January 2020 September 2020 onwards

APPENDIX 3 – PLATO FINAL REPORT

Mid Ulster PLATO Programme Report

(January 2018 – July 2019)

Last year, Mid Ulster District Council agreed to become a partner in the long-established PLATO EBR (East Border Region) licensed Management and Development Programme Network. This consisted of three other Northern partners of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council; Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council (and more recently, Fermanagh and Omagh) and the four Local Enterprises Offices and County Councils in Cavan, Louth, Meath and Monaghan.

PLATO is a non-profit business development support network which actively facilitates the opportunity for the owners of small local growth orientated enterprises to learn from local fast growing business leaders (or 'parents') in their District, through a customised programme of monthly meetings over a 10 month period. PLATO focusses the entrepreneur on their role in the company, their stage of growth and how to accelerate growth to sustain competitive advantage within the region.

These are co-ordinated and facilitated by Dr Cecilia Hegarty, and in Mid Ulster the network was extremely fortunate to secure the leaders of two highly successful businesses Mr Eamon Donnelly, Chair of Uform and Mr Pat Walls, Managing Director Bulrush Horticulture Ltd, to lead and host the meetings, bringing skills and experience from divers industry sectors. These two leaders volunteered their time and expertise every month, to support small business owners through their business challenges to growth during a 12-month tailored programme with areas of focus including, but not limited to, strategy, sales, R&D, staffing, supply chain, branding, leadership, financial management, succession, current challenges e.g. Brexit etc.

PLATO offers a markedly different approach from the traditional consultancy based business programmes – it is based on the opportunity for business owners who are on a growth trajectory to explore / raise issues which are barriers to their growth and to learn from the experiences of both the two business leaders and also their peers who may be experiencing similar issues, to equip them to address these challenges.

It also offers a unique opportunity for local entrepreneurs to invest in their management and leadership skills and learn from business leaders who have successfully achieved growth.

Mid Ulster businesses participating comprised of;

AJEA Products Ltd.	Insight Solutions
Box-it Ireland	LLEW Dromore with partners in Mid Ulster)
Bulrush [Parent]	Lough Shore Veg
C3 Computers	Northern Counties Co-operative Enterprises Limited
CIS Ltd.	Sign Reload
Door Gallery	Swisher Hygiene
Eco-nomic Innovations Ltd	Uform [Parent]
Hurl Construction/Swiss Facades	

Across the Border Region, there are other groups operational of 12-20 companies, each group may contain a jurisdictional mix e.g. Mid-Ulster clients had the opportunity to engage in a cross-border group in another Council jurisdiction. In addition to monthly meets there were inter-group and inter-region training and networking events according to the needs of participants.

Results Achieved by Programme completion July 2019

1) **Min. 12 small companies engaged in the 12-month Programme of monthly meets** 13 companies participated

2) **Min. 2 larger Parent Companies engaged in the 12-month Programme of monthly meets –** 2 parent companies recruited UFORM Chairman, Eamon Donnelly and Bulrush MD, Pat Walls bringing strengths in skills and experience from different industry sectors.

3) **Tailored supports for the development of both the entrepreneur and business**

Topic areas of content for the MU01 PLATO Cluster were agreed as below and the cluster has completed all topics: -

MU 01	Date	Topics
Intro	24.04.18	Introductory PLATO Model & Growth of UFORM
Meet 1	14.05.18	Introductory to small businesses & Growth of Bulrush
Meet 2	29.05.18	Defining Our Growth Challenges
Meet 3	05.06.18	Growth – Strategy 3 Key Objectives
Meet 4	25.09.18	Sales – Growing in existing/ moving into new markets, business development competition
Meet 5	30.11.18	Finance – Financing Growth & Credit Control (@Bulrush)
Meet 6	04.12.18	Sales Review – Methods & Tools
Meet 7	29.01.19	ME – Leadership Challenges
Meet 8	26.02.19	Employment & Learning – Building the Team
Meet 9	26.03.19	Personal Development – Growing the Team, Time Management
Meet 10	30.04.19	Programme Review of Growth & Uform tour)

In addition to the above topics a range of additional sub-topic areas were addressed throughout the course of meetings under burning issue/challenges section – these are confidential but reported anonymously within meeting reports held on file.

4) **Diverse industry sector participation** – Of the PLATO cluster namely MU01, the sector participation is as follows: -
   2 IT, Media and software, Design
   2 Food and Beverage
   2 Professional Services
   2 Construction
   1 Telecommunications
   1 Financial Services
   4 Engineering
   1 other – Agriculture Co-operative & Training Centre

5) **Min. 2 site visits to larger companies across the PLATO EBR Region as case study examples**

The companies visited Uform site for all meetings to date including Welcome meet, except for Bulrush which hosted the cluster for Meet 5 on Financials which was delivered by S Heaney (Bulrush Financial Controller) and this meeting was followed by a factory tour – PLATO Group Network split into 2 cohorts for tour. Uform factory was undergoing restructuring, and LEAN Management Programme, Mid-Ulster and other Clusters from PLATO EBR Region visited Uform premises on Tuesday 30 April 2019.

6) **Max 3 inter-regional training events held within Mid-Ulster District Council Region**

The concept of PLATO training is to provide additional training supports than those offered at monthly meetings where companies can bring along the relevant staff members as necessary who work specifically in this job area to improve efficiencies and company growth. There were **4** training sessions were delivered:

1. 11 April 2019 – Putting a Marketing Plan into Action – Back to Basics
2. 11 April 2019 – Re-Writing Your Marketing History & Putting a Marketing Plan into Action
3. 14 May 2019 – Developing Your Leadership Skills to lead Others
4. 14 May 2019 – Developing Your Leadership Skills to Improve Your Business.

7) **Min 5 inter-regional training events held across the Partner jurisdictions excluding Brexit Conference**

Mid Ulster businesses were offered the opportunity to attend the following PLATO organised and supported events as below: -

i. Border Bizcamp September 2018 Monaghan, programme reflections available here: http://www.borderbizcamp.com/2018/09/24/reflections-on-the-day-from-plato-ebr/
   2 Mid Ulster businesses attended

ii. Site visit to Celtic Pure, Padraig McEneaney (Owner & PLATO Leader in EBR Region), on Thurs 3rd May 2018 9am-10:30am,: Corcreagh School, Corvally, Shercock, Co. Monaghan – no Mid Ulster businesses attended

iii. Site visit to Combilift where Martin McVicar is Co-owner and past PLATO participant and owner, on Wed 6 June 2018 Combilift Annahagh, Monaghan, H18 VP65. 2 Mid Ulster businesses attended

iv. Site visit to Telestack Limited on 19 March 2019 10:30-12:30 at 5 Bankmore Rd, East, Omagh. 3 Mid Ulster businesses attended (05; 11; 12).

v. Site visit to McAree Engineering on 24 April 2019 10-12noon at Ballinode Co Monaghan. 1 Mid Ulster business in attendance (01).

vi. Site visit to Balcas on Tuesday 28 May 2019 10:30-12:30 at 75 Killadeas Road, Enniskillen BT94 2ES. 1 Mid Ulster business in attendance (10).

vii. McAvoy Group* organised with Orla Corr OBE, Chair on Thursday 4th July 2019 in Lisburn plant at 2 Ferguson Road, Knockmore Hill, Industrial Estate, Lisburn. BT28 2FW. 3 Mid Ulster businesses attended

MU01 PLATO Group also had the opportunity to attend the following: to attend the following:

viii. 19th October: The Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Mr. Simon Coveney T.D., invited companies to a Getting Ireland Brexit Ready workshop on 19 October 2018 at the Four Seasons Hotel, Monaghan. The workshop offered advice and information on supports available. Individuals / companies with an interest in the business, agri-food / fisheries and tourism sectors are welcome to attend the workshop. 3 Mid Ulster businesses attended

ix. 20th-21st November, EENGINEX was run over two days at the new, state of the art Combilift factory complex in Monaghan, where attendees were given an opportunity to participate in a series of talks and factory tours, before engaging in pre-arranged meetings with a variety of senior engineering buyers from throughout Ireland and the EU. 2 Mid Ulster businesses attended

8) Support for participants to manage the challenges of business and personal development and to stimulate increase in innovation, sustainability, growth and competitiveness

Addressed in 10 monthly meetings; a number of clients in the cluster also received 1-2-1 back-up mentoring from Dr Hegarty (PLATO), E Donnelly and P Walls and separate meetings have taken place for a number of clients; these meetings are not formally recorded for obvious reasons of confidentiality. Content covered to date included: -

- Workflow through factory
- Time management of staff
- Strategy
- Sales
- LEAN
- Branding of products
- Credit insurance
- Financial challenges of scaling business
- Accreditation and achieving industry standards including CE or kite marking.

9) Enhanced knowledge and skills required for growth and being globally competitive given external challenges of Brexit etc. Strong Formal Stakeholder engagement by neighbouring counties in the Border Region north and south and opportunities provide to avail of these

As highlighted in 4 and 5 above, awareness-raising and confidence building with like-minded individuals is a significant strength of the Programme whilst difficult to quantify impact of same. Connections are also made directly between individual companies across the PLATO EBR region By DrCH as relevant.

10) Recommendations/collaboration for developing industry-specific clusters for business growth and development requiring a critical mass of SMEs from the PLATO EBR Border Region.

It has been suggested there is a need to develop a cross-border engineering cluster, PLATO has been one of a number engaged in an application to Enterprise Ireland for same – the amount granted was: €250,000. This has been successful, and recruitment is under way.

Impact against targets:

1) 50% of members will increase sales by an average of 15%

All participant companies (13) to date have increased sales, average of 10%:
2 of these (Code 01 and Code 05) are in test phase of prototype and estimate they will increase sales exponentially.

2) 30% of members will engage in cross-border sales

At least 4 of 13 were involved in cross border sales (Codes 01, 06, 09, 11) at Programme commencement
10 now engaging in cross-border trade (Codes 01, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 09, 10, 11, 12) i.e. an additional 6 noting cross-border trade.

Note also there was trading within the Mid Ulster cluster which would likely not have happened if there was no PLATO cluster, for example Mid Ulster client (11) traded with 2 other clients one of which was a parent company (significant monetary contract) and client company (03).

3) 40% of members will create or safeguard employment

13 of 13 (100%) have **safeguarded** employment.

7 of 13 (46%) have **created new jobs** as a direct result of PLATO Membership (Codes 01, 02, 03, 07, 09, 10, 11). One of the businesses (Code 10) had two new hires to better enable business growth whilst Code 11 had 3 new hires.
These are as follows: -

- Code 01, new technical role in company, full-time
- Code 02, new sales manager, full-time (intending to employ 1 more of same, not included in figures here)
- Code 03, new financial person in company, part-time
- Code 07, replacement of part-time office worker with fulltime project co-ordinator – half of new role created
- Code 09, employed senior office manager **and** operations manager – office manager resigned post – 1 new hire, full-time net creation
- Code 10, employed marketing manager fulltime **and** employed sales/stores staff member fulltime
- Code 11, employed 3 new staff members fulltime in sales, technical and administrative posts.

4) 100% of members to implement business growth improvement plan

100% of member are developing business improvement plans for their company.

Feedback from participating business managers:

Companies completed feedback sheets every month to highlight (1) takeaways from collective learning and (2) burning challenges to be addressed. In their own words, companies have said,
“Refreshing to hear we are not alone and even though our businesses are so different we all have similar issues”, “so useful to hear how others cope with issues day-to-day” ,
“We got excellent feedback from group on re-branding our product, we also had Uform’s top designers in to assist in this”.
“Eamon of Uform has offered two of us a golden opportunity to spend a day with his sales department to see how they do things so we could evaluate the best approach for us”,
“I got great advice with respect to credit control – it is all very well saying grow but growth can be highly risk for small companies who can get financially exposed and then slaughtered”,
“I know I’m not spending enough time on looking at the big picture and I really need this time to take a look in on the business and the group is a fantastic support to do this, I’m now introducing a retainer aspect to the business”.

“It simply give me time out to think about the business. An opportunity to reflect on where my business was at. I was going through a period of transition (moving away from partnership to sole Director) and it was a challenging time for the business. I also learned that even the ‘big businesses’ with a significant staff and turnover have loads of issues beneath the surface. I suppose it is comforting to know this. One thing I did take away is that we need to invest (time and resources) into making our businesses work. I have small team and in last 5 months have taken opportunities to try new things. I feel very confident where I am now in my business.” [Exit survey code 07].

[All sources can be directly attributed].

FFNI Programme

Launch Event

Friday 20th September 2019
09.30 - 13.30hrs
Canal Court Hotel & Spa
Newry, BT35 8HF

Overview:

Elected members and officers are invited to attend the Full Fibre Northern Ireland (FFNI) launch event, where the team will explain the purpose of the FFNI Programme and outline the Consortium's plans to procure Full Fibre connectivity for public sector buildings throughout Northern Ireland.

The Programme is aimed at helping local areas to stimulate economic growth by delivering the fastest and most reliable digital communications network available, as well as revolutionising our online public services to provide a huge boost to the region's economy and productivity.

Agenda:

Time	Presentation	Speaker / Facilitators
9.30 - 10.00	Tea and coffee available	
10.00 – 10.20	Welcome Key Note Speech	*Councillor Charlie Casey – Chairman of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.* *Marie Ward (FFNI SRO)*
10.20 – 10.40	Northern Ireland Digital Infrastructure	*Guy Middleton (FFNI Commercial Lead)*
10-40 – 11.00	The FFNI Strategic Plan	*Michael Forster (acting FFNI Operations Lead)*
11.00 – 11.20	Tea and coffee	
11.20 – 11.40	Case Studies	*Paul Kavanagh (FFNI Lead Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon)* *Stephen Cassidy (FFNI Lead Fermanagh & Omagh)*
11.40 – 12.10	Group Discussion and Q&A	*Facilitated by Niall Drew (FFNI Operations Group Chair), Michael Forster (acting FFNI Operations Lead), Guy Middleton (FFNI Commercial Lead) and Jules Jackson (FFNI Programme Consultant)*
12.10 – 12.30	FFNI Engagement	*Michael Forster (acting FFNI Operations Lead)*
12.30	Photo Opportunity	
12.40	Lunch & Networking	
13.30	Closing Comments	

To RSVP: Please contact your Councils FFNI Lead Officer or alternatively email: michael.forster@nmandd.org

Appendix 5 – Women in Business Awards & Conference 2019

Women in Business

Virgin media BUSINESS

Women in Business Awards 2019

8th November, Crowne Plaza, Shaw's Bridge

The Women in Business NI Awards celebrate the hard work and achievements of many business women who make a valuable contribution to the economic life of Northern Ireland. It showcases the best in innovation, enterprise and leadership.

Now in the eighth year, the Awards continue to recognise the women at the cutting edge of our economy. The Women in Business NI Awards 2019 will build from the success of the previous seven years and is set to be our biggest yet as we reach our 8th Awards.

Last year almost 500 business women and men packed into beautiful surroundings of the new Crowne Plaza Hotel & Spa to celebrate the success of entrepreneurs, business leaders and senior managers at the only ceremony of its kind in Northern Ireland.

Category sponsorship includes:

- Logo featured and acknowledgement in Awards Application
- Logo on all event material including invites, backdrop, display boards etc
- Logo featured in extensive billboard campaign if commissioned
- Logo on the Women in Business NI website
- Social media updates on Facebook Twitter and LinkedIn promoting your company/ organisation
- Company logo to rotate on stage screen with other sponsors throughout the course of the evening
- Significant PR and publicity opportunities pre/post event with Media partner Irish News
- Category sponsorship acknowledgment by host
- Presentation of Category Award on the evening
- 10 places at the Awards ceremony gala worth £100 + VAT each

Investment: £4,000 + VAT

Award Categories:

- Award for Best New Start Up
- Award for Outstanding Management / Leadership
- Award for Best Small Business
- Award for Advancing Diversity
- Award for Best Exporter
- Award for Outstanding Innovation
- Award for Best Marketing Campaign
- Award for Best Customer Service
- Award for Best in Professional Services
- Award for Young Business Woman of the Year
- Award for Excellence in IT
- Awards highlighted in yellow are still available

To see the highlights from last year's Awards, please click here!

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE AWARDS 2019 NORTHERN IRELAND

Sponsorship Opportunities

Sponsorship Opportunities of Social Enterprise NI Awards & Conference

Social Enterprise NI is the representative body for Social Enterprises across Northern Ireland. We provide support, information and advice to Social Enterprises and Entrepreneurs to grow and sustain their businesses

Social Enterprise offers a way to do business that is driven by a social purpose. It aims to show that businesses and markets can deliver social benefits and tackle difficult social problems. As consumers increasingly expect businesses to act in a socially responsible way, companies need to evaluate their social impact and look to use ethical suppliers - both can be achieved through forging partnerships with Social Enterprises.

On 11th October 2019 at The Crowne Plaza, Belfast we will be hosting our Annual Awards ceremony, showcasing the very best that the sector has to offer. The Awards have grown as an event over recent years and offer good publicity both to the winning Social Enterprises and the sector helping to promote the good work that they do. They also emphasis the outstanding contributions made to the local economy, and of course for rewarding the people and entrepreneurs with the passion and commitment who drive them.

Sponsorship of the awards is a great opportunity to demonstrate many of the excellent partnerships we have developed with the private and public sector, promoting those organisations who have made a commitment to supporting and developing the sector. Your sponsorship will also include our Annual Conference to be held in January 2020.

These events attract around 600 people from 400 different organisations across all sectors with wide reaching social media and press coverage of both events.

We would be grateful if you would consider sponsoring one of the Award categories and being part of the event, see below for the differing Sponsorship packages that we have on offer.

GOLD PACKAGE – HEADLINE SPONSOR - £5000

- 2 tables of 10 FREE OF CHARGE at Awards Gala Event.
- 20 Free places at Annual Conference
- Opportunity to address Annual Conference as Main Sponsor of both events
- Full A4 Page sponsor advertisement in Awards & Conference Booklet
- Sponsors Recognition on Social Enterprise NI Website with link to your own Website
- Sponsors Company Branding on Table
- Sponsors logo displayed during Award presentation
- Acknowledgement of sponsorship will be made by host during the events
- Presentation of the Awards to winner on stage including photographs
- Sponsor promotion on social media in month before event and month after
- Logo on sponsor's wall. Wall used for all winner photos and video interviews
- Pop up stand displayed in prominent location at Awards & Conference
- Thank you Certificate
- Invitation to a Sponsor thank you Event after the Awards

SILVER PACKAGE - £4000

- 1 table of 10 at Awards Gala Event and 10 Spaces at Conference
- Half A4 Page sponsor advertisement in Awards & Conference Booklet –
- Sponsors Recognition on Social Enterprise NI Website with link to your own Website
- Sponsors logo displayed during Award presentation
- Acknowledgement of sponsorship will be made by host during the events
- Presentation of the Awards to winner on stage
- Sponsor photographs with winners
- Sponsor promotion on social media in month before event and month after
- Logo on sponsor's wall. Wall used for all winner photos and video interviews
- Pop up stand displayed in prominent location at Awards & Conference
- Thank you Certificate
- Invitation to a Sponsor thank you Event after the Awards

BRONZE PACKAGE - £3000

- 4 Free places at Awards Gala Event
- 2 Free places at Annual Conference
- Sponsors Recognition on Social Enterprise NI Website with link to your own Website
- Sponsors Branding and full recognition in Event Programme
- Acknowledgement of sponsorship will be made by host during the events
- Sponsor promotion on social media in month before event and month after
- Logo on sponsor's wall. Wall used for all winner photos and video interviews
- Pop up stand displayed in prominent location at Awards & Conference
- Thank you Certificate
- Invitation to a Sponsor thank you Event after the Awards

All prices & packages are negotiable

AWARDS DRINKS RECEPTION - £2000

- 2 Free Places at Awards Gala Event
- 2 Free Places at Conference
- Sponsors Recognition on Social Enterprise NI Website with link to your own Website
- Sponsors Branding and full recognition in Event Programme
- Sponsors logo displayed during Drinks Reception
- Acknowledgement of sponsorship will be made by host during the Awards Event
- Sponsor promotion on social media in month before event and month after
- Logo on sponsor's wall. Wall used for all winner photos and video interviews
- Pop up stand displayed in prominent location at Awards & Conference
- Thank you Certificate
- Invitation to a Sponsor thank you Event after the Awards

BOOKLET ADVERTISEMENTS - £600 (Full A4) £400 (Half A4)

- 2 Free Places at Awards Gala Event
- 2 Free Places at Conference
- Sponsors Recognition on Social Enterprise NI Website with link to your own Website
- Sponsors Branding and full recognition in Event Programme
- Sponsors logo displayed during award presentation
- Acknowledgement of advertisement will be made by host during the event
- Sponsor promotion on social media in month before event and month after
- Thank you Certificate
- Invitation to a Sponsor thank you Event after the Awards

EXAMPLE BOOKLET ADVERTISEMENTS

All prices & packages are negotiable

APPENDIX 7 – MINUTES OF COALISLAND TOWN CENTRE FORUM

Minutes of Coalisland Town Centre Forum
Wednesday 5th June 2019 at 5.30pm
The Cornmill, Coalisland

Present

Cllr Niamh Doris	Mid Ulster District Council (Chair)
Cllr Joe O'Neill	Mid Ulster District Council
Cllr Malachy Quinn	Mid Ulster District Council
Ursula Marshall	Mid Ulster Disability Forum
Patrick Anderson	Department for Communities
Raymond O'Neill	Coalisland Traders Association

In Attendance

Mark Leavey	Mid Ulster District Council
Colin McKenna	Mid Ulster District Council
Catherine Fox	Mid Ulster District Council
Oliver Donnelly	Mid Ulster District Council
Michael McGibbon	Mid Ulster District Council

	DISCUSSION
1.	**Welcome** Cllr Doris welcomed all to the meeting of Coalisland Town Centre Forum.
2.	**Introductions** Introductions were carried out between those present
3.	**Apologies** Cllr Robert Colvin — Mid Ulster District Council Cllr Dan Kerr — Mid Ulster District Council Cllr Malachy Quinn — Mid Ulster District Council Francie Molloy MP — Coalisland Residents & Community Forum Dermott McGirr — Translink Declan Dorrity — The Venue/The Beer Shed Mark Kelso — Mid Ulster District Council Adrian McCreesh — Mid Ulster District Council Fiona McKeown — Mid Ulster District Council Dermott McGirr — Translink JP McCartan — PSNI
4.	**Reaffirmation of Officers;** • **Chairperson** • **Vice Chairperson**

	It was agreed by all those present that Cllr Doris would remain as Chair of the Town Centre Forum and Raymond O'Neill would remain as Vice Chair for the forthcoming year.
5.	**Town Centre Forum Bank Account Signatories/Solicitors & Insurance Brokers** C Fox updated members that the Director of Finance JJ Tohill, remains the Bank Account Signatory, Claire McNally remains as the Council Solicitor and Willis Towers Watson as Council Insurance Brokers.
6.	**Minutes of Previous Meeting – 11 March 2019** Proposed by Cllr O'Neill Seconded by P Anderson
7.	**Matters Arising from Previous Minutes** Confirmation is required that Brannigans formers building is secured as youths have been seen entering the premises in recent weeks. **Action: House to be secured** **RL** Cllr Doris requested that graffiti be kept on the agenda as there are certain areas in the town that need to be cleared **Action: Graffiti to be kept as agenda item for future meetings** **OD/CF**
8.	**Coalisland Projects Updates** • **Coalisland Public Realm Scheme** M Leavey gave an update on the current status regarding the Public Realm Scheme. WDR Taggart Ltd are the new technical team with Fox Contracts being the contractor for the scheme. Approval is required on samples of materials before the Programme can be approved. Mid Ulster Disability Forum and the local traders will all then be shown the approved materials before the project can commence. Work will also be carried out to Brannigans Building on Main Street to include demolition and site clearance. Site clearance work will also be carried out at Barrack Street where new car park will be located. BT have recently carried out work to remove poles and overhead cables. They put ducting in footpath to run the cable underground and into a number of premises in the town. UM asked as to the extent of the public realm works and if it includes works up to entrance at Coalisland Enterprise Centre as it is deemed a risk to pedestrians walking to and from the town. Cllr Doris stated that she has met with DFI separately on this same issue and will continue to push for better access to the Enterprise Centre. P Anderson confirmed that the works are based on the boundary of the town and whilst the boundary possibly could be extended that there would be cost implications for this which is a decision for Mid Ulster Council to take. R O'Neill asked for an update on the proposed one-way system on Main Street. M Leavey updated that the approval for the amendment is still with

	DFI Roads Division Headquarters and Mid Ulster Council are still awaiting a response. Cllr O'Neill asked for an update on the proposed bus layby on Lineside for the Dungannon Bus. M Leavey confirmed that this is still proposed within the scheme. R O'Neill asked if there was still a proposal for a turning circle at land across from Springisland. M Leavey stated that this is no longer part of the overall scheme. • **Gortgonis Recreation Centre Redevelopment** M Leavey updated that the Economic Appraisal and Preferred option paper will be presented to Council June Development Committee. This will include detailed design of the proposal. Materials to be used in the construction of the building will be presented to members and current user groups, this will include flooring for gym area. • **Coalisland Great Places Project** C McKenna stated that the project is still in its development phase and will proved a detailed update at the next meeting. R O'Neill asked if there was any further progress on potential of locating the Glass Blowing project in Coalisland Enterprise Centre. Cllr Doris is to contact Melanie Campbell regarding locating the project at Coalisland Enterprise Centre. • **Summer, Halloween & Christmas Events** OD provided update on the Summer Event stating that the family friendly event will be held in conjunction with the Newell 5k/10k on Friday 28th June. The event will have fun outdoor fames along with a DJ and live music. The Halloween event will potentially be located in Fianna GFC Grounds. As the Gortgonis complex may be closed for redevelopment Council are waiting on approval from GAA that they are giving permission for the event to be held on their premises. The Christmas event will be delivered in conjunction with CRAIC theatre. Updates on the event will be provided at subsequent meetings.
9	**CCTV Cameras at Cornmill Heritage Centre** OD provided an update on the procurement process for CCTV at the Cornmill. The tender documents were circulated with responses due back at start of June. They will be scored in the next few weeks and work can follow on thereafter if the tender meets the requirements of the specification.

10	**Any Other Business** CF updated that the Department of Finance, on the 9th May 2019, had announced the review of the non – domestic rating system in Northern Ireland. Further details would be provided to the Forum on stakeholder engagement in the review process when available. CF updated that once the Mid Ulster Town and Village Spruce up Scheme was launched the Forum would be notified.
11	**Date of Next Meeting** Date of next meeting will be Monday 1 July @ 5.30pm.
12	**Meeting Duration** Meeting ended at 6.15pm

Mid Ulster 5 Towns BIDS Feasibility Study Executive Summary

NI BIDs
May 2019

Contents

Section One – Introductions to BIDS

- Introduction to BIDS
- BID FAQ's
- NI BIDs Development Process

Section 2 – Summary Financial Appraisal of each BID Area

- Financial Analysis
- Potential BID Levy raised

Section 3 – Summary Analysis of Engagement and Consultation Process

- Consultation with Key Stakeholders
- Business Survey
- Workshops with Cookstown Town Centre Forum and Open Business Workshop
- Case Study Examples

Section 4 - Summary of Recommendations

- Critical Success Factors
- Dungannon Town Centre
- Magherafelt Town Centre
- Cookstown Town Centre
- Maghera Town Centre
- Coalisland Town Centre

SECTION ONE: INTRODUCTION TO BIDS

In August 2018, NI BIDs was commissioned by Mid Ulster District Council to assess the feasibility of developing Business Improvement Districts (BID) in the five towns of Cookstown, Magherafelt, Dungannon, Coalisland and Maghera.

Introduction to BIDS

Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) in the UK came into being after approximately 20 years of voluntary partnership arrangements in 2004 with The Business Improvements Districts (England) Regulations supporting the formation of BIDs to manage places. The legislation came into effect In Northern Ireland in 2013/14. Today, there are over 300 BIDs in the UK; eight of these are currently in operation in Northern Ireland.

Voluntary partnership arrangements have had a great deal of success but ultimately suffer from the lack of sustainable and guaranteed income, issues of 'freeloading' and the inability to raise enough finance to deliver expectations and guarantee delivery of longer term plans due to the unpredictable nature of voluntary financial arrangements.

BID FAQ's

A BID is a formal mechanism, which allows dedicated funds to be collected for the delivery of an agreed business plan. Whilst BIDs are not a new phenomenon, they are still relatively new to Northern Ireland. The Northern Ireland BID legislation was introduced in 2013/14- – The Business Improvement Districts Act (Northern Ireland) 2013, The Business Improvement Districts (General) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 and The Business Improvement Districts (Miscellaneous) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014. There are also BIDs operating in the Republic of Ireland in Sligo, Dundalk, Dublin and Dunlaoghaire.

What are BIDs?
An arrangement whereby businesses get together, decide what additional improvements they want to make, how they're going to manage and deliver those improvements and understand what it will cost them. This all goes into a business plan which is voted on by all those who would have to pay. The BID can last for a maximum of 5 years and must be able to demonstrate how it has benefited businesses that have funded it.

Have BIDs been supported elsewhere in the UK?
The first UK legislation came in December 2004 and there have already been over 300 successful ballots including 100+ renewals. These BIDs involve over 100,000 businesses and will bring in over £150 million (including additional income) of new finance to develop their locations over the next 5 years.

What might a BID deliver?
BIDs can deliver any projects or services that are agreed by the relevant businesses and are an addition to statutory services delivered by the Public Sector. In most cases they focus on marketing and promotion activities, increasing safety and security for

business and customers and better transport and access arrangements as well as business support. The important thing is that BIDs are in the main addressing operational matters and that actual projects and services will be determined as a result of detailed consultation with all the business in the BID area.

Why is a BID needed?
A BID is a mechanism which allows businesses to control a sum of money to manage and deliver projects which they believe will improve the trading environment for them. It should ultimately increase trade and drive down costs for those businesses that are paying for the improvements.

Who can develop a BID?
A BID can be proposed by any business ratepayer, property owner, local authority or partnership with an interest in the BID Area.

How will the BID be managed?
BIDs should be controlled and managed by local businesses that are paying the levy. The majority of BIDs are delivered through Companies Limited by Guarantee with Directors elected from the BID levy payers. The organisation delivering the BID will be responsible for the delivery of the BID projects and services and directly responsible to all its business membership through an elected board.

Who pays for a BID?
Once projects and services have been agreed by businesses, costs are detailed in the BID business plan. The cost to each business is worked out on a pro-rata basis. This is called the 'BID Levy'. A formal vote then takes place on the agreed projects and services. Subject to the 25% minimum turn-out and if the majority vote YES, then ALL eligible businesses within the BID area HAVE to pay. The BID Levy is normally paid by the occupiers of a property. In addition BIDs can draw in other voluntary funding, e.g. from property owners, voluntary contributors, sponsorship and the public sectors.

How does an area become a BID?
Normally a 'BID Task Group' is set up which is responsible for putting together a detailed business plan setting out the projects it aims to deliver on behalf of the business in the area. This is based upon a detailed consultation process with businesses. The business plan will include the projects, cost, delivery guarantees, performance indicators and the management structure. A confidential postal vote is then held of all the businesses that would pay the BID Levy. To become a BID, there must be a 25% minimum turnout and a majority of those that vote must be in favour by number and rateable value. A successful BID then has a mandate for a maximum of 5 years after which it needs to ballot businesses again with a new business plan.

Does this mean the local Council will stop delivering services?
BID money can only carry out projects and services which are ADDITIONAL to those that public agencies have to provide. Prior to the BID Business Plan being produced the current services being delivered by all public agencies, including the Local Council and PSNI, are benchmarked. These agencies have to continue to deliver that level of service for the period of the BID. The BID company can agree to provide additional resources to deliver a higher level of service over the benchmarked level if businesses want this.

How is the BID monitored?

Like any good business plan, specific key performance indicators (KPI's) are set and performance is monitored against the KPI's by the BID board. As businesses contribute the funding to achieve those specific KPI's set out in the prospectus the BID Company will be required to monitor and inform its members of progress on a regular basis.

How can a BID Model benefit a location?

In general, the BID Model can bring a number of high level benefits which include:

- Drives Business performance up
- Business costs are driven down
- Increases the capital value of assets
- Gives businesses more control and accountability
- Allows for proper business planning over the 5 year period
- Deliver achievable projects
- Consolidates a realistic, sustainable funding package
- Derives maximum value from existing services through the Service Level Agreement process
- Eliminates the freeloading effect which have jeopardized projects in the past

NI BIDS DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

A full BID development programme will take typically between 12 to 18 months, depending on the maturity of any partnership, existing work and business engagement. Our recommended approach, used successfully in a 100+ locations is set out below, highlighting the key tasks in 3 distinct phases. The Feasibility Studies are a key part of the Foundation Phase.

FOUNDATION PHASE

- ***Partnership & Plans Review***
- ***Develop Database & Information System***
- ***Feasibility Review***
  - ***Financial Analysis***
  - ***Boundary Analysis***
  - ***Levy Analysis***
  - ***Business Engagement***
  - ***Public Sector Role***
- ***Regulatory Adherence***
- ***Resources***

DEVELOPMENT PHASE

- ***Project Support***
- ***Research/Consultation***
- ***Public Sector Role***
  - ***Levy Payer***
  - ***Baseline Agreements***
  - ***Operating Agreement***
  - ***Ballot Holder***
  - ***Committee/Approval Processes***
- ***Staff & Board Development***
- ***Organisational Model***
- ***Voluntary Contributions***
- ***Financial Projections***
- ***Business Proposal/Business Plan***

CAMPAIGN PHASE

- ***Ballot Arrangements***
- ***Marketing & Communications Campaign***
- ***Tracking/Polling/Response***
- ***BID Implementation & Launch***

SECTION TWO: SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

Financial Analysis

A key part of the development of any BID is knowing what is 'on the ground', the type of business, the rateable value, the geographical and sector spread. If a BID is to be developed, this information will form the basis of a comprehensive market research and consultation exercise, the development of the business proposals, the balloting and the legal and financial framework upon which the BID is determined and operated.

NI BIDs consequently regards this part of the study as key and we have used the following data and methods to ensure accuracy.

- The Net Annual Value (NAV) list was formally obtained for the study from Land & Property Services. It should be noted that this list ultimately forms the legal basis of any BID levy charge.
- The NAV list was checked and cross referenced through a foot survey.

The financial analysis has been derived from the Non-Domestic Ratings List data provided by Land & Property Services (LPS) in August 2018 and subject to an official Data Sharing Agreement signed by all parties with access to the data. The information held on this database should only be used for the development of the BID proposals. This is the basis for establishing the financial viability of a BID. The data was compiled and fully analysed in a detailed report for each town. A summary of the total rateable value, the total number of businesses and the number of different business sectors is given below.

Town	Total Rateable Value	Total Number of Businesses
Cookstown	£6,430,300	401
Dungannon	£5,207,300	456
Magherafelt	£4,362,110	392
Maghera	£1,202,340	146
Coalisland	£885,950	135

Potential BID Levy Raised

It is standard practice to apply a figure of between 1 -2% to the total rateable value. Most BIDs in NI have used 1.5% with the 8th BID Coleraine choosing to go with 2%. The highest percentage applied to the BID levy in the UK is Rugby BID which is in its third 5 year term voted to raise the percentage on the BID levy to 6%.

A summary of the potential levy amounts for each town is given in the table below.

Levy Rate	Cookstown	Dungannon	Magherafelt	Maghera	Coalisland
1%	£ 64,303	£52,073	£43,784.10	£12,023.40	£8,859.50
1.5%	£ 96454.50	£78,109.5	£65,676.15	£18,035.10	£13,289.25
2%	£ 128,606	£104,146	£87,568.20	£24,046.80	£17,719

A full breakdown of the financial analysis is available in the individual location reports and is subject to the guidelines set out in the Data Sharing Agreement signed with Land and Property Services in August 2018.

SECTION THREE: SUMMARY ANALYSIS OF ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION PROCESS

Engagement and consultation with businesses, and key public and private stakeholder organisations within the proposed BID area was carried out in the period August 2018 – February 2019. This included a variety of consultation methods including the following:

- Consultation with key stakeholders to understand the strategic context within which a BID would be positioned level. We are looking to build a picture of strategic priorities, development opportunities that might be realised with in the 5-year BID period and current funding framework. This is important at this stage as a BID should complement and demonstrate added value to what is currently being delivered.

- Business surveys - An online survey was distributed to all businesses held on the current town centre databases. Council officers also completed a number by hand. At the feasibility stage the purpose of the surveys is to enable a stronger understanding of the broad priorities for businesses and to identify whether the projects identified by local businesses could be delivered using the BID mechanism.

- Workshops with Town Centre Forums and open business workshops. The purpose of these workshops was to introduce and explain the BID process, look at best practice and the impact/benefits of BIDs elsewhere, discuss the emerging issues from the survey analysis and consider the financial analysis.

- Case Studies – We also examined a number of relevant BIDs similar in scope, size and aspiration to the five towns.

The consultee list for each of the five towns in set out in the individual reports and is summarised below:

Magherafelt Town Centre

It is vital that a BID feasibility is considered within the context of other major economic development and inward investment and infrastructural improvements for the town as set out in the overarching strategic context. It is also important to understand the existing partnerships and key agencies with a remit in the town centre.

A number of key regeneration projects identified in the **Magherafelt Town Centre Masterplan**, such as the public realm scheme, road infrastructural investment such as the bypass and shopfront improvements has contributed to the vibrancy and vitality of the town centre. The Masterplan also highlighted the potential for a Town Centre BID.

A **Town Centre Positioning Study** took account of the Magherafelt Town Centre Masterplan and, following wide engagement with key stakeholders a Positioning Statement was agreed for the town centre to guide and stimulate development and regeneration initiatives.

> ***Magherafelt should continue to develop its role as a market town with a unique, distinctive retail and leisure offer, focusing on eclectic, independent brands (particularly ladies fashion), a quality food and drink and a diverse evening and night time economy, much of this encapsulated in the original town centre brand. Working in a true partnership, it will attract and develop a local audience as well as targeting a wider visitor market using its distinctive heritage, cultural and literary connections. This further consolidated by capitalising on the great outdoors offer nearby.***

The Positioning Study research identified some further opportunities for the Town Centre including:

- Further develop the public realm to add colour, vibrancy, light & social spaces.
- Potential to develop market town designation with food festivals & farmers markets.
- Seamus Heaney HomePlace & outdoor attractions drive visitors and should be packaged/ promoted perhaps as a shopping/cultural offer day trips.
- Further developing the early & night time economy. Strive for Purple Flag award.
- Develop annual events calendar to support propositions.
- Develop an App/Town Centre Loyalty Scheme.
- Develop a social media campaign using local people – personalities, bloggers, school gate style.
- More visible Interpretation of brand in Town Centre & approach routes.

The **Economic and Regeneration Strategy "Our Plan for Growth" 2015-2020** reflects the aim, vision and objectives of the **Council's Corporate Plan 2018 – 2023 and Community Plan 2017-2030** and sets out the strategic context for the development of a BID. The plan will "enable economic growth, sectoral diversification, employability and skills, town and village regeneration and infrastructure and connectivity throughout the Mid Ulster district".

This strategy highlights the importance of the manufacturing base, the emerging tourism potential and the distinctive multi-functional town centres to the economy of the region.

The Plan to grow Tourism up to 2021 also firmly sets a context for the development of a BID for Magherafelt. The plan sets out three key tourism strands which have potential to expand the tourism offer in Mid Ulster – the links to Seamus Heaney, Outdoor Activities and Archaeological sites, the History and Heritage of the island of Ireland, Northern Ireland and the area itself. The plan defines ambitious targets for growth – to grow the visitor economy to £50m by 2021.

Business Survey

The key findings are:

- 27% of respondents were Independents, 9% Multiples.
- 81% of respondents are responsible for paying the business rates directly and consequently would be eligible to vote if included in the BID area.
- 80% of respondents had been operating for more than 10 Years.
- 13% of respondents said that their turnover had increased over the past year and 67% said it had remained the same.
- 27% reported a marketing spend of over £5,000 per annum.
- Asked 'How would you rate the current marketing of the town Centre', 40% of respondents said it was good. Over 46% said it was poor or very poor.
- 47% are a member of a Business Association such as Chamber of Commerce or Federation of Small Businesses and 67% of these rated this membership as satisfactory or successful.
- The following were seen as the key priorities by respondents with percentages indicating the number supporting for these initiatives:

    - Promoting the Town Centre's independent businesses – 100%
    - CCTV – 100%
    - Enhanced street cleansing including removal of chewing gum and graffiti – 100%
    - Improve paving, greenery and street furniture – 100%
    - Improve appearance of empty shops – 93%
    - New seasonal events to create an all year calendar – 93%
    - More events for families and children – 93%
    - Access into and around town – 93%
    - More independent businesses – 93%
    - Better internet and IT connectivity – 93%

Workshops

A series of workshops were facilitated as part of the Feasibility Study process with Magherafelt Town Centre Forum and an open workshop for all local businesses within the identifed BID area between November 2018 and February 2019.

The purpose of these workshops was to introduce and explain the BID process, look at best practice and the impact/benefits of BIDs elsewhere, discuss the key emerging issues raised as a result of the surveys and look at the initial financial analysis.

While it would be unrealistic to expect an overwhelming consensus of business opinion at this early stage of the process, we do look for a small nucleus of local businesses who understand the BID concept and are supportive of the idea of moving to full development phase. Our experience has shown that this lays the foundation for a successful future BID.

There was, in general, a sound understanding of the BID concept, the role of businesses and the timescales for delivery. Members were aware of BIDs in other parts of NI, the potential benefits for the town and its role in the wider regeneration process. Following a detailed presentation and a question and answer session on the legislative process, timescales for delivery of a BID to ballot and other management and governance issues, there was a productive discussion around some of the issues, summarised below.

- Magherafelt is a heavily retail dominated BID by both number and rateable value (55%), with an even balance across other sectors.
- There is a good balance of independent and multiple retailers in the top 10 ratepayers, which would optimise success at ballot.
- The BID presented a great opportunity to position and promote the town utilising the Town Centre brand.
- A BID would provide the funds to commission a sustained promotional campaign to promote the town as an independent retail destination.
- Initiatives to build customer loyalty i.e. digital loyalty cards (Enniskillen BID).
- A dedicated Social Media Strategy would be an important element.
- There was a great interest in the BID examples, which were chosen to illustrate how a BID can unlock the tourism potential and drive more visitors, capitalising on the tourism assets close to the town such as Seamus Heaney HomePlace.
- A BID should optimise opportunities to reduce Business Costs through collective buying – very important to the independent sector.
- A BID could be an important driver to grow existing events.
- The BID would need to be positioned alongside the Town Forum and Chamber of Commerce and the roles of each carefully defined. The Ballymena BID example provided a good solution with the Chamber there leading on business support and networking events.
- The BID could address environmental issues not part of the Public Realm Scheme such as alleys and walkways and provide more colour and vibrancy through enhanced floral displays, street art etc.

- Additional interpretative signage and orientation maps.
- The BID as a vehicle to improve communication and engagement with local businesses and other stakeholders.

Dungannon Town Centre

It is vital that a BID feasibility is considered within the context of other major economic development and inward investment and infrastructural improvements for the town as set out in the overarching strategic context. It is also important to understand the existing partnerships and key agencies with a remit in the town centre.

The Dungannon Town Centre BID Feasibility Study has been facilitated by the Regeneration Manager who has responsibility for working with the local businesses and key stakeholders to develop the Town Centre. There is a Town Centre Forum made up of key public and private sector holders, which is supported by the Council.

A Town Centre Positioning Study took account of the Dungannon Town Centre Masterplan and, following wide engagement with key stakeholders, a Positioning Statement was agreed for the town centre to guide and stimulate development and regeneration initiatives.

"Dungannon will be reinvented and rejuvenated as one of Northern Ireland's key entrepreneurial, historic market towns. All stakeholders will work in partnership to reinvigorate the town's retail offer by highlighting key retail strengths (branded fashion, local food and knowledgeable service), identifying gaps in the current provision and reconfiguring vacant/derelict properties/sites, stimulate investment in the town's infrastructure and unique character areas, indoor and outdoor markets and the provision of new dedicated town centre space for creative startups and ambitiously package and promote its history and industrial heritage, Ranfurly House and Hill of the O'Neill to a new visitor target market."

The Positioning Study research identified some further opportunities for the Town Centre including:

- Market Square could become a focal point for events/markets/café culture.
- The celebration of diversity through festivals of music & food.
- Exploiting the existing entrepreneurial spirit with more creative industries.
- Exploiting the local food.
- Acting as a fashion hub as collectively, in the area, there is a strong representation of international brands.
- It has major historical significance with the Flight of the Earls, Hill of the O'Neills, Ranfurly which should be capitalised on to create a more distinct and cohesive proposition.

The Economic and Regeneration Strategy "Our Plan for Growth" 2015-2020 reflects the aim, vision and objectives of the **Council's Corporate Plan 2018 – 2023 and Community Plan 2017-2030** and sets out the strategic context for the development of a BID. The plan will "enable economic growth, sectoral diversification, employability and skills, town and village regeneration and infrastructure and connectivity throughout the Mid Ulster district".
This strategy highlights the importance of the manufacturing base, the emerging tourism potential and the distinctive multi-functional town centres to the economy of the region.

The Plan to grow Tourism up to 2021 also firmly sets a context for the development of a BID for Dungannon. The plan sets out three key tourism strands, which have potential to expand the tourism offer in Mid Ulster – the links to Seamus Heaney, Outdoor Activities and Archaeological sites, the History and Heritage of the island of Ireland, Northern Ireland and the area itself. The plan defines ambitious targets for growth – to grow the visitor economy to £50m by 2021.

Business Survey

The key findings for Dungannon are:

- 23% of respondents were Independents, 15% Multiples.
- 79% of respondents are responsible for paying the business rates directly and consequently would be eligible to vote if included in the BID area.
- 79% of respondents had been operating for more than 10 Years.
- 46% of respondents said that their turnover had increased over the past year and 31% said it had remained the same.
- 29% reported a marketing spend of over £5,000 per annum.
- Asked 'How would you rate the current marketing of the town Centre', 14% of respondents said it was good. Over 64% said it was poor or very poor.
- 33% are a member of a Business Association such as Chamber of Commerce or Federation of Small Businesses and 67% of these rated this membership as satisfactory or successful.
- The following were seen as the key priorities by respondents with percentages indicating the number supporting for these initiatives:

    - Raising the profile of the Town centre – 100%
    - Promoting the Town Centre's independent businesses – 100%
    - Attracting quality new businesses to the Town centre – 100%
    - Access into and around town – 100%
    - Increase the number of car parking spaces – 100%
    - Enhanced street cleansing including removal of chewing gum and graffiti – 100%
    - More independent businesses – 100%
    - Attract creative businesses – 100%
    - Business crime reduction initiatives – 93%
    - Developing a cohesive marketing strategy – 93%
    - Helping existing businesses expand – 93%
    - New seasonal events to create an all year calendar – 93%
    - More events for families and children – 93%
    - Car parking discount scheme – 93%
    - Improve appearance of empty shops – 93%
    - Building / façade lighting – 93%
    - Attract major employers – 93%

Workshops

A series of workshops were held with Dungannon Regeneration Partnership and an open workshop for all local businesses within the identified BID area was facilitated as part of the Feasibility Study process in January to February 2019. The purpose of these workshops was to introduce and explain the BID process, look at best practice and the impact/benefits of BIDs elsewhere, discuss the emerging issues as a result of the Business Survey and consider the initial financial analysis. An experienced BID Development Manager who had successfully taken Belfast Linen Quarter to ballot in 2018 gave a presentation and answered questions on his experiences of the BID development process.

While it would be unrealistic to expect an overwhelming consensus at this early stage of the process, we do look for a small nucleus of local businesses who understand the BID concept and are supportive of the idea of moving to full development phase. Our experience has shown that this lays the foundation for a successful future BID.

In Dungannon, there was a very high turnout to the BID workshops and a good response to the online survey, indicating a strong interest in the BID concept as a regeneration tool. 73% of those surveyed indicated that they a sound understanding of the BID concept, the potential benefits, the role of businesses and the timescales for delivery. Members were aware of BIDs in other parts of NI, the potential benefits for the town and its role in the wider regeneration process. Following a detailed presentation and a question and answer session on the legislative process, timescales for delivery of a BID to ballot and other management and governance issues, there was a productive discussion around some of the issues, summarised below.

- Dungannon has an unusual make-up for a town centre location as retail only makes up 36% of the total levy.
- There is a higher than average level of vacant premises (14%) which will require a different emphasis for the BID and a focus for the BID development process and Business Plan as it will have to incorporate the needs of property owner rate payers. This was a key discussion issue, particularly in the Town Centre Forum and was highlighted in the case study examples. There was a desire to look at a substantial capital investment programme to address this key issue and build on the considerable research and investment to date by the Town Centre Forum and key stakeholders.
- 6 out of the top 10 ratepayers by ratable value are public sector. This balance must be reflected in the BID initiatives.
- The workshops verified the results of the survey analysis. There was a high level of consensus amongst the businesses on the key issues to be addressed. Many issues scored 100% in the survey which is unusual at this early stage of the process.
- Marketing and Promotion of the town was a critical priority.
- Attracting all types of new businesses to the Town centre. including new independents, commercial and creative industries. An investment marketing campaign would seem to be a good solution.
- Access and parking issues were discussed frequently.

- Enhanced street cleansing including removal of chewing gum and graffiti came up exceptionally high which suggests there is strong desire to re-instate civic pride and a sense of place.
- The BID could provide a mechanism to promote the interesting history and heritage of the town, maximising the asset of Ranfurly House to attract more day trippers and visitors.
- Collective procurement was also a priority issues for the BID to address. There was a high interest and discussion on how this worked in practice at the business workshop. There was a recognition that this would sit well with the initiatives to attract new investment and deal with the vacancy and dereliction issues.
- There was a recognition that this BID would require the businesses to work closely with other stakeholders and use the BID levy effectively to support other funding programmes and regeneration projects.
- Businesses welcomed a key role of a BID to provide a vehicle for local businesses to communicate and have a collective voice and influence in the future of the town.

Cookstown Town Centre

It is vital that a BID feasibility is considered within the context of other major economic development and inward investment and infrastructural improvements for the city as set out in the overarching strategic context. It is also important to understand the existing partnerships and key agencies with a remit in the town centre.

The Cookstown Town Centre BID Feasibility Study has been facilitated by the Regeneration Manager who has responsibility for working with the local businesses and key stakeholders to develop the Town Centre. There is a Town Centre Forum made up of key public and private sector holders, which is supported by the Council.

A Town Centre Positioning Study took account of the Cookstown Town Centre Masterplan and, following wide engagement with key stakeholders, a Positioning Statement was agreed for the town centre to guide and stimulate development and regeneration initiatives.

"Refreshing a successful, yet plateauing, brand, Cookstown should further develop its role as a multi-functional market town at the heart of Mid Ulster, renowned for its mile of shopping, attractive, safe environment and lively day and night time economy. The town should also aspire to become an outdoor hub for the wider destination, capitalising on the tourism potential of Davagh Forest, Lough Neagh and The Sperrins. The town will utilise its strong retail offer, build on its hospitality and welcome, people, food & drink and accommodation. Being healthy, happy and hopeful should be part of an overall 'lifestyle' offer to both locals and visitors alike."

The Positioning Study research identified some further opportunities for the Town Centre including:

- Build on the Public Realm work by creating green & social Spaces, deliver events such as a Mardi Gras Type Festival, Family Fun Days etc.
- Exploit the local food culture to provide a USP.
- Cookstown is a Historical Market Town and needs to make more of this asset
- The outdoor lifestyle concept needs to be developed particularly with its proximity to the Dark Skies & Davagh Forest. Potential to create a visitor hub.
- Burnavon could function even better as a Town Centre Hub.
- Further, Develop Early & Night Time Economy.
- Maximise the asset that is the Christmas Lighting – the most spectacular in NI.

The Economic and Regeneration Strategy "Our Plan for Growth" 2015-2020 reflects the aim, vision and objectives of the **Council's Corporate Plan 2018 – 2023 and Community Plan 2017-2030** and sets out the strategic context for the development of a BID. The plan will "enable economic growth, sectoral diversification, employability and skills, town and village regeneration and infrastructure and connectivity throughout the Mid Ulster district".
This strategy highlights the importance of the manufacturing base, the emerging tourism potential and the distinctive multi-functional town centres to the economy of the region.

The Plan to grow Tourism up to 2021 also firmly sets a context for the development of a BID for Cookstown. The plan sets out three key tourism strands, which have potential to expand the tourism offer in Mid Ulster – the links to Seamus Heaney, Outdoor Activities and Archaeological sites, the History and Heritage of the island of Ireland, Northern Ireland and the area itself.

The plan defines ambitious targets for growth – to grow the visitor economy to £50m by 2021.

Business Survey

The key findings are:

- 63% of respondents were Independents, 6% Multiples.
- 81% of respondents are responsible for paying the business rates directly and consequently would be eligible to vote if included in the BID area.
- 63% of respondents had been operating for more than 10 Years.
- 7% of respondents said that their turnover had increased over the past year and 53% said it had remained the same.
- 7% reported a marketing spend of over £5,000 per annum.
- Asked 'How would you rate the current marketing of the town Centre', Over 56% of respondents said it was good. 19% said it was poor or very poor.
- 40% are a member of a Business Association such as Chamber of Commerce or Federation of Small Businesses and 83% of these rated this membership as satisfactory or successful.

The following were seen as the key priorities by respondents with percentages indicating the number supporting for these initiatives:

- Raising the profile of the town 92%
- Attracting new Independent Businesses 92%
- Attracting Creative Industries 92%
- Collective Procurement 92%
- Business Crime Reduction 90%
- Developing a Cohesive Marketing Strategy 86%
- Greater Lobbying and Influence 85%
- Improving internet / IT 80%
- Car parking/access 80%

Workshops

A series of workshops were held with Cookstown Town Centre Forum and an open workshop for all local businesses within the identified BID area were facilitated as part of the Feasibility Study process during the period January to February 2019.

The purpose pf these workshops was to introduce and explain the BID process, look at best practice and the impact/benefits of BIDs elsewhere, discuss the emerging issues from the survey analysis and consider the financial analysis.

While it would be unrealistic to expect an overwhelming consensus at this early stage of the process, we do look for a small nucleus of local businesses who understand the BID concept and are supportive of the idea of moving to full development phase. Our experience has shown that this lays the foundation for a successful future BID.

There was, in general, a sound understanding of the BID concept, the role of businesses and the timescales for delivery. Members were aware of BIDs in other parts of NI, the potential benefits for the town and its role in the wider regeneration process. Following a detailed presentation and a question and answer session on the legislative process, timescales for delivery of a BID to ballot and other management and governance issues, there was a productive discussion around some of the issues, summarised below.

- Cookstown is a very heavily retail dominated BID by both number and rateable value (64%) with relatively low representation form other sectors. This will provide the focus for the BID development process and Business Plan.
- There is a high representation of multiple retailers in the top 10 ratepayers by ratable value, with the independent businesses more dominant by number. This balance must be reflected in the BID initiatives.
- The BID presented a great opportunity to position and promote the town utilising the Town Centre brand.
- The BID could provide a mechanism for town centre businesses to capitalise on a new outdoor activity visitor market currently visiting Davagh Forest and the Sperrins.
- The workshops verified the results of the survey analysis which identifed raising the profile of the town sustainable marketing campaign, attracting new Independent Businesses and collective procurement as the priority issues for the BID to address. Also, interestingly, attracting new creative industries was key, perhaps reflecting the desire to attract a new visitor market.
- Vacancy levels within the proposed BID area are around 9%, which is below the NI average. It was raised as an issue at consultation and reflected in the desire to attract new independent retail and creative industries. An investment marketing campaign would seem to be a good solution rather than capital investment, which would take up a significant budget.
- Business Crime Reduction was also raised as an important issue yet the relatively low crime figures do not support this concern. There is perhaps more of an issue with perception. This should be explored more fully at development stage.
- Access and car parking featured highly but are extremely expensive to deliver. It would be important to consider this against other priorities for the BID Levy budget.

- Businesses welcomed a key role of a BID to provide a vehicle for local businesses to communicate and have a collective voice and influence in the future of the town.

Coalisland Town Centre

It is vital that a BID feasibility is considered within the context of other major economic development and inward investment and infrastructural improvements for the city as set out in the overarching strategic context. It is also important to understand the existing partnerships and key agencies with a remit in the town centre.

The Coalisland Town Centre BID Feasibility Study has been facilitated by the Regeneration Manager who has responsibility for working with the local businesses and key stakeholders to develop the Town Centre. There is a Town Centre Forum made up of key public and private sector holders, which is supported by the Council.

The vision for Coalisland in the Coalisland Development Framework was that "***by 2030 Coalisland has built on its success as an attractive and unique service centre. The area around the Cornmill has been transformed by high quality public realm improvements to form the heart of the town centre. It is multi-functional, high quality place for people to meet, live, local events to take place and providing a diverse range of independent retail and recreational uses. The canal as a resource is maximised and the former clay pits are developed for a range of uses that integrate with and compliment the Town Centre."***

Opportunities for Coalisland highlighted in the framework included:

- To redevelop vacant and under used sites
- Potential to create a vibrant heart to the town centre
- To exploit some of the existing surrounding assets such as the clay pits, canal corridor
- Marketing and promotion of the town to increase the attraction of tourists

The Economic and Regeneration Strategy "Our Plan for Growth" 2015-2020 reflects the aim, vision and objectives of the **Council's Corporate Plan 2018 – 2023 and Community Plan 2017-2030** and sets out the strategic context for the development of a BID. The plan will "enable economic growth, sectoral diversification, employability and skills, town and village regeneration and infrastructure and connectivity throughout the Mid Ulster district".
This strategy highlights the importance of the manufacturing base, the emerging tourism potential and the distinctive multi-functional town centres to the economy of the region.

The Plan to grow Tourism up to 2021 also firmly sets a context for the development of a BID for Coalisland. The plan sets out three key tourism strands, which have potential to expand the tourism offer in Mid Ulster – the links to Seamus Heaney, Outdoor Activities and Archaeological sites, the History and Heritage of the island of Ireland, Northern Ireland and the area itself.

The plan defines ambitious targets for growth – to grow the visitor economy to £50m by 2021.

Business Survey

The key findings are:

- 67% of respondents were Independents, none were multiples.
- 100% of respondents are responsible for paying the business rates directly and consequently would be eligible to vote if included in the BID area.
- 67% of respondents had been operating for more than 10 Years.
- 17% of respondents said that their turnover had increased over the past year and 33% said it had remained the same.
- 17% reported a marketing spend of over £5,000 pa.
- Asked 'How would you rate the current marketing of the town Centre', none of respondents said it was good. 100% said it was poor or very poor.
- None of the respondents are a member of a Business Association such as Chamber of Commerce or Federation of Small Businesses.
- The following were seen as the key priorities by respondents with percentages indicating the number supporting for these initiatives:

    - Raising the profile of the town centre – 100%
    - Developing a cohesive marketing strategy – 100%
    - Promoting the town centre's independent businesses – 100%
    - More festival and culture events – 100%
    - More Christmas activities and attractions – 100%
    - New seasonal events to create an all year round calendar – 100%
    - More events for families and children – 100%
    - More business events – 100%
    - Access into and around town – 100%
    - Increase the number of car parking spaces – 100%
    - Better signage into town for vehicles – 100%
    - Better wayfinding signage and maps in town for pedestrians – 100%
    - CCTV – 100%
    - Enhanced street cleansing including removal of chewing gum and graffiti – 100%
    - Improve appearance of empty shops – 100%
    - Improve paving, greenery and street furniture – 100%
    - Building / façade lighting – 100%
    - More independent businesses – 100%
    - Attract professional services – 100%
    - Business incubation and acceleration initiatives – 100%
    - Business crime reduction initiatives – 100%
    - Better internet and IT connectivity – 100%
    - Collective procurement schemes to reduce business costs – 100%
    - Better business to business communication – 100%
    - Better business to business trading opportunities – 100%
    - Appropriate training e.g. IT, Personnel, customer service – 100%

- More business networking opportunities – 100%
- Provision of business data and intelligence – 100%

Maghera Town Centre

It is vital that a BID feasibility is considered within the context of other major economic development and inward investment and infrastructural improvements for the city as set out in the overarching strategic context. It is also important to understand the existing partnerships and key agencies with a remit in the town centre.

The Maghera Town Centre BID Feasibility Study has been facilitated by the Regeneration Manager who has responsibility for working with the local businesses and key stakeholders to develop the Town Centre. There is a Town Centre Forum made up of key public and private sector holders, which is supported by the Council.

In the "physical development framework and action plan for Maghera for 2017 – 2030", the vision for Maghera was that it "will be a vibrant, welcoming place where people work in partnership to create a thriving town reflecting its unique culture and heritage'.

The outcomes from the action plan included:

- Maghera will be positioned as an important heritage/historical/medieval destination town.
- Maghera will use its heritage and historical assets and resources to contribute to the wider visitor offer including Seamus Heaney HomePlace, Outdoor Recreation and Heritage.
- Maghera will provide a welcoming, aesthetically pleasing, accessible and functioning streetscape.
- Maghera will be a good place to do business or to operate business from.
- Maghera will be a place people want to visit and when they do for the first time will want to return.
- Maghera will be known as a community which respects its natural and built assets, maintains them and adds value to them.
- Maghera will be easily accessible for people who want or require to stop in it and efficient to go through for people for which it is a location on an onward journey.

The Economic and Regeneration Strategy "Our Plan for Growth" 2015-2020 reflects the aim, vision and objectives of the **Council's Corporate Plan 2018 – 2023 and Community Plan 2017-2030** and sets out the strategic context for the development of a BID. The plan will "enable economic growth, sectoral diversification, employability and skills, town and village regeneration and infrastructure and connectivity throughout the Mid Ulster district".
This strategy highlights the importance of the manufacturing base, the emerging tourism potential and the distinctive multi-functional town centres to the economy of the region.

The Plan to grow Tourism up to 2021 also firmly sets a context for the development of a BID for Maghera. The plan sets out three key tourism strands, which have potential to expand the tourism offer in Mid Ulster – the links to Seamus Heaney, Outdoor Activities and Archaeological sites, the History and Heritage of the island of Ireland, Northern Ireland and the area itself.

The plan defines ambitious targets for growth – to grow the visitor economy to £50m by 2021.

Business Survey

The key findings are:

- 23% of respondents were Independents, 8% Multiples.
- 93% of respondents are responsible for paying the business rates directly and consequently would be eligible to vote if included in the BID area.
- 57% of respondents had been operating for more than 10 Years.
- 57% of respondents said that their turnover had increased over the past year and 29% said it had remained the same.
- 7% reported a marketing spend of over £5,000 pa.
- Asked 'How would you rate the current marketing of the town Centre', none of respondents said it was good. Over 92% said it was poor or very poor.
- 29% are a member of a Business Association such as Chamber of Commerce or Federation of Small Businesses and 67% of these rated this membership as satisfactory or successful.
- The following were seen as the key priorities by respondents with percentages indicating the number supporting for these initiatives:

    - Promoting the Town Centre's independent businesses – 100%
    - Attracting quality new businesses to the Town Centre – 100%
    - Increase the number of car parking spaces – 100%
    - Enhanced street cleansing including removal of chewing gum and graffiti – 100%
    - Business crime reduction initiatives – 100%
    - Better internet & IT connectivity – 100%
    - Better business to business trading opportunities – 100%

SECTION FOUR: RECOMMENDATIONS, ASSESSMENT OF RESOURCES AND PROPOSED TIMETABLE FOR FULL BID DEVELOPMENT

Critical Success Factors

Utilising the experience of developing all 8 BIDs in Northern Ireland and over 105 BIDs across the UK, Europe and further afield, we have applied a number of critical success factors for successful BID development which has been applied to each of the five towns in this Feasibility Study.

- Robust engagement with potential levy payers from the outset in designing a BID**.**
- Take advantages of natural geographic connections and common issues.
- Concentrate benefits in a defined area and don't attempt to spread benefits over too wide a geography.
- Listening to business and sharing examples of success elsewhere.
- Having key influencers as BID Champions and advocates.
- Developing projects that make and demonstrable difference, quickly.
- Align business feedback with clear project objectives.
- Aligning the levy percentage or structure to raise adequate funds to deliver the projects.
- Levy investment contributions must be seen to be fair and equitable.
- Demonstrate added value by levering additional investment.
- Work with a manageable number of businesses where priorities have alignment and convergence.
- Communicate concisely and clearly always demonstrating benefits and value

Dungannon Town Centre

Based on the financial land analysis and consultations for each of the five town centres, and the review of the Critical Success Factors as set out above, it is recommended that Dungannon Town Centre should proceed to full BID development in the first instance, acting as a pilot project from which the other locations within Mid Ulster can learn from.

In terms of guiding principles in determining recommendations, the key test is the ability of the BID proposals to make a tangible impact in a given area with the amount of money available. Too big or disjointed an area or too many sectors to contend with may mean that it is difficult to show impact particularly of physical/ground based works. In general, terms it is better to start small, under promise and over deliver.

Having made a comprehensive assessment of the current situation, we would highlight some key elements, which have informed our recommendations for Dungannon Town Centre.

- **The research and consultation process shows clear areas of consensus and concern that can be addressed by this process.**
- **The recommended geographical boundary and sectoral make up will allow for a co-ordinated and focused approach. However, this requires more consideration once a task group is formed.**
- **The revenue generated from the BID levy will deliver a meaningful impact on the issues raised in the consultation process and will allow real and tangible improvements to be made.**
- **We recommend an independent, not for profit company should manage the BID**
- **Key individuals and organisations enthusiastically support the concept including business representatives and key stakeholders. There is evidence of a nucleus of businesses representative of the location and sector, who could form a business led Task Group to lead the BID development stage.**

Preliminary Project Areas

The preliminary market research and consultation indicates that there is good consensus in terms of the types of issues that are important, across the sectors. It is recommended that the BID Business Plan focuses on 2-3 priorities in the first 5 year term, rather than spreading the budget too finely and risk not being able to demonstrate impact and commercial benefit. The priority areas are:

1. **Initiatives which address long term vacancy and dereliction, bringing them back into productive use. This will require a combination of capital investment and investment marketing projects. This will require significant funding, therefore the role of the BID and the allocation of the BID levy will have to be carefully considered.**
2. **Marketing & Promotion projects which combine traditional marketing with**

digital marketing with a focus on building customer loyalty and raising civic pride. Shop local programmes and loyalty cards can be particularly effective.

3. **Reducing Business Costs through collective buying initiatives**

It has been very clear through the consultation process that there is an enormous appetite for a vehicle which will assist businesses to communicate effectively, have more influence on the future direction of the town centre and lobby for change. A BID is an ideal vehicle for this to develop.

Sensitivity would be required with regards to any existing arrangements that other organisations may have such as the Regeneration Partnership and Trader's Association. This is not only to co-ordinate, assimilate and add value to existing work effectively but also to avoid any duplication and controversy which in business planning and campaigning terms will have a negative effect. Where people are already paying fees, it will be important to work out a structure, which is beneficial to all and where businesses are not burdened with separate bills.

BID Funding Projections

Going forward the BID would formally contain 456 business rated units (hereditaments) with a total Rateable Value of £5,207,300m.

It is our opinion based on the consultation and financial analysis that the working assumption should be a 2% levy, which would raise approximately £104,146 per annum and £520,730 over the 5 year BID term. This would allow sufficient resources to develop and implement projects as well as the ability to provide a tangible difference.

Voluntary Contributions & Fee Income

Please note that most BIDs aim to, and succeed in, generating 20% in voluntary contributions/fee income annually in addition to the BID levy. The 'rule of thumb' is to try and aspire to cover all running costs (averaging 20% at present).

BID Delivery Model

The key elements in considering a delivery organisation is the confidence and credibility it will generate amongst the voting organisations. Even if the projects appeal most businesses will also seek real 'control' and 'independence' for the set up as a price for a positive vote.

This has been reflected in almost all the successful BIDs so far with a not for profit 'company limited by guarantee' the favoured option. The Board of this company would normally be elected at least annually from the BID levy payers.

In any BID set up 'form should follow function' so beyond the key consideration that it should be a legal entity in its own right directly accountable to BID levy payers, it is not crucial that the exact structure be settled on now but that it is revisited during the development stage.

Indicative Timetable for BID Development

The development of a BID is likely to take at least 12 months from this stage. The timetable overleaf sets out the key milestones if the decision was taken now to pursue the development of a BID.

Phase	Key Milestones	Estimated Date
Foundation Phase		
	Complete Feasibility Study	Month 0
	Secure Resources for Development & Campaign Phase	Month 1
	Agree Preliminary Study Area	Month 2
	Agree Preliminary Ballot Date	Month 3
Development Phase		
	Project Support in Place	Month 4
	Set Up BID Task Group	Month 5
	Complete Detailed Consultation	Month 6
	Agree Initial Project Lists & Costs	Month 7
	Agree Baseline Statements	Month 7
	Agree Delivery Model	Month 7
	Agree Operating Agreement	Month 8
	Agree Final BID Area	Month 9
	Agree Business Plan	Month 9
Campaign Phase		
	Agree Formal Ballot Process	Month 9
	Agree Champions, Campaign Methods & Material	Month 9
	Campaign Period	Month 10
	Formal Ballot Notification	Month 10
	Formal Ballot (42 days/Postal)	Month 11/12

Resources Assessment

Detailed below is our estimation of the resources and relevant costs for the development of the BID.

The costs set out above may on initial inspection seem high but have to be considered against the fact that if the BID is successful it could generate £520,000 over five years which would be considered a good return.

Item	Detail	Cost
Project Staff	*BID Staff member to help deliver Development & Campaign work on the ground	£30,000
Office Costs	IT, Stationery, Postage	£2,500
Marketing & Communication	Business Engagement, Online and Printed Collateral, Business Plan	£5,000
Legal & Financial	Ballot Costs	£2,500
Consultancy Support	Specialist Advice, Template Documents, Negotiations, Regulatory Adherence	£10,000
Total		**£35,000**

* Staff Member is based on a full time 37.5 hour working week. This staff member can be appointed in a number of ways – either directly by the Council or other organisation such as City Centre Management or formally employed by the supporting consultancy firm in order that they are seen as an 'independent broker' and the project is not seen as 'council driven'.

Funding BID Development and Campaign Phases

It is usual for Councils to make a full or part contribution to the costs of developing a BID. Some locations second appropriate staff. Many provide office & administration costs in-kind. This means there is a substantial reduction in the development finance required. It is also important to point out at this stage however, that the BID development process is not a 'bolt on' activity to a current role. The demands of the process are high, with skilled and experienced people needed to carry through a wide set of roles and activities. A crucial element is the individual face-to-face discussions with potential levy payers which are time consuming but, in our experience, essential.

Next Steps

If the decision was made to go down the BID route and pursue the Development and Campaign Phase, then the following key steps will be required in the immediate short term:

1. **Formal decision taken to proceed to Development and Campaign Phases.**
2. **Secure necessary resources for next phases through public and private sectors including costs for dedicated staff support and a project fund.**
3. **The creation of a BIDs Task Group with business members and the public agencies (no more than 15) who are able to commit 1 hour per week in time over the next 12 months. The BID Task Group members should ideally be potential levy payers and be representative of the preliminary BID area in terms of sector and numbers.**

A full recommended Development Plan including legal protocol and timescales is included in the Dungannon Town Centre detailed report.

Magherafelt Town Centre

Based on the financial analysis and consultations and the review of the Critical Success Factors as set out above, it is recommended that a BID for Magherafelt Town Centre is viable, but that given the relatively low levels of engagement from the business community at this stage, the decision on whether to proceed to full BID development should be reviewed following the Dungannon Town Centre BID Development pilot and with further consultation and engagement with the local business community.

Preliminary Project Areas

The preliminary market research and consultation indicates that there is good consensus in terms of the types of issues that are important, across the sectors.

1. **Marketing & Promotion, building on the Magherafelt Brand including digital and social media platforms.**
2. **Environmental Improvements to enhance the Public Realm and periphery areas of the town.**
3. **Reducing Business Costs.**
4. **Business Support & Advocacy.**

Sensitivity would be required with regards to any existing organisations, such as the Chamber and Town Forum. This is not only to co-ordinate, assimilate and add value to existing work effectively but also to avoid any duplication and controversy which in business

planning and campaigning terms will have a negative effect. Where people are already paying fees, it will be important to work out a structure which is beneficial to all and where businesses are not burdened with separate bills.

BID Funding Projections

The BID Feasibility Study has identifed a potential BID with over 392 business rated units (hereditaments) with a total Rateable Value of £4,362,110.

It is our opinion based on the consultation and financial analysis that the working assumption should be a 2% levy, which would raise approximately £87,000 per annum and £437,841 over the 5 year BID term. This would allow sufficient resources to develop and implement projects, and demonstrate impact and make a tangible difference.

Cookstown Town Centre

Based on the financial analysis and consultations and the review of the Critical Success Factors as set out above, it is recommended that a BID for Cookstown Town Centre is viable, but that given the issues surrounding the identification of the BID Boundary and the relatively low levels of engagement from the business community at this stage, the decision on whether to proceed to full BID development should be reviewed following the Dungannon Town Centre BID Development pilot and with further consultation and engagement with the local business community.

Preliminary Project Areas

The preliminary market research and consultation indicates that there is good consensus in terms of the types of issues that are important, across the sectors. The priority areas are:

1. **Retail led marketing & promotional campaign, building on the Cookstown Brand and focusing on the quality of the retail offer and the balance of independent and national outlets**
2. **Integrated digital and social media platforms and feasibility of a digitally based customer loyalty card**
3. **Investment marketing campaign to attract new independent and creative businesses to locate in the town centre**
4. **Reducing Business Costs through collective buying initiatives**
5. **Collective Business Support & Advocacy**

Sensitivity would be required with regards to any existing organisations, such as the

Chamber and Town Forum. This is not only to co-ordinate, assimilate and add value to existing work effectively but also to avoid any duplication and controversy which in business planning and campaigning terms will have a negative effect. Where people are already paying fees, it will be important to work out a structure which is beneficial to all and where businesses are not burdened with separate bills.

BID Funding Projections

Going forward the BID would formally contain 401 business rated units (hereditaments) with a total Rateable Value of £6,430,300m.

It is our opinion based on the consultation and financial analysis that the working assumption should be a 2% levy which would raise approximately £128,606 per annum and £643,030 over the 5 year BID term. This would allow sufficient resources to develop and implement projects as well as the ability to provide a tangible difference.

Maghera Town Centre

Based on the financial analysis and consultations and the review of the Critical Success Factors as set out above, it is recommended that a BID for Maghera Town Centre is not viable, given the financial analysis which clearly shows that the amount generated from the BID levy would not have a significant impact on the regeneration of the town centre, when assessed against the costs of operating a BID. It is recommended that further intensive work is required to enhance the level of business engagement and alternative avenues to generate additional income are investigated.

In coming to this conclusion, we have set out an alternative route that allows for the level of business engagement and other work which will assist Maghera develop to its full potential.

The following work programme would allow for Council to engage more widely with local businesses and develop a collaborative framework to work together on agreed projects to develop the town centre.

Lead	Details	Timescales
Mid Ulster Council	Town Centre Forum works with Regeneration Manager to develop a Business Engagement Strategy	Months 1-3
Town Forum	Implement Business Engagement Strategy including 1 to 1, sector based workshops & regular networking events	Months 4-11
	Develop comprehensive contact and relationship management business database	
	Identify business issues and develop preliminary project ideas to address these	
	Identify best practice projects and associated locations	
	Develop senior contacts with public agencies	
Mid Ulster Council Town Forum	Agree vehicle, protocol and funding avenues for future collaborative projects including an informal contribution based model	Months 12

Detailed below is our estimation of the resources and relevant costs for this e development of the BID.

Item	Detail	Cost
Business Engagement facilitation	1.5 days per week	Existing Regeneration Manager Salary
Office & Administration	IT, Stationery, Postage	£1,000
Engagement & Communication Collateral	Market Research, Promotional & Engagement Material, Business Planning	£5,000
Total		£6,000

Coalisland Town Centre

Based on the financial analysis and consultations and the review of the Critical Success Factors as set out above, it is recommended that, similar to Maghera Town Centre, a BID for Coalisland Town Centre is not viable, given the financial analysis which clearly shows that the amount generated from the BID levy would not have a significant impact on the regeneration of the town centre, when assessed against the costs of operating a BID. Furthermore the Town Centre Forum is still very new. It is recommended that further intensive work is required to enhance the level of business engagement and alternative avenues to generate additional income are investigated.

In coming to this conclusion, we have set out an alternative route that allows for the level of business engagement and other work which will assist Coalisland develop to its full potential.

The following work programme would allow for Council to engage more widely with local businesses and develop a collaborative framework to work together on agreed projects to develop the town centre.

Lead	Details	Timescales
Mid Ulster Council	Town Centre Forum works with Regeneration Manager to develop a Business Engagement Strategy	Months 1-3
Town Forum	Implement Business Engagement Strategy including 1 to 1, sector based workshops & regular networking events	Months 4-11
	Develop comprehensive contact and relationship management business database	
	Identify business issues and develop preliminary project ideas to address these	
	Identify best practice projects and associated locations	
	Develop senior contacts with public agencies	
Mid Ulster Council Town Forum	Agree vehicle, protocol and funding avenues for future collaborative projects including an informal contribution based model	Months 12

Detailed below is our estimation of the resources and relevant costs for this e development of the BID.

Item	Detail	Cost
Business Engagement facilitation	1.5 days per week	Existing Regeneration ~~Officer~~ Manager Salary
Office & Administration	IT, Stationery, Postage	£1,000
Engagement & Communication Collateral	Market Research, Promotional & Engagement Material, Business Planning	£5,000
Total		£6,000

Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

COOKSTOWN CONTINENTIAL MARKET

1 – 2 June 2019

EVALUATION REPORT

1.0 Introduction

Mid Ulster District Council, in partnership with Cookstown Town Centre Forum, hosted the Continental Market, from Saturday 1 – Sunday 2 June 2019. This was the sixth year Cookstown hosted the Market, with the Market returning as part of Marketplace Europe Spring Tour to Northern Ireland. The market was located along William Street Cookstown Town Centre, with a full road closure in place from 6.30pm Friday 31 May – 10.00pm Sunday 2 June 2019, to meet Health & Safety requirements. A schedule of children's and musical entertainment was delivered over the two days (See Appendix 3). The event is delivered through strong partnership workings with statutory bodies and cross departmental which have been continually enhanced over each year of its delivery.

2.0 Background

Our Community Plan consists of five key themes, one of which is Economic Growth. It is essential that our towns and villages are vibrant and competitive, attracting visitors, in turn resulting in local spend. Mid Ulster District Council Corporate Plan, Sustaining Our Environment a key theme strives to create and build a sense of civic pride in towns and villages across Mid Ulster. Our Plan for Growth, Mid Ulster's Economic Development Plan (2015-2020), theme 3 Enabling Town and Village Regeneration contains the action to 'Deliver and promote key signature events'.

An integral element of the aforementioned documents highlights the need to deliver signature events to create and sustain civic pride within the community. A key signature event for Cookstown is the delivery of Cookstown Continental Markets. This event is now in its fifth year of delivery and over the years has grown and developed into an event which has created and enhanced the civic pride within the community. The market was part of Marketplace Europe Spring Tour, aiming to deliver a high quality market to attract additional traders on the previous year (over 40 traders) and enhance children and musical entertainment, over a period of two days.

3.0 Continental Market 2019 Outputs

- 25,000 visitors to the Continental Market
- 54 traders within the Continental Market arena
- Social Media:-
    - Visit Cookstown facebook- 42 facebook posts, 260k people reached, 35k people engaged,
    - Visit Cookstown facebook event page- 117k reach, 1.1k responses (stating interested in attending the event),
    - 17 twitter posts, over 20k impressions (number of times a tweet has been delivered to twitter stream of users), 972 engagements (Number of users that interacted with post), video views of 1.8k
- Vouchers to the value of £1,000 to be spent at the Continental Market

- Variety of street and musical entertainment provided over the two days
- An estimated additional spend of £277,725 additional spend in Cookstown over the two days
- Total Cost of delivery £38,000- £37,000 Mid Ulster District Council, £1,000 contribution from Marketplace Europe

Estimated additional spend in local area:

	Average Spend	Spend
Accommodation	**£50**	**£9,000**
Subsistence	**£100**	**£5,400**
Refuelling	**£50**	**£3,325**
Footfall	**£13.00 (estimated 20,000 people over 2 days with an average spend of £13.00)**	**£260,000**
	TOTAL	**£277,725**

4.0 Marketing & Promotion

The marketing & promotion campaign was delivered over a four week period commencing 29 April 2019. A variety of marketing channels were implemented, however, the main channel used was digital first:-

- Billboards- Two week cycle, delivered at three locations, namely Loy Street, Cookstown, Moneymore Road, Cookstown & James Street Omagh.
- 5,000 leaflets distributed across Mid Ulster District Council area to Council Facilities and Schools.
- Radio Advert on Q106 & Q102, 40 30 second adverts from 20 May – 2 June 2019.
- Letters to local businesses:- Letters were distributed to town centre businesses advising them of the Continental Market and associated road closures weeks. Business were encouraged to consider putting on special offers to attract the increased footfall in town to their business.
- Advertising was conducted in local papers through paid advertising (1 advert in Mid Ulster Advertiser, Impartial reporter, Mid Ulster Mail & County Derry Post) and news releases weeks over a four week period commencing 29 April 2019.
- Social Media channels of facebook and twitter. Regular posts were conducted, pre/during/post the Continental Market, including a short promotional videos. A competition was run through social media channels with the opportunity of winning one of £50 vouchers to spend at the market. Promoted posts were conducted commencing 23 May 2018.
- Mid Ulster District Council Website.
- Events Guides listings/websites
- Cookstown Branded Shopping Bags distributed to local shops

5.0 Event Planning of Continental Market 2019

4.1 Continental Market

The Continental Market was part of the Spring Tour of Northern Ireland and was the last stop this year. Council officers worked closely with the providers, Marketplace Europe Ltd, to ensure that all elements of project delivery are considered, implemented and delivered to a high standard. It is Marketplace Europe's responsibility to attract a wide and varied range of international traders to participate in the Market. This year there were 54 traders.

The market is located on William Street, with Continental Market stalls erected back to back to the central reservation and due to the increase in trader numbers a few were located in parking bays, leaving footpaths free of pedestrian congestion. Due to the location of stalls back to back to the central reservation, a road closure was in place from 6.30pm Friday 31 May – 10.00pm Sunday 2 June 2019. This year the market was delivered over a two day period, with extended opening hours, with the inclusion of the German Beer Stall.

4.2 Local Market Traders

During the Continental Market local Saturday traders traded as per the weekly Saturday Market, under the rules and regulations of P Orr. No trading licences were issued for the Sunday outside of the Continental Market area (William Street). P Orr controlled the James Street area on Saturday 1 June 2019.

4.4 Continental Market Competition

A competition was run to heighten the profile of the market through social media. The competition via social media provided people with the chance of winning one of twenty £50 vouchers to spend at the market.

4.5 Street Entertainment

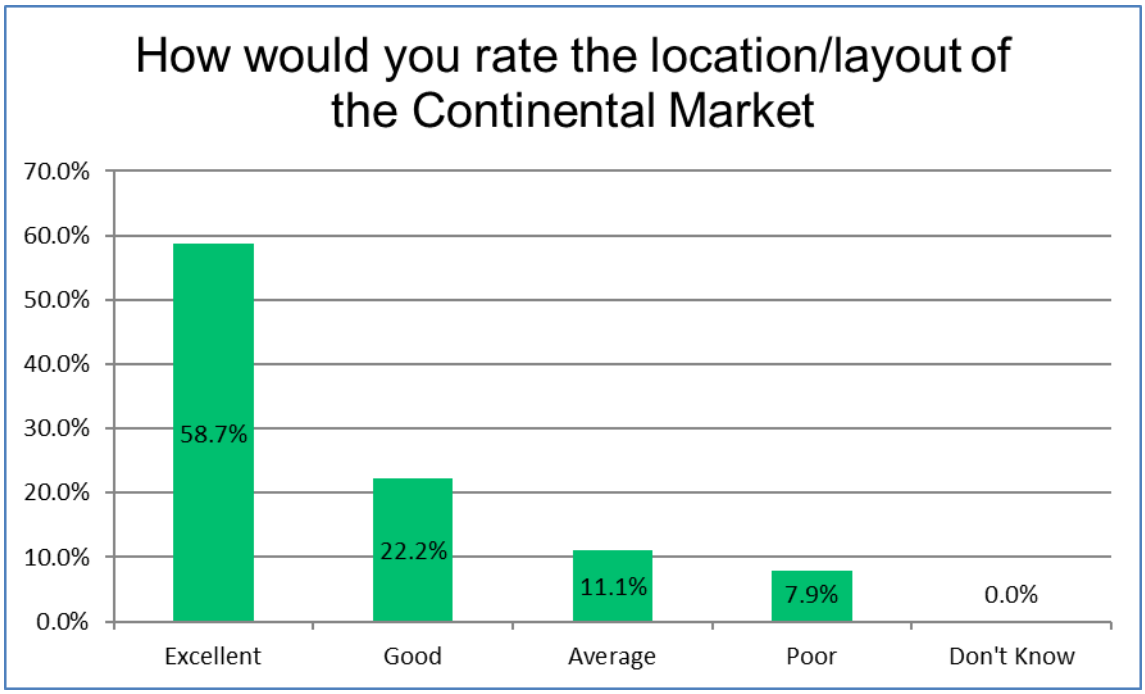
To add to the Continental Market and create an ambiance a variety of street entertainment was planned and delivered over the two day period at various periods. This included a dedicated Kids Zone with crafts, face painters and balloon modellers. Musical entertainment was delivered throughout Saturday afternoon and evening with a variety of performances to suit all ages. Sunday afternoon included a variety of local talent (See Appendix 3)

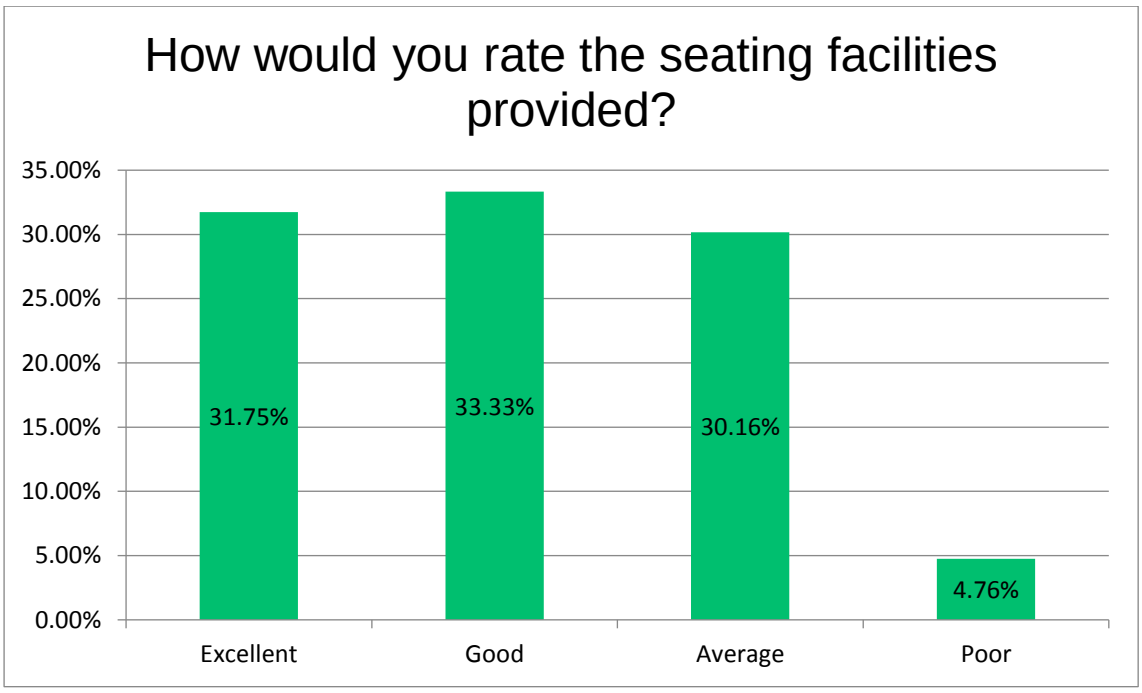
6.0 Feedback/Evaluation of Continental Market

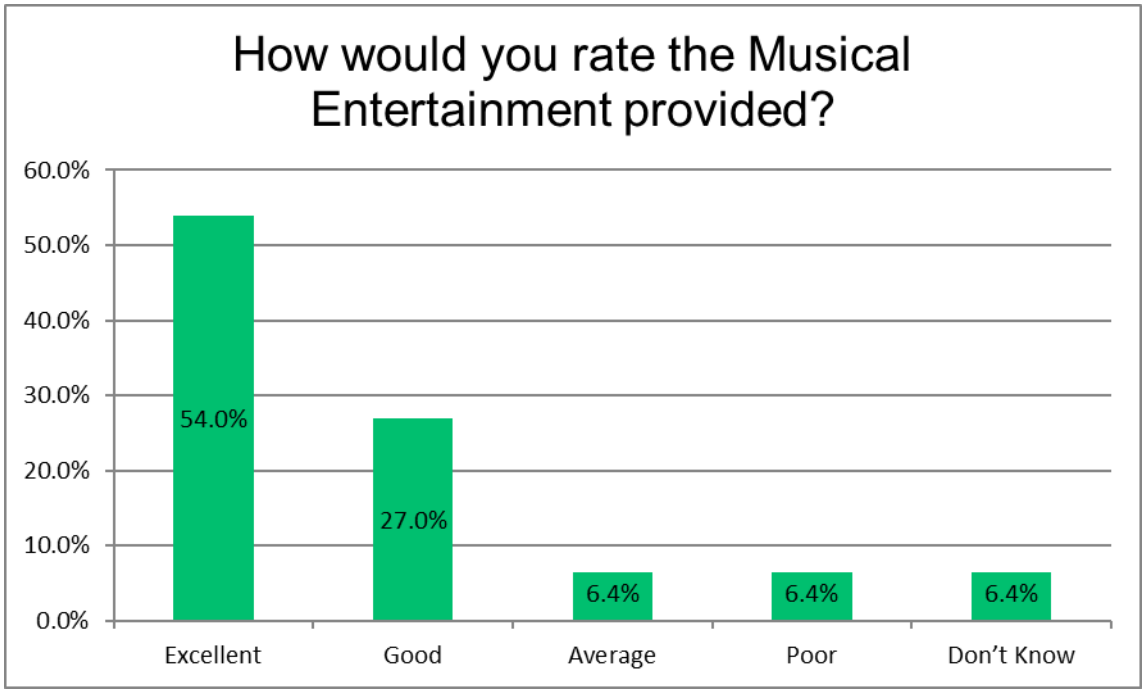
6.1 Feedback from Public

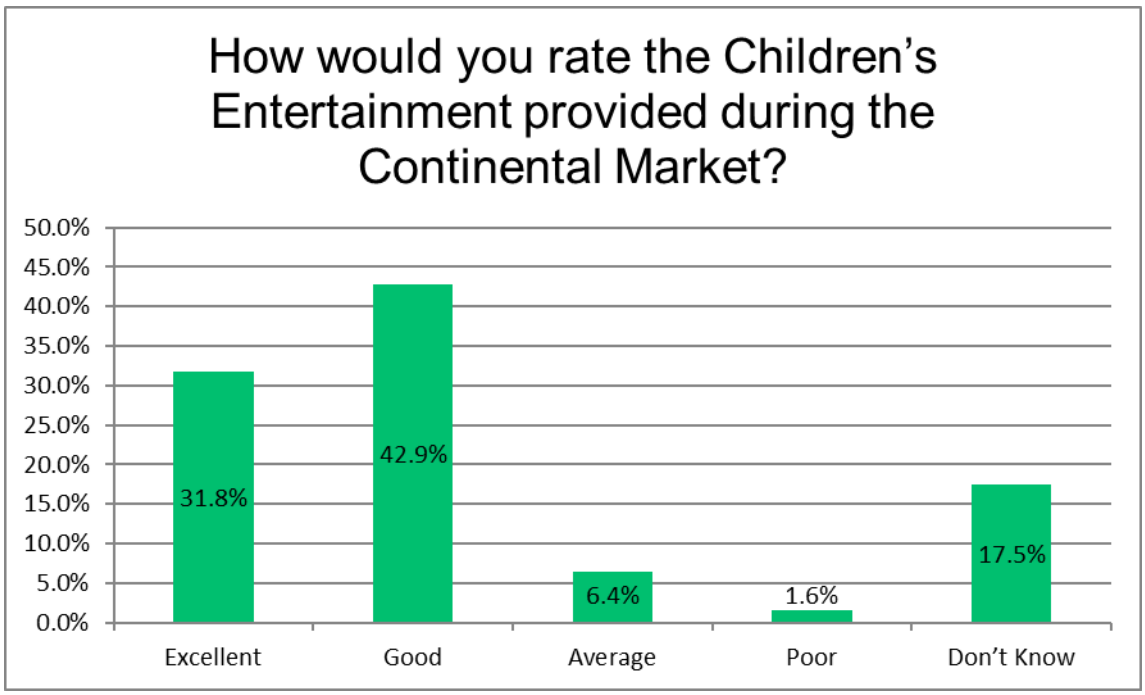
A Survey Monkey questionnaire (Appendix 4) regarding the Continental Market was compiled and the link created published on Mid Ulster District Council website and social media via facebook to obtain feedback from the public.

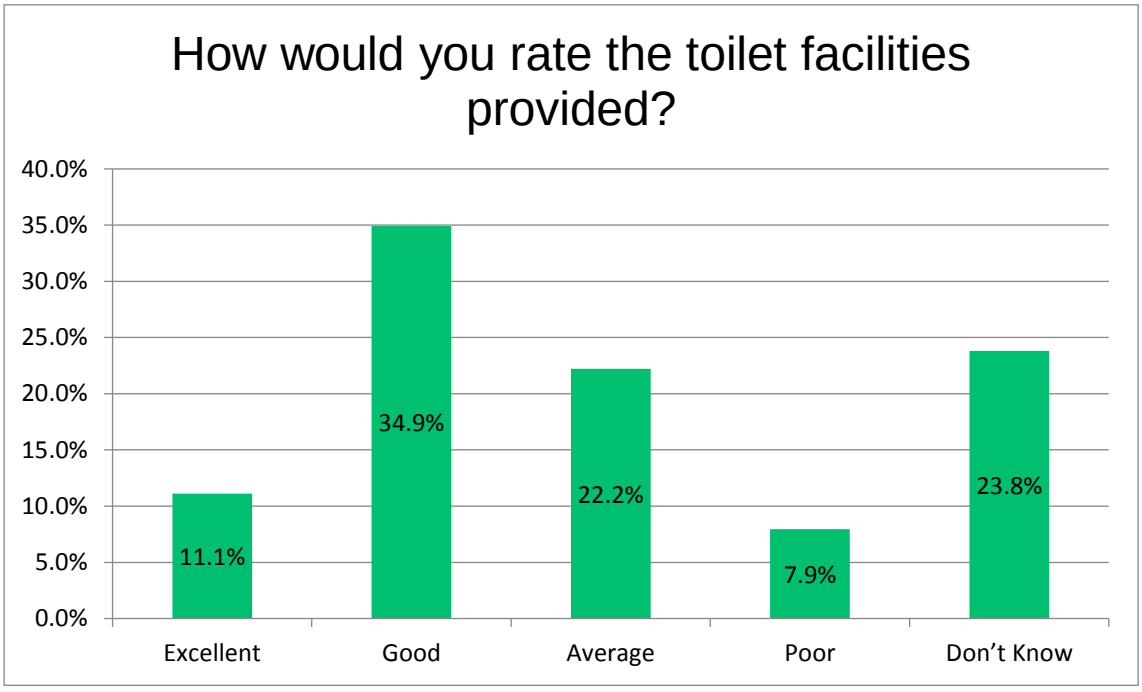
63 people completed the questionnaire. A sample of responses are depicted in the following charts:-

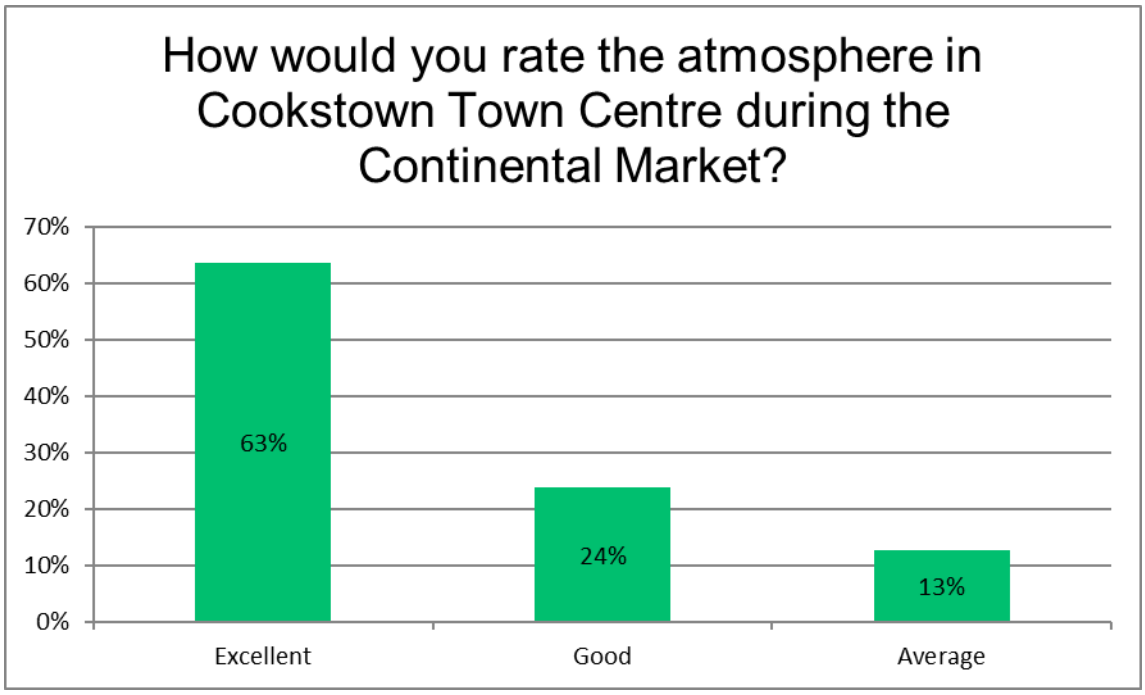



How would you rate the seating facilities provided?
35.00%
30.00%
25.00%
20.00%
15.00%
10.00%
5.00%
0.00%
31.75%
33.33%
30.16%
4.76%
Excellent
Good
Average
Poor


How would you rate the Musical Entertainment provided?
60.0%
50.0%
40.0%
30.0%
20.0%
10.0%
0.0%
54.0%
27.0%
6.4%
6.4%
6.4%
Excellent
Good
Average
Poor
Don't Know


How would you rate the Children's Entertainment provided during the Continental Market?
50.0%
45.0%
40.0%
35.0%
30.0%
25.0%
20.0%
15.0%
10.0%
5.0%
0.0%
31.8%
42.9%
6.4%
1.6%
17.5%
Excellent
Good
Average
Poor
Don't Know


How would you rate the toilet facilities provided?
40.0%
35.0%
30.0%
25.0%
20.0%
15.0%
10.0%
5.0%
0.0%
11.1%
34.9%
22.2%
7.9%
23.8%
Excellent
Good
Average
Poor
Don't Know



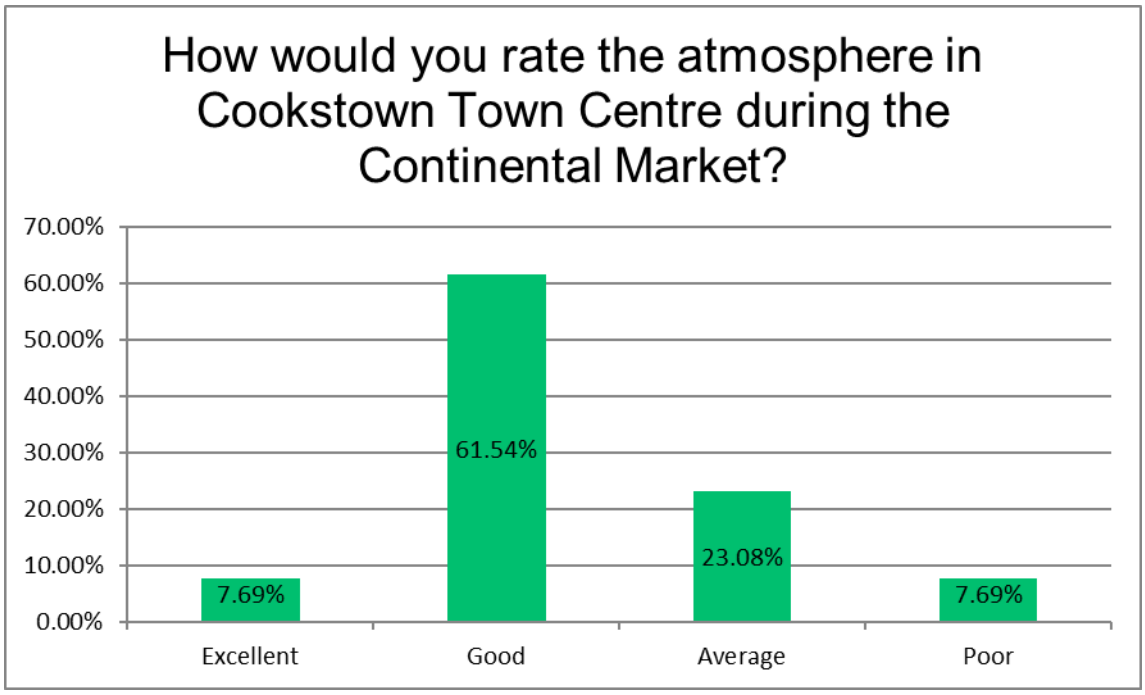
Other key statistics recorded include:-

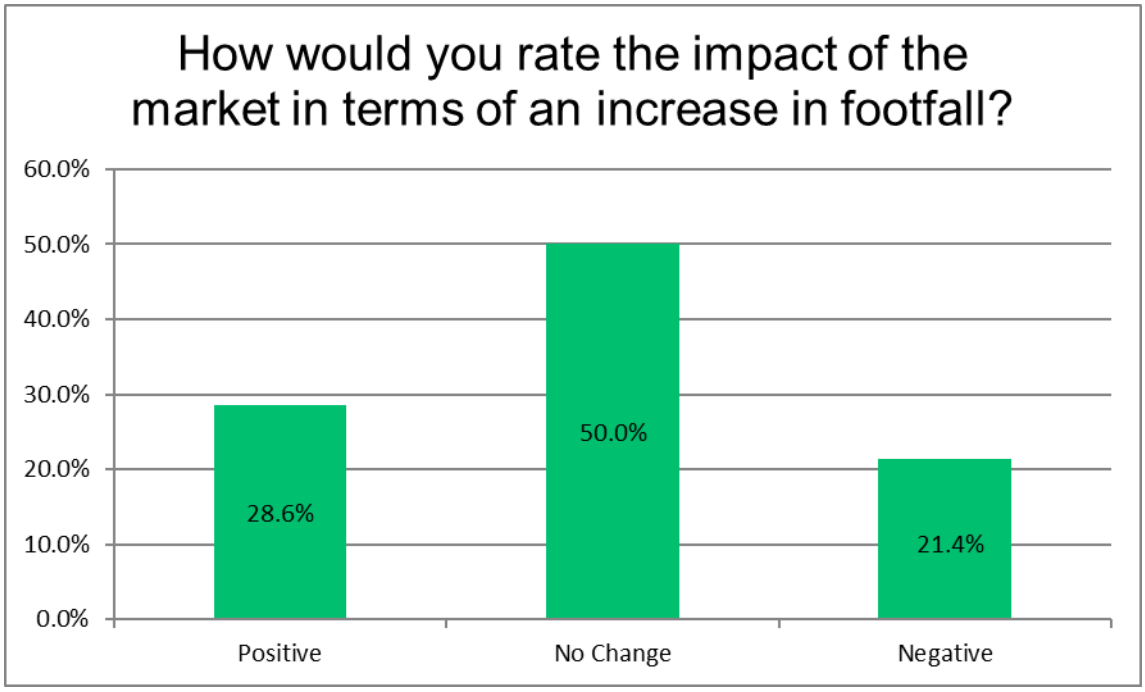
- The majority of people who responded came from within a 20 mile radius of Cookstown Town with people travelling from as far away as Ballymena and Armagh.
- Saturday was the most popular day for visiting the market with 65% of respondents.
- 46% of people spent 1-2hrs in Cookstown Town Centre, followed by 35% who attended for more than 2hrs
- 71% visited local businesses while at the market
- 97% stated they would return to Cookstown to shop

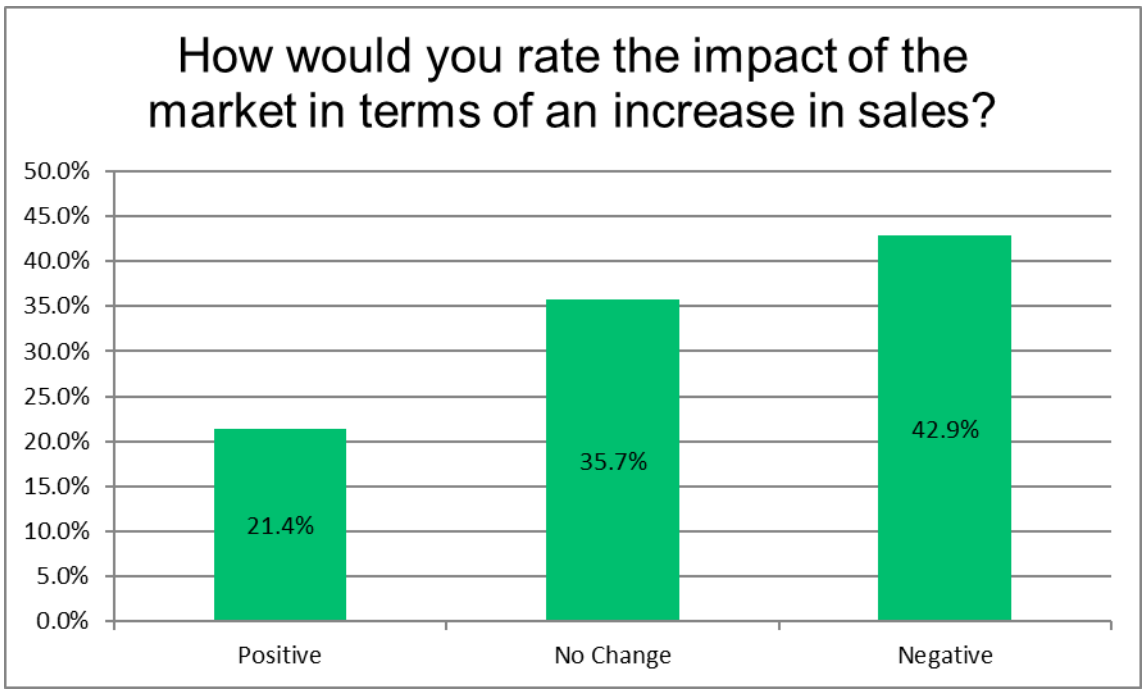
6.2 Feedback from Businesses

A Survey Monkey questionnaire (Appendix 4) regarding the Continental Market was compiled and the link was issued to Town Centre businesses via email to obtain feedback.

14 businesses completed completed the questionnaire. A sample of responses are depicted in the following charts:-


How would you rate the atmosphere in Cookstown Town Centre during the Continental Market?
70.00%
60.00%
50.00%
40.00%
30.00%
20.00%
10.00%
0.00%
7.69%
61.54%
23.08%
7.69%
Excellent
Good
Average
Poor


How would you rate the impact of the market in terms of an increase in footfall?
60.0%
50.0%
40.0%
30.0%
20.0%
10.0%
0.0%
28.6%
50.0%
21.4%
Positive
No Change
Negative



Other key statistics recorded include:

- 70% of business who completed the survey visited the Market during the weekend.
- 54% felt Cookstown town benefitted from the event
- 62% of the business felt the Layout of the Market was good and 15% rated the layout as excellent

6.3 Feedback from Market Place Europe

Managing Director, Allan Hartwell stated:-

Once again Cookstown rolled out an amazing event for our traders to be part of. Our traders are made to feel really welcome in Cookstown and we all appreciate the work the Council and the local shopkeepers do in making the weekend so successful. It's great to see the local shops engaging with a community event and we hope that our involvement makes a significant economic contribution to them and the town overall. We are delighted to have been invited back for 2020 and can't wait to see you all again next year".

6.4 Street Entertainment

A variety of Street Entertainment was delivered over Saturday and Sunday (Appendix 3). The entertainment was well received as per the feedback under item 6.1.

7.0 Recommendations

Should the Continental Market return to Cookstown the following recommendations have been submitted through the evaluation process

Public

- Relocate the market to a town centre carparks, to allow the Saturday Market and town traders to operate as normal
- More non-food stalls
- More seating, and increase the variety of music acts
- Maybe the stage area to be in the centre, like you do for Christmas time
- Extend market to James street, to provide more space for pedestrians visiting the market
- Stalls should be spaced further apart
- Increase the licenced bar area as seating was limited
- Perhaps include a family friendly picnic themed area
- More seating at the stage
- Have the singers in the big stage at all times and not just performing on the edge of the footpaths, have more on street entertainment, really enjoy the aerial performances from previous year, the fire breathes and performers also.
- Encourage the shops to open on the Sunday

Town Centre Businesses

- Promoting the event to wider catchment area, perhaps a headline act or event
- Continue to expand the variety of traders
- The event should have a break
- More variety of stalls
- Holding the market for one day on the Sunday only; it would help local businesses

Appendix 1

Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

EVALUATION OF COOKSTOWN CONTINENTAL MARKET

SATURDAY 1 - SUNDAY 2 JUNE 2019

From 1 - 2 June 2019 Cookstown hosted the Continental Market.

This was one of the Mid Ulster District Council's signature events for 2019, delivered in conjunction with Cookstown Town Centre Forum. 45 international traders were involved in the two day event, with free on-street entertainment provided to add to the ambiance.

To assist us in evaluating the Continental market, we would appreciate if you could take a few moments to complete and submit this brief questionnaire.

1. How would you rate the variety of international traders involved?
    - Excellent
    - Good
    - Average
    - Poor
    - Don't Know

2. How would you rate the location/layout of the Continental Market?
    - Excellent
    - Good
    - Average
    - Poor
    - Don't Know

3. How would you rate the seating facilities provided?
    - Excellent
    - Good
    - Average
    - Poor
    - Don't Know

4. How would you rate the toilet facilities provided?
    - Excellent
    - Good
    - Average
    - Poor
    - Don't Know

5. How would you rate the atmosphere in Cookstown Town Centre during the Continental Market?
    - Excellent
    - Good
    - Average
    - Poor
    - Don't Know

6. How would you rate the Children's Entertainment provided during the Continental Market?
    - Excellent
    - Good
    - Average
    - Poor
    - Don't Know

7. How would you rate the Musical Entertainment provided?
    - Excellent
    - Good
    - Average
    - Poor
    - Don't Know

8. How would you rate the Marketing/Promotion of the Event?
    - Excellent
    - Good
    - Average
    - Poor
    - Don't Know

9. How did you hear about the event?
    - Billboard
    - Regional Press
    - Local Press
    - Radio
    - Facebook/Twitter
    - Other_____

10. Where did you travel from to attend the Market?
    _____

11. Which day(s) did you visit the market?
    - Saturday 1 June
    - Sunday 2 June

12. Did you visit the market during the extended opening hours on
    - Saturday 1 June 18.00-21.00

13. How long did you spend in Cookstown Town Centre?
    - Up to 1 Hour
    - 1-2 Hours
    - 2-3 Hours
    - More than 3 hours

14. Did you feel the operating hours were sufficient Saturday 9.00-21:00 & Sunday 11.00-18.00?
    - Yes
    - No

    If No, please comment

    _____

15. Did you visit any of the local businesses while in Cookstown?
    - Yes
    - No

16. Did you visit the local market trader stalls, located on James Street?
    - Yes
    - No

17. Would you return to shop in Cookstown?
    - Yes
    - No

18. If the event was to be again in Cookstown Town Centre, are there any areas for improvement regarding the development and delivery of the event?

Appendix 2

COOKSTOWN CONTINENTAL MARKET
COOKSTOWN TOWN CENTRE
SATURDAY 1 & SUNDAY 2 JUNE 2019
BUSINESS EVALUATION FORM

Comhairle Ceantair Lár Uladh Mid Ulster District Council

1. How would you rate the Continental Market held from Saturday 1 & Sunday 2 June 2019?
(Please Tick)

	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Don't Know
Variety of International Traders					
Location/Layout of Market					
Seating Facilities					
Toilet Facilities					
Atmosphere in the town					
Children's Entertainment					
Musical Entertainment					
Marketing/Promotion					

2. Did you visit the Continental Market?

Yes ☐ No ☐

3. How would you rate the impact of the market in terms of: - (Please tick)

	Positive	No change	Negative
An increase in footfall			
An increase in sales			

4. Do you feel Cookstown Town benefited from the event?

   Yes ☐ No ☐

5. Please provide further comments/suggestions regarding the event?

   _____

   _____

   _____

6. If the event was to be delivered next year in Cookstown Town Centre, are there any areas for improvement regarding the development and delivery of the event?

   _____
   _____
   _____

7. Are there any other events/activities which you would like to see delivered in Cookstown Town Centre?

   _____

   _____

   _____

Thank you for your co-operation, your feedback is greatly appreciated!

Please return to: Ms Mary McCullagh, Regeneration Manager, Mid Ulster District Council, Cookstown Office, Burn Road, Cookstown BT80 8DT

COOKSTOWN TOWN CENTRE FORUM

Cookstown looking good, feeling great

Appendix 3

COOKSTOWN CONTINENTAL MARKET – 1 & 2 JUNE 2019

ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE

Date	Times	William Street (Free of Charge)
Sat 1 June	9am	Continental Market Opens
	11am – 5pm	Minion Madness Kids Zone • Face Painting • Balloon Modelling • Kids Craft making • Photo Area
		On Street Entertainment • Alice in Wonderland & The Mad Hatter Walkabout Performers *(11am-2pm)* • Ironman *(2pm-3pm)* • Tinkerbell & Captain Hook Walkabout Performer *(3pm-5pm)*
		Music Performances On Stage Risers • Owen Denvir *(11am-12noon)* • Moana & Elsa Princesses *(12noon-2pm)* • The Swingtime Starlets *(2pm-4pm)* • Flowers and Guitars Duo *(4pm-5pm)*
	6.30pm - 8.30pm	Cool Hand String Band
	9pm	Continental Market Closes
Sun 2 June	11am	Continental Market Opens
	12Noon - 5pm	Minion Madness Kids Zone • Face Painting • Balloon Modelling • Kids Craft making • Photo Area
		On Street Entertainment • Mary Poppins & Jack Walkabout Performer *(12noon-2.30pm)* • Captain America and Batman *(3pm-5pm)* • Fizz Whizz Pop Magic Show *(1.30pm & 3.30pm)* • Puppet Show commencing at (*12.30, 2.30 & 4.30pm)*
		Music Performances On Stage • The Hub Choir *(12noon–1pm)* • Crafty Crows (1pm-2pm) • Cookstown Folk Club *(2pm-3pm)* • Banjacks *(3pm-4pm)*
	6pm	Continental Market Closes

APPENDIX 10A –

5G RURAL CONNECTED COMMUNITIES – FUNDING NOTIFICATION

Apply now for the DCMS 5G Programme Rural Connected Communities funding competition

Posted on 27/08/2019

The Rural Connected Communities (RCC) competition will fund up to 10 x 5G research and development projects to run over the course of two years.

WHY?

Digital Secretary Nicky Morgan has launched a £30 million UK-wide competition to spark a tech revolution in countryside communities and help rural Britain seize the opportunities of 5G technology.

The Rural Connected Communities project (RCC) is supporting the overall strategy for improving mobile coverage and driving successful 5G implementation in the UK. It is:

- Improving the case for investment in rural network deployment by testing new commercial and technical solutions for more efficient deployment of advanced network infrastructure including 5G.
- Supporting the business case for 5G by building and proving demand from new use cases that incentivise investment in rural areas.

HOW?

The Rural Connected Communities (RCC) competition will fund up to 10 5G research and development projects to run over the course of two years.

These projects will trial innovative use cases and technical solutions to build the business case for investment in rural connectivity and explore the capabilities of 5G to benefit rural communities. They will also help demonstrate demand from a variety of economic sectors and rural communities for 5G technologies.

Applications are expected to show a combination of societal and economic benefits that will together create a stronger case for investing in the deployment of 5G infrastructure for rural areas.

WHO?
This competition is open to applications from consortia from across the UK. Consortia are likely to consist of a mixture of organisations including the public, private and third sectors, and academia. Applicants will need to be led by a private sector organisation.

Click here for the Rural Connected Communities Overview and Application Guidance.

For more information background and quotes from Govt ministers, visit the UK5G Innovation Network.

COMPETITION TIMELINE:

- Competition opens: 27 August 2019
- Competition briefing event: 12 September 2019 – The Carriageworks, 3 Millennium Square, Leeds, LS2 3AD. Click here to register.
- Clarification questions receipt deadline: 27 September 2019
- Competition closes: Midday 25 October 2019
- Shortlist applicants notified:14 November 2019
- Shortlisted applicants interviewed:25 November – 6 December 2019
- Successful applicants notified: December 2019
- Grant claim period: From 1 January 2020 until 31 March 2022

If you are interested in applying for the DCM 5G Programme Rural Connected Communities grant funding competition, and want to find out more, register here for the competition briefing event.

Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport

5G Testbeds and Trials Programme

Rural Connected Communities Overview and Application Guidance

Contents

1. Programme and policy context **2**

2. Competition outline **3**

Project ambition 3

Eligible applicants 4

Funding 4

Additional documents 6

Dates and deadlines 7

3. Eligibility criteria **8**

Application format 8

Project location 8

Proposing consortium 9

Project proposals 10

4. Competition process **12**

5. Application structure **14**

6. Competition questions **15**

Applicant information 15

Public description of the project 15

Section 1: The business plan (40%) 15

Section 2: Project delivery (40%) 17

Section 3: Funding and added value (20%) 20

Appendices 22

7. Further information **24**

8. Notices **25**

Annex A: Characteristics of 5G **26**

Annex B: Possible commercial and deployment approaches **29**

Annex C: Potential technology solutions **30**

Annex D: Key considerations for the selection of use cases **32**

Annex E: Connectivity data sources **35**

1. Programme and policy context

The Rural Connected Communities project (RCC) will support the overall strategy for improving mobile coverage and driving successful 5G implementation in the UK[1] by:

- Improving the case for investment in rural network deployment by testing new commercial and technical solutions for more efficient deployment of advanced network infrastructure including 5G.
- Supporting the business case for 5G by building and proving demand from new use cases that incentivise investment in rural areas.

This will ensure that even as we move to bring better mobile coverage to rural parts of the country, we are already investing in the next generation of mobile connectivity and building the business case to help industry deliver it.

We expect RCC projects to align with, and benefit from, the work of the government's Barrier Busting Task Force, which will be a key part of reducing costs and friction in deploying the new generation of mobile.

In RCC, we regard 5G as the converged set of mobile connectivity standards that 3GPP[2] will in time encompass: a description of the characteristics of 5G is set out in **Annex A**.

RCC is not designed as a network roll-out programme, but a series of trials and testbeds to de-risk and inform future network roll-out programmes.

[1] Key strategy documents include "Industrial Strategy: building a Britain fit for the future", "Next Generation Mobile Technologies: An update to the 5G strategy for the UK" and the "Future Telecoms Infrastructure Review" (FTIR)

[2] The 3rd Generation Partnership Project (3GPP) is a standards organization which develops protocols for mobile telephony.

2. Competition outline

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) announced RCC on 27 August 2019 as part of the Government's 5G Testbeds and Trials (5GTT) Programme. The remainder of this document provides guidance for applicants seeking funding for this project.

Project ambition

5G provides the opportunity to improve the extent, quality and benefits of connectivity in rural areas by enabling new use cases and associated commercial and technical deployment solutions.

A key conclusion of the Future Telecoms Infrastructure Review (FTIR) was that 5G creates an opportunity for market expansion in the type of wireless services available and in the number of providers of networks and services. This includes new approaches to spectrum sharing, and new business models for managing access to spectrum, including spectrum leasing and 'neutral host' networks.

Use cases tested through RCC will help demonstrate demand from a variety of economic sectors and rural communities for 5G technologies. The use cases are expected to show a combination of societal and economic benefits that will together create a stronger case for investing in the deployment of 5G infrastructure for rural areas.

These use cases will also serve to drive increased levels of technology innovation. A key capability of 5G is its ability to integrate different access technologies (e.g. WiFi as well as conventional cellular) and deliver a variety of services with very different service characteristics (including using network slicing). This potentially makes 5G a key enabler of wireless expansion and innovation, across a range of different sectors. This, in turn, can help generate a new and growing rural innovation ecosystem, driving rural economic growth, and the delivery of improved, lower cost public services. That innovation ecosystem will include enterprises of all sizes, together with academic and research bodies working closely with local government, regulators and policy makers.

5G has also been designed to provide higher levels of security than previous mobile technologies, with a number of new security features. RCC will help explore what network architectures most effectively deliver security in practice, how technical standards might be used to promote best practice, and how new and independent assurance processes might be used to provide transparency as to the level of security being delivered.

It is expected that projects will demonstrate the commercial and wider social value of 5G in several ways:

- By testing new commercial (see **Annex B**) and technical (see **Annex C**) solutions to improve and accelerate the business case for deployment in rural areas.
- By demonstrating that sector-specific use cases create investment cases for sector-specific operators and technology providers, and demonstrate increased demand for wireless connectivity (see **Annex D**).

Eligible applicants

This competition is open to applications from consortia from across the UK. Organisations which do not have a UK presence may participate in the delivery of RCC but will not be eligible to receive DCMS funding. There are no prescriptions, beyond those set out in the "Proposing consortium" section, regarding what types of organisations should be consortium members, e.g. consortia should include one or more organisations capable of owning and operating 5G infrastructure and services in the area and projects must involve at least one micro, small or medium-sized enterprise (SME). However, consortia are likely to consist of a mixture of organisations including the public, private and third sectors, and academia.

Funding

Central government funding for RCC will come from the £200m of investment that has been allocated to the 5GTT Programme from the National Productivity Investment Fund (NPIF). Funding for RCC is profiled over three financial years, from 2019/20 to 2021/22.

Funds must be used for experimental development, as described in the "5G Testbeds and Trials - General Guidance for Grant Applicants" document. Grant recipients will be required to confirm that the costs they wish to claim for are capitalised and/or treated as capital expenditure in line with UK GAAP and the requirements of the European System of National and Regional Accounts (ESA 2010).

DCMS will make available grant funding ranging from £2 million to £5 million for around 10 projects, totalling up to £30 million. Across all of its investments, the 5GTT Programme expects those organisations receiving grant funding to match that funding with an equivalent amount (1:1 match funding). However, different projects and types of business can receive different levels of grant funding within that. Where a proposal does not propose 1:1 match funding of DCMS funding, then an explanation of why this is not possible should be provided. Please note the maximum grant funding rates for businesses set out below, as prescribed by state aid rules.

For experimental development involving collaboration, the maximum grant allowed towards your eligible project costs under state aid rules if you are an organisation receiving direct grant funding from DCMS is:

- up to 60% if you are a small business
- up to 50% if you are a medium-sized business
- up to 40% if you are a large business

For the purposes of this competition, the EU definition of an SME is used.

Research organisations undertaking non-economic activity will be funded as follows:

- universities: up to 80% of full economic costs
- all other research organisations: up to 100% of eligible costs

To discover what costs are eligible please see the standard definition of eligible costs in the "5G Testbeds and Trials - Eligible Project Costs Guidance" document.

The applicant(s) selected at the end of this competition will need to follow the process and criteria that will be set out in a DCMS grant funding agreement to access funding (a template for which is available here) for individual activities under RCC. DCMS may also make additional funding available to the project at a later date.

RCC projects should complete all DCMS funded activities by 31 March 2022, unless an extension is agreed with the 5GTT Programme. Non-DCMS funded activities will be expected to continue beyond this date. DCMS will, as a condition of making funding available, require the successful applicant to set out the principles of how they will create sustainable project outputs in their application (see Question 6 below), and to have an approved plan in place prior to 31 March 2022.

DCMS funded projects are expected to be:

- Part supported by financial and non-financial contributions from consortium participants; and
- Compliant with state aid rules.

Please read the "5G Testbeds and Trials - General Guidance for Grant Applicants" document for more information on the different categories of funding and the rules around our state aid framework.

The following criteria apply to the distribution of funds amongst a consortium:

- Total subcontracting cost is limited to 30% of the total project costs - a clear case must be made as to why subcontractors are not key project partners and why it is not possible for the work to be conducted by a project partner.
- No single partner can receive more than 70% of the total eligible project costs
- At least 70% of total eligible project costs should be incurred by private sector business organisations
- For all research organisations and public sector organisations the total level of project participation is set at a maximum of 30% of total eligible project costs. If your consortium contains more than one research or public sector organisation, this maximum will be distributed between them

Within a consortium, there must be a lead partner who will be the accountable body and recipient of any DCMS grant awarded. They will also be responsible for managing the consortium and for any distribution of DCMS funds to consortium partners, as set out in the consortium's collaboration agreement. The lead partner will be required to ensure value for money when distributing grant funding. Further details of the expected consortia are described in the "Eligibility criteria" section below.

Organisations engaged in the delivery of RCC must collaborate with other projects funded by the 5GTT Programme, and/or the wider 5G ecosystem. This is to boost 5G ecosystem development, ensure learning is shared between projects and so that common issues affecting projects and the wider 5G ecosystem can be explored or addressed.

Proposals for such collaboration activities should be included in applications and should make up 2-4% of the DCMS grant, with grant claims for this activity subject to match funding requirements specified by state aid rules. Such activities should lead to the production of tangible outputs such as published reports, events and workshops. Bidders should refer any

new proposals for collaboration with other projects to DCMS ahead of submission to enable potential sharing of these ideas with other bidders. Potential areas for collaboration activity include key cross-cutting strategic issues, including:

- Practical implementation of secure networks, including security assurance, and the resilience of services;
- Access to spectrum, e.g. spectrum sharing, neutral host networks, private networks;
- The delivery of differentiated services over networks, e.g. by exploiting network slicing;
- The integration of 5G and AI – new services which combine connectivity, intelligence and data;
- Human interfaces which make complex services easy to use, e.g. voice recognition, AR/VR, conformable screens, neural interfaces;
- Public engagement with 5G;
- Digital skills; and
- Overcoming barriers to deployment e.g. planning.

The evaluation of proposals for collaboration is a key component of the evaluation process. Collaboration deliverables should be identified as specific milestones in project plans. Following selection of applications for grant funding, DCMS will work with the selected bidders to update their plans for collaboration, to align projects where appropriate. Once projects have had grants awarded, we expect projects to work together, with other ecosystem participants and with DCMS, to agree further details on timescales and input requirements. These details will inform an expected early deliverable: a detailed plan for delivery of collaboration outputs.

In addition to formalised plans for collaboration, all projects must sign up to the "5G Testbeds and Trials - Programme Participation Agreement" with DCMS as part of the application process.

Additional documents

The following additional documents are provided to support you in your application:

- "5G Testbeds and Trials - General Guidance for Grant Applicants" - which contains general information relating to this competition and the processes DCMS will use to deliver it, including: funding rules guidance, information on the different categories of funding and the rules around our state aid framework
- "5G Testbeds and Trials - Eligible Project Costs Guidance" - which contains detailed information on which project costs are eligible for funding
- "5G Testbeds and Trials - Guidance for academics applying via the Je-S system" - which explains how academics should make use of the Je-S system
- "5G Testbeds and Trials - Template Grant Funding Agreement" - which demonstrates the process and criteria to access funding for individual activities
- "5G Testbeds and Trials - Potential Monitoring Indicators / Quarterly Benefits Reporting Template" - which will help inform the benefits realisation approach and includes a reporting template
- "5G Testbeds and Trials - Programme Participation Agreement" (one per applicant) - which is provided for information and will need to be completed upon award

The following documents need to be completed as part of your application:

- Application form (one per project, plus any allowed appendices)
- Project Finance Form (one per applicant)

Dates and deadlines

Competition opens	27 August 2019
Clarification questions on the Application Guidance	27 August - 27 September 2019
Competition closes	12pm, 25 October 2019
Shortlist applicants notified	14 November 2019
Interviews for shortlisted applicants	25 November - 6th December 2019
Successful applicant(s) notified	December 2019
Grant claim period	From January 2020 to end March 2022

3. Eligibility criteria

Consortia must demonstrate clearly in their application how they meet **all** the eligibility criteria set out in this section.

Application format

You can only use the application form and templates provided. They contain specific guidance on information you must provide.

The application form and templates contain specific fields. It is important that you complete each field and submit a fully completed form. Incomplete forms will be considered ineligible and will not be sent for assessment.

The application form and templates must not be altered, converted or submitted as a different file type.

The submission must conform to the maximum length specifications stated in the "Competition questions" section below. Information in excess of this will be disregarded. Hyperlinks referencing further information may be included to inform more detailed understanding post-selection, but will be disregarded during the assessment of applications.

Additional information submitted at the request of the 5GTT Programme must meet any timing, format and length requirements we may specify at the time.

Project location

We are interested in applications from a variety of types of rural locations, from sparsely populated areas with primarily natural or agricultural land use, to more populous rural areas including some settlements. However, proposals must clearly focus on rural services, communities and economies and the benefits to them, not on any urban areas that may be within the proposed region.

All activities funded under RCC must be carried out in the UK.

The project area is the area where trials will be conducted and must include either:

- A contiguous rural area (which may incorporate multiple local authorities); or
- Multiple, separate rural areas, with a strong rationale for why they are interlinked for the purpose of this project.

The project area, at postcode-level, should meet the relevant rural classification applied by the project's host country - England, Wales, Scotland, or Northern Ireland. The relevant country definitions can be found in the table below.

Country	Classification	Source	Definition
England / Wales	Rural Urban Classification, 2017	https://ons.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=20467878cc20410d961a3f71db356b6d	Postcodes assigned to any of the categories D1, D2, E1, E2, F1, F2
Scotland	Scottish Government Urban Rural Classification, 2018	https://www2.gov.scot/Resource/0054/00544930.csv	Postcodes assigned to any of the categories 3-8
Northern Ireland	Technical guidance, 2016	The Central Postcode Directory https://www.nisra.gov.uk/support/geography/central-postcode-directory	Postcodes assigned to any of the categories E, F, G, H

Proposing consortium

In order to attract the broadest range of proposals, we are open to receiving proposals from consortia that can be led by any type of organisation from the public, private, third or academic sectors, providing that the consortium meets the following criteria:

- There must be a lead organisation that demonstrates that it can act as the accountable body, has the capability, and is able to manage the delivery of the project across the consortium with clear project governance and leadership.
- The consortium shows evidence of public and private sector partnership, including strong industry representation, and includes, or can demonstrate strong commitment to collaborate from, all local public sector bodies responsible for any services or assets involved in the project, or areas within which planning permission will be required.
- The consortium has access to the spectrum and network capabilities required to deliver the project, or has a clear plan to acquire or build them in a timely manner. This may be in the form of an agreement with an existing network provider, or through the deployment of new network infrastructure, in addition to any required connections to existing or third-party infrastructure. Spectrum may be commercially licenced, by using an Ofcom Innovation and Trial Licence or by making use of Ofcom's new licensing approach to provide localised access to spectrum bands that can support mobile technology.[3]

[3] Ofcom are making spectrum in the 3.8-4.2 GHz, 1800 MHz and 2300 MHz spectrum bands available through local licences, as well as a section of the 26 Ghz band for indoor licensing. They are introducing a new way to

- To be considered a consortium, at least two organisations must be requesting grant funding from DCMS.
- The consortium includes one or more organisations capable of owning and operating 5G infrastructure and services in the area.
- Projects must involve at least one micro, small or medium-sized enterprise (SME).
- The consortium can demonstrate an operating and commercial model that can be replicated outside the local area.
- The consortium should demonstrate that it can meet the match funding requirements described in the “Competition outline” section above.
- The consortium contains organisations from both the user-side and the supplier-side for at least one use case dependent on 5G technologies and with the potential to create a viable, sustainable market opportunity.
- The consortium demonstrates committed support from individuals with decision-making and budgetary responsibility from each member organisation.

Organisations or consortia that have previously or are currently receiving funding through the 5GTT Programme are welcome to participate, but only by making proposals that are clearly new in scope and adding value beyond previous project activities that they have undertaken or are funded to undertake.

Applicants involved in existing 5GTT Programme projects or considering participating in applications for other 5GTT projects will not be advantaged or disadvantaged in this or any other competition. Each proposal will be evaluated on its individual merits, although applicants should demonstrate that they are not duplicating the commitment of resources, and that they have the capacity to deliver in the event of multiple successful applications.

Project proposals

Project proposals should:

- Include a clearly defined business plan for the RCC project, including the use cases, applications and services that will be involved, and the benefits 5G technologies will bring to them in a rural context.
- Include a fully costed delivery plan, following the “5G Testbeds and Trials - Eligible Project Costs Guidance” document. The plan should demonstrate how both capital and operating costs are met by a combination of DCMS funds and investment by the proposing consortium. Grant recipients will be required to confirm that costs supported by DCMS funds will be capitalised and/or treated as capital expenditure in line with UK GAAP and the requirements of the European System of National and Regional Accounts (ESA 2010). Project activities to be funded by DCMS should be compliant with state aid requirements and constitute experimental development. Please refer to the “5G Testbeds and Trials - General Guidance for Grant Applicants” document.
- Demonstrate that a strategic approach will be taken to information and cyber security using industry best practices and standards. Show that risks are appropriately managed end to end across the project scope and delivery lifecycle.

access spectrum that is already licensed to mobile operators but which is not being used or planned for use in a particular area within the next three years.

- Test new commercial and technical solutions for more efficient deployment of advanced network infrastructure, particularly spectrum sharing and differentiated services
- Offer a convincing model and capacity for collaborative delivery by the consortium.
- Demonstrate the added value DCMS funding will make to delivering the project and its outcomes.
- Describe how the project will baseline, measure, document and report over time on the value added by, and the impacts of the project. This should include some suggested quantifiable metrics and qualitative measures, indicating how achievement of project KPIs will be measured through benefits delivered by the project (Please refer to the "5G Testbeds and Trials - Potential Monitoring Indicators / Quarterly Benefits Reporting Template" document.) This should include social, environmental and economic impacts as well as commercial achievements and sustainability.
- Where relevant, demonstrate how it will deliver, or accelerate the delivery of, infrastructure and services that will be sustained beyond the period of DCMS funding and that can scale to or be replicated in other rural areas.

4. Competition process

The competition process will follow these steps:

- Applications should be submitted by email to 5Genquiries@culture.gov.uk. We will confirm by email the receipt of your application within two working days.
- Applications will be assessed against the questions set out in this application guidance, including pass/fail assessment against eligibility requirements. We may request that applicants also answer clarification questions.
- Eligible applications will be ranked for shortlisting based on total score. The top ranked applications will be invited to a second stage assessment, which will include an interview. Details of the interview stage will be confirmed nearer the time but will be in central London unless advised otherwise. Shortlisted applicants will be provided with a list of questions/topics for the interview and requests for further information to clarify aspects of their applications.
- The assessment of shortlisted applications will be updated following the interview, also taking into account any information provided, where requested by DCMS.
- Shortlisted applications will be ranked in descending order, based on total score, and the selection of preferred applicants will be undertaken using a portfolio approach to ensure that there is an appropriate balance of projects which support the 5GTT Programme and policy objectives as set out in the “Programme and policy context” section above.
- The applicant lead(s) will be notified of the selection decision.
- DCMS may elect to identify reserve applicants, in case the preferred applicant(s) is/are unable to complete a funding agreement with DCMS on a timely basis.

Each question response will be assessed and marked on a scale of 0-10:

- 0-1 – Serious concerns: for example, does not meet requirements, and/or raises serious concerns.
- 2-3 – Some concerns: for example, meets some requirements but with gaps and/or some concerns.
- 4-5 – Adequate confidence: for example, meets most/all requirements, but lacks sufficient detail in some areas.
- 6-7 – Good confidence: for example, meets most/all requirements and provides a response that demonstrates a good understanding of the requirements.
- 8-9 – Very good confidence: for example, meets all requirements and provides a detailed response that also exceeds expectations in some areas and/or demonstrates a strong understanding of the requirements.
- 10 – Outstandingly good confidence: for example, meets all requirements and exceptional detail that exceeds expectations in many areas and demonstrates an excellent understanding of the requirements.

Following the selection process, we expect that a period of due diligence will be carried out to validate the project scope, delivery plan and funding arrangements prior to the award of a grant.

Quality threshold

A moderation panel will review the individual scores of assessors, before agreeing final assessment scores. Following this, any application with a final assessment score of one or below against any individual competition question, including where an error has been made by the applicant, will not be considered further for shortlisting (Step One)

All remaining applications with a final assessment score against all competition questions (i.e. the weighted score across all competition questions) of five and above will be considered for shortlisting (Step Two).

DCMS also reserves the right to consider applications for shortlisting that do not meet the thresholds above in the following cases:

a) If an application fails to meet the threshold in Step Two by a narrow margin as a result of the range of scoring by individual assessors being of significant variance from the average score for one or more competition questions for that application (“an outlier”). The application may be considered for shortlisting following a review of the outlier assessor's comments and approach if the outlier score may reasonably be eliminated and the final assessment score that is recalculated falls within the threshold above.

b) If there is a significantly higher volume of applications meeting the thresholds in respect of grant funding available, DCMS may raise the threshold that applies to Step Two for the consideration of shortlisting. This will be on the grounds that DCMS will not want consortia with lower assessment scores to invest time and effort in preparing for the interview stage if there is a very limited prospect of them being successful.

c) If there is a very low volume of applications meeting Step Two in respect of grant funding available, DCMS may lower the threshold that applies to Step Two for the consideration of shortlisting. This will be on the grounds that DCMS will not want grant funding to be unallocated if there is a realistic prospect of consortia being able to improve their assessment score to a satisfactory level.

5. Application structure

The structure for applications should be set out as follows:

- **Applicant information**
- **Public Description** (400 word limit)
- **Section 1 - The business plan (40%):**
  - Question 1: What will your project deliver? (12.5%) (900 word limit)
  - Question 2: Why will your proposal create a meaningful difference to rural connectivity and services enabled by 5G technology? (10%) (720 word limit)
  - Question 3: How will the project contribute to the local rural economy and society? (10%) (720 word limit)
  - Question 4: How will you ensure that the environment created by the project will support the development of a 5G ecosystem in the UK? (7.5%) (550 word limit)
- **Section 2 - Delivery of the project (40%):**
  - Question 5: How is the delivery consortium constituted, and how will it operate to deliver the project? (15%) (1100 word limit)
  - Question 6: What is your approach to ensuring a commercially sustainable environment after the period of DCMS funding? (12.5%) (900 word limit)
  - Question 7: What local strengths and commitment will support delivery of the project? (12.5%) (900 word limit)
- **Section 3: Funding and added value (20%):**
  - Question 8: What is your outline proposal for financial and non-financial contributions to the project? (12.5%) (900 word limit)
  - Question 9: What is your approach to demonstrating the added value and impacts of the project? (7.5%) (550 word limit)
- **Appendices** (see below)

Supporting information is required, as appendices, for Questions 5 and 7. Supporting information may be provided, as appendices, for Questions 1, 2 and 5. These will be assessed, if included. Each organisation within the consortium must also attach a completed Project Finance Form.

Any information beyond the above should be included in an appendix as links, e.g. to any existing documents/brochures, which explain in more detail the local environment, initiatives or other relevant details. These will not be considered as part of the assessment process but should aim to provide more in-depth background information of the wider context in which the project will form part of. Note that the evaluation team will not consider these materials when scoring proposals however they may be read as part of due diligence in the later stages of the assessment

Your proposal should be clearly and concisely written, emphasising how the project will be delivered and the benefits it will create. Avoid repetition and jargon wherever possible.

6. Competition questions

Applicants should answer all questions, using the application form provided.

Applicant information

Please provide the following information:

- Project name
- Name of application lead organisation
- Contact details for application lead organisation
- Name(s) of additional organisation(s) forming part of this application
- Contact details for additional organisations

Public description of the project

To comply with government practice on openness and transparency of public funded activities, DCMS has to publish information relating to funded projects. Please provide a short description of your proposal in a way that will be understandable to the general public. We will publish this information for all bids, including those not awarded funding, so do not include any commercially confidential information, e.g. intellectual property or patent details.

We would also like to publish the partners involved in your proposal and the public description of the project, but this is not mandatory. Please confirm in the application form to indicate if you are happy for these to be published as well.

Section 1: The business plan (40%)

Question 1: What will your project deliver? (12.5%) (900 word limit)

- Describe your project, setting out:
    - Your rationale for the project, the industry challenges and the use cases that grant funded trials and any other planned trials with funding from other sources will address.
    - The key outcomes you plan to achieve in the project.
    - The rationale for your approach.
    - How the project meets the aims of the 5GTT Programme as set out in the “Programme and policy context” section above
    - At a high level, why it will make a significant impact locally, and with national and international relevance (subsequent questions explore this topic in more detail).
    - At a high level, your information and cyber security strategies including the standards and principles that your consortium will adopt.
- Describe which vertical industry sectors, and cross industry sectors, you will seek to develop initially as part of delivery of the project and which sectors will also be good candidates for future development as part of your approach to a sustainable delivery

model. Identify the use cases that the project will develop. The description should be clear why 5G technologies provide a particular benefit to these sectors and use cases in rural areas. Describe why these use cases constitute a significant increase in demand for rural mobile connectivity over the present market for 4G services.

- Identify the advantages and expertise demonstrated by the consortium and the local area, including in vertical industry or cross industry sectors, which will be most relevant to the project.
- At a high level, describe how the project will enhance the lives of people in the area through the creation of a Rural Connected Community (this issue is addressed in more detail in Questions 2 and 3).
- Describe the geographical area the project will cover – you may include a single appendix in .pdf format and up to two pages long to support your response. This should address all of the criteria relating to project location described in the "Eligibility criteria" section above. Include:
    - An outline of the geographic area(s) that the project will cover.
    - Where applicable, the rationale for why physically separate areas are interlinked for the project, clearly demonstrating how they will be interconnected to provide a contiguous experience.
    - Statistics (stating sources and dates published) for (i) the size of the area (square kilometres); (ii) the number of domestic premises and the resident population; (iii) the number of SME businesses and other businesses; and (iv) any other relevant figures.

Question 2: Why will your proposal create a meaningful difference in rural connectivity and services enabled by 5G technology? (10.0%) (720 word limit)

- How will your proposed project improve the existing market for rural mobile connectivity and services? This may include new commercial solutions, particularly those related to spectrum sharing; the use of new technologies (particularly differentiated services) or to specific new use cases and their benefits. If necessary for the use case, it must also include plans for Mobile Network Operator interconnectivity.
- For proposals that contain plans to deliver or accelerate the delivery of local mobile connectivity in the project area, you should demonstrate evidence of low or poor connectivity. To do this, you should use a combination of local authority-level and postcode-level data publicly available from Ofcom, as set out in Annex E. You are also invited to include any supporting evidence of poor connectivity as you see fit. You may include a single appendix in .pdf format and up to two pages long to support your response
- How will the project improve the long-term incentive for commercial investment in infrastructure and services that create social, economic and environmental improvements in rural communities?
- Why are 5G technologies crucial to enabling the new products and services and improving market incentives to invest?

Question 3: How will the project contribute to the rural economy and society? (10.0%) (720 word limit)

- Identify the economic and other benefits of the project (for example, business growth, local regeneration and examples of services / programmes where it is expected that

the project will lead to measurable improvements and/or benefits). This should include any specific local needs or challenges which the project will address.
- Cite evidence that supports the case for making the intervention represented by your proposal, for example, is economic growth currently impeded by a lack of digital connectivity? Are social mobility or educational attainment impaired? Why are these specifically rural issues and how will 5G enable them to be addressed through the project?
- What proportion of the population within the area of your project do you anticipate will experience or be impacted by the project? Give examples, including how you will maximise the impact of the project on people living in, working in, visiting and/or travelling to/through the project area.
- Where relevant, describe your approach to delivering or accelerating the delivery of local mobile connectivity, including any Local Connectivity Plans or work with the UK Government's Barrier Busting Task Force (which is addressing barriers to the deployment of digital infrastructure). Please use the coverage metrics in Annex F to demonstrate existing connectivity and planned improvements.
- Describe any wider local strategies, initiatives and plans that are specifically relevant to the successful delivery of the project and its outcomes and how you will engage with them to maximise benefits. These could be innovation programmes, infrastructure projects, regeneration activities, business engagement or skills programmes. Include synergies that can be achieved. This should include any other activities to encourage the roll out of full fibre.
- Describe how the project will contribute to the provision of digital skills across target audiences within local rural communities.

Question 4: How will you ensure that the environment created by the project will support the development of a 5G ecosystem in the UK? (7.5%) (550 word limit)

- Describe your approach to ensuring an appropriate open access basis for organisations to conduct trials and use available infrastructure or services. You should explain how you will enable an open testbed and overcome issues with sharing sensitive commercial information and operations with potential competitors.
- Describe how the project will contribute to developing the UK's capabilities in the emerging 5G environment. This should demonstrate a good understanding of relevant industry sector and cross sector requirements and strengths.
- Describe any potential international visibility of specific aspects of your project, for example in developing trade and supply chain links.
- Describe your approach for the identification and dissemination of lessons learned and project outcomes, including to wider 5GTT Programme participants and UK5G.
- Describe the key features of your delivery and commercial approaches that will be suitable to be replicated by other projects.
- Describe how the project activities contribute to the development of a safe, secure and resilient UK 5G network.

Section 2: Project delivery (40%)

Question 5: What is the delivery consortium, and how will it operate to deliver the project? (15%) (1100 word limit)

Your answer to this question should address all of the criteria relating to the proposed consortium described in the "Eligibility criteria" section above.

- Describe the roles, responsibilities and relevant skills and experience of all partners that are relevant to the approach you will be taking. Do they have experience working in the proposed locality? Do members of the consortium have a history of working together?
- How will your consortium help the UK to underpin and increase a diverse and secure supply chain for digital infrastructure?
- Describe the organisational structures, policies, and processes that will be put in place to understand, assess and systematically manage security risks.
- What capability does the consortium leader have to lead successful delivery?
- Include a diagram of the organisation and describe the relationships between the organisations involved in your application. This should be an appendix in .pdf format and up to two pages long.
- Set out a fully costed delivery plan including specific activities, resourcing, timeframes, milestones, deliverables and critical success factors. This should be an appendix in .pdf format and up to five pages long. Please indicate which members of the delivery consortium are responsible for each component of the plan. The plan should be consistent with the details of your funding request in response to Question 8. The delivery plan should be fully costed, following the "5G Testbeds and Trials - Eligible Project Costs Guidance" document. Assume any project activities for which grant funding is applied for should begin from January 2020.
- The costings should demonstrate that DCMS-funded activities constitute experimental development and are compliant with state aid requirements. Confirm that the grant amount requested from DCMS includes any irrecoverable VAT, all fees and charges, and appropriate allowance has been made for any price inflation during the project period.
- Describe how the consortium will access the assets and data required to deliver the project, in particular those required for access to spectrum and the delivery of infrastructure. Are the asset owners, or those responsible for permitting access to them, members of the consortium? If not, explain why not and can they demonstrate strong commitment to collaborate, for example in the form of letters of support?
- Describe the main risks and dependencies of your proposed RCC project, together with mitigations. You may include a single appendix in .pdf format and up to two pages long to support your response.

Question 6: What is your approach to ensuring a commercially sustainable environment after the period of DCMS funding? (12.5%) (900 word limit)

This section is seeking information about commitments and sources of funding that will remain in place *after* the period in which DCMS funding supports the project. Commitments and funding that the consortium will make available to deliver the project within the period of the DCMS grant are covered in Question 8.

- **Describe the ongoing operation of project assets, infrastructure and services by the consortium:** what longer term roles do you see for consortium members in sustaining delivery of the project beyond the period of DCMS grant funding?
  - Who will own and operate infrastructure and data assets?
  - What is your approach to maintaining the availability of any infrastructure, facilities, relevant services and data?
  - How you will attract other trials from organisations involved in the project and from additional organisations? This may include 5G and non-5G trials.

    - How could the project be further developed, scaled and improved beyond the timeframe or outside of the scope of the project as described so far?
    - What future sources of funding including from cost savings on the delivery of public services, or income from commercial sources such as fees paid for access to the network, data generated by it, or services delivered using it do you plan to access?
- **Describe the sustainability and scalability of products and services developed by the consortium:** for products and services that will be developed by members of the consortium, are the relevant budget-owning representatives of the organisation committed to long-term investment in, and support of, those services, if the project proves they are viable? Have budget-owning representatives from potential customers of those projects expressed a strong interest in purchasing them?
- **Describe the sustainability and scalability of third party products and services:** how will you attract and support members of the consortium and third-party organisations to use the project to develop new products and services with long-term independent commercial viability, and support them scaling beyond the project? This could include services operated by organisations from the public, private, third and academic sectors. Through what process will you validate that proposals to use the project to develop new products and services have realistic and complete commercial cases?
- **Describe the extension to other rural regions:** how will the project lead to the delivery or acceleration of delivery of similar services and infrastructure to other rural areas? Do members of the consortium intend to extend or scale delivery to other rural areas themselves? Or if the model used in the project is replicable once proven to other areas without requiring DCMS funding, how will the consortium disseminate experience and contribute to capability building and barrier busting?

Question 7: What local strengths and commitment will support delivery of the project? (12.5%) (900 word limit)

- Describe how there is strong, clear leadership of the consortium partners and, as appropriate, related regional organisations such as Local Enterprise Partnerships and regional innovation ecosystems that could contribute to the success and impact of the project.
- Describe the relationships between your consortium and other relevant local bodies such as Local Enterprise Partnerships and innovation and business support organisations. Are good working relationships already in place?
- Describe the commitment from senior leaders locally to the project, including both from those organisations forming part of your proposal and from other relevant major local stakeholders. This should specifically include organisations from whom the project will require assets or access to assets. Letters of support should be included as an appendix to this question.
- DCMS will expect the leaders of local authorities, where involved in the project and relevant, to commit during project delivery to becoming champions for the DCMS Barrier Busting Task Force.
- Describe existing or planned engagement with local individuals, local or wider businesses and other stakeholders that are relevant to any of your answers to this application.
- If relevant, please provide details of timings, scale and outputs of existing testbed, trial, pilot or similar projects that are relevant to this project, including details of scope, timings, scale and parties involved in delivery. Set out the successes and

failures of these projects and the lessons learnt, which will be applicable to this project.
- Describe the network and any other infrastructure that will be available for use in the project, and your approach to accessing it. How will you secure investment in mobile infrastructure, or accelerate plans to deploy it? How will the project secure access to spectrum? How would you go about discovering and managing ownership and access arrangements for relevant assets that are likely to be utilised as part of providing connectivity solutions.

Section 3: Funding and added value (20%)

Question 8: What is your proposal for financial and non-financial contributions to the project? (12.5%) (900 word limit)

Your answer to this question should be compliant with the guidance in the “Competition outline” section above on the use of DCMS funding, including its distribution amongst consortium partners, and the provision of match funding by members of the consortium.

You should give reasonable and justifiable indications of the commitments that members of the consortia and other relevant organisations will be able to make in agreement with DCMS if RCC funding is made available to you.

The consortium will need to demonstrate the ability to commit sufficient funds, resources and assets to make the project viable; it should also demonstrate the ability to attract additional funds during the grant funding period (for example, from investors, research and innovation agencies and corporate R&D funding) to support third parties in using the project to test and develop new products and services.

This question is specific to the funding that will support delivery of the project during the period of the DCMS grant. Sources of funding to sustain activities beyond the grant period are covered in Question 6.

- Detail the estimated project cost for each work package. Make clear the level of contribution from each project participant and the level of grant funding requested from DCMS. A summary of this information should be provided in the financial summary table in the application form.
- Provide a narrative description summarising what each project participant will be delivering and the costs associated.
- Provide a cost breakdown of forecast expenditure on the project. Identify costs for the testbed and funded trials separately. Explain how the costs have been calculated.
- Detail the spend profile by month, linking it to milestones and deliverables as needed. This should be fully consistent with the dates you have specified in the project plan.
- Describe any sub-contractor costs and why they are critical to the project and are not grant receiving consortium members.
- Describe how you will secure or accelerate investment in and deployment of 5G infrastructure and services through the project.
- Describe what the organisations involved in your application will commit to the project, in terms of financial and non-financial contributions as well as leveraging other available resources and assets. Confirm which organisations have agreed to

provide financial and/or non-financial contributions and whether they represent capital or revenue.
- Set out how you will ensure value for money through your sourcing approach and supply chain.
- Identify the amount of DCMS grant and other funding you will set aside for working with other participants in the 5GTT Programme. A minimum of 2-4% of grant funding is required.
- Describe any criteria or constraints that are likely to have a significant impact on the availability or timing of financial and non-financial contributions.
- Describe your relationship with funding bodies such as investors, research and innovation agencies and corporate R&D bodies in a position to fund third parties to use the project to develop new products and services, and your track record in attracting funding from them.
- Describe how the funding made available to match DCMS funds meets the state aid requirements.
- Noting that DCMS can only provide grant funding following evidence of expenditure, how will the consortium access working capital?
- Confirm that the grant amount requested includes any irrecoverable VAT, all fees and charges, and appropriate allowance has been made for any price inflation during the project period.
- Confirm that all grant funding claims do not extend beyond 31 March 2022.

Assessors need to be confident the project can be delivered to the stated cost. They will consider:
- The response to this question and the supporting financial information provided.
- The suitability of the proposed costs - costs considered excessive will be a cause for serious concern.
- The total amount of grant funding requested from DCMS.
- Whether there is an appropriate level of contributions from public sector organisations who are key project partners.
- Whether there is a significant contribution from any public sector organisation who is the lead project partner.

Question 9: What is your approach to evidencing the added value and impacts of the project? (7.5%) (550 word limit)

- Tell us what you are intending to, or could, deliver without government funding, and what added value government funding would bring.
- Describe how you will baseline, measure, document and report over time on the value added by, and the impacts of, the project. Include some suggested quantifiable metrics and qualitative measures in your application. (Please refer to the "5G Testbeds and Trials - Potential Monitoring Indicators / Quarterly Benefits Reporting Template" document). You will be expected to work with the 5GTT Programme team on the monitoring and evaluation of benefits, reporting quarterly.
- Added value should include social, economic and environmental value in addition to any financial revenues delivered by the project. This value should be related to national United Kingdom priorities such as productivity, sustainability and social mobility, and to specific local issues, challenges and opportunities set out in Section 1 of the questions.
- Describe any additional areas of added value not set out elsewhere in your application.

- To note that the reporting of benefits will be considered a deliverable of the project and will feed into the programme's evaluation.

Appendices

Required

For Question 5, "Include a diagram of the organisation and describe the relationships between the organisations involved in your application..." This should be an appendix in .pdf format and up to two pages long, attached to your application.

For Question 5, "Set out a fully costed delivery plan including specific activities, resourcing, timeframes, milestones, deliverables and critical success factors..." This should be an appendix in .pdf format and up to five pages long, attached to your application.

For Question 7 (and, where relevant, Question 5), attach to your application letters of support from each of the organisations listed in your application, signed at a senior level. We would expect each letter to state, as a minimum:

- Support for participation in, and delivery of, the RCC project.
- Confirmation of the roles and responsibilities that the organisation will undertake.
- Acknowledgement of willingness to provide financial and/or non-financial contributions, including the potential nature and likely sources of contributions, and any caveats that apply at this initial stage of project development. We do not require that you commit to specific figures at this stage but an indication of potential amounts against any specific activities will be helpful.
- Intention to invest beyond the project in the sustainable development of new products and services trialled through it.
- Intention to buy or procure new products and services trialled through the project as a potential customer.

All proposal submissions also require completion of the Project Finance Form by each partner. The Project Finance Form provides details on the eligible project costs for each partner in the consortium. A Project Finance Form is required from each industry partner for any submission, irrespective of grant value.

Each organisation in the project must provide a Project Finance Form using the template which is provided.

Each Project Finance Form provides a detailed breakdown on each organisation's total eligible project costs. All total figures listed in the Finance summary table must match those totals within the Project Finance Form.

The "5G Testbeds and Trials - Eligible Project Costs Guidance" document contains detailed information on which project costs are eligible for funding, how to complete the Project Finance Form as well as submitting any academic costs into the Je-S system (a requirement for all academic partners).

Optional and assessed, if included

For Question 1, “Describe the geographical area the project will cover…” you may include a single appendix, attached to your application, in .pdf format and up to two pages long to support your response.

For Question 2, “For proposals that contain plans to deliver or accelerate the delivery of local mobile connectivity in the project area…” you may include a single appendix, attached to your application, in .pdf format and up to two pages long to support your response.

For Question 5, “Describe the main risks and dependencies of your proposed RCC project, together with mitigations….” you may include a single appendix, attached to your application, in .pdf format and up to two pages long to support your response.

Optional but unassessed

As stated above, any information beyond the above should be included in an appendix as links, e.g. to any existing documents/brochures, which explain in more detail the local environment, initiatives or other relevant details. These will not be considered as part of the assessment process but should aim to provide more in-depth background information of the wider context in which the project will form part of. Note that the evaluation team will not consider these materials when scoring proposals.

7. Further information

If you have any questions on the Application Guidance please submit a question to 5Genquiries@culture.gov.uk, with the subject heading of ‘RCC Competition Clarification Question’ at any time up to the date specified in the “Competition outline” section above.

The 5GTT Programme team will provide a response to your question, and will make copies of answers publicly available.

If you are asking a clarification question that is specific to your organisation’s application and is commercially sensitive please state so in your question and the 5GTT Programme team may provide a response without making the answer publicly available. We will clarify your question with you if we think the response should be made publicly available.

Further information, including details of previous 5G Trials and Testbeds projects, can be found through the UK 5G Innovation Network:
https://uk5g.org/discover/testbeds-and-trials/

8. Notices

This document is issued in text format to organisations wishing to make an application to RCC. Should you require access to this document in another format (e.g. Braille, large font or audio) please contact us at 5Genquiries@culture.gov.uk.

All applicants are solely responsible for all their costs and expenses incurred in connection with this selection process at all stages. Under no circumstances will DCMS be liable for any costs or expenses borne by or on behalf of the applicant or any party associated with this selection process.

Information provided in response to this document, including personal information, may be published or disclosed in accordance with access to information regimes, primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA) and Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation) OJ L 119/1, 4.5.2016 (GDPR).

If you would want the information that you provide to be treated confidentially, please be aware that, in accordance with the FOIA, public sector organisations are required to comply with a statutory code of practice which deals, amongst other things, with obligations of confidence. In view of this, it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you wish that information to be treated confidentially. If we receive a request for disclosure of that information, we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

DCMS will process your personal data in accordance with the DPA and the GDPR and, in the majority of circumstances, this will mean that your personal data will not be disclosed to third parties.

Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport
www.gov.uk/dcms

Annex A: Characteristics of 5G

5G is the next evolution of mobile networks as defined in releases 15 and 16 of the 3GPP global standards. The deployment and roll-out of 5G will see significant enhancements on previous mobile generations (2G, 3G, 4G), taking the connectivity beyond the consumer focus on speed and data volume, to be the first network that is designed so that a single physical network can simultaneously support multiple diverse use cases, from the high density low-power sensors, through to connected autonomous vehicles and advanced manufacturing, generating gigabytes of data per hour.

It will incorporate new architectures in the radio access network, new system architectures and new protocols, which will enable new ways of integrating mobile communication and cloud services together. It aims to offer ultra-low latency and 10+ Gbps bandwidth to the end user. 5G is being designed to blend the requirements of previous communication technologies into a new mobile network architecture. The main features of 5G and the value they add to mobile services are set out below:

Feature	Value Added
Ultra-High Bandwidth	Increases overall capacity of the mobile network, facilitating growth in users, devices and traffic demands. 5G will also enable novel use-cases such as streaming video and 3D content such as immersive or augmented reality environments, or simply more reliable video services, including video-conferencing to support connectivity for health and other people services. It will also allow for high data throughput and processing that will come from high density / large volume deployments of internet of things sensors that may also connect “dumb” low power sensors with long battery lives to artificial intelligence / machine learning capabilities in the cloud.
Ultra-Low Latency	This feature will bring about improvements to existing mobile connectivity, such as improved Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) quality, the streaming of Ultra High Definition video, and other tasks that are reliant on m/s accuracy such as real-time time-critical alerts for decision makers (e.g. in emergencies or for health and safety) or the visualisation of highly accurate data that can be interpreted and visualised using advanced analytics and machine learning techniques. This may include, for example, remote control of infrastructure, robotics or machinery; devices such as drones; or other safety-critical use cases such as autonomous vehicles.

Massive machine type communications	Massive Machine type communications are crucial to large deployments of Internet of Things and machine-to-machine use cases, particularly for devices distributed in rural environments with a high cost of maintenance. Ability to support massively higher number of endpoints than 4G (1 million / sq. km)
Advanced management and operations support system (OSS)	This feature will reduce operating expenses for operators and carriers. Up to 72% of 5G revenue growth is dependent on OSS/BSS transformation according to TM Forum. Automation and specifically AI-powered closed automation will be essential to monetizing the service differentiation that sets 5G apart from its predecessors. The scalability and capacity of a virtualised 5G network can enable CSPs to extend their business to become an over-the-top (OTT) service provider, offering high quality, reliable networks for the delivery of OTT services.
High-motion mobility	Better able to support users and devices on fast moving transport such as high-speed trains.
Improved security	Better protection of large amounts of data produced, as 5G technology is meant to be secure by design
Spectrum	5G will be deployed in a variety of spectrum bands at low, medium and high frequencies, each of which have different characteristics and can be used to deliver different benefits. Sub-1GHz spectrum will support improved coverage; mid-frequency spectrum (1-6 GHz) will meet demand for increased network capacity; high frequency spectrum (so-called mmWave) is likely to be used to support new 5G applications, in particular those that require very high capacity and very low latency.
Enhanced performance	With 5G, higher orders of MIMO can be deployed, compared to 4G systems. Standard MIMO networks tend to use two or four antennas to transmit data and the same number to receive it. Massive MIMO, on the other hand, is a MIMO system with an especially high number of antennas. This increases the capacity of the network significantly and provides more reliable links. Network Slicing can provide service level differentiation, enabling the provision of business-critical and mission-critical services to different customer types. Mobile Edge Computing will enable content and services to be generated and consumed locally and data to be analysed and processed locally, enabling real time services to be performed and reducing the requirements for backhaul and connections to the cloud.

Universal application support	Ability to provide connectivity for a range of use cases; from low volume, high latency to mission critical systems.

Therefore, for the purposes of this project, we will assume the following characteristics for 5G in RCC:

- It is largely a wireless system.
- It is mainly terrestrial, and may involve some satellite capability.
- It will have capabilities significantly beyond today's commercially available 4G networks, although the capability to integrate existing technologies such as Wi-Fi, 4G/LTE and low power IoT networks into a managed 5G heterogeneous network are considered in scope.
- It will support a wide range of applications for industry sectors, in addition to mobile broadband and consumer applications.
- The usage scenarios for 5G are expected to include:
    - Enhanced mobile broadband (eMBB)
    - Massive machine-type communications (mMTC)
    - Ultra-reliable and low latency communications (URLLC).

5G radio access technologies

We will accept a broad interpretation of 5G that includes the 3GPP release 15 standard for 5G New Radio as well as pre-standard versions (16 onwards) which may utilise innovative communications technologies. Bids could include elements of new radio access technologies and systems that will be important for 5G (such as massive MIMO, self-optimising networks, beam-forming, mmWave and mobile-edge computing). Bidders should explain where the innovation lies and that there should be significant, but not exclusive, use of 5G New Radio capabilities.

Network architectures

Network architectures could include network slicing, software defined networks, network function virtualisation and mobile edge computing.

Convergence

This could include convergence between mobile and fixed networks or satellite networks or broadcasting.

Annex B: Possible commercial and deployment approaches

There are a number of different commercial solutions that could be adopted for 5G infrastructure in rural areas. Examples of some are set out below. These vary greatly in terms of potential market disruption, scalability and potential market / regulatory challenges.

Model	Description
Neutral Host	Comprises a single third party shared network solution provided on an open basis. Provides a shared platform supporting all MNOs' technologies.
Site and Mast Sharing	Passive infrastructure sharing (e.g. Towers/Masts) to host multiple MNOs' equipment.
Network Sharing	Two or more mobile network operators sharing passive and active infrastructure, including RAN sharing. Examples include MORAN (Multi-Operator Radio Access Network) and MOCN (Multi-Operator Core Network).
Spectrum Sharing	Spectrum sharing can take many forms, including leasing, sub-licensing on a localised, geographic basis and pooling (where two licensees combine their spectrum and operate a joint RAN with that spectrum). Ofcom is making available spectrum sharing in the 3.8-4.2 GHz, 1,800MHz and 2,300MHz bands through local licences (under the spectrum sharing framework outlined in their December 2018 consultation).[4] Ofcom has also added the 24.25-26.5 GHz band ("the lower 26 GHz band") to their spectrum sharing framework for indoor use.
Localised Roaming	Third party rural or neutral host network provides roaming to an MNO to improve coverage.
R&D/Test Bed	Small-scale deployment to test technology and potential business models.
Ecosystem Enabler	Relates to a provider which offers a technological platform on the top of connectivity to enable specific providers to deploy their applications (e.g. AgriTech, Mobility and Public Safety).

[4] https://www.ofcom.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0033/157884/enabling-wireless-innovation-through-local-licensing.pdf

Annex C: Potential technology solutions

Mobile internet connectivity in rural and remote areas is significantly challenging due to the economic viability of deploying cellular sites in those areas.

The main factors affecting the commercial case for deploying mobile network infrastructure are:

- physical site acquisition and deployment of equipment;
- backhaul connectivity;
- power required at sites;
- the likely density of demand-creating subscribers; and
- access to spectrum.

There is also uncertainty in terms of what will be the revenue from 5G in rural areas. The connectivity requirements in rural areas are normally quite diverse and span from low data rate applications (e.g. weather monitoring for agritech, remote maintenance of infrastructure) to high bandwidth applications (e.g. video streaming or AR/VR experience for smart tourism).

Although new relevant applications in rural areas have the potential to generate extra revenue to MNOs, they are still in the early stages of their development. This makes it challenging to assess the timeframe to recover the investment in increasing infrastructure in rural areas. Finding innovative ways to tackle these challenges, would significantly assist in providing the required connectivity to the rural communities - and building the business case for investment in other rural areas.

5G technology enablers for rural connectivity

With support for higher capacity, as well as ultra-low latency and machine-type communication services and the integration of multiple technologies with greater flexibility, 5G networks could support a much broader set of uses than 4G networks, dynamically configurable in software.

5G mobile communications systems also offer the potential for convergence of various networks, creating a “network of networks”, converging fixed and mobile networks, and in which a single investment can support infrastructure meeting demand from diverse subscribers and usage types. It will also support seamless connectivity to numerous devices by integrating different technologies, intelligence and flexibility. This convergence should enable the acceleration and extension of deployment of 5G infrastructure in rural areas.

Possible technical solutions

We would expect proposals focused on technological solutions to feature some or all of the below:

- Core network technologies
- Management and network orchestration
- Differentiated services

- Multi-access edge computing
- Radio network technologies
- Spectrum
- Satellite
- Roaming/ interworking

Another key cost is backhaul, the most common technology choices for which to date have been fibre and microwave. Both are widely deployed in today's LTE networks. However, given the ambitious expectations from 5G, which include a 20x increase in peak data rates and a 10x reduction in latency, many operators are taking a closer look at alternative connectivity solutions such as higher capacity microwave and next-generation satellites to satisfy service expectations.

Further, localised micro-data centres, following the concepts of MEC with local break-out, may reduce some of the stringent requirements on backhaul.

To ensure that lack of access to the radio spectrum does not prevent innovation, Ofcom have introduced a new licensing approach to provide localised access to spectrum bands that can support mobile technology. Ofcom are making spectrum in the 3.8-4.2 GHz, 1800 MHz and 2300 MHz spectrum bands available through local licences. They are introducing a new way to access spectrum that is already licensed to mobile operators but which is not being used or planned for use in a particular area within the next three years.[5]

5 https://www.ofcom.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0033/157884/enabling-wireless-innovation-through-local-licensing.pdf

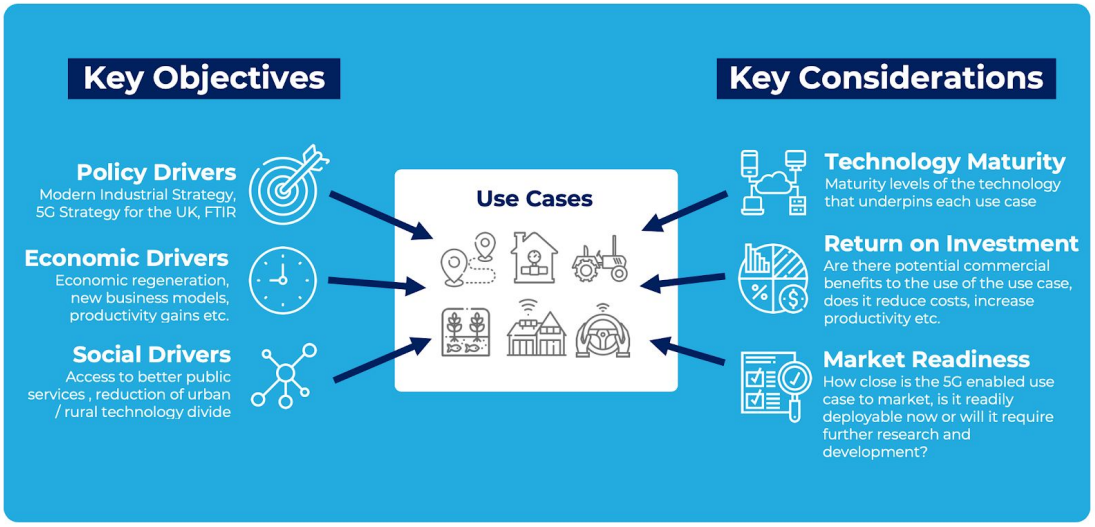
Annex D: Key considerations for the selection of use cases

5G offers wide-ranging capabilities. This includes, but is not limited to: enhanced mobile broadband (eMBB), which offers the capability to facilitate higher speeds and seamless user experience; and massive machine type communications (mMTC) to facilitate the connection of a large number of connected devices and facilitating applications that are heavily dependent on Ultra-Reliable Low-Latency Communication (URLLC).

These, and other 5G and advanced networking capabilities have the potential to unlock several categories of use cases and innovations, including technical and business models, across multiple industry verticals throughout the rural economy and society. However, the potential benefits for the various use cases will need to be carefully balanced against the associated technological and commercial costs.

For rural use cases to be successful, they need to consider not only market demand but also the wider benefits provided to the different stakeholders. These include: enabling economic and social development; serving existing or new customers, and meeting the connectivity requirements that will enable other advanced digital technologies.

These drivers and considerations are summarised in the table below:



Key Objectives

Whilst there are several use cases emerging on the back of 5G development, **each potential use case needs to be assessed against the main objectives for rural communities**. Some of the objectives to be considered are outlined below. While not exhaustive, they provide a framework against which potential use cases for rural communities could be developed and assessed.

Area	Key Objectives
Policy	5G is viewed as an enabler to the government's policy objectives, as set out in the FTIR, to ensure world class connectivity for all. 5G deployment in a rural environment underpins key components of the "Industrial Strategy: Building a Britain fit for the future" and its underlying sector deals (e.g. Made Smarter, the Creative Industries Sector Deal, the Artificial Intelligence Sector Deal, etc.). It will help to drive the new business models, products, applications, services and experiences of the future into sectors that meet government priorities in key industry sectors and sub-sectors (construction, manufacturing, creative / cultural tourism etc.) that will increase productivity and drive the UK's 4th Industrial Revolution.
Economic	**Productivity:** Various studies have highlighted the impact of high speed mobile connectivity in enhancing business productivity and increase in operational efficiencies[6]. Economic research undertaken by IHS identified global productivity gains from 5G use cases to exceed $2.1 trillion (between 2020 – 2035)[7]. At a GVA of £20,500 per resident, productivity levels in rural areas are relatively lower than the national average (GVA £25,400 per resident)[8]. As such, increased productivity is seen as a key driver for multiple 5G use cases. A number of current 5G rural use cases focus on enhancing farm productivity, reducing manual intervention, subsequently driving cost efficiencies amongst others. **New Business Models:** 5G is expected to be a key enabler of low-cost, mMTC-capable smart public infrastructure which is envisaged to lower costs and enable new revenue models amongst other socio-economic benefits. 5G is seen as an enabler for the deployment of sensors in public infrastructure which could enable new ownership and management models based on flexible usage and preventative maintenance (for example, smart utility infrastructure), and for remote inspections and maintenance using technologies such as drones. This could open public infrastructure to a family of use cases that is aimed at reducing operational costs in delivering public services and introduce new revenue streams.[2]

[6] The impacts of mobile broadband and 5G, A literature review for DCMS by Deloitte, 2018
[7] The 5G Economy: How 5G technology will contribute to the global economy, IHS Economics, 2017
[8] Unlocking the digital potential of rural areas across the UK, Amazon, SRUC, Rural England Partnership, 2018

	Economic Regeneration: Surveys commissioned by Amazon UK on rural SMEs, identified that 56% of those surveyed indicate 5G networks and IoT as significantly relevant to their business growth[4]. The connectivity and innovative use cases enabled by 5G could complement Local Industrial Strategies for economic development and regeneration of rural SMEs clusters. Innovative 5G use cases could potentially provide rural communities with a platform to leapfrog the rest of the UK with regard to Industry 4.0, E-Commerce and Technology applications subsequently attracting private sector investment and growth. In order to achieve this it is crucial that RCC identifies use cases and commercial models that improve the case for investment in rural connectivity infrastructure and drive innovative new use cases of 5G in rural environments, so that all communities – not just the most economically active urban communities – benefit from early 5G deployment and adoption.
 Social	A lack of reliable and consistent mobile network coverage in rural areas significantly reduces connectivity and can lead to people living in these areas feeling socially isolated and/or excluded as they miss out on contact and social plans with friends and family, particularly when that contact is spontaneous rather than planned in advance.[9] Aside from this social exclusion challenge, which could also be tackled by improving 4G coverage, there are also significant societal benefits and considerations from introducing ultra fast connectivity through 5G. In particular this could include better public safety, e-health and e-learning applications, and reduced urbanisation by making rural areas more attractive for residents to live and work. This will help to reduce the digital divide between regions.

9 https://www.ofcom.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0021/108129/jigsaw-mobile-coverage-qualitative-research.pdf

Annex E: Connectivity data sources

Local authority-level data

Local authority data is available here: https://www.ofcom.org.uk/research-and-data/multi-sector-research/infrastructure-research/connected-nations-update-spring-2019. The following metrics should be used:

Coverage type	Description	Syntax (Mobile / Fixed)
Geographic coverage	4G services, geographic (outdoor) at -105dBm threshold	TNS 4G_geo_out_0 PNS 4G_geo_out_1 4G_geo_out_2 4G_geo_out_3
Roads coverage	Data services, motorways and A-roads, at -105dBm threshold	TNS Data_mway_ard_in_0 PNS Data_mway_ard_in_1 Data_mway_ard_in_2 Data_mway_ard_in_3
Premise coverage	4G services, premises (outdoor) at -105dBm threshold and 4G services, premises (indoor) at -95dBm threshold	TNS 4G_prem_out_0 PNS 4G_prem_out_1 4G_prem_out_2 4G_prem_out_3 TNS 4G_prem_in_0 PNS 4G_prem_in_1 4G_prem_in_2 4G_prem_in_3

Fixed broadband	% of premises unable to receive 2Mbit/s Number of premises unable to receive 2Mbit/s	Percentage of premises that do not have access to services above 2Mbit/s Number of premises that do not have access to services above 2Mbit/s

Postcode-level data

Postcode-level data is here: https://www.ofcom.org.uk/phones-telecoms-and-internet/advice-for-consumers/advice/ofcom-checker

Bidders should have a good understanding of their intervention area, so should demonstrate poor connectivity at premise level (both fixed and mobile broadband), using the Ofcom coverage checker. The 'map view' is recommended, to illustrate connectivity across an area (not just postcode) by each operator.

Other info

Bidders should demonstrate any other aspects of poor connectivity not captured by the metrics above.

APPENDIX 11 - DAERA RURAL POLICY FRAMEWORK OBJECTIVES – DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS FROM MUDC - 27.8.19

Review of DAERA's Rural Policy Framework Objectives and Direction on Policy Actions / Interventions

Recommendations from Mid Ulster District Council

27 August 2019

Policy Objective 1 – to create a rural society where innovation and entrepreneurship flourish

1. The wording of Objective 1 should be more specific to encourage existing business development and growth in the rural economy, as well as fostering entrepreneurship/innovation.

2. Definitions for "innovation" and "entrepreneurship" should be established to set the context within a new RDP for the benefit of all involved (recognised definitions are referred to below)

3. It should be recognised that the current LEADER programme has helped existing businesses to deliver innovation through the availability of grant aid which would not otherwise have happened. Support for existing business as well as support to encourage new business start-ups must be retained within a new RDP.

4. An evidence base to support the need for actions/interventions is required. This should draw on community planning consultations across all LGD's but should also drill down into the barriers preventing innovation within existing rural businesses and new business start-ups.

5. The “entrepreneurship ecosystem” in Figure 4 below showing the various sources of support available for entrepreneurs and innovators is complex and clarity will be needed as to how RDP support will fit in here. Potential for RDP to act as a “one stop shop” for non-innovating businesses to avail of initial support to identify innovation ideas and capital assistance if required thereafter to implement those ideas should be explored. Micro and SME businesses not yet ready (or not eligible) to enter the INI support system may be the target market here.

6. Potential exists to dovetail the ‘Go For It’ Programme with RDP support. This may require a rolling RDP application process or longer call opening windows to reflect the ongoing nature of the ‘Go For It’ Programme.

7. Existing rural businesses have potential for delivering innovation and business growth within the rural economy and in doing so can contribute to PfG and NICS delivery plan targets as well as local community plan targets. Support should be targeted at businesses who can clearly demonstrate how RDP support can deliver business innovation and growth.

8. Similarly, support should also be available to help new and existing businesses who are “non-innovators” identify and test innovative ideas (related to products or services) for their business.

9. Support for new start-ups should focus on businesses offering innovative services. A more risk based approach could be taken in supporting new start-ups which recognises the potential for failure.

10. The emphasis on job creation could be lowered within a new RDP and more emphasis placed on demonstrating how RDP support can lead to increased productivity as well as job creation.

11. **Last but not least, it is essential that Local Government must be involved in delivery of actions at the local level due to local knowledge and familiarity of the rural business sector.**

Policy Objective 2 – to maximise the contribution that sustainable rural tourism makes to rural society and to the wider economy and environment

1. Local government should be charged with delivering actions identified for this objective by developing the tourist infrastructure aligned to Local Tourism Strategy priorities (in conjunction with Tourism NI).

2. This objective should recognise the need to help improve tourism performance outside of the recognised tourism hotspots which historically have received the lion's share of the budget.

3. There is also the opportunity to provide support to new and existing private sector tourism businesses under this objective - here there should be less focus on the assessment of job creation and more emphasis placed on the potential to attract visitors / improve the local tourism offering.

Policy Objective 3 - To reduce loneliness and social exclusion in rural areas, to minimise the impacts of rural isolation and to promote the health and wellbeing of rural dwellers;

1. It should be accepted that a new RDP on its own won't deliver this objective – cross working and funding from other relevant Government departments will still be required.

2. The availability of suitable and fit for purpose community hubs to act as a focal point for rural communities remains important – especially in order to host initiatives and activities which can tackle isolation and social exclusion.

3. Village Regeneration in settlements of under 4500 needs to referenced within this Policy objective or included as an additional objective – to mirror the DfC Urban Regeneration and Community Development Policy Framework, but with a focus on addressing economic, social and physical decline in areas classed as rural.

4. Village Regeneration - With RDP support, local government should 'take the lead' in the development and delivery of specific local actions/interventions for village regeneration which can align to Community Planning and DAERA/PfG outcomes.

Policy Objective 4- To increase employment opportunities available to people living in rural areas;

1. There is a linkage to Policy Objective 1. Supporting business growth and new business start-up will lead to job creation.

2. Barriers which prevent people in rural areas from getting into work need to be understood – barriers which are rural specific i.e transport, mismatch between skills and available jobs etc. Mid Ulster District Council and Mid Ulster Skills Forum have carried out much work in this area and would be keen to be involved in this area moving forward.

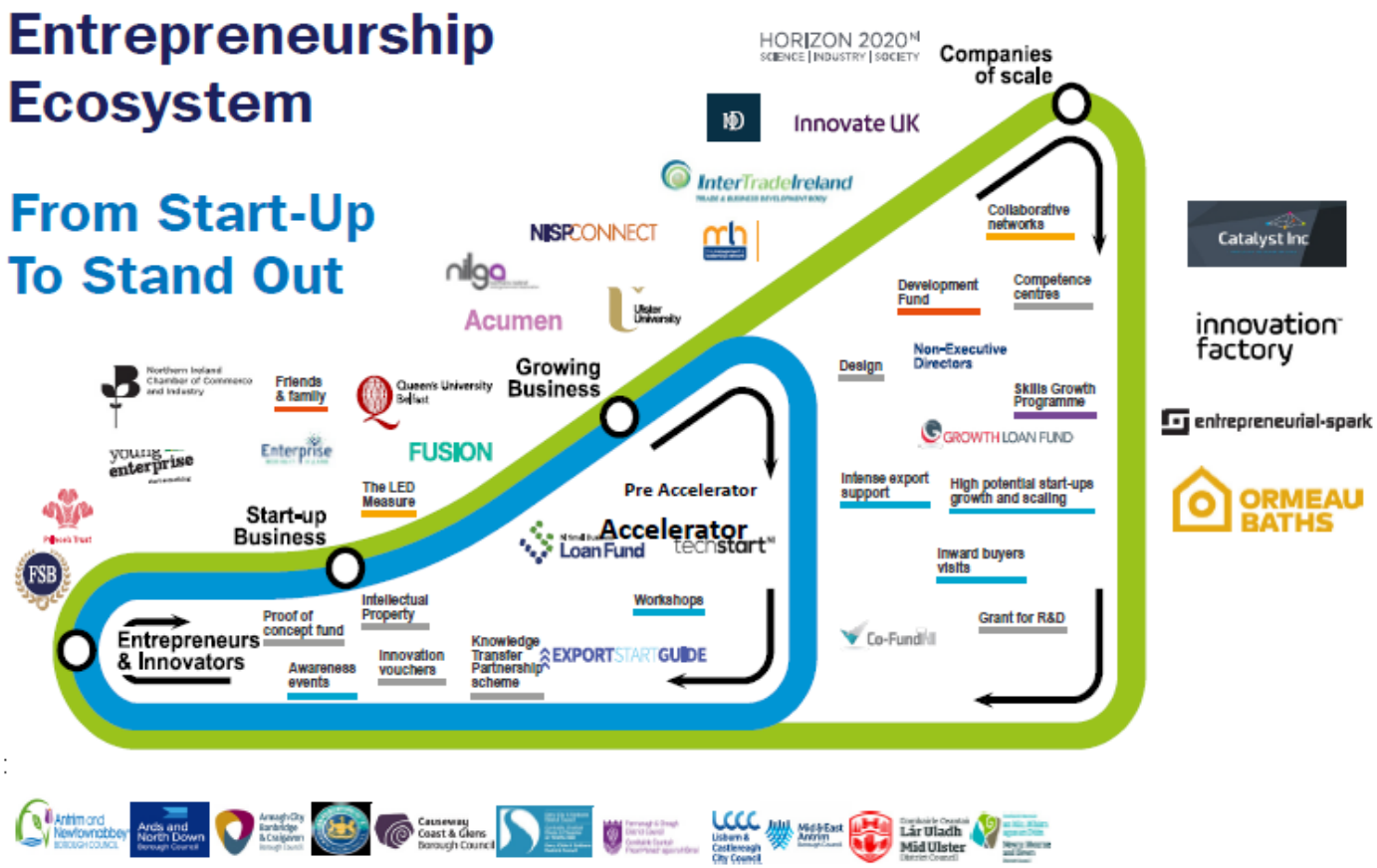
3. Use RDP support to implement specific initiatives outlined within the Mid Ulster Skills Strategy and Action Plan i.e. addressing the gap in skills needed by local employers.

Policy Objective 5 - To improve connectivity between rural and urban areas;

1. Need agreement on the definition of “connectivity” in terms of developing actions/interventions to achieve this objective. Digital connectivity in rural areas should remain a key priority for this objective to be progressed through Confidence and Supply arrangements.

Figure 4

Entrepreneurship Ecosystem



Source – Invest NI

Recognised definitions for entrepreneurship and innovation

The Global Entrepreneurship Monitor defines entrepreneurship as:
"Any attempt at new business or venture creation, such as self-employment, a new business organisation, or the expansion of an existing business organisation by an individual, teams of individuals, or established businesses"

Eurostat defines Innovation as "the use of new ideas, products or methods where they have not been used before.

Innovations should be new to the enterprise concerned: for product innovations, they do not necessarily have to be new to the market and, for process innovations, the enterprise does not necessarily have to be the first one to have introduced the process.

A product innovation is the market introduction of a new or a significantly improved good or service.

A process innovation is the implementation of a new or significantly improved production process, distribution method or support activity for goods or services.

https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Glossary:Innovation

Report on	Community Development
Date of Meeting	12th September 2019
Reporting Officer	Claire Linney, Head of Community Development
Contact Officer	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 agree the rolling grant awards - Good Relations and Local Community Festivals and Decade of Anniversaries grant awards
1.2	To note the update on Community Development.
2.0	Background
2.1	Community Grants – Council annually delivers two rolling community grants programmes; Good Relations and Local Community Festivals. Council also annually delivers the Decade of Anniversaries Grant.
2.2	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
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Rolling Community Grants Good Relations 12 applications recommended for awards totalling £10,776 and Community Local Festivals 10 applications recommended for awards totalling £6,830 – one application deemed ineligible as already supported under another grant programme. The Decade of Anniversaries grant opened in June and closed at end of July 2019 – 10 applications recommended for awards totalling £12,225 – 5 applications did not meet the minimum score threshold. See grant award recommendations in Appendix 1 for approval.
3.2	Community Development Update <u>Community Support</u> Community support to groups across the District is ongoing.

	Neighbourhood Renewal: DFC projects for 2018 – 2019 are continuing to deliver. The DUY capital build continues and is progressing to schedule to complete October 2019. The EA for support funding for Gortgonis from DFC has been completed and pending final evaluation. The project is at planning stage. <u>Peace and Good Relations</u> Good Relations Action Plan 2018 – 2019 - Project development and delivery ongoing. Good Relations Primary Schools Programme – An update was provided to Committee previously that Speedwell no longer wishes to partner with Council in the delivery of the Good Relations Primary Schools Programme. To seek to meet the timeline of delivery for 31st March and maximize the funding of £25,000 it is proposed to partner with EA youth in the delivery of the programme. EA Youth is currently delivering CRED with good relations to young people and is keen to link further with schools. To maximize the funding and participation of schools they will facilitate the logistics and management of the programme and the funding can be maximized to delivery. Peace IV delivery is ongoing – The Shared space community design consultation is in progress with community consultation being scheduled for Sept/Oct. The remainder of projects are delivering to target and timescale. <u>PCSP</u> PCSP plan 2019 – 2020 is ongoing. Ongoing support to communities on a range of initiatives to help keep people and communities safe. CCTV for the town centres and for the park and ride provision has been agreed for contract. Please see PCSP Annual Report 2018 – 2019.
4.0	**Other Considerations**
4.1	**<u>Financial & Human Resources Implications</u>** Community Grants awards - £10,776 (Good Relations) and £6,830 (Community Local Festival) Decade of Anniversaries awards £12,225 **<u>Professional Support</u>** None.
4.2	**<u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u>** None

4.3	**<u>Risk Management Implications</u>** None
5.0	**Recommendation(s)**
5.1	To agree the rolling grant awards - Good Relations and Local Community Festivals, and Decade of Anniversaries grant awards.
5.2	To note the update on Community Development.
6.0	**Documents Attached & References**
6.1	Appendix 1 Good Relations, Local Community Festivals and Decade of Anniversaries grants. Appendix 2 PCSP Annual Report 2018 – 2019.

Good Relations – September 2019

No.	Organisation Name	Organisation Aim	Title Of Event/project	Band	Requested	Awarded
1	Castle Hill Theatre Group	Community	Performance - The Factory Girls	2	£3,800	£1,080
2	Coagh Community Crossroads Club	Community	Living History - Mid Ulster	1	£796	£796
3	Dungannon Sub Aqua Club Search & Recovery	Community	Water Awareness	2	£1,300	£1,080
4	Friends of Bapper	Community	Bapper's Gig	2	£3,360	£1,080
5	Glór na Speiriní	Community	Sharing our Similarities celebrating our Differences	3	£1,330	£960
6	Kilcronaghan & Ballinascreen Girls Friendly Society	Cultural	Cultural Threads	4	£1,500	£840
7	Pomeroy Men's Shed	Community	Pomeroy Men's Shed - A Shared Space	3	£1,500	£960
8	Pomeroy Over 55's Club	Community	Bridging the Gap & our future	4	£1,400	£840
9	Sperrin Men's Shed Cookstown	Community	Our Men's Shed	2	£1,500	£1,080
10	Stewartstown & District Environment & Outreach Group	Community	Mid Ulster in Bloom & Our Community	2	£1,300	£1,080
11	Tullylagan Pipe Band	Cultural	World Pipe Band Championships Glasgow	5	£1,500	£720
12	Tyrone Somme Memorial Association	Community	Summer Pageant/Educational events	7	£645	£260
						£10,776

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%

Community Local Festivals – September 2019

No.	Organisation Name	Aim	Title Of Event/project	Band	Request	Award
1	Ballinderry Parish Church Vintage Rally	Community	Ballinderry Vintage Rally	2	£1,700	£1,080
2	Bellaghy Classic Cars & Vintage Club	Community	Annual Classic Car & Vintage Club & Family Fun Day	5	£1,545	£720
3	Carn Wheelers cycling club	Sport	Tour of South Derry cycle sportive	7	£1,500	£480
4	Drummullan Community Group	Community	Festival Fun Day	6	£1,100	£550
5	Friends of Killymoon Castle	Culture	A Festival of Fairytales & Storytelling Killymoon	2	£2,000	£1,080
6	Friends of St Brigid's Primary School	Community	Health & Well-Being & School Run 2019	5	£1,200	£720
7	Magherafelt Women's Group Ltd	Community	Magherafelt Women's Wellbeing Networking event	6	£800	£400
8	Moy Ploughing Society	Community	Annual Ploughing Match	6	£1,430	£600
9	Tafelta AC	Sport	Tafelta Track & Fun Day Event	6	£1,500	£600
10	Watty Grahams GAC	Community	Summer Camp 2019	6	£1,200	£600
					Total	**£6,830**

Ineligible or Unsuccessful

Tyrone Ladies GFA	Festival of Football	Already supported under Strategic Sports Grant

Score	Bands	%
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%

Decade of Anniversaries – September 2019

No	Organisation Name	Type of Event	Amount requested	Band	Award up to based on full expenditure	50% allocation – minimum spend vouched
1	The William Carleton Society	2 Day Festival	£810	1	£810	£1,620
2	Tullylagan Pipe Band	Book to celebrate centenary DOA	£500	1	£500	£1,000
3	Killyman St Mary's GFC	DOA Study visit	£580	1	£580	£1,160
4	Upperlands Royal British Legion	Commemorative Event	£1,000	4	£700	£1,400
5	Coalisland Clonoe CCE	Anniversary Event DOA Music of Period	£2,500	1	£2,500	£5,000
6	Slatequarry Development Association	DOA Study visit	£950	5	£570	£1,140
7	Loup & District Historical Society	Book launch & Exhibition	£2,350	2	£2,115	£4,230
8	Cookstown INF	DOA Study visit	£2,000	5	£1,200	£2,400
9	Castledawson Royal British Legion	Series of talks	£1,250	1	£1,250	£2,500
10	Pomeroy Players	DOA Theatrical History	£2,500	3	£2,000	£4,000
					£12,225	

Unsuccessful

Pomeroy Mens' Shed	Did not meet minimum score criteria
Aughadarragh Parents' Support Association	Did not meet minimum score
St Patricks Flute Band Loup	Did not meet minimum score
Ballygawley History Society	Did not meet minimum score
Moneymore Activity Group	Did not meet minimum score

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%

Policing & Community Safety Partnership

making Mid Ulster safer

MID ULSTER POLICING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

Annual Report 2018-19

Phone: 03000 132 132
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Introduction

I am very pleased to present the Annual Report of Mid Ulster Policing and Community Safety Partnership for 2018 – 2019.

Mid Ulster PCSP is made up of statutory and community members who work together to help make Mid Ulster a safer place to live. As Chair, I would like to express my thanks to our elected, independent and statutory members for their commitment to the PCSPs.

We, as a PCSP, are committed to engaging with the community and developing solutions that address the community safety issues that matter most in our communities. I would like to express my thanks to the community who have engaged and worked with us over the past year.

The PCSP also has a duty to monitor the performance of the police against the local policing plan. Members continue to do this and regularly meet with the PSNI to review this.

Mid Ulster was pleased to win 3 out of the 7 prizes from the recent NI PCSP Awards facilitated by the Dept of Justice and NI Policing Board. The three winning projects have made significant progress and these results were recognised by the judging panel. Thanks to all those who developed, delivered and participated in these projects.

Cllr Denise Mullen
Chair
Mid Ulster Policing and Community Safety Partnership 2018-19

Contents

INTRODUCTION....2
CONTENTS....3
FUNCTIONS AND PROCESSES....4
WHAT PCSPS DO....4
JOINT COMMITTEE....5
MEMBERS....6
STRATEGIC PRIORITIES....7
DELIVERING....8
MEMBERS ATTENDANCE 2018/2019....16
ACCOUNTS 1 APRIL 2018 - 31 MARCH 2019....17

Functions and Processes

PCSPs aim to make our communities safer. They are statutory bodies established under the Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.

PCSPs work in a joined up way to the benefit of local communities. They are funded jointly by the Department of Justice and the Northern Ireland Policing Board.

There are 11 partnerships, one for each council area.

Each PCSP has a Policing Committee to take forward specific police monitoring and engagement functions, with the wider PCSP taking forward community safety related functions.

PCSPs may also establish delivery groups to address particular community safety issues that arise in their areas.

What PCSPs Do

PCSPs aim to make our community safer by focusing on the policing and community safety issues that matter most in each local council area.

In making communities safer PCSPs will:

- Consult and engage with the local community on the issues of concern in relation to policing and community safety. The Policing Committee has a responsibility to provide views to the district commander and the Policing Board on policing matters
- Identify and prioritise issues of concern and prepare plans for how these can be tackled
- Monitor - a Policing Committee comprising the political and independent members will monitor the performance of the police and work to gain the co-operation of the public with the police in preventing crime
- Deliver a reduction in crime and enhance community safety in the district, directly through its own actions, through the work of the delivery groups or through support for the work of others.

Joint Committee

PCSPs receive annual funding from the Joint Committee (the Department of Justice and NI Policing Board) with a legislative aim to work with their local community to help address crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour issues.
There have been many examples of good practice highlighted to Joint Committee by PCSPs throughout the 2018/19 year which showcase the good work being carried out on the ground. Joint Committee has also provided support to PCSPs to use an Outcomes Based Approach (OBA) as a more consistent and better means of measuring impact and improving transparency and accountability in the delivery of their work in local communities.
PCSPs now routinely use all aspects of OBA in their work, with an action plan being completed using indicator and performance measure information; a project card template being used for each initiative and thematic report cards being submitted to Joint Committee every quarter from a governance perspective.

To support PCSPs in their transition to this new way of working, the Joint Committee developed PCSP planning guidance which incorporates the following:

- Information on the OBA process;
- An action plan template which includes a review and summary synopsis to capture the rationale for continuing, amending or not progressing projects from one year to another;
- A set of agreed performance measures for generic projects;
- A project card template to be completed for each initiative;
- A thematic report card template to be used to help highlight impact at a more strategic level; and
- A framework showing how the work of PCSPs and their use of OBA supports the common Programme for Government Outcome 7 - We have a safe community where we respect the law and each other.

The NI Audit Office has also recognised the good work that PCSPs are doing with regard to using OBA and has included PCSPs as one of two case studies within the recently launched Performance Management for Outcomes good practice guide for public bodies – published on 15 June 2018.

Members

The size of each PCSP varies across Northern Ireland. Mid Ulster PCSP has ten political members appointed by Mid Ulster District Council and nine independent members of the community who are appointed by the NI Policing Board.

Together these members form the Policing Committee of the PCSP. In addition, PCSPs have 7 representatives from the designated bodies listed on page 4.

The Chair of each PCSP is a councillor and the Vice Chair is an independent member.

In 2018-19 Mid Ulster PCSP consisted of the following members:

Ten local Councillors;
Councillor Denise Mullen (Chair)
Councillor Frances Burton
Councillor Peter Bateson
Councillor Catherine Elattar
Councillor Phelim Gildernew
Councillor Robert Colvin
Councillor Sean McPeake
Councillor Cáthal Mallaghan
Councillor Derek McKinney
Councillor Clement Cuthbertson

Nine independent members of the public;
Fiona Crawford
Liam Duggan
Mark Farquhar
Ursula Marshall (Vice Chair)
Ciaran McElhone
Emma Sheerin
Hannah Su O'Callaghan
Martina Watson
One appointment was vacant due to death of member

And seven representatives from statutory bodies
Education Authority
Northern Health and Social Care Trust (NHSCT)/Southern Health and Social Care Trust (SHSCT)
Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS)
Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE)
Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI)
Probation Board for Northern Ireland (PBNI)
Youth Justice Agency

Strategic Priorities

The PCSP agreed the following strategic objectives and priorities for 2018-19

Strategic Objective 1 – to successfully deliver the functions of the Policing and Community Safety Partnership for the area
Key priorities:

- Engage with local community and statutory groups
- Implement the PCSP's plan
- Put in place relevant implementation structures and delivery mechanisms
- Raise awareness of PCSP, crime problems, and projects

Strategic Objective 2 – to improve community safety by tackling crime and anti-social behaviour
Key priorities:

- To reduce the level of ASB, including anti-social driving
- To reduce the level of violent crime, including alcohol related crime
- To reduce fear of crime and reduce the risk of being a victim of crime, especially among older people

Strategic Objective 3 – to improve community confidence in policing
Key priorities:

- Ensure local accountability
- Ensure that policing delivery reflects the involvement, views and priorities of local communities
- Ensure improved policing service delivery in partnership with local communities;
- Ensure effective engagement with the police and the local community
- Ensure engagement with police is built into projects

Mid Ulster PCSP consults and engages with the local community on policing and community safety issues of concern. The PCSP then identifies and prioritises these and prepares plans for how they can be tackled.

The PCSP aims to deliver a reduction in crime and enhance community safety, directly through its own actions, through the work of delivery groups or through support for the work of others.

Delivering

The projects listed below have been developed or funded by the PCSP in response to the priorities identified through the consultation. These activities also provide the PCSP with an engagement opportunity that informs its future work.

PCSP Structure

The PCSP has an overall main body, the PCSP itself. It also has three thematic groups to deliver on their relevant action plan, these are:

- Anti-social Behaviour Group
- Night-time Economy Group
- Vulnerable Persons Group

Under the PCSP is the Policing Committee which has a separate and distinctive role to monitor the performance of the police against the local policing plan. The Policing Committee will pass on any relevant issues that arise to the thematic groups or main PCSP for delivery.
Targeted engagement with community was delivered through each of the thematic groups

Anti Social Behaviour

Since 2015, Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) has decreased consistently across the district. The Mid Ulster area now has now one of the lowest levels across NI. However, ASB remains a concern for our community and the PCSP implemented the following in 2018/19:
Emergency Services Fatal RTC Reconstructions: Two reconstructions were held that engaged with young drivers. Of those attending, 100% stated that it had increased their knowledge and awareness of general road safety and consequences of anti social driving, 100% stated that it had improved their attitude to Emergency Services, and 100% stated that it had improved their attitude towards police
As a follow up to this programme a mock court case was held in Dungannon courthouse with the young people acting as prosecutors, defence, jury and witnesses.
Crash Car Simulator: The Crash Car Simulator provides four people at a time the opportunity to experience a car crash. This was rolled out to 6 schools, with 180 pupils involved, across the district and provides a hard hitting road safety education. 92% of

those who used it stated that it had increased their knowledge of road safety issues.

Halloween Youth Diversionary programmes were delivered with 63% of participants more aware of the impact of ASB on the local community and 66% enjoyed participating in the programme

Reconnaissance Reports – The PCSP is undertaking a pilot ASB scoping project with partner organisations for the Dungannon area. This identifies trends, provide early warning and allow for better deployment of engagement and enforcement activities. Partners are PSNI, EA Youth Service, and Dungannon Youth Resource Centre.

Youth Engagement Programme (YEPs) is delivered by PSCP, PSNI, Youth Justice Agency and EA Youth Service to targeted areas across Mid Ulster. In 2018/19 it was delivered in six areas. 100% of the young people enjoyed participating in the programme, there was a 100% attendance rate. Overall 65% of the young people stated that it had increased their awareness of the issues covered by the programme.

Park N Rides: Funding of £50,000 has been secured from the Department for Infrastructure for the installation of CCTV in the four Park and Ride facilities in the District – Tamnamore, Ballygawley, Maghera (2 cameras), and behind KFC at the Castledawson Roundabout. These areas were experiencing high levels of crime and the introduction of cctv will prevent and identify any person undertaking criminal activity.

BeeSafe for primary school pupils was delivered in Fivemiletown, Cookstown and Magherafelt with approximately 1700 participants receiving information on farm, road, bus, electricity, internet and personal safety.

Neighbourhood Watch There are 49 Neighbourhood Watch schemes in Mid Ulster. At engagement events with the NW co-ordinators, 95 % either agreed or strongly agreed that they had increased awareness of crime prevention. 94% had a better understanding of how to secure their home. 92 % had improved confidence in policing and 100% are more aware of Mid Ulster PCSP.

Night Time Economy

Since 2015 the PCSP has worked with Coach operators, vintners, voluntary and statutory partners to develop an enhanced co-ordinated approach to the issues associated with the Night-time economy. Over the last three years the crime profile of our largest night-time economy town, Cookstown, has changed from one of violent crime to low level crime. This is positive for the residents

and business owners in the town. It is now one of the safest places in Northern Ireland

Some of the measures implemented:

Alcohol Awareness Programme: If a young person is caught drinking they are given an option of attending this course, which is delivered by PSNI.
In 18/19 a total of 91 youths and 91 parents attended this course.

Feedback is excellent with 96% of participants rating the course as good or very good. Other Council areas are now implementing this programme due to its success. Of those who completed the course:

- 84% of respondents stated that the course improved their attitude towards Police
- 91% of participants stated that the course increased their knowledge of the law surrounding underage drinking.
- 81% stated the likelihood of reoffending was low.

Volunteer Groups: The PCSP provide resources and training to Club Angels and Reaching Out. These organisations are volunteers who look after vulnerable people in the night-time economy. They work closely with vintners and the PSNI in responding to need

Defibrillators: Defibrillators have been installed and are all operational in the main night-time economy towns, Cookstown, Magherafelt, Dungannon and the Moy.

Training: Training is provided for those working in the Night-time economy ranging from first aid to legal responsibilities.

Radiolink: This is a radio network that allows for instant communication between PSNI, CCTV monitor, Doormen, and support bodies. The system provides early warning and quicker responses to incidents.

Cost of Your Night Out campaign ran over Christmas 2018. The aim of the campaign was to highlight that Penalty Notices would be given out for public urinations, disorderly behaviour, criminal damage, and being drunk.

Licensing Laws Vintners event was held to engage and raise awareness of Licensing Laws. PSNI, Mid Ulster District Council and the SIA presented and engaged with vintners.

Vulnerable Persons

Fear of crime at night overall and especially among the 65+ age group remains high. However Recorded crime has decreased for the 60+ demographic over last three years
Recorded Hate Crime had also decreased in the last year across racist, sectarian and homophobic demographics.
Crimes with a domestic violence motivation are still high but have reduced slightly.
The PCSP aims to reduce fear of crime and reduce the risk of being a victim of crime, especially among older people. During 2018/19 the PCSP implemented the following:

Behind Closed Doors - A 'Behind Closed Doors' domestic violence bus and adshel advertising campaign was delivered over the Christmas period. This campaign highlighted the issue of domestic violence during its peak period. The message was for both male and female victims and signposted them to the 24 Hours Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse Helpline **0808 802 1414**

Radar Centre - 464 pupils attended Radar. 304 pupils surveyed

86% have increased awareness of Road Safety. 85% have increased awareness of home safety. 74% have increased awareness of fire safety. 80% have increased awareness of E Safety. 77% have increased awareness of Anti-social behaviour. 62% have increased awareness of anti-bullying

High Risk DV Victims Security - The PCSP provided security equipment for High Risk Domestic Violence Victims. 21 security installations were completed in 2018/19

Positive Relationships Programme - The PCSP Positive Relationships programme which was delivered to 1400 Year 10 pupils in 15 post primary schools across Mid Ulster. This project was delivered by Mid Ulster Women's Aid in partnership with PSNI CASE Officers. 1001 students completed the end of programme survey.

- 65% have increased awareness of Positive/Healthy Relationships
- 67% have increased awareness of unhealthy relationships
- 73% have increased awareness of warning signs of an abusive relationship
- 68% have increased awareness of Domestic Violence
- 67% have increased awareness of dating violence
- 61% have increased awareness of risks and consequences associated with sexting
- 51 % have increased awareness of cyberbullying

- 65% have increased awareness of Controlling behaviours
- 90% agreed or strongly agreed that domestic violence can happen to anyone
- 85% agreed or strongly agreed that they can identify sources of support for themselves and others

Crime Prevention/Scam Events: Six events were held providing engagement with PCSP partners, crime prevention and information on how to keep safe and well. These were delivered in partnership with Agewell, PSNI Crime Prevention, Mid Ulster District Council Home Safety, COSTA and CSWAN Networks Involving Communities in Health Improvement.

Agewell - PCSP support Agewell with the provision of safety equipment which contributes to a reduction in fear of crime and being a victim of crime for older people. 1332 home maintenance visits were carried out in 2018/19 . 696 members registered with Agewell in 2018/19. 49 people surveyed, 94% stated their feeling of safety has increased due to the home maintenance service.

Neighbourhood Watch Event: This event was held for all Neighbourhood Watch Schemes across Mid Ulster. Attendees received presentations from Start 360 on Drugs and Alcohol, Agewell on the services that they offer, PSNI on Scams. 19 people were surveyed –

- 100% are much more aware and a bit more aware of drugs and alcohol issues
- 100% are much more or a bit more aware of Rapid bins
- 100% are much more or a bit more aware of Agewell Services.
- 100% are much more or a bit more aware of Fraud/Scams

Who's at the Door: Internet Safety Programme delivered in partnership with PSNI Case Officers - "Who's at The Door" was delivered by Beam Creative Network in 15 schools to 450 key stage 2 pupils across Mid Ulster. 81 % have increased awareness of e safety and keeping themselves safe online. 68% have increased awareness of the dangers of cyberbullying. 64% have increased awareness of where to access support

Project I: A Pilot Post Primary School internet safety programme delivered to 450 pupils. 6 Post Primary schools participated. (pilot project). This programme is delivered in partnership with the PSNI

and MMD Communications (O2 franchise). 379 pupils were surveyed

- 66% have increased awareness of what information to share when setting up a social media profile
- 66% have increased awareness of indecent images/special pictures
- 68% have increased awareness of how and where to get help if they make a mistake
- 69% have increased awareness of internet safety and risks to them online
- 68% said this programme has changed their attitude towards policing for the better

Drugs and Alcohol Schools Programme: Pilot programme in 6 post primary schools across Mid Ulster. 82 people were surveyed. 74% found the session beneficial. 65 % rated this session good or very good. 55% have increased awareness of drugs & alcohol issues. 60% have increased awareness of support services for drugs and alcohol.

Policing Committee

Mid Ulster PCSP's Policing Committee provides views on local policing to the District Commander and to the Policing Board and monitors performance of the police against the local policing plan. At its policing performance meetings, the PCSP scrutinises the District Commanders reports and highlights areas of concern.

The PCSP held six themed, and local Policing Committee meetings were held during the year.

In January 2019 the Policing Committee met with the PSNI to discuss the draft Local Policing Plan. Members views were taken on board and the PSNI provided the final draft Policing Plan later that month.

At the end of the financial year 2018/19 the PSNI reported:

- 32.2% outcome rate – best in service
- 22.7% decrease in reported burglaries
- 7.6% decrease in reported hate incidents
- 6.5% decrease in reported Anti Social Behaviour incidents
- 50% reduction in complaints against officers re incivility

Awareness

The PCSP increased community confidence in PSNI through targeted engagement events across the district and integrated PSNI engagement into delivery projects where possible. The following highlights the measured change in attitude to PSNI.
Neighbourhood Watch Event held in January 2019 to create more engagement between local police and NW schemes. Each scheme now has a dedicated Police Officer. 91% attending the stated that their confidence in PSNI had improved.
Bike marking Six bike marking events were held with 100% of beneficiaries stating increased awareness of community safety and increase in positive police engagement.
Anti Social driving/drink driving event 84% stated attitude towards policing had changed for the better
Youth Engagement Project 81% stated the course improved their attitude to PSNI
NI Cruise Young Drivers 62% stated the event had improved their attitude to PSNI
RTC Reconstructions 100% stated the event had improved their attitude to PSNI
Roadsafe Roadshow 73% stated the event had improved their attitude to PSNI
Rural Crime Event 100% stated the event had improved their attitude to PSNI
Chinese Community Engagement Event 100% stated the event had improved their attitude to PSNI
Crime Prevention Events 96% stated the event had improved their attitude to PSNI
Alcohol Engagement Programme 71% stated the event had improved their attitude to PSNI

PCSP undertakes several awareness raising schemes to help disperse community safety messages
Text Alert: PCSP has a text alert scheme that provides community safety alerts to those who register on it. Over 2000 people have registered for the scheme and 79,735 Text alerts on community safety messages were sent in 18-19.
Behind Closed Doors: DV Awareness Campaign ran at Christmas
Cost of your Night Out: Penalty Notice Awareness Campaign ran at Christmas
Rural Crime Livestock Screens PCSP has installed screens in four livestock markets displaying rural crime messages

School Screens 20 post primary schools have PCSP screens displaying multiple community safety campaigns
Safer U The PCSP Safer U App was launched in March 2018. This app provides information local crimes and support services and is unique to the Mid Ulster area and had 55,700 views in 2018-19.
Crime Prevention Stands In conjunction with the PSNI Crime Prevention Officer, four crime prevention and engagement stands were delivered

Members attendance 2018/2019

Elected Members	Meetings Held	Meetings Attended	Attendance Percentage
Councillor Peter Bateson	3	0	0%
Councillor Frances Burton	5	5	100%
Councillor Robert Colvin (replaced Cllr Reid)	2	2	100%
Councillor Clement Cuthbertson	5	4	80%
Councillor Catherine Elattar	5	0	0%
Councillor Phelim Gildernew	5	3	60%
Councillor Cathal Mallaghan	5	0	0%
Councillor Denise Mullen	5	4	80%
Councillor Derek McKinney	5	4	80%
Councillor Donal McPeake	3	0	0%
Councillor Sean McPeake	5	3	60%
Councillor Ken Reid	3	1	33%
Independent Members			
Fiona Crawford	5	3	60%
Liam Duggan	5	4	80%
Mark Farquhar	5	1	20%
Ursula Marshall	5	3	60%
Ciaran McElhone	5	3	60%
Emma Sheerin (was elected as MLA)	2	2	100%
Hannah Su O'Callaghan	5	0	0%
Martina Watson	5	5	100%
Designated Members			
Education Authority	5	1	20%
Health & Social Care Trust	5	3	60%
NI Fire & Rescue	5	0	0%
NI Housing Executive	5	4	80%
Probation Board NI	5	3	60%
Police Service of Northern Ireland	5	5	100%
Youth Justice Agency	5	2	40%

Accounts 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2019

MID ULSTER PCSP FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019

Budget Category	Budget agreed Apr 18-Mar 19 £	Changes to budget less than 20% £	Revised Budget Apr 18-Mar 19 £	Actual Expenditure 2018/19 £	Expenditure Accrued £	Total Expenditure to date £	Q1 Payment Apr - Jun £	Q2 Payment Jul - Sep £	Q3 Payment Oct - Dec £	Q4 Payment Jan - Mar £	Total Payments to date £
Salaries	39,897.75	-417.47	39,480.28	39,480.28	0.00	39,480.28	9,870.54	9,869.49	9,870.88	9,869.37	39,480.28
Running Costs											
Staff Mileage (inc. essential car allowance)	6,200.00	1,017.47	7,217.47	7,064.36	704.69	7,769.05	909.38	1,978.31	2,170.56	2,159.22	7,217.47
Other (Phone, printing etc)	3,000.00	-600.00	2,400.00	2,230.38	40.82	2,271.20	191.00	266.87	181.17	1,632.16	2,271.20
Members Mileage	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00	4,586.23	542.57	5,128.80	1,133.87	830.96	1,547.37	1,616.60	5,128.80
Internal Audit	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Sub-total running costs	15,200.00	417.47	15,617.47	14,880.97	1,288.08	16,169.05	2,234.25	3,076.14	3,899.10	6,407.98	15,617.47
Total Administration	55,097.75	-	55,097.75	54,361.25	1,288.08	55,649.33	12,104.79	12,945.63	13,769.98	16,277.35	55,097.75
OPERATIONAL											
Strategic Objective 1: Form & Deliver Functions of PCSP											
PCSP Delivery, Engagement and Awareness	11,009.19	-393.03	10,616.16	10,616.16	0.00	10,616.16	2,440.39	2,408.69	2,435.35	3,331.73	10,616.16
Strategic Objective 2: Improve Community Safety											
Anti Social Behaviour	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
ASB Forum	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Anti Social Driving	16,155.59	-83.31	16,072.28	16,072.28	0.00	16,072.28	2,309.39	2,258.94	2,859.00	8,644.95	16,072.28
Youth Diversionary/Engagement Programmes	28,455.59	-66.84	28,388.75	26,176.38	2,212.37	28,388.75	4,216.39	4,619.96	4,020.35	15,532.05	28,388.75
ASB Educational Programmes	17,455.59	5.79	17,461.38	17,461.38	0.00	17,461.38	2,229.39	3,870.19	6,313.00	5,048.80	17,461.38
Night Time Economy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
NTE Forum	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Alcohol Youth Engagement	11,455.59	-5.03	11,450.56	11,450.56	0.00	11,450.56	2,259.39	3,292.54	2,259.00	3,639.63	11,450.56
NTE Training	10,455.59	-57.64	10,397.95	10,397.95	0.00	10,397.95	2,109.39	3,108.94	2,275.67	2,903.95	10,397.95
Safe Night Out	11,795.59	661.18	12,456.77	12,456.77	0.00	12,456.77	3,044.39	3,624.61	2,883.82	2,903.95	12,456.77
Vulnerable Persons	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Vulnerable Persons Subgroup	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Internet Safety	25,455.59	-495.39	24,960.20	22,028.45	2,931.75	24,960.20	4,003.74	4,988.94	3,319.00	12,648.52	24,960.20
Domestic Violence	24,455.59	94.69	24,550.28	24,550.28	0.00	24,550.28	2,109.40	3,812.94	3,008.99	15,618.95	24,550.28
Vulnerable Persons Initiatives	20,738.17	1,016.20	21,754.37	22,709.82	0.00	22,709.82	2,649.40	2,208.94	13,042.53	3,853.50	21,754.37
Strategic Objective 3: Improve Community Confidence in policing											
Policing Committee Monitoring	8,455.59	-19.30	8,436.29	8,436.29	0.00	8,436.29	2,109.40	2,108.94	2,108.99	2,108.96	8,436.29
Community and Police Engagement	14,905.59	-317.98	14,587.61	14,470.51	117.10	14,587.61	3,138.40	4,857.77	2,613.84	3,977.60	14,587.61
Policing Committee Communications	9,851.59	-339.34	9,512.25	9,436.28	75.97	9,512.25	2,109.40	2,108.93	2,108.99	3,184.93	9,512.25
Crime Prevention Awareness Raising	18,455.59	0.00	18,455.59	17,189.17	5,587.00	22,776.17	2,674.40	2,108.93	2,566.49	11,105.77	18,455.59
Total Operational	229,100.44	0.00	229,100.44	223,452.28	10,924.19	234,376.47	37,402.87	45,379.26	51,815.02	94,503.29	229,100.44
TOTAL ADMIN & OPERATIONAL	284,198.19	0.00	284,198.19	277,813.53	12,212.27	290,025.80	49,507.66	58,324.89	65,585.00	110,780.64	284,198.19
Addendum	5,393.00	-	5,393.00	-	5,393.00	5,393.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,393.00	5,393.00
Meeting Expenses	18,000.00	-	18,000.00	14,120.71	1,080.00	15,200.71	2,987.85	3,059.46	4,762.63	4,390.77	15,200.71
OVERALL TOTAL	307,591.19	0.00	307,591.19	291,934.24	18,685.27	310,619.51	52,495.51	61,384.35	70,347.63	120,564.41	304,791.90

Certificate of Chief Executive Officer

I am satisfied that the expenditure shown has been wholly, exclusively and necessarily incurred by the Council on the local Policing and Community Safety Partnership and that the grant receivable from the Joint Committee is in accordance with the regulations and conditions applicable.

Chief Executive Officer

17/6/2019
Date

Report on	Proposal to name the Sensory Garden at Seamus Heaney HomePlace
Date of Meeting	Thursday 12th September 2019
Reporting Officer	Tony McCance, Head of Culture and Arts
Contact Officer	Tony McCance, Head of Culture and Arts

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 Member approval to name the sensory garden at Seamus Heaney HomePlace 'The Back Yard Sensory Garden'.
2.0	**Background**
2.1	Seamus Heaney HomePlace opened in October 2016. The facility is dedicated to the life and work of the Nobel Prize winning poet. Seamus Heaney HomePlace features an interactive exhibition over two floors; a Creative Zone for children and families, a 191 seat theatre called 'The Helicon', a gift shop, conferencing facilities, café and a recently developed sensory garden, adjacent to Moyola Hall.
2.2	The sensory garden at Seamus Heaney HomePlace, allows visitors to relax and connect with a space that reflects the landscape that inspired Seamus Heaney. In the sensory garden there is plants, flowers, herbs, as well as tactile objects and much more bringing, Seamus Heaney's poetry to life and which is designed to appeal to the five senses.
3.0	**Main Report**
3.1	In 'Mint', one of six poems forming the basis of the Sensory Garden at SHHP, Seamus Heaney writes: '…it also spelled promise And newness in <u>the back yard</u> of our life'
3.2	It is proposed to name of the sensory garden to reflect the content of Seamus Heaney poetry associated with this space which will provide a direct link between the name of the garden and the poet's work.
3.3	Naming the area as 'The Back Yard Sensory Garden' would provide the building with an authentic link between the garden and the work, and reflects the first two of HomePlace brand values, namely- 'Of The Man'- authentic, without artifice or

	superficiality and 'Unique'- reflecting the uniqueness of Seamus Heaney's connection with the region, as his place of birth and as his final resting place, where his roots were and from where he drew inspiration.
3.4	The connection and authenticity will also be beneficial in marketing and promoting the garden to the community, visitors and external users and agencies who utilise and visit the centre.
4.0	**Other Considerations**
4.1	**Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications**
	Financial: N/A
	Human: Within identified staffing resources agreed and approved by Council
	Risk Management: N/A
4.2	**Screening & Impact Assessments**
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: The activity delivered within Seamus Heaney HomePlace is designed to maximise engagement and participation from all sections of the community in the Culture & Arts Service provided by Mid Ulster District Council, and the proposed naming of the garden as 'The Back Yard Sensory Garden' reflects this.
	Rural Needs Implications: Rural Needs implications are a key consideration when developing and delivering events and activities within Seamus Heaney HomePlace.
5.0	**Recommendation(s)**
5.1	It is recommended to members to agree to the naming of the garden area to the rear of Seamus Heaney HomePlace at Moyola Hall, currently The Sensory Garden, to 'The Back Yard Sensory Garden'.
6.0	**Documents Attached & References**
	N/A

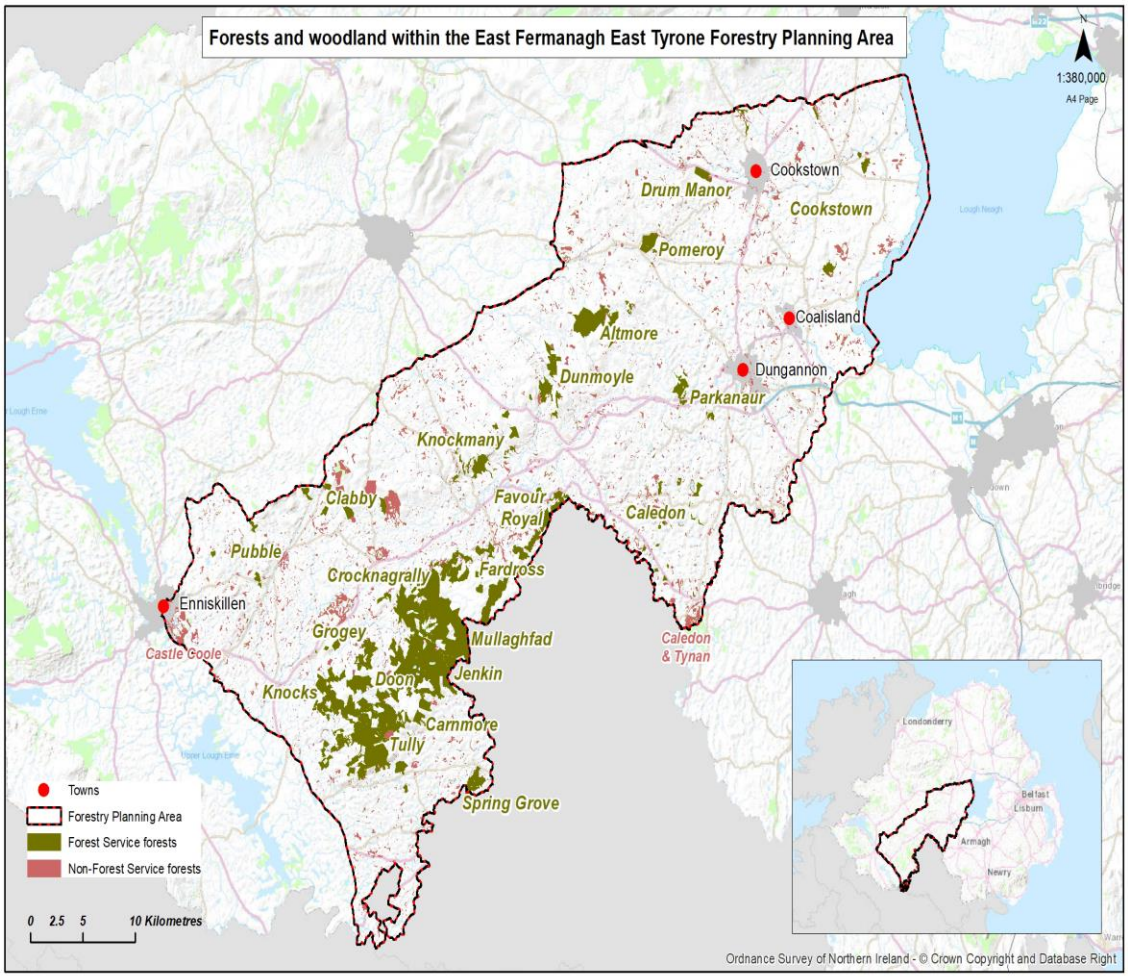
Report on	Forest Service NI Consultation Forestry Planning in the East Fermanagh/East Tyrone Area
Date of Meeting	Thursday 12th September 2019
Reporting Officer	Nigel Hill
Contact Officer	Anne Reid

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 advise and gain members approval for the consultation response being carried out by Forest Service Northern Ireland (FSNI) - Scoping a new forestry plan for forests in East Fermanagh and East Tyrone.
2.0	**Background**
2.1	FSNI have made Council Officers aware of the current consultation for the East Fermanagh and East Tyrone Forestry Planning Area. Council Officers facilitate quarterly partnership working meetings with FSNI providing a forum for discussion for current management issues and future project development proposals.
2.2	Consultation period runs from 27th June to 27th September 2019.
2.3	Council continues to work closely with FSNI in this area and currently has the following forests under licence from FSNI for the purpose of outdoor recreation: Drum Manor, Pomeroy, Brantry, Iniscarn, Moydamlaght, Derrynoyd and Knockmany Forest Properties.
3.0	**Main Report**
3.1	Council Officers have considered the details of the report and in particular the: *Opportunity to continue to discuss options for maintaining the existing provision of facilities and improving access to forests with Council's and other partners and potential partners.*
3.2	Council welcomes this opportunity to continue its partnership working with FSNI to increase the opportunities for outdoor recreation. The Forest Recreation Audit completed by Outdoor Recreation NI, on behalf of Mid Ulster District Council in August 2015 provides a complete overview of the current recreation facilities and future potential of forests within the Council area.
3.3	The Forest Recreation Audit identified that all forests in the Council area were found to be deficient in basic infrastructure and consequently customer-focus. A significant

	change is therefore required to ensure that the forests become more 'visitor inspired' moving forward. The audit further identified that creating new or enhancing existing outdoor recreation facilities, such as adventure play, multi-use trails, mountain biking trails, walking trails, angling facilities would also benefit many of the forests in the area as would co-ordinating a series of planned events throughout the year and improved promotion of the forest resource. By close partnership with FSNI and the local community, Council have been successful in securing funding to improve the facilities within the catchment area, e.g. in Knockmany and Brantry. Council are continually working to attract additional funding and work with FSNI to improve Forest sites.
3.4	The importance of the forests in providing doorstep opportunities for the local community and consequently the direct benefits that this brings in terms of improvements in health and well-being, social capital and protection of the resource cannot be underestimated. It is essential that moving forward local communities are 'bought in' to the future development of the forests in their area. Council will continue to work closely with FSNI and the local community groups to ensure that Forest recreation becomes a part of everyday life.
3.5	What is proposed as part of the scoping consultation is in line with the recommendations of the Audit
3.6	Council is concerned about the scale of annual charges FSNI levy on Council's as a result of lease and licence arrangements that are put in place to increase the recreational use of forests. It is difficult to understand the justification for these and runs contrary to the spirit of collaboration. Should these charges continue, they may act as a barrier to future projects.
4.0	**Other Considerations**
4.1	**Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications**
	Financial: None
	Human: Staff time
	Risk Management: None
4.2	**Screening & Impact Assessments**
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: In accordance with MUDC procedures and policy
	Rural Needs Implications: In accordance with MUDC procedures and policy

5.0	**Recommendation(s)**
5.1	Approval is sought for the response attached in Appendix 1 and confirm that Council will continue partnership working arrangements to expand opportunities for the development of Forest Recreation in East Fermanagh and East Tyrone. This continued development will be managed under the scope of the current Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Mid Ulster District Council and Forest Service NI and delivered through the creation of new Licence and Lease Agreements for identified properties within the catchment of scoping area.
6.0	**Documents Attached & References**
6.1	Appendix 1 – Consultation Response



6.2	Appendix 2 - East Fermanagh and East Tyrone Forest and Woodland Consultation Area

Consultation Response to 'Scoping a new forestry plan for forests and woodland in East Fermanagh/East Tyrone'

The Forest Service NI (FSNI) are currently consulting on 'Scoping a new forestry plan for forests and Woodland in the East Fermanagh and East Tyrone Forestry Planning Area'. The consultation period runs from 27th June to 27th September 2019.

Forestry planning facilitates the delivery of the many different services the forests and woodlands provide, such as timber production, carbon sequestration, biodiversity, and recreational opportunities. Forest Service review forest plans from time to time so that they are up to date and to allow them to monitor the forests and to enable them to continue to meet the diverse and sometimes competing needs of people, wildlife, and wood processing industries.

Forests managed by Forest Service within the East Fermanagh/East Tyrone FPA are predominantly coniferous and located in upland areas on land of limited agricultural potential. Non-Forest Service forests and woodlands in the East Fermanagh/East Tyrone FPA are mainly comprised of a large number (more than 3000) of small broadleaf or mixed woodlands, less than 1 ha in size, scattered throughout the lowland farmed landscape, and in and around the towns of Enniskillen, Cookstown and Dungannon. East Fermanagh/East Tyrone Forest Plan Area includes a limited number of important areas of native and semi-natural woodland that are designated as Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI), including Glenmore Wood and Rehaghy Wood. The FPA also includes important examples of parkland, in Castle Coole ASSI, and, Caledon and Tynan ASSI. Lough Neagh SAC/ASSI and Cullentra Lough ASSI each include alluvial woodland as a feature.

Council Officers facilitate quarterly partnership working meetings with FSNI providing a forum for discussion for current management issues and future project development proposals. Council proactively works closely with FSNI in the East Fermanagh and East Tyrone Forestry Planning Area and currently have the following forests under licence from FSNI for the purpose of outdoor recreation: Drum Manor, Pomeroy, Brantry, Iniscarn, Moydamlaght, Derrynoyd and Knockmany Forest Properties.

The Forest Recreation Audit completed by Outdoor Recreation NI, on behalf of Mid Ulster District Council in August 2015 provides a complete overview of the current recreation facilities and future potential of forests within the Council area.

The Forest Recreation Audit identified that all forests in the Council area were found to be deficient in basic infrastructure and consequently customer-focus. A significant change is therefore required to ensure that the forests become more 'visitor inspired' moving forward. The audit further identified that creating new or enhancing existing outdoor recreation facilities, such as adventure play, multi-use trails, mountain biking trails, walking trails, angling facilities would also benefit many of the forests in the area as would co-ordinating a series of planned events throughout the year and improved promotion of the forest resource. By close partnership with FSNI and the local community, Council have been successful in securing funding to improve the facilities

within the catchment area, e.g. in Knockmany and Brantry. Council are continually working to attract additional funding and work with FSNI to improve Forest sites.

The importance of the forests in providing doorstep opportunities for the local community and consequently the direct benefits that this brings in terms of improvements in health and well-being, social capital and protection of the resource cannot be underestimated. It is essential that moving forward local communities are 'bought in' to the future development of the forests in their area. Council will continue to work closely with FSNI and the local community groups to ensure that Forest recreation becomes a part of everyday life. What is proposed as part of the scoping consultation is in line with the recommendations of the Audit.

Mid Ulster Council supports the planning process engaging with people, including stakeholder organisations and relevant bodies, to ensure that all potential interests are considered, including those of specialist interest groups and the local community. The topics identified in the FPA are relevant to Council. Council welcomes the opportunity to continue its partnership working with FSNI to increase the opportunities for outdoor recreation in Drum Manor, Pomeroy, Brantry, Iniscarn, Moydamlaght, Derrynoyd and Knockmany Forest Properties. Council also are keen to develop further licences with FSNI for outdoor recreation e.g. Altmore.

In relation to the scoping topics listed, Council would comment as follows:

1. **Enhancing Landscapes** – The appearance of forests makes an essential positive contribution to the character of a local area and in some areas creates attractive new landscapes. Council would encourage that FSNI consider improved designs to complement the local landscape thereby minimising visual impacts. Council would be keen to work in partnership with FSNI through the development of key site masterplans and the implementation of complementary outdoor recreation facilities and services that would enhance the local landscape.

2. **Protecting rivers and lakes** – the availability of quality rivers and lakes forms an essential element of the outdoor recreation offering. The provision and development of water based activities are a key aspect of Mid Ulster Council's Outdoor Recreation Strategic Plan. The Council is therefore supportive of FSNI protecting bodies of water and using forest planning and design to minimise any risk to the contribution of erosion and diffuse pollution by better positioning of water protection measures.

3. **Enabling enjoyment of Forests by local people and visitors** – there is a high concentration of woodland and forest in the East Fermanagh/East Tyrone Forest Plan area. The Council has a key role in working with FSNI to develop key Forest sites. The Council has already prioritised development of forests including Knockmany and Brantry. The Council also has plans to develop others including Pomeroy, Inniscarn, Altmore and Moydamlaght. All of which are in need of improving access and providing increased recreational and visitor services. The Council has also implemented a successful forest school programme that promotes the recreational use of forests and allows local people to make better use of forests in their area. Council has also

successfully worked in partnership with communities, land owners and other statutory bodies to successfully deliver sustainable development in forests. This benefits the development of local businesses as well as the health and well-being of the local population.

Council is concerned about the scale of annual charges FSNI levy on Council's as a result of lease and licence arrangements that are put in place to increase the recreational use of forests. It is difficult to understand the justification for these and runs contrary to the spirit of collaboration. Should these charges continue, they may act as a barrier to future projects.

4. **Promoting afforestation and sustainable forestry** – Council recognises that forests make a valuable contribution to ensuring a thriving, sustainable rural community. Council would encourage the FSNI to develop and manage the sustainability of forests so that they increase biodiversity, enhance the landscape and assist in improving water quality. This will contribute to flood alleviation and development of the local community through delivery of ecosystem services.

5. **Supplying sustainable wood products** – Council supports the opportunity of using GIS tools and datasets to improve the design of felling coupes. In particular the aim to increase the amounts of timber produced by thinning of plantations that will eventually be clearfelled and by using low impact silvicultural systems.

6. **Regenerating forest land** – Council would encourage FSNI to use the regeneration of forest land after felling to improve the design of the forest to meet longer term objectives. Council would support the management of forests by making use of natural regeneration and where necessary by supplementing it by planting. This will benefit by having forests that deliver better ecosystems services and more natural capital.

7. **Growing trees sustainably** – Given the importance of woodlands and forests to the Mid Ulster area, it is essential that trees are grown sustainably and the health and vitality of forests are monitored. This will allow effective responses to be made to threats from anti-social behaviour, the effects of fire, pests, storm damage and reduction of soil fertility. Council considers it essential that natural environments are protected in a sustainable way.

8. **Minimising the use of pesticides and fertilisers** – Council supports the opportunity that FSNI propose to contribute to the minimisation of pesticide use by planning the sequencing of felling years and increasing the area of forest managed under low impact silvicultural systems. Also it is important that fertiliser applications take place without affecting water quality.

9. **Targeting invasive species** – Council recognises the threat posed by invasive species to biodiversity and healthy ecosystems. It is important that FSNI use data to monitor the occurrence of invasive plant species in forests and prioritise the areas where control is required. This will provide forests that are more attractive and have better access for angling.

10. **Protecting habitats and species** – Northern Ireland's biodiversity plays a significant role within its economy. A healthy, properly functioning natural environment is the foundation of sustained economic growth, prosperous communities and personal well-being. Council would strongly agree that forest operations be planned to avoid adverse impacts on rare and vulnerable species. Council would also support the communication to people using forests for recreational purposes to be aware of the particular needs of protected species and could support the FSNI in doing this.

11. **Restoring peatland habitats** – these are an important and valuable resource. Council would support FSNI approach in identifying and prioritising areas of afforested peat for restoration to open habitat. This will help mitigate flood risk and reduce carbon footprints.

Council confirms that it is keen to continue partnership working arrangements to expand opportunities for the development of Forest Recreation in East Fermanagh and East Tyrone. This continued development will be managed under the scope of the current Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Mid Ulster District Council and Forest Service NI and delivered through the creation of new Licence and Lease Agreements for identified properties within the catchment of the scoping area.

FOREST SERVICE

Scoping a new forestry plan for forests and woodland in East Fermanagh/East Tyrone

June 2019

An Agency within the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

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Contents

- Introduction
  - Forestry Planning
  - Participation and Engagement
  - Woodland Development
  - Forest Plans
  - Achievements
  - Scoping Topics
- 1 - Enhancing Landscapes
- 2 - Protecting Rivers and Lakes
- 3 - Enabling Enjoyment of Forests by Local People and Visitors
- 4 - Promoting Afforestation and Sustainable Forestry
- 5 - Supplying Sustainable Wood Products
- 6 - Regenerating Forest Land
- 7 - Growing Trees Sustainably
- 8 - Minimising the use of Pesticides and Fertilisers
- 9 - Targeting Invasive Species
- 10 - Protecting Habitats and Species
- 11 - Restoring Peatland Habitats

Appendices

- Appendix I - Composition of Forest Service forests
- Appendix II - Environmental Regulation, Designated Areas, and the Historic Environment
- Appendix III - Strategy for Restoring Peatland Habitats

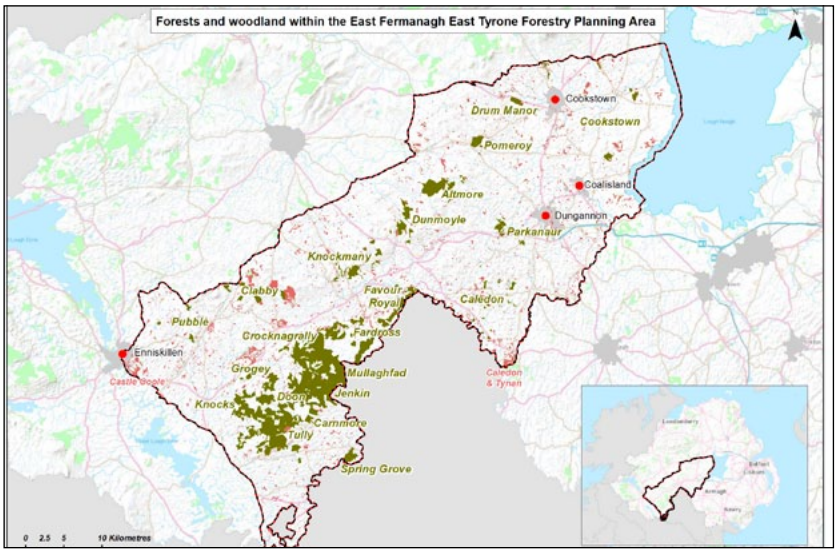
Forestry Planning

Forestry planning facilitates the delivery of the many different services our forests and woodlands provide, such as timber production, carbon sequestration, biodiversity, and recreational opportunities. Reviewing forest plans from time to time ensures that they are up to date and allows us to monitor our forests to enable them to continue to meet the diverse and sometimes competing needs of people, wildlife, and wood processing industries.

The East Fermanagh/East Tyrone Forestry Planning Area (FPA) is the basis for describing forests and woodlands for forestry planning purposes in the east of Co. Fermanagh and the south and east of Co. Tyrone, and a small section of Co. Derry/Londonderry from Moneymore southwards. The FPA extends from the eastern and southern border areas of Co. Fermanagh and Co. Tyrone respectively, westwards towards Upper Lough Erne and Enniskillen, and north-eastwards, through the Clogher Valley, towards Lough Neagh and the Sperrins in the north east, and the Carrickmore Hills to the north. The eastern part of the FPA includes the arable fields and rolling drumlins to the west of the River Blackwater, which forms the border with Co. Armagh.

The draft Northern Ireland Woodland Register and basemap describes the location, extent and type of existing forests and woodlands in the East Fermanagh/East Tyrone FPA, as shown in Map 1. Forests and woodland are estimated to cover around 16,650 hectares (ha), which is 9% of the FPA. Just over half (56%; 9,375 ha) of the area of forest and woodland in East Fermanagh/East Tyrone FPA is managed by Forest Service.

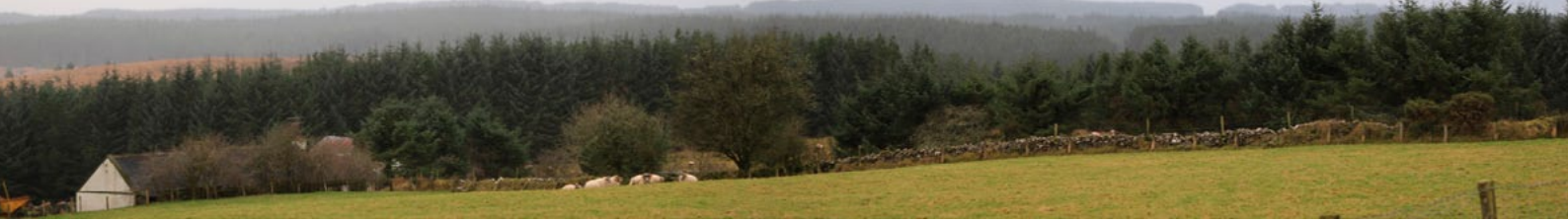
Map 1: Forests and woodland within East Fermanagh/East Tyrone Forestry Planning Area (FPA)



East Fermanagh/East Tyrone Forestry Planning Area | Forest Service forests | Non-Forest Service forests | City/Town

Forests managed by Forest Service within the East Fermanagh/East Tyrone FPA are predominantly coniferous and located in upland areas on land of limited agricultural potential. Forest management is planned to meet a range of sustainable development objectives and reflects the requirements of the UK Forestry Standard, which is the Government's statement on sustainable forestry. By promoting sustainable forestry, Forest Service will also seek to realise the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs' aim of "A Living, Working, Active Landscape Valued by Everyone", and support the work of the Department for the Economy, on energy policy, and the Strategic Investment Board in delivering a public sector energy strategy.

The areas and composition of forests managed by Forest Service are given in Appendix I.



Non-Forest Service forests and woodlands in the East Fermanagh/East Tyrone FPA are mainly comprised of a large number (more than 3000) of small broadleaf or mixed woodlands, less than 1 ha in size, scattered throughout the lowland farmed landscape, and in and around the towns of Enniskillen, Cookstown and Dungannon. There are a few larger areas of broadleaved and mixed woodland (up to around 100 ha), including the woodland in Castle Coole Estate, which is partly owned by the National Trust, and at Caledon and Tynan, on the banks of the River Blackwater. The FPA includes a small number of mainly coniferous plantations (up to 50 ha), which are mostly located in the Clogher Valley and the upland area north of Fivemiletown.

More detailed information on non-Forest Service forests and woodlands, and on woodland owners' management objectives, may be available for woodland managed by public bodies, or where the land is managed under a forestry grant scheme, or has been subject to a felling licence.

Regional Landscape Character Assessments (RLCA) are descriptions of the landscape for specific areas throughout the UK and provide further information on forests and woodland throughout the area. Forests and woodlands in East Fermanagh/East Tyrone FPA predominately occur in the Clogher Valley and Slieve Beagh RLCA in the south of the FPA, and Carrickmore Plateau and Pomeroy Hills RLCA to the north of the FPA.

East Fermanagh/East Tyrone FPA includes a limited number of important areas of native and semi-natural woodland that are designated as Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI), including Glenmore Wood and Rehaghy Wood. The FPA also includes important examples of parkland, in Castle Coole ASSI, and, Caledon and Tynan ASSI. Lough Neagh SAC/ASSI and Cullentra Lough ASSI each include alluvial woodland as a feature.

Designated areas adjacent to and on land managed by Forest Service are listed in Table 1 of Appendix II.

Participation and Engagement

Forestry planning involves engaging with people, including stakeholder organisations and relevant bodies, to ensure that all potential interests are considered, including those of specialist interest groups and the local community. East Fermanagh/East Tyrone FPA includes areas of Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, and Mid Ulster District Council, respectively.

Scoping is carried out to explore which topics identified in this document are relevant to you as a stakeholder, and to find out if you would like to engage with the forestry planning team in relation to any opportunities or areas of interest that you think are relevant to the development of a forestry plan.

Woodland Development

Approximately 9% of the 16,650 ha of forest and woodland in the East Fermanagh/East Tyrone FPA is included in the Ancient Woodland Inventory and described as woodland on sites which have been continuously wooded since at least 1830. The inventory, which is based on a combination of archive evidence and field survey, also provides some information on the composition of woodland. Much of this woodland is easily accessible, including parts of Favour Royal, Parkanaur, Pomeroy, Drum Manor, Knockmany, and Cookstown Forests.

State forest expansion in East Fermanagh/East Tyrone FPA commenced in 1911 with the acquisition of 189 ha of mixed agricultural land and woodland in what was to become Knockmany Forest. Forest expansion continued with the acquisition of relatively small parcels of land forming Favour Royal, Fardross and Mullaghfad Forests. Although there was an increased awareness in the early post war years of the need to achieve a degree of self-sufficiency in timber, the area of new planting was relatively small with afforestation taking place in areas such as Spring Grove and Jenkin.

In 1948 a Ministry of Labour report made specific reference to marginal agricultural land in Fermanagh and south Tyrone, and precipitated a steep increase in the rate of afforestation during the 1950s, which largely took place in the uplands around the towns of Lisnaskea and Fivemiletown. Forestry development in lowland areas was assisted by the acquisition of small demesnes, including Drum Manor and Lissan, near Cookstown, and Pomeroy, which became the location of a forestry school, founded in 1961, and remained in use for over forty years. Afforestation rates continued to increase throughout the 1960s and peaked in the 1970s. Although the area of new planting has decreased every decade since the 1970s, further expansion continued until the early 1990s.

The expansion of non-Forest Service woodland from around 1% of the land area, or less, at the beginning of the 20th Century, is not well documented. Information available from the private woodland inventory of 1975 –1979, and Forest Service records indicates that approximately 37% of the current non-Forest Service woodland area is comprised of grant-aided planting since 1970, with the remainder divided between woodland referred to in the private woodland inventory, and woodland derived from scrub and woodland succession (as noted in reports of the Northern Ireland Countryside Survey 1998 and 2007).

Forest Plans

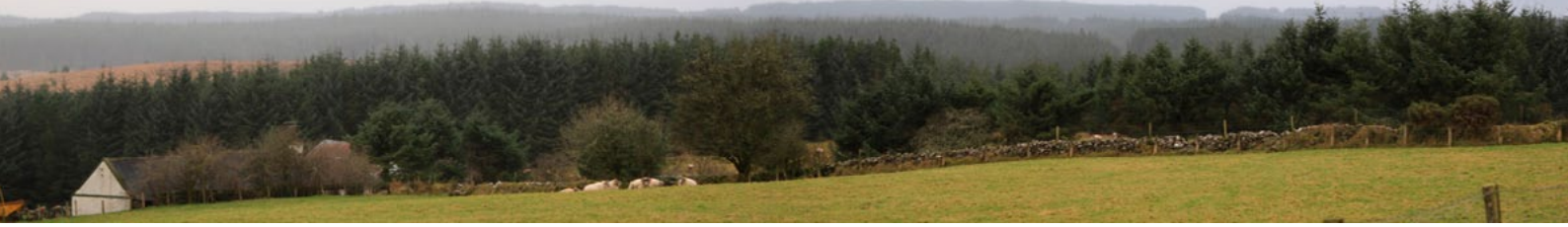
Forest plans provide the direction for interventions that will affect the future appearance and composition, or design, of forests, such as areas of felling (coupes), the regeneration of felled areas, and management to retain areas under continuous woodland cover, and changes to the type of trees that grow in the forest.

Forest design aims to ensure that there is continuity of woodland for timber and wood products, and the delivery of a range of non-timber outcomes, including landscape improvement, water protection, recreational areas for people to use, and protection of habitats, including ancient and native woodland. Forest Service seeks greater involvement of people in the revision of its forest plans, which has taken place on a five yearly cycle for many decades. The forest management plan for East Fermanagh/East Tyrone forests was last reviewed in 2015 (East Fermanagh/East Tyrone Planning Review 2015). The Forestry Act (Northern Ireland) 2010 placed a duty on Forest Service to promote afforestation and sustainable forestry. Accordingly, Forest Service plans will, in future, include references to non-Forest Service forest and woodland.

Achievements

Achievements of the previous forest plan for forests in the East Fermanagh/East Tyrone FPA during the period 2015 – 2018 are highlighted in the box below.

- Implementing forest design plans for 479 hectares of forest following clearfelling, including creating 6 hectares of additional water buffer areas to enhance water quality and protect aquatic habitats.
- Creating a 'red squirrel corridor', planted and enriched with a variety of native tree species, through Crocknagrally and Mullaghfad Forests, to provide a 414 hectare reserve for red squirrels and other wildlife.
- Establishing a formal agreement to work collaboratively with Mid Ulster District Council to develop walking and running trails, a play park and seating areas for families and children in Pomeroy Forest.
- Grant aiding the creation of 79 hectares of new woodland.
- Producing an average of 62,000 cubic metres of timber each year to supply the timber processing industry, creating jobs in rural areas and providing resources to reinvest in forests.
- Regenerating 418 hectares of Forest Service forest land after clearfelling, and planting over 1 million trees.



Scoping Topics

Forestry planning opportunities are presented under 11 scoping topics which are intended to reflect the various areas of interest to stakeholders, these are as follows:

- Enhancing Landscapes
- Protecting Rivers and Lakes
- Enabling the Enjoyment of Forests by Local People and Visitors
- Promoting Afforestation and Sustainable Forestry
- Supplying Sustainable Wood Products
- Regenerating Forest Land
- Growing Trees Sustainably
- Minimising the Use of Pesticides and Fertilisers
- Targeting Invasive Species
- Protecting Habitats and Species
- Restoring Peatland Habitats

Appendices

A summary of the composition of Forest Service forests is provided in Appendix I. Details of environmental regulation requirements, designated areas, and historic monuments are provided in Appendix II. Forest Service's strategy for restoring peatland habitats is provided in Appendix III.

1 - Enhancing Landscapes

"Through the appreciation and analysis of landscape context, forests and woodlands can be designed so that they make a positive contribution to the character of a local area, and in some areas create attractive new landscapes."

UK Forestry Standard, 4th Edition (2017)

The East Fermanagh/East Tyrone Forestry Planning Area (FPA) contains a diverse range of habitats and landscape types, including the rolling agricultural landscape of the Southern Drumlins and Orchards extending to the county border formed by the River Blackwater in the southeast,the low-lying agricultural landscape surrounding the shores of Lough Neagh in the northeast, the moorland dominated summit of Slieve Beagh in the southwest, the broad, open topography of the Clogher Valley, and the irregular low hills and plateau leading northwards towards Pomeroy and Cookstown.

Most (69%) of East Fermanagh/East Tyrone FPA is in Clogher Valley and Slieve Beagh Regional Landscape Character Areas (RLCA), West Lough Neagh Drumlins RLCA, and Southern Drumlins and Orchards RLCA. The remaining area includes southern sections of Carrickmore Plateau and Pomeroy Hills RLCA and Omagh Basin RLCA, western sections of Lough Neagh Basin RLCA and eastern sections of Lough Erne Lakeland RLCA.

Forest Service managed forests are predominantly located in the uplands of Clogher Valley and Slieve Beagh RLCA and Carrickmore Plateau and Pomeroy Hills RLCA, where their presence is visible from several miles in any direction and some of Northern Ireland's larger forests are located here. Among the smaller Forest Service managed forests, Parkanaur is located within Southern Drumlins and Orchards RLCA, Drum Manor is located in West Lough Neagh Drumlins RLCA, and Pubble is located in Lough Erne Lakeland RLCA. For planning purposes, Forest Service forests in this area are grouped into two forest landscape units: East Fermanagh and East Tyrone.

Non-Forest Service woodlands include a number of larger mainly coniferous plantations in the uplands of Ballyness Mountain and Logue's Hill close to Clabby Forest, many fragmented small broadleaved and mixed woodlands scattered throughout the lowland areas of the FPA, but particularly in the agricultural landscapes of Clogher Valley and Slieve Beagh RLCA and Southern Drumlins and Orchards RLCA, and some more distinctive broadleaved woodlands and parklands, such as Castle Coole Estate on the periphery of Enniskillen.

Forests and woodlands, therefore, contribute to the various features of the East Fermanagh/East Tyrone landscape, and can enhance the experience of visitors to the area. Foresters acknowledge that visual impacts of forests are important, and these can be improved by modifying the design of a forest to compliment the local landscape and minimise visual impacts by removing straight lines or softening hard edges, and, by encouraging more tree planting.

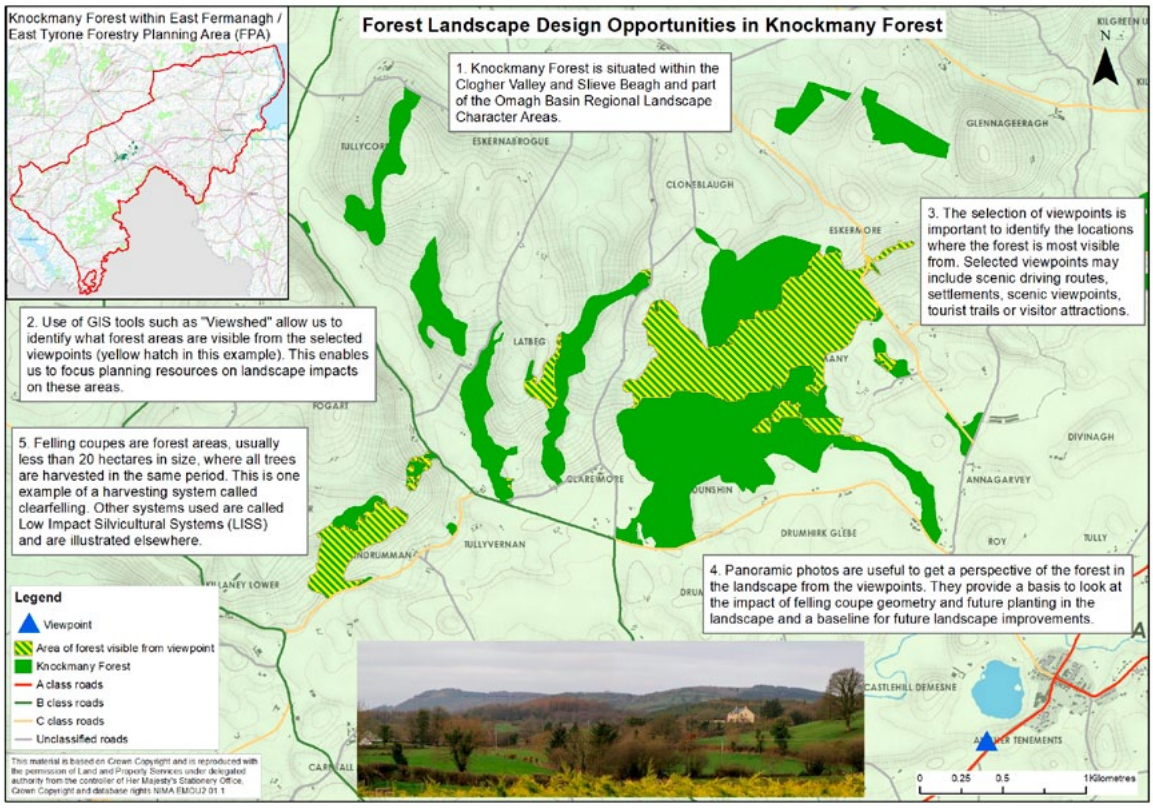
Opportunity: Identify where the appearance of forests in the landscape can be improved by modifying the shape of felling boundaries, and carefully designing regeneration of felled areas.

Opportunity: Consider the potential for softening 'hard' forest edges by encouraging the afforestation of neighbouring agricultural land, subject to the landowners' long-term intentions.

Activity: Undertake visual assessments of Forest Service forests from key viewpoints in the surrounding countryside to determine the potential influence forest management decisions could have on the landscape.

Activity: Apply UK Forestry Standard requirements and forest landscape design guidelines, using Geographic Information System (GIS) tools to undertake assessments and present options.

Outcomes	Benefits
- Increased potential to demonstrate landscape improvements using the regeneration and design plans - Illustrate forests' positive contribution to tourism in the East Fermanagh/East Tyrone FPA - Stakeholders can inform the planning process and contribute to forest design planning	- Attractive forest landscape views from scenic routes throughout the East Fermanagh/East Tyrone FPA



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2 - Protecting Rivers and Lakes

"Forests and woodlands have a close relationship with our water resources, and forest management and water quality are closely linked. Sustainable forest management is essential to ensure the supply of good-quality fresh water, provide protection from natural hazards such as flooding or soil erosion and to protect the needs of aquatic species."

UK Forestry Standard, 4th Edition (2017)

The majority of Forest Service forests in East Fermanagh/East Tyrone FPA lie within the catchments of Colebrooke, Blackwater, Camowen, Ballinderry, and Finn Rivers, and Upper Lough Erne. Rivers and lakes in the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Public Angling estate in forested catchments include the Colebrooke River, which originates in the Slieve Beagh Mountains and Enagh Lough, close to the town of Caledon.

For monitoring purposes under the Water Framework Directive, part of the East Fermanagh/East Tyrone Forestry Planning Area lies in the North Western River Basin District and the Neagh Bann River Basin District. Monitoring undertaken by Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) as part of the 2nd cycle of the Water Framework Directive indicates that no rivers in the East Fermanagh/ East Tyrone FPA are at risk from acidification.

The main forest design activity to protect water in these upland forests has been the creation of buffer areas of open ground between forestry land and water bodies. However, as the benefits of creating native broadleaved woodland adjacent to aquatic habitats have also become more widely recognised, the focus of forestry planning has shifted towards enabling the establishment of riparian woodland, where it is likely to be beneficial. An action to create riparian woodland in Forest Service forests is included in the cross-Departmental strategy 'Sustainable Water - A Long-Term Water Strategy for Northern Ireland' (2016).

Afforestation schemes, including the Forest Expansion Scheme, and the 'Establishment of Native Woodland under 5 ha' option of the Environmental Farming Scheme, provide opportunities to deliver additional water protection measures through the creation of riparian woodland.

Forest planning and design can also avail of newly available datasets which use topographical and rainfall information to highlight areas most at risk of contributing to erosion and diffuse pollution. The mapping of these risk areas enables better positioning of water protection measures, such as riparian woodland or other mechanisms to intercept and trap pollutants, with the goal of improving water quality and the aquatic environment.

Opportunity: Identify the potential to increase the extent of riparian woodland by colonisation or planting.

Opportunity: Use new sources of information to review the internal design of forests.

Activity: Identify water buffer areas that have become colonised by native woodland, and where establishment of riparian woodland by planting is appropriate.

Activity: Use data to improve forestry planning, including the revision of planned felling coupes, forest design plans, and forest regeneration plans.

Outcomes	Benefits
- Assurance that risks to the ecological condition of features due to forest operations will be appropriately managed - Establishment of new native riparian woodland contributing to the Northern Ireland Long-Term Water Strategy target	- Significant contribution to biodiversity, and to angling, arising from the promotion and practice of sustainable forestry - Long-term protection of water quality resulting from increased extent of riparian woodland

3 - Enabling Enjoyment of Forests by Local People and Visitors

"Access to woodlands is a public benefit that can improve people's health and well-being."

"Woodland visits help build an understanding and appreciation of the forest environment. Access to woodlands can be particularly beneficial for people from urban areas, people from disadvantaged social backgrounds, and people with disabilities..."

UK Forestry Standard, 4th Edition (2017)

The Forestry Act (Northern Ireland) 2010 promotes and encourages the enjoyment and recreational use of Forest Service land by the public, including a right of pedestrian access, and promotes the social benefits of other woodland. Partnership arrangements between Forest Service and Councils have been developed in keeping with the implementation of the Forest Service's Strategy to Develop the Recreational and Social Use of Our Forests.

Local people use Forest Service forests close to towns and settlements, including Drum Manor, Cookstown, Parkanaur and Spring Grove, extensively for walking. Car parks to facilitate access are also provided at Favour Royal, Carnmore, Knockmany, Parkanaur, Pomeroy and Spring Grove Forests. A number of forests include sections of the Ulster Way between Co. Fermanagh and Co. Monaghan, including Tully, Mullaghfad and Favour Royal. Tully Forest also includes a section of the Slieve Beagh Way.

Non-Forest Service woodlands in the East Fermanagh/East Tyrone FPA also provide opportunities for users, including mountain bike trails in Blessingbourne, and a woodland walk along the Glenmore trail, near Ballygawley, and Benburb Valley Park, near Dungannon. The Woodland Trust manages a number of woodlands in the FPA, including Cabin Wood, near Cookstown, Lettervad Wood, near Dungannon, and Mill Race Wood, near the village of Knocks.

Both Fermanagh and Omagh District Council and Mid Ulster District Council manage a number of woodlands and parks for the well-being of local communities, including Grange Park in Omagh, and Dungannon Park close to the town of Dungannon. In conjunction with Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland, Mid Ulster District Council is developing a Parks and Play Strategy and an Outdoor Recreation Strategy, which will inform the provision of green infrastructure for outdoor recreation within the Mid Ulster area.

Opportunity: Continue to discuss options for maintaining the existing provision of facilities and improving access to forests with Councils and other partners, and potential partners.

Activity: Liaise with Councils to increase the recreational use of forests.

Activity: Liaise with public bodies and neighbours to discourage activities presenting a risk to other forest users.

Outcomes	Benefits
- Local people are able to make greater use of forests in their area - Promoting recreational use of forests - Delivering sustainable development in partnership with others	- Health and well-being - Development of local businesses

4 - Promoting Afforestation and Sustainable Forestry

"The Department's General Duty of promoting afforestation and sustainable forestry refers to all forests in Northern Ireland, not only the Department's forest land. The Department recognises the valuable contribution that forestry makes in achieving its vision of a thriving, sustainable rural community. Through the Forest Service, it aims to ensure the sustainability of forests as an invaluable heritage, expansion of tree cover, [and] management of forests in a way that increases biodiversity, enhances the landscape and assists in improving water quality."

A Delivery Plan for the Implementation of the Forestry Act (Northern Ireland) 2010

"The Department's purpose is to support a living, working, active landscape valued by everyone"

Dr. Denis McMahon, Permanent Secretary of the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, 2018.

Northern Ireland Public Opinion of Forestry Surveys, conducted regularly since 2005, have consistently found that almost all respondents believed that forestry was worth supporting, to provide places for wildlife to live and for recreation, and most respondents would like to see more woodland locally.
Public Opinion of Forestry 2019, Northern Ireland

In addition to the many other benefits forests and woodland provide for people, it is Government policy to promote forest expansion to mitigate both climate change and flood risk. Operation of forestry grant schemes (under the Rural Development Programme, Northern Ireland) and Felling Regulations provide opportunities for Forest Service to promote the delivery of ecosystem services from new and regenerated woodland, through the use of appropriate forest design and tree establishment techniques.

Information published on the DAERA website shows the extent of land potentially suitable for afforestation, and where afforestation can be of benefit in terms of flood risk mitigation.

- Indicative map for woodland creation
- Opportunity mapping for woodland creation to reduce flood risk in Northern Ireland
- Quantifying the hydrological effect of woodland creation in the Camowen and Drumragh catchments, Omagh, Northern Ireland

Recent research commissioned by Forest Service and prepared by Forest Research (Opportunity mapping for woodland creation to reduce flood risk) demonstrates how afforestation can also contribute to flood alleviation by identifying priority areas for woodland creation to benefit flood risk management and mitigation. The damaging impact of extreme rainfall and corresponding localised flooding is illustrated by the events in 2010 when the Colebrooke River burst its banks near Lisnaskea, causing considerable damage, and demonstrating the need for action to manage flood risk in the future.

Forestry planning can seek to identify opportunities for woodland expansion to deliver benefits that are complementary to Forest Service forests by contributing to the local landscape character, and increasing connectivity between areas of neighbouring non-Forest Service woodland in the landscape.

Information on the potential contribution of woodland to community development, and its capacity to deliver ecosystem services, is integral to understanding the contribution of sustainable forestry to ***a living, working, active landscape valued by everyone***. Relevant information can be captured from casual inspection of woodland adjacent to Forest Service forests and used to assess its potential. Consideration of non-forestry uses of land adjacent to forests can also be relevant to the Department's purpose, and may lead to opportunities to realise both environmental and economic benefits.

Opportunity: Identify potential for promoting woodland expansion adjacent to Forest Service forests, where appropriate.

Opportunity: Review the extent of non-Forest Service woodland in the East Fermanagh/East Tyrone Forestry Planning Area, and the range of pressures that could affect its sustainability.

Activity: Assess provision of ecosystem services by non-Forest Service woodland adjacent to forests.

Outcomes	Benefits
- Landscape improvement through tree planting - Baseline information on woodland management	- Woodland ecosystem services, benefitting people, the environment, and the economy - Landscape scale woodland management

5 - Supplying Sustainable Wood Products

"Our forests support development of the Northern Ireland economy by supplying wood for industrial use. We sold 414,000 cubic metres of logs for £9.95 million, and we estimate that £24 million of value was added by industry in harvesting, timber haulage, and manufacture for construction, fencing, pallet and packaging, and energy. We obtained more of our timber supplies from tree thinning operations as part of our strategy to extend the life of plantations and reduce the impact of forestry operations on the environment."

Forest Service Annual Report 2015 - 2016

Timber harvesting operations are managed to avoid adverse environmental impacts, particularly preventing movement of sediment and pollutants into watercourses. Since 2015 East Fermanagh/ East Tyrone forests have produced, on average, just over 62,000 cubic metres of timber per year, mainly from clearfelling. To provide assurances of sustainable management, Forest Service forests and management are subject to a periodic assessment and annual audits of compliance by an independent certification body to ensure they meet the requirements of both the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC)® (Licence code: FSC-C084232), and, the Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) (Licence code: PEFC/16-40-1924), each of which uses the UK Woodland Assurance Standard. As a result of FSC® and PEFC forest management and ensuing 'chain of custody' certification components, wood products produced from Forest Service forests can be marketed by processors using the logos of the FSC® and PEFC, signifying they have come out of responsibly managed forests.

Over time, forest plans will seek to reduce the proportion of the total amount of timber produced by clearfelling, and, subject to risk of windthrow, to increase the amounts produced both by thinning of plantations that will eventually, be clearfelled, and by using low impact silvicultural systems (LISS).

Opportunity: Review the timing and boundaries of planned felling, to complement landscape design and enhance water protection, using innovative Geographic Information Systems (GIS) tools and datasets.

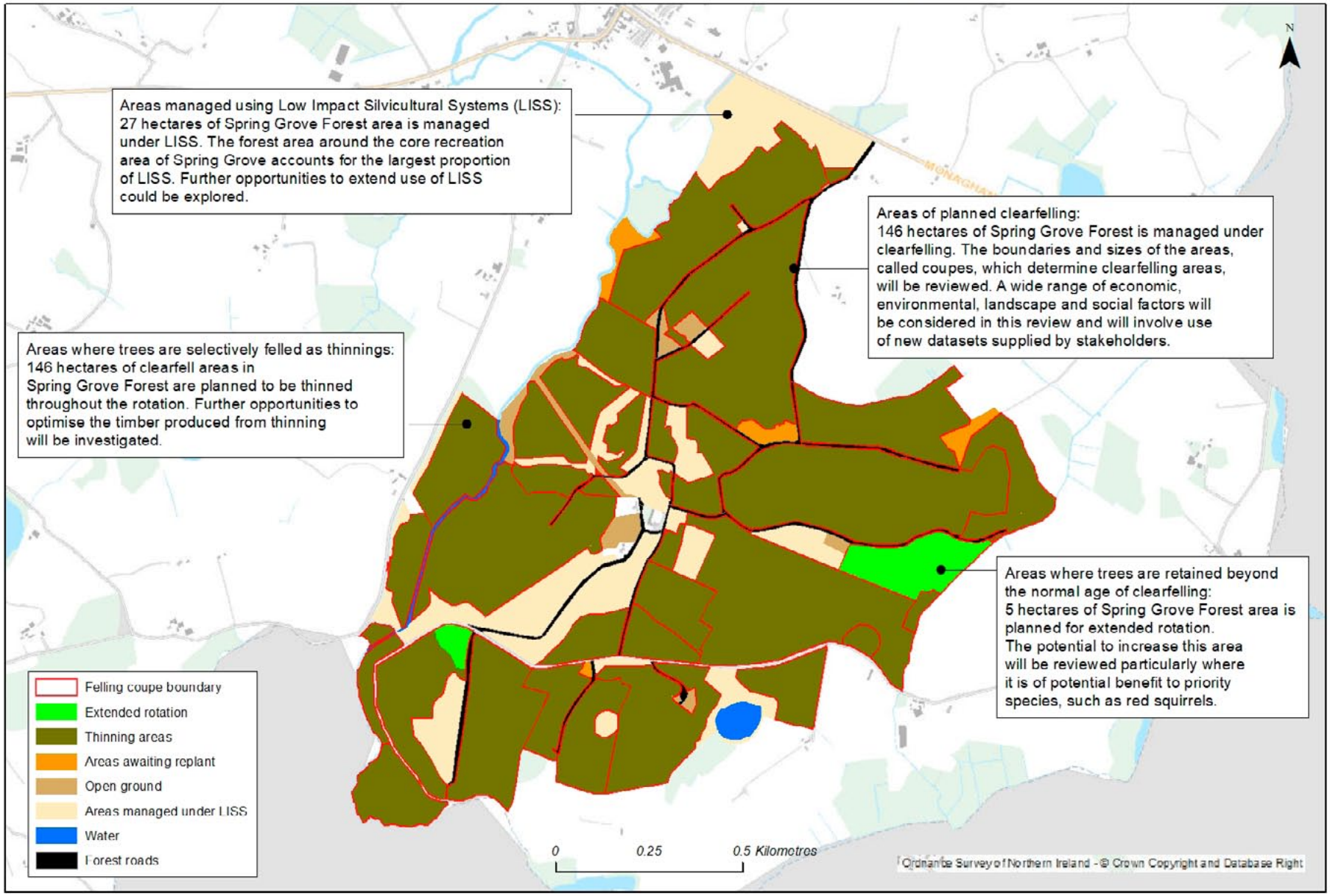
Opportunity: To optimise the supply of timber from thinning and use of LISS, including continuous cover forestry.

Activity: Make use of advanced GIS tools and datasets to improve the design of felling coupes.

Activity: Optimise thinning in East Fermanagh/East Tyrone forests, and enhance planning capability.

Activity: Develop and apply a rationale for identifying further areas where the use of LISS is appropriate.

Outcomes	Benefits
- Maintain supply of certified timber - Improved knowledge of future timber availability - Greater resilience of timber availability through the use of alternative silvicultural systems	- Sustainable economic activity in the rural landscape - Industrial output of home produced wood products to a variety of markets, including construction, agriculture, energy, and domestic heating


Areas managed using Low Impact Silvicultural Systems (LISS):
27 hectares of Spring Grove Forest area is managed under LISS. The forest area around the core recreation area of Spring Grove accounts for the largest proportion of LISS. Further opportunities to extend use of LISS could be explored.
Areas of planned clearfelling:
146 hectares of Spring Grove Forest is managed under clearfelling. The boundaries and sizes of the areas, called coupes, which determine clearfelling areas, will be reviewed. A wide range of economic, environmental, landscape and social factors will be considered in this review and will involve use of new datasets supplied by stakeholders.
Areas where trees are selectively felled as thinnings:
146 hectares of clearfell areas in Spring Grove Forest are planned to be thinned throughout the rotation. Further opportunities to optimise the timber produced from thinning will be investigated.
Areas where trees are retained beyond the normal age of clearfelling:
5 hectares of Spring Grove Forest area is planned for extended rotation.
The potential to increase this area will be reviewed particularly where it is of potential benefit to priority species, such as red squirrels.
N
Felling coupe boundary
Extended rotation
Thinning areas
Areas awaiting replant
Open ground
Areas managed under LISS
Water
Forest roads
0
0.25
0.5 Kilometres
Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland - © Crown Copyright and Database Right

6 - Regenerating Forest Land

"Forest regeneration is the act of renewing tree cover by establishing young trees naturally or artificially - generally, promptly after the previous stand or forest has been removed. The method, species, and density are chosen to meet the goal of the landowner."

Land use, Land-Use and Forestry Fact Sheet 4.12 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

Regeneration of forest land after felling (or, occasionally, after destruction by fire) is an opportunity to improve the design of a forest to meet longer term objectives, including enhancing the landscape, protecting water, and, by using a wider range of tree species, improving wildlife habitats and increasing the resilience of the forest. Felled areas may be replanted, or allowed to regenerate naturally from seed, or, used to include more open ground in a forest. In some circumstances wood production can be increased by, for example, using trees grown from seed harvested in seed orchards.

The development and improvement of forest design and regeneration plans is a significant forest management activity, involving extensive engagement with Government bodies, organisations, local people, and other stakeholders. Forest design plans have resulted in the creation of additional water buffer areas, some of which are suitable for establishing new native woodland. Forestry planning has also been undertaken in relation to non-Forest Service forests and woodland in the FPA in conjunction with the regeneration of areas subject to felling regulation.

Management of forests under some low impact silvicultural systems (LISS) involves making use of natural regeneration, where it occurs, to meet regeneration requirements, where necessary, and supplementing it by planting, if required.

Opportunity: Review and revise forest design and forest regeneration plans, to include more native broadleaved trees and open ground, and favour the use of a wider range of conifer species for regeneration, where appropriate.

Opportunity: Revise felling and regeneration plans to increase age, species and structural diversity in forests.

Opportunity: Specify the use of more productive Sitka spruce planting material in regeneration plans, where site conditions are suitable.

Activity: Assess the suitability of current and planned water buffer areas for the establishment of new native woodland.

Activity: Identify areas suitable for use of alternative conifer species, including Norway spruce (*Picea abies*), Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) and western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*).

Activity: Identify areas where wildlife habitat can be enhanced by planting a wider range of tree species.

Activity: Identify areas managed as LISS where supplementary underplanting is appropriate.

Outcomes	Benefits
- Regeneration plans identifying the establishment of native woodland adjacent to watercourses, and the appropriate use of alternative conifer species	- Forests which deliver better ecosystem services and have more natural capital - Forests that are more resilient to the effects of disease, climate change and other pressures

7 - Growing Trees Sustainably

"The essential consideration for the landowner or manager is to ensure that the forest thrives and is not degraded. This includes protecting young trees to make sure they become successfully established, and protecting the health of forests and woodlands, for example by ensuring they have the necessary resilience to cope with emerging threats and changing conditions – in particular climate change. It also involves maintaining levels of fertility and site potential for future rotations."

UK Forestry Standard, 4th Edition (2017)

Growing trees sustainably involves monitoring the health and vitality of the forest, and responding appropriately to threats. East Fermanagh/East Tyrone forests are vulnerable to a similar range of threats occurring elsewhere in Northern Ireland, including harm to forest users and the environment arising from criminal or anti-social behaviour, and the effects of fire, pests and diseases, wind and storm damage, and reduction of soil fertility. Areas recently planted with native and other broadleaved trees, including new riparian woodland, are particularly susceptible to damage by deer and uncontrolled livestock grazing. Cattle, sheep, deer and, in some locations, feral goats are also able to hinder or prevent establishment of woodland by colonisation or natural regeneration. Management of deer to protect young trees from damage is routinely undertaken in a number of forests, including Knockmany, Grogey, Mullaghfad and Fardross.

Additionally, tree diseases can also impact forest growth and development. While the ongoing impact of ramorum disease on larches (*Larix spp.*) in forest plantations remains a concern, it is widely expected that the effects of ash dieback disease (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) will become increasingly widespread in woodland and trees in the wider environment.

While the risk of damage from many of these threats is managed by operational measures and contingency planning, both monitoring and regularly liaising with neighbours, partners and stakeholders is essential.

Opportunity: Liaise with neighbours and statutory bodies in relation to controlling damage to woodlands, and preventing deer poaching and other wildlife crime.

Opportunity: Monitor the growth of trees in areas regenerated after felling, and develop plans to maintain fertility, using targeted fertiliser applications where necessary.

Activity: Collate and analyse monitoring information, including assessments of tree growth and nutrition.

Activity: Identify areas where fertiliser applications will be required to maintain tree growth.

Outcomes	Benefits
- Updated monitoring and contingency plans - Design plans include appropriate buffer zones adjacent to watercourses and lakes to permit fertiliser application, where necessary	- Healthy, safe forests - Protected natural environments

8 - Minimising the use of Pesticides and Fertilisers

"The use of artificial pesticides and fertilisers is generally a last resort in practising sustainable forest management…Pesticides and fertilisers are expensive, and should only be deployed in a reactive way to protect trees when a problem has been identified or is highly likely. Their use on special sites such as ancient woodland is particularly discouraged."

UK Forestry Standard, 4th Edition (2017)

Pesticide use in Forest Service forests is restricted by statutory regulation and the adoption of a specific integrated pest management strategy to minimise pesticide use. Under this strategy, non-chemical control options are considered, and used, unless shown to be impractical, ineffective, excessively costly, or likely to carry the risk of causing harm to people and the environment. In principle, pesticides are used as a last resort, and, the use of specific pesticides by the forestry industry is kept under constant review.

There are two main uses of chemical control for pests and diseases in forests; one is to protect forests from the fungal disease causing stem rot, *Heterobasidion annosum*, using a solution of urea applied to tree stumps after cutting. The other is to protect trees replanted after felling from insect damage caused by the pine weevil (*Hylobius abietis*), on a proportion of sites, during the initial 1 – 2 years. The option currently available involves the use of a neonicotinoid, acetamiprid, applied to trees before planting, and, where necessary after planting. Control of invasive rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*) and laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*) is normally achieved using a glyphosate-based herbicide, in combination with cutting.

Environmental monitoring of water bodies carried out in recent years has identified both detections of pesticides and biological effects. Although forestry may not be the only source of pesticides, it has not been conclusively ruled out by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA), given the targeted use in forestry of some of the pesticides detected.

Fertilisers have been routinely used to enable woodland establishment and promote tree growth in upland forests since the early 1960s, and, until around 2000, aerial fertiliser application to forests had taken place on an annual basis. Fertiliser use followed prescriptions for different tree species and site conditions that had been developed over many decades of research and monitoring. Since 2000, increasing areas of forest that had required fertiliser have been felled. Consequently, it is increasingly likely that a proportion of regenerated areas will become deficient in nutrients and may again require fertiliser to maintain growth.

Opportunity: To contribute to the minimisation of pesticide use by planning the sequencing of felling years and increasing the area of forest managed under low impact silvicultural systems (LISS).

Opportunity: To maximise the efficiency of fertiliser use in terms of uptake, and growth.

Activity: Environmental monitoring of forested catchments, in conjunction with NIEA.

Activity: Identify thresholds for fertiliser applications based on balancing economic returns and potential environmental effects.

Outcomes	Benefits
- Pesticide use is minimised to the extent that residues are significantly below environmental monitoring thresholds - Fertiliser applications will take place without affecting water quality	- Economic activity in forests contributing to the health and well-being of local people

9 - Targeting Invasive Species

"Here, as elsewhere in the world, invasive species are increasingly a serious threat to biodiversity and the benefits that healthy ecosystems provide to us… They are a risk to our unique flora and fauna, our economic interests such as forestry, fishing, and farming, our health, and our recreational interests."

An Invasive Alien Species Strategy for Northern Ireland (2013)

A number of invasive, non-native plant species occur in most forests, with the potential to affect access, biodiversity, regeneration of forests, and tree growth. The most widely occurring invasive plant species are rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*) and laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*). Both are susceptible to *Phytophthora ramorum* (the cause of 'Ramorum disease', also known elsewhere as 'sudden oak death') and can act as hosts for the disease in a woodland and increase the amount of inoculum in an area. Although there are fewer invasive non-native mammal species in forests, the impact on biodiversity and tree health of the grey squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*) and introduced deer species can be locally significant.

Some invasive species are subject to regulation, under the EU Invasive Alien Species Regulation (Regulation No 1143/2014) and the Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011. Actions targeted against invasive species by public bodies are co-ordinated under the Invasive Species Strategy for Northern Ireland. Effective action against invasive non-native species is generally very costly and is not undertaken without good justification, for instance removal from threatened protected habitats, ancient woodland sites, and riparian areas.

Opportunity: Prioritise areas where control of rhododendron and laurel is required.

Opportunity: Prioritise areas where control of colonising woodland is required in protected habitats and riparian areas in Forest Service forests.

Activity: Collate and analyse data on the occurrence of invasive plant species in forests.

Activity: Assess extent of colonisation of protected habitats and water buffer areas by Sitka spruce and other conifers.

Outcomes	Benefits
- Decreasing area of forest land affected by invasive plant species - Reduced threats to biodiversity and tree health	- Forests are more attractive - Better access for angling

10 - Protecting Habitats and Species

"Northern Ireland's biodiversity plays a significant role within its economy. A healthy, properly-functioning natural environment is the foundation of sustained economic growth, prosperous communities and personal well-being."

Valuing Nature A Biodiversity Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020.

A quarter of the 76,000 ha of land managed by the Forest Service is designated for nature conservation, as Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA), Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI), Nature Reserve (NR) or National Nature Reserve (NNR). A large proportion of this designated land in the East Fermanagh/East Tyrone FPA, which is monitored by Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA), is comprised of the Slieve Beagh-Mullaghfad-Lisnaskea SPA for hen harrier (*Circus cyaneus*).

Designated areas in and adjacent to East Fermanagh/East Tyrone forests are listed in Appendix II. As a competent authority, Forest Service is required to undertake assessments of the potential impact of forestry on areas designated in the East Fermanagh/East Tyrone FPA under the EU Habitats and Bird Directives as either SAC or SPA, which includes Slieve Beagh SAC and Slieve Beagh-Mullaghfad-Lisnaskea SPA.

In addition to designated areas, plans identify areas in forests that correspond to priority habitats described in the EU Habitats Directive. These include native woodland (including semi-natural and ancient semi-natural woodland), parkland, species-rich grassland, bog and heathland. No critical threats to remnant ancient woodland features were identified following a survey of ancient woodland sites in Forest Service forests in the East Fermanagh/East Tyrone FPA, conducted in 2013 – 14. Ancient semi-natural woodland, which occurs in Altadaven block of Favour Royal Forest, is particularly important as it provides a range of habitats associated with deadwood and veteran trees, which support a richer diversity of plants and animals compared to semi-natural or new native woodland. Forest design plans can also identify areas as natural reserves, areas for native woodland expansion, open habitat restoration, and, where areas should be maintained as open space, including internal forest edges.

Forests and woodlands provide habitats for a number of rare and protected plants, invertebrates, birds and mammals, and support populations of wild deer, which are managed to prevent damage to susceptible trees. Biodiversity of forests is also enhanced through management of deadwood habitat, protecting ancient woodland remnant features, veteran trees, and other features of high biodiversity value, increasingly favouring the use of extended rotations, and of low impact silvicultural systems to maintain continuous forest cover.

East Fermanagh contains important populations of red squirrels (*Sciurus vulgaris*). Favour Royal is a significant refuge for the red squirrel, which benefits from the activities of a local Red Squirrel Group. Red squirrel populations are also believed to be present in Spring Grove, Mullaghfad, Grogey, Knocks, Tully, and Crocknagrally Forests. The East Fermanagh/ East Tyrone FPA has relatively few recorded sightings of pine marten compared to other parts of Northern Ireland. Upland forests (most notably Clabby, Jenkin, Knocks, Mullaghfad, Crocknagrally and Fardross Forests) provide important habitats for hen harrier and merlin (*Falco columbarius*).

While the increasing use of low impact silvicultural systems in conifer stands is aimed at increasing biodiversity in general, some raptor species, such as hen harrier, gain more benefit from a mosaic of plantation ages resulting from managed clearfelling. Forest rides are particularly important for nesting and foraging of forest edge dwelling raptor species, including merlin.

While forest operations are planned to avoid adverse effects on rare and vulnerable species, it is also important that people wishing to use forests for recreational purposes are aware of the particular needs of protected species, particularly of breeding raptors.

Opportunity: Complete Habitats Regulations Assessments (HRAs) of revised forest plans in respect of SACs as appropriate.

Opportunity: Identify areas of open habitat where intervention is necessary to address potential loss of biodiversity, and maintain ecological connectivity.

Activity: Review potential effects of forest operations specified in forest plans.

Activity: Undertake assessments of the risk to open and parkland habitats from colonising trees and other threats to biodiversity.

Outcomes	Benefits
- Contribution of forests to Northern Ireland's biodiversity is maintained or increased	- Opportunities for watching birds and wildlife in forests

11 - Restoring Peatland Habitats

"Peatland covers 12% of the land area of Northern Ireland... It is a resource which is of enormous importance to the stability and general well-being of our environment, creating distinctive upland and lowland landscapes, conserving biodiversity, and affecting river catchment hydrology. Peatland is also valuable as an archival record of climatic and vegetational history and archaeological remains. Globally, peatland acts as a massive carbon store with implications for the 'greenhouse effect' ".

Conserving Peatland In Northern Ireland: A Statement of Policy (1993)

Internationally, peatland habitats are threatened from human activities and climate change, and are therefore considered areas of high conservation importance. Historically, in Northern Ireland, significant areas of land with a peat depth of more than 50 cm was acquired because it was considered to be suitable for afforestation, using Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*) and lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*), without compromising local agricultural production. However, as the areas acquired became more extensive and increasingly infertile, it was found that greater inputs, in terms of cultivation, drainage and fertiliser, were needed to establish plantations and to maintain tree growth. This took place over large areas of Ireland and Scotland, and to a lesser extent, in Wales and northern England. Similar activity has also taken place in other European countries, particularly in northern Sweden and Finland.

However, growing trees on land which requires repeated inputs of fertiliser is not compatible with sustainable forestry, and greater emphasis is placed on selecting species and silvicultural systems that can be more easily maintained. This limits options for productive forestry on the more infertile areas of peat, which due to its structure and high water content has a poor capacity to retain nutrients for growth.

Restoring areas of afforested peat that are unsuitable for growing trees back to open peatland habitat safeguards the storage of carbon in soil, and enables the recovery of biodiversity associated with bog habitats. However, it also requires inputs in terms of tree removal or treatment of felled areas, including blocking of drains, and would reduce the timber production potential of forests, and, possibly, limit recreation opportunities. Therefore, it is critical that potential restoration sites are identified and carefully considered. Forest Service has developed a revised approach for prioritising the restoration of peatland habitats, which is provided in Appendix III.

East Fermanagh/East Tyrone FPA forests include some areas with soil described as peat of more than 50 cm deep, including Altmore, Fardross, Tully, Mullaghfad, Jenkin and Doon. However, tree growth on peat soils in the East Fermanagh/East Tyrone FPA is variable, and it is likely that some areas within these forests are potentially suitable for restoration.

Opportunity: Identify and prioritise areas of afforested peat for restoration to open habitat in East Fermanagh/East Tyrone FPA forests.

Activity: Develop a process for identifying and mapping potential candidate restoration areas based on peat depth, slope and topography.

Outcomes	Benefits
− Reduction in area of regeneration of upland forests and their timber production potential − Change in upland forested landscapes − Reconnection of remnant patches of isolated peatland	− Flood risk mitigation and carbon storage − Reduced carbon footprint

Appendix I

Composition of Forest Service forests

The areas and composition of Forest Service forests in East Fermanagh/East Tyrone Forestry Planning Area are shown by Forest Landscape Unit in Tables 1.1 and 1.2 below.

Table 1.1
Area and Composition of Forest Service Forests in East Fermanagh Forest Landscape Unit

Forests	Area (Ha)	Composition (%)			
		Broad-leaved	Conifer	Mixed	Open ground + water
Carnmore	267	13	69	2	16
Clabby	224	11	80	0	9
Crocknagrally	633	9	82	2	7
Doon	605	15	72	0	13
Fardross	880	7	66	0	27
Favour Royal	499	15	75	3	7
Grogey	304	13	77	1	9
Jenkin	1631	6	70	0	24
Knockmany	390	15	74	5	6
Knocks	1426	11	68	1	20
Mullaghfad	1774	5	37	1	57
Pubble	95	10	78	1	11
Spring Grove	186	20	60	14	6
Tully	1113	10	54	2	34
Total in Landscape Unit	10027	9	64	1	26

Table 1.2
Area and Composition of Forest Service Forests in East Tyrone Forest Landscape Unit

Forests	Area (Ha)	Composition (%)			
		Broad-leaved	Conifer	Mixed	Open ground + water
Altmore	579	3	87	0	10
Caledon	179	18	64	15	3
Cookstown	208	39	37	19	5
Drum Manor	94	26	8	57	9
Dunmoyle	390	10	80	0	10
Parkanaur	196	25	30	35	10
Pomeroy	177	20	42	30	8
Total in Landscape Unit	1823	15	64	13	8

Appendix II

Environmental Regulation, Designated Areas, and the Historic Environment

1. Environmental Regulation

Afforestation, deforestation, forest road works and forest quarry works are subject to regulation under the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006, as amended under the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017. Thresholds beyond which projects must be screened are determined by the type of project and existence of a designation, as listed in Schedule 2 of the 2006 Regulations.

In areas designated as Special Area of Conservation (SAC) or Special Protection Area (SPA), management plans and, where necessary, operational plans in connection with forestry or recreational activities, are subject to regulation under the Conservation (Natural Habitats *etc.*) (Northern Ireland) Regulations (as amended), commonly referred to as the Habitats Regulations. Operational plans for forest management activities in Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI) are subject to regulation under the Environment Order (Northern Ireland).

Nature Reserves (NR) and National Nature Reserves (NNR) are declared under the Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands Order (Northern Ireland) 1985, and are managed in accordance with a management plan.

2. Designated areas

Forestry land is designated under the Habitats Regulations, the Environment Order, and/or the Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands Order (Northern Ireland) 1985. Forestry land may also include Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance (SLNCI), which are local areas designated by Councils under the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) for Northern Ireland, and Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 2: Natural Heritage. Designated areas adjacent to and on land managed by Forest Service are shown in Table 1.

Table 1
Designated areas adjacent to and on land managed by Forest Service.

Designated site or area	Designation type	Forest adjacent or included within
Slieve Beagh	SAC/ASSI	Fardross Mullaghfad
Slieve Beagh-Mullaghfad-Lisnaskea	SPA	Tully Doon Knocks Carnmore Jenkin Mullaghfad Fardross
Carnmore	ASSI	Carnmore
Cloghcor Lough Fardross Stream	ASSI ASSI	Fardross Fardross
Lough Corry	ASSI	Doon
Lough McCall	ASSI	Fardross
Lough na blaney bane	ASSI/SLNCI	Favour Royal
Roeveagh	ASSI	Favour Royal
Tanderagee	ASSI	Pomeroy
Annaghroe - Annacramp	SLNCI	Caledon
Brantry Lough	SLNCI	Caledon
Lissan Wood	SLNCI	Cookstown

Springhill Wood	SLNCI	Cookstown
Fallaghearn	SLNCI	Dunmoyle
Ashfield Mountain Bar	SLNCI	Fardross
Golan Little	SLNCI	Fardross
Fury River	SLNCI	Fardross
Slatmore Quarry	SLNCI	Fardross
Carrickavoy Lough	SLNCI	Favour Royal
Favour Royal	SLNCI	Favour Royal
Lough More	SLNCI	Favour Royal
Tircar Stream	SLNCI	Mullaghfad
Torrent River	SLNCI	Parkanaur
Parknamoney Wood	SLNCI	Pomeroy

Slieve Beagh SAC/ASSI is also designated as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar convention.

Non-Forest Service designated woodland in the FPA includes Rehaghy Wood ASSI and Glenmore Wood ASSI, and a number of SLNCIs that include woodland features, including Rehaghy Wood, Parknamoney Wood, Tullylagan Manor Wood, Killymoon Estate Wood, Rusky Cottage Woods, and Tirnaskea Wood. Golan Little and Fury River SLNCIs each include woodland.

3. Forests and the Historic Environment

Forests and woodland often include historic sites, such as earthworks, ruined structures and buried archaeological features. These may be designated as state care or scheduled sites and monuments, or they may be non-scheduled. Features listed in the Northern Ireland Sites and Monuments Record (NISMR) that are located in forests or within 50m of forest boundaries are shown in Table 2. Some Forest Service forests include areas of historic parks, gardens and demesnes, including Fardross, Favour Royal, Cookstown, Drum Manor, Parkanuar, and Pomeroy.

Table 2
State-care, scheduled and non-scheduled historic sites and monuments located within or close to forest boundaries (within 50m)

Forest	Townland	Type	Protection	Location
Carnmore	Carnmore	Cairn	Non-scheduled	In forest
Cookstown	Ballindrum	Rath	Scheduled	In forest
	Drumkern	Coney's Cell - Hermits Cell possible	Non-scheduled	In forest
Crocknagrally	Brobrohan	Standing Stone possible	Non-scheduled	In forest
	Crocknagrally	Giant's grave, Giant's stones, Megalithic Tomb	Non-scheduled	In forest
	Crocknagrally	Non-antiquity - Cloghronan	Non-scheduled	In forest
	Longfield	Megalithic Court tomb - Giant's grave	Non-scheduled	In forest
	Longfield	Standing Stone possible	Non-scheduled	In forest
	Longfield	Non-antiquity - Quarry	Non-scheduled	In forest
	Tireeghan	Cairn	Non-scheduled	In forest
Drum Manor	Oaklands	Standing Stone	Non-scheduled	In forest
	Oaklands	Enclosure	Non-scheduled	In forest

Dunmoyle	Dunmoyle	Enclosure and Tower - designed landscape feature	Non-scheduled	In forest
Fardross	Ballywholen	A.P. Site*	Non-scheduled	In forest
	Ballywholen	Megalithic tomb - Carnpatrick: Portal Tomb	Scheduled & State care	On Boundary
	Corleaghan	Non-antiquity - modern enclosure	Non-scheduled	In forest
Favour Royal	Altadaven	St Patrick's Chair - Rock-cut seat	Non-scheduled	In forest
	Cullamore	Cist Burial	Non-scheduled	In forest
	Derrymeen	Fort Hill - enclosure possible	Non-scheduled	In forest
	Favour Royal Demesne	Rath - Bivallate rath	Scheduled	In forest
	Favour Royal Demesne	Enclosure	Non-scheduled	In forest
Grogey	Carrickpolin	Rath	Non-scheduled	Near forest
	Carrickpolin	Non-antiquity	Non-scheduled	In forest
	Corlough	Burnt mound	Non-scheduled	Near forest
Jenkin	Altawark	Enclosure	Non-scheduled	Near forest
	Eshnadarragh	Sweat House (unlocated)	Non-scheduled	In forest
Knockmany	Ardunshin; Cloneblaugh	Crannóg possible	Non-scheduled	In forest
	Knockmany	Annias Cove: Passage Tomb	State care	In forest
	Latbeg	Bullauin	Non-scheduled	Near forest
Knocks	Baltreagh	Rath: Copenny Fort	Non-scheduled	In forest
	Carrickawick	Standing Stone: Cloghavuska	Non-scheduled	In forest
	Carrowgarragh, Crocknagowan, Lough Hill	Crannóg possible	Non-scheduled	On Boundary
	Deer Park	Rath	Non-scheduled	In forest
	Derryheely	Standing Stone	Non-scheduled	In forest
	Eshbralley	Cup & Ring marked stone	Non-scheduled	In forest
	Eshbralley	Three Standing Stones	Non-scheduled	In forest
	Kilronan	Burnt Mounds (2)	Non-scheduled	Near forest
	Kilronan	Burnt Mounds (5) & Cairn	Non-scheduled	Near forest
Knocks	Stranafeley	Holy Well: Eye Well	Non-scheduled	Near forest
Mullaghfad	Alderwood	Megalithic Tomb (unlocated)	Non-scheduled	In forest
	Alderwood	Holy Welll: Una's Well	Non-scheduled	In forest
	Glennoo	Grave: The Old Woman's Grave	Non-scheduled	In forest
	Glennoo	Standing Stone	Non-scheduled	Near forest
	Mullynavale	Mound: Doocarn (uncertain)	Non-scheduled	In forest
	Mullynavale	Enclosure	Non-scheduled	In forest
Parkanaur	Edenacrannon	Crannóg possible	Non-scheduled	In forest
	Stakernagh	Crannóg	Scheduled	In forest

Pomeroy	Derryhash	A.P. Site* - circular enclosure	Non-scheduled	In forest
	Moymore	Rath	Scheduled	In forest
	Pomeroy	Enclosure: White Hill	Non-scheduled	In forest
	Pomeroy	Enclosure	Non-scheduled	In forest
Pubble	Pubble	Rath possible	Non-scheduled	In forest
	Pubble	Stone Head & Bullauin	Non-scheduled	Near forest
Spring Grove	Annahervy	Mound, crannog possible	Non-scheduled	In forest
	Rathkeevan	Rath: Rathkeevan	Non-scheduled	In forest
	Rathkeevan	Tree Ring	Non-scheduled	In forest
	Spring Grove	Crannóg	Non-scheduled	In forest
	Spring Grove	Rath	Non-scheduled	In forest
Tully	Coolnasillagh	Enclosure	Non-scheduled	In forest
	Coolnasillagh	Tree Ring	Non-scheduled	In forest
	Mullnalughoge	Burnt Mound	Non-scheduled	Near forest
	Tattycam	Fortification	Non-scheduled	In forest

*Unverified site identified by aerial photography

Appendix III

Strategy for Restoring Peatland Habitats

1. Rationale

1.1 Northern Ireland Forestry Strategy

The Northern Ireland Forestry Strategy, 'Northern Ireland Forestry – A Strategy for Sustainability and Growth' (2006) restates policy as:

- The sustainable management of existing woods and forests, and
- A steady expansion of tree cover to increase the many diverse benefits that forests provide.

The strategy indicated that an amended Forestry Act would place a duty on the Department to promote afforestation and sustainable forestry, which duly came into effect in 2010.

The Northern Ireland and UK Governments' approach to sustainable forestry is set out in the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS), which is currently in its 4th edition (2017). The UKFS reiterates the legal requirement that "Appropriate protection and conservation must be afforded where sites, habitats and species are subject to the legal provisions of EU Directives and UK and country legislation". In addition in Northern Ireland, the WANE Act (2011) places a General Duty on every public body to 'further the conservation of biodiversity so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions [it exercises].'

The UKFS includes a number of general forestry practice requirements and guidelines that are applicable to afforested peat.

The standard requires forest plans to take full account of a range of requirements and guidelines relating to forest design, biodiversity, water, soil, and climate change, and provides scope for undertaking peatland restoration projects to improve the delivery of ecosystem services. The requirements that are most relevant to the topic of restoring peatland habitats are Forests and Biodiversity general forestry practice requirements 1 and 4:

- Forests and woodlands should be managed in such a way that conserves or enhances biodiversity; opportunities for enhancing biodiversity should be considered in forest management plans.
- Particular consideration should be given to conserving, enhancing or restoring priority habitats and species identified in the statutory lists of priority species and habitats for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, through the delivery of country biodiversity strategies and local level plans.

Forests and Biodiversity Guidelines 24 and 26 refer specifically to restoration of habitats and degraded features:

- Consider practical opportunities to restore open habitats where their value could be reinstated and sustained.
- Ensure wetland features such as springs, flushes and bogs are protected, and take opportunities to restore degraded features.

The UKFS is also the basis of forestry practice for the independent UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS), which is used for voluntary independent certification. The relevant UKWAS sections include: 2. Management Planning, and 4. Natural, historical and cultural environment:

- 2.1 Long-term policy and objectives
- 2.2 Documentation

- 2.11 Conservation
- 2.13 Conversion
- 2.14 Implementation, amendment and revision of the plan
- 2.15 Monitoring
- 4.1 Statutory designated sites and protected species

1.2 Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy

The Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy, 'Valuing Nature - A Biodiversity Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020' (2015), refers to the importance of peaty soils and associated priority habitats, including blanket bog and lowland raised bogs, in providing ecosystem services, such as clean water supplies, carbon storage, and recreation, and identifies forestry and other land management practices as potential threats to these services.

The strategy indicates that many ecosystems, such as peatlands, are in a relatively poor condition, and states the need to reverse the decline and work towards Favourable Conservation Status. It emphasises the importance of peatland soils and vegetation as a carbon store and suggests their value in sequestering carbon may become a particularly economically advantageous characteristic as carbon accounting becomes more important.

1.3 Review of forest design plans

The review stage of forestry planning involves re-examining management objectives, and the forest data on which they are based. Long-term objectives are presented in the form of design plans, which show planned boundaries between forest and open ground, and planned felling and regeneration. Forest design plans meet the requirements of the UK Forestry Standard in relation to the proportions of tree species, the proportion managed as open ground, and overall area managed primarily for biodiversity. Adjustments to these proportions are made in the course of felling and regeneration, which can include the introduction of more open ground, and through specific programmes, including, for example, tree planting, and, removal of trees colonising open ground.

A summary of draft proposals for the conversion of colonising woodland and plantation to priority bog habitat in Sperrin forests is shown below in Table 1.

1.4 Stakeholder engagement

'Restoring Peatland Habitats' is one of 11 topics identified as a basis for engaging with stakeholders at the initial, scoping, stage of forestry planning. Stakeholders responding to the Sperrin scoping consultation in 2018 indicated they were in favour of the restoration of afforested peatlands; responses from forest industry stakeholders suggested that peatland forestry was, in some cases, an unsustainable land use, while others indicated that restoration could generate environmental benefits, including carbon sequestration and flood risk mitigation.

Stakeholders are given the opportunity to comment on proposals to review forest design plans via the forestry pages on the DAERA website. As planning proceeds proposals will be developed for all remaining forests by 2020.

1.5 Restoration potential

The rationale for restoration of blanket bog reflects the potential to achieve appropriate hydrological conditions, based on external peat depth and slope datasets. Proposals to convert woodland to priority bog habitat will exclude sites that have become degraded due to peat cutting or erosion, intensively drained areas dominated by heather, areas colonised by native tree species, and areas that have developed into native wet woodland.

1.6 Sustainable wood production

The strategy should not affect the potential of forests to deliver sustainable wood production.

Candidate restoration areas will mainly consist of areas that were, until recently, identified as open priority habitats. A number of assessments in recent years have indicated that peatland forests also include a proportion of uneconomic stands comprised of checked (where growth has ceased or stagnated), nutrient deficient or dying trees.

2. Prioritisation of candidate bog restoration areas

2.1 Site selection criteria

- Planned open ground (either current or in forest design plan).
- Adjacent and integral to designated areas*, or non-designated priority habitat.
- Peat depth ≥0.5m and slope ≤3° over most of the area.
- Colonised with > 400 conifer seedlings/ha, or uneconomic (failed, checked, nutrient deficient or dying).

*SAC/ASSI, ASSI, NNR, LNR, and SLNCI

2.2 Prioritisation of restoration

Priority 1: Meeting all criteria; uneconomic stands or colonised areas shown as open ground priority habitat in design plans, adjacent and integral to designated or non-designated priority habitat, and where peat depth ≥0.5m and slope ≤3° over most of the area.

Priority 2: Planned open ground, predominantly meeting remaining criteria; may include up to 30% productive stands (≥Sitka spruce General Yield Class 8 or Lodgepole pine General Yield Class 6).

Priority 3: As for Priority 2, but does not fully meet peat depth and slope criterion.

3. Strategy

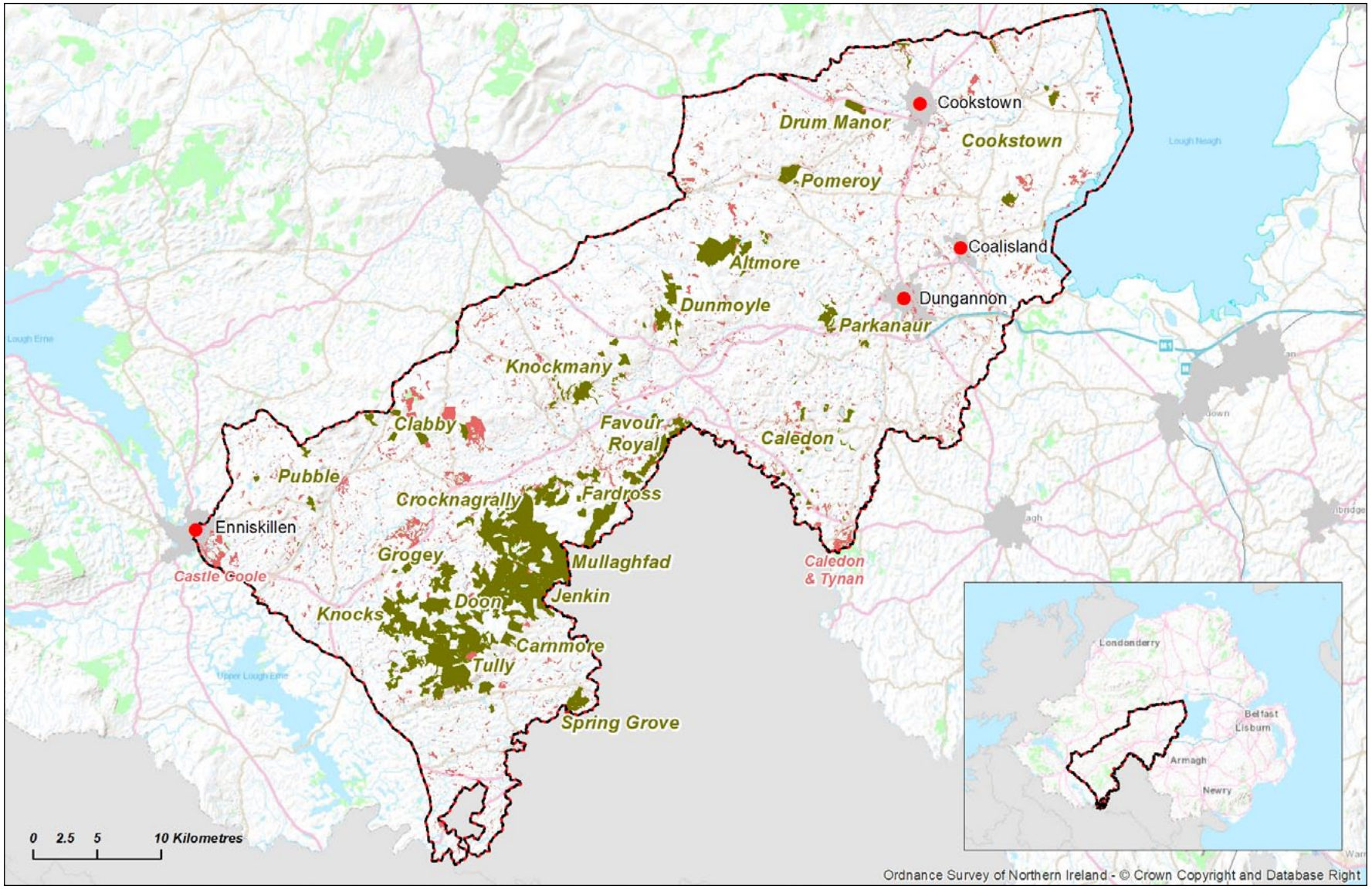
- The strategy for open habitat restoration in forests reflects Northern Ireland strategies for forestry and biodiversity.
- The strategy replaces the expired Strategy for the Restoration of Open Ground Semi-Natural Habitats, and Register of Open Habitat Restoration Sites.
- Prepare operational plans for bog restoration for Priority 1 areas, subject to the acceptance of proposals by planning meetings.
- By 2020, to ensure monitoring of restoration areas is embedded within the planning process.
- By 2030, to review strategy and undertake a strategic review of candidate bog restoration projects.

4. Review

The rationale and strategy will be subject to review as necessary in respect of:

- The potential to make adjustments to felling plans in response to significant changes to timber marketing conditions affecting poor quality and diseased lodgepole pine, and checked and nutrient deficient Sitka spruce stands.
- The requirement to undertake restoration of heathland habitats; this will be assessed as planning reviews take place.
- The development of a wider Forest Service strategy for the management of open priority habitats.
- New research and technical information.

Map 1: Forests and woodland within East Fermanagh/East Tyrone Forestry Planning Area (FPA)



East Fermanagh/East Tyrone Forestry Planning Area

Forest Service forests

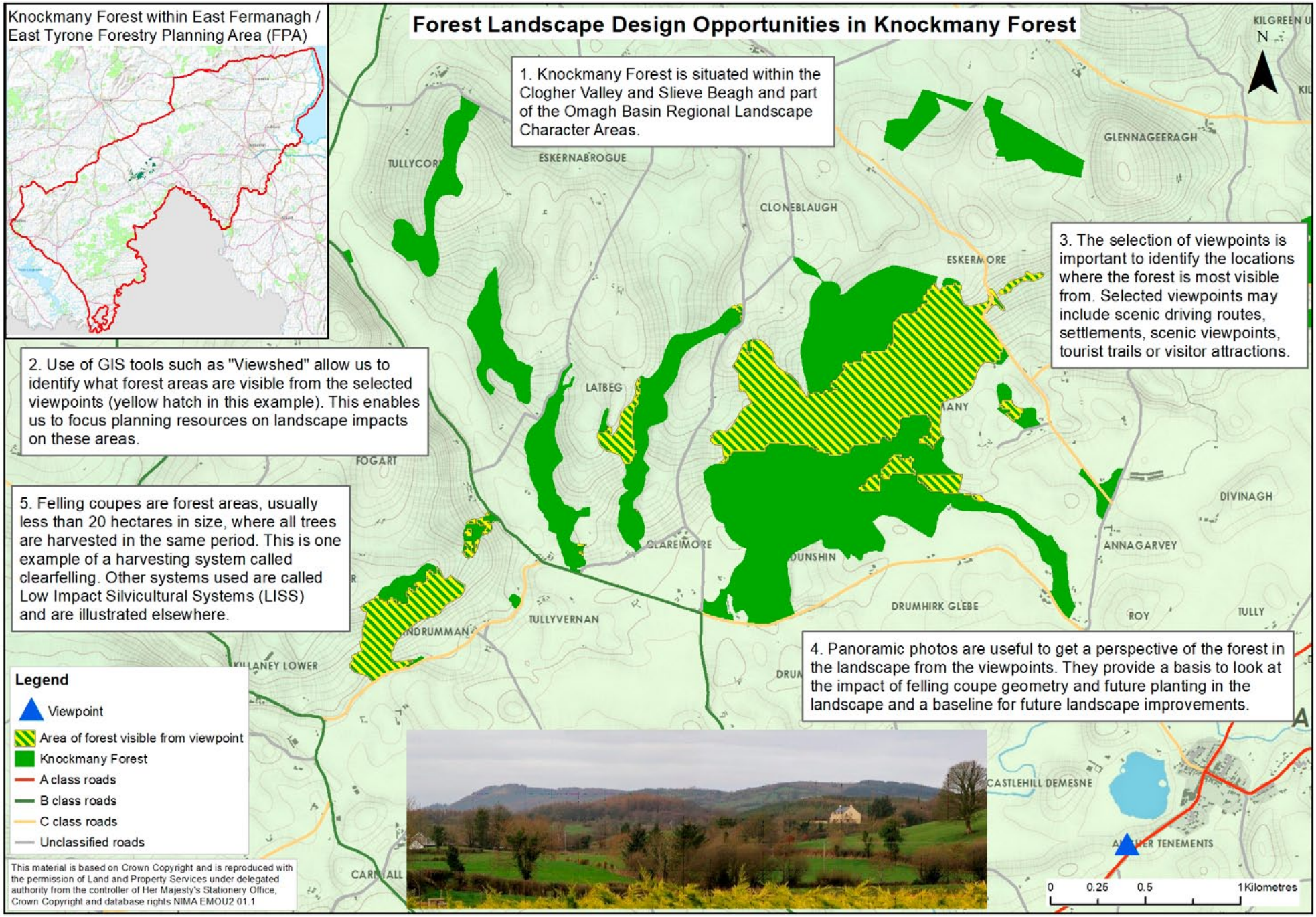
Non Forest Service forests

Towns

Return to Contents

◀ 32 ▶

Forest Landscape Design Opportunities in Knockmany Forest



Report on	Mid Ulster District Council and DAERA (RDP/TRPSI) Capital Works Programme
Reporting Officer	Head of Parks
Contact Officer	Nigel Hill

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 members approval for Council to take forward capital projects under the MUDC/ DAERA/Rural Development and TRPSI Programme. The Council will act as lead partner for rural development projects, with Mid Ulster Rural Development Partnership (the LAG) as co-applicant.
2.0	**Background**
2.1	The DAERA (Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs) wrote to the RDP LAG Chair on 30th May 2019 confirming approval of additional funding to the LAG under the Village Renewal Scheme. The LAG discussed this offer and confirmed acceptance.
2.2	This additional funding is conditional on the LAG issuing Letters of Offer by 31st December 2019. Council is responsible for leading on applications to the Village Renewal Scheme therefore in light of the approval timescale, Council approved the appointment of an external design team to work alongside Council Officer teams for the design stage of projects going forward which must commence immediately in order to be worked up and ready for assessment by the LAG in December 2019. A full design and procurement process must be completed prior to submitting applications to satisfy DAERA eligibility requirements.
2.3	MUDC is leading the RDP Capital Programme to improve existing facilities and open/green spaces within the District and to deliver improvements to enhance both local and visitor experiences associated to the variety of attractions across the council district. All short listed projects require capital investment to develop into quality, shared, accessible modern visitor environments.
2.4	The timeline for completion of delivery of the RDP Capital Programme – for all schemes obtaining the necessary funding to proceed to RIBA stages 5-7. Claims for final invoices in by December 2020. It is expected that approval to commence RIBA stage 5 will be awarded January 2020
2.5	The Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Inclusion (TRPSI) funded forest park enhancement scheme aims to address social isolation and access issues by improving recreational facilities and enhancing the visitor experience in forest parks. Support may be available for projects that are in a state of readiness and can be delivered by 31 March 2020.
3.0	**Main Report**
3.1	The proposed programme of capital projects will include general refurbishment and improvements to Outdoor Recreation Facilities, are those listed below

1. Ballyronan Marina & Traad
2. Washingbay
3. Portglenone
4. Davagh Forest Mountain Bike Trails
5. Maghera Outdoor Recreation Facilities
6. Fivemiletown Round Lake
7. Moydamlagh Forest

These projects have been identified as being deliverable within the tight timescales due to the facilities being in Council ownership or already under licence to Council.

3.2 **Ballyronan Marina – Refurbishment Works**
Project IST Costs £900,000 - £1,000,000 (estimated projection)

Project Description
This facility is managed by MUDC and is in need of refurbishment works to enhance the visitor attraction to the area and improve facilitates that currently exist on the site.
The main areas under consideration for improvements/refurbishments are as detailed in the following brief.

- Trails and walks refurbishment of existing Ballyronan Wood trails and associated landscaping with directional/interpretive signage to enhance the visitor experience.
- New modular Visitor Reception building. This will cater for toilet and meeting room/ reception facilities. Upgrade to existing car-parking areas/footpaths and utility Lighting.
- Improved CCTV for the site complex and enhanced signage and interpretive panels throughout the site.
- Provision of all-inclusive play facility to complement existing play facility within the complex in accordance with MUDC Parks strategy. (approx. costs £200-225k)
- Assessment of existing jetty with refurbishment/replacement of structural jetty and replacement of all associated M&E to comply with current standards.

3.3 **Washingbay Wetlands Park**
Project IST Costs £100,000 - £130,000 (estimated projection)
Project Description
Creation of new viewing platform and integrated canoe launching amenity (land based/cantilevered into water) to view the lough and associated wildlife observation including educational activities. Additional trails and canoe campsite.

3.4 **Portglenone Angling Stands**
Project IST Costs £150,000 - £250,000 (estimated projection)
Project Description
Replacement of existing stands and improved vehicular access. Works to include replacement of 79 angling stands and path/road widening to facilitate Blueway Trails and all ability access.

3.5 **Davagh Forest MBT Trail Extension**
Project IST Costs £300,000 - £600,000 (estimated projection)

	Project Description MUDC previously commissioned Architrail, to undertake a feasibility report on extending the Mountain Bike trails within Davagh Forest. It is intention of this project to review this information / costs and prepare the necessary design detail to complete all or part of this report. The proposed works may include up to 4km of blue grade trail, 8km of red grade trail. The provision for off road 4-wheeled gravity bikes, Off-road climbing and Jump trails.
3.6	**Maghera Leisure Centre and Recreational facilities** **Project IST Costs £900,000 - £1,000,000 (estimated projection)** **Project Description** This project is designed to enhance outdoor recreation facilities within Maghera Brief to include **Area 1** Provision of 3G type pitch, located at the existing Maghera Leisure Centre site. The facility must comply with IFA soccer guidelines and be suitable for GAA and Rugby training. Pitch to have all associated fencing/lighting/shelters and gates. MUDC have recently acquired additional land adjacent to Leisure Centre. The ICT brief will examine suitable design/development options and include for the demolition of the former PSNI buildings to provide space for new pitch provision. Existing car-parking arrangements to be reviewed with extension of car-park and associated landscaping. Existing Centre to be extended to provide additional changing facilities to suit new 3G pitch. Provision of trim trail around site perimeter with associated lighting. Existing play facility to be either extended in its current location to cater for all inclusive play or existing facility re-located on site to more improved location that will suit new site layout plan. **Area 2** MUDC have recently completed linkages pathway from the council owned Walled Garden facility to Tobermore Road. The proposed works are to be extended and enhance this outdoor walking experience. This development of 2 kilometers of additional trail in existing agricultural land with associated landscaping will enhance and add to the walking trails in Maghera. The project will include: • Upgrade of surfacing and associated site utility lighting to provide disability car-parking. Site access road from Church Street to have improved surface finishing and pedestrian segregation from vehicles. • Increased car-parking and improved facilities to the Walled Garden access arrangements. • Provision of outdoor play facilities to cater for visitors to the Walled Garden.
3.7	**Roundlake, Fivemiletown** **Project IST Costs £900,000 - £1,000,000 (estimated projection)**

	Project Description MUDC currently operate visitor and recreational facilities from this site. Previous audits have recommended the need for significant improvements. The main areas under consideration are detailed in the following brief. • Upgrading of the site entrance and main access road with improved pedestrian linkage to the site. Existing barrier configuration to be reviewed. • Existing car-park to be reviewed along with surface finish and line marking, disability parking provision nearer to visitor centre. • Significant landscaping throughout site to include removal / cutting back of trees to be considered to allow more natural light to reach ground level. • Existing camping caravan area to have reviewed / replacement utility lighting, automatic barriers to form access / egress from this zone, existing bays widened to suit modern day caravans/awnings/car-parking with replacement kerbs and new bitmac finishing complete • Existing ablution facility to be refurbished and extended to provide disability WC with access for campers. • Complete refurbishment of existing Visitor Building to include all external finishes improved toilet/shower facilities including provision of Changing Places, meeting room/common space with refreshment vending machines and office space for site warden. • Hard landscape area adjacent to visitor building to be completely demolished and re-landscaped to provide events space. Play park upgrade to cater for all abilities. • CCTV coverage plus automatic access arrangements for doors/gates/barriers throughout the site. • Resurfacing to sections of existing lakeside path and provision of outdoor fitness stations along lakeside path along with an agreed number of new angling stands. • Extension to DfI footpath network from town centre to Roundlake site.
3.8	**Moydamlaght** **Project IST Costs** **£200,000 - £250,000 (estimated projection)** **Project Description** This project seeks to provide a safe environment for taking part in outdoor recreation by creating a new walking trail from the existing carpark at the An Rath Dubh Centre, upgrading the walking trails, installing low-level play/trim trail type equipment, providing picnic and rest benches along the walking trails.

4.0 Other Considerations

4.1 **Financial & Human Resources Implications**

Financial: Capital Works Programme is subject to approved funding from DAERA (RDP/TRPSI). Project costs have yet to be finalised. Further details will be brought back to Council when available. Estimated costs are as follows:

	Cost	Possible Funding	Possible MUDC Contribution
Ballyronan Marina	£1m	£250k (RDP)	£750k
Washingbay/Portglenone	£380k	£285k (RDP)	£62k
Davagh	£300k-600k	£210k– £420k (TRPSI)	£90k – £180k)
Maghera	£1m	£500k (RDP)	£500k
Fivemiletown (Roundlake)	£1m	£500k (RDP)	£500k
Moydamlaght	£250k	£175k (TRPSI)	£75k

Human: Staff time and appointed Integrated Consultancy Teams.

4.2 **Screening & Impact Assessments**

Equality & Good Relations Implications:
Considered in conjunction with Council policies and procedures.

Rural Needs Implications:
Considered in conjunction with Council policies and procedures associated to rural proofing.

5.0 Recommendation(s)

5.1 Members approval is sought to progress with the identified capital works programme as detailed in the report.

5.2 Members approval is sought to engage, tender and procure the necessary IST capital works contractors, were necessary, in order to deliver the programme of capital works as proposed, subject to confirmed funding confirmation (LoO).

5.3 Members endorsement is sought to present listed projects and capital funding request to P&R Committee approval.

6.0 Documents Attached & References

6.1 N/A

Report on	Sports Representative Grants
Date of Meeting:	12th September 2019
Reporting Officer	Oliver McShane
Contact Officer	Oliver McShane

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 Members approval for grant allocations for the Sports Representative Grant ~ Team and Individuals.
2.0	**Background**
2.1	The Sports Representative Grants (Individual and Team) is a continuous rolling programme. Eligibility criteria compliance was completed by officers followed by grant programme assessment.
3.0	**Main Report**
3.1	Detailed analysis of the proposed grant awards are attached for your information.
3.2	Summary detail is as follows: **The Sports Representative Grant:** 21 Individual applications were received and awarded a total of £4,650 1 Team application was received which received an award of £350
4.0	**Other Considerations**
4.1	**Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications**
	Financial: Total finance allocated: The Sports Representative Grant is a continuous rolling programme with annual allocation for 19/20 of £10,000 with £7,400 already allocated this leaves a balance of £2,600 available. It is proposed to transfer an underspend of £6,000 from Sports Capital to allow the programme to continue until such time as the budget is exhausted. Total revised budget £16,000.
	Human: None.

	Risk Management: N/a
4.2	**Screening & Impact Assessments**
	Equality & Good Relations Implications N/a
	Rural Needs Implications: N/a
5.0	**Recommendation(s)**
5.1	To agree the recommendation of the grant allocations in relation to the Individual and Team representative grant and to approve the transfer of £6,000 from the Sports Capital Grant Programme.
6.0	**Documents Attached & References**
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
Max	Anderson	Ireland U16/U18 Hockey	£250	1	£250
Lisa	Bell	European and World Powerlifting Championships	£565	1	£250
Carolyn	Burns	European Championships Masters 2019 Krefeld	£1,020	1	£250
Ian	Derby	British Open Clay Pigeon Championships	£250	2	£225
Jerome	Donnelly	European Outdoor Tug of War Championships 2019	£250	3	£200
Jakub	Durac	Taekwondo Prof Chang Ung Cup	£175	3	£175
Andrea	Ghesov	Wako European junior Kickboxing championships	£250	1	£250
Padraic	Hagan	Wako European junior Kickboxing championships	£250	1	£250
Joseph	Hayes	NI Athletics Cross Country	£150	2	£150
Ronan	Kelly	European Outdoor Tug of War Championships 2019	£250	2	£225
Neil	Kelso	Errigal International Cycling Youth Tour	£200	3	£200
Adam	Lawson	World Field Target Championships 2019	£564	2	£225
Claire	McCammon	European Netball Championships 2019	£150	2	£150
Gerard	McEldowney	European Outdoor Tug of War Championships 2019	£250	3	£200
Conor	McFlynn	World Field Target Championships 2019	£430	2	£225
Bernard	McWilliams	European Outdoor Tug of War Championships 2019	£250	2	£225
Cornel	Petliuc	Wako European junior Kickboxing championships	£250	1	£250
Ed	Robinson	World Field Target Championships 2019	£636	2	£225
Dermot	Ross	World Field Target Championships 2019	£636	2	£225
Stephen	Weir	2019 ITU Triathlon Championship	£250	1	£250
Stewart	Wylie	Ireland U16/U18 Hockey	£250	1	£250
Total					**£4,650**

Band	Amount
1	**£250.00**
2	**£225.00**
3	**£200.00**
4	**£175.00**
5	**£150.00**

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

Name	Project Title	Amount Requested	Band	Amount Awarded
Tyrone Ladies GFA	All Ireland U14 Gold Final 2019	£400	4	£350
Total				**£350**

Band	Amount
1	**£500.00**
2	**£450.00**
3	**£400.00**
4	**£350.00**
5	**£300.00**

Report on	Schools Sports Facilities Grant
Date of Meeting	12 September 2019
Reporting Officer	Oliver McShane
Contact Officer	Oliver McShane

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 approval for the Schools Sports Facilities Grant 2019/20.
2.0	**Background**
2.1	In the year 2018/19 the programme was funded from an underspend in the Sports Capital Grant programme budget.
3.0	**Main Report**
	Rationale
3.1	The agreed rational in previous years was: Among Mid Ulster District Council's strategic priorities is a commitment to ensuring high quality, responsive, indoor and outdoor recreational services with increased customer numbers and satisfaction. Council recognises the connection between physical activity and the health and well-being of all residents. Participation in sports can play a key part in increasing physical activity which brings very positive benefits to both physical and mental health. To this end Council provides a range of grants to assist and develop sporting activities. Sports clubs also need access to good quality sporting facilities. The Northern Ireland Framework for Sports Facility Development (2016 - 2026) will provide a guide for development of regional sports facilities across the province. Locally, Council Sports Facilities Strategies will identify any shortfalls in provision and will recommend general geographic locations for development or refurbishment of sports facilities which address identified need. Currently Council provides facilities for 30 of the 35 sports activities carried out by the 229 sports clubs in the area. In the past, the legacy Councils provided time bound support to schools and sports clubs to facilitate wider community access to their sporting facilities. These agreements have now come to an end and as a result Council has been approached by a number of sports clubs seeking financial support to improve their access to facilities.
3.2	**Purpose and Objectives** It is specifically targeted at clubs which use, or plan to use, schools' sports facilities or at schools which aim to offer access to their sports facilities outside curriculum times.

	The objectives for the programmes are to: • Increase access to underutilised school sports synthetic pitch facilities. • Contribute to the cost of opening up and maintaining schools' sports facilities, thereby encouraging ongoing usage. • Increase local people's access to training and competitive play opportunities. • Enhance access to team sports activities which are under-resourced or under-represented.
3.3	**Scale of Funding** It is proposed to roll out the programme in 2019/20, with funding from an underspend in the current Sports grants programme. As in previous years, the maximum amount available will be: • Maximum of £5,000 per club or school, dependent on level of usage. This is as follows: o Up to £4,500 maximum grant. o For use of school sports facilities which have not previously been available for community use, up to an additional £500 grant on a pro rata basis. The actual amount awarded will be dependent on the score each application achieves under the criteria set out below. All grant maximums may be reduced if the fund is heavily oversubscribed by eligible applicants.
3.4	**Eligibility** The first stage of the assessment process will involve an eligibility check. Applicants must pass all the criteria to progress to stage two. To be eligible, applicants must: • Be a club using, or planning to use, school owned, synthetic pitch, sports facilities; or, be a school which plans to provide access to such sports facilities by external clubs (*see note 'b' below).* • Be a constituted and not for profit sports club *(although see Note b, below*) or school. • Be located in the Mid Ulster District Council area. • For sports clubs: o be participating in a sport recognised by Sport NI. o A minimum of 80% of members must be resident in the MUDC area. o Not have received any capital funding from Council in the 2018/19 year. o Be able to demonstrate difficulty in accessing other suitable sports facilities. • Not have benefited in the 2018/19 year from Council's: o Sports Strategic Development Grant. o Sports Capital Grant. • Be able to demonstrate difficulty in accessing other suitable sports facilities. • Incur actual documented costs in utilising/providing a schools' sports facility, or, able to provide documentary evidence of voluntary work or maintenance costs involved in maintaining the facility. (*In such circumstances, Council will treat voluntary maintenance work in kind as valued at £10 per hour).* <u>Note</u> a) The programme is primarily aimed at team sports. b) Council may consider applications by schools on behalf of, and supported by evidence of agreement with, a constituted sports club. It is proposed that this grant be rolled out again in this financial year.

4.0	**Other Considerations**
4.1	**Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications**
	Financial It is proposed to roll out the programme in 2019/20, with funding from an underspend in the current sports grants programme – estimated at £15,000.
	Human: N/A
	Risk Management N/A
4.2	**Screening & Impact Assessments**
	Equality & Good Relations Implications Considered in conjunction with Council polices and procedures.
	Rural Needs Implications: Considered in conjunction with Council polices and procedures.
5.0	**Recommendation(s)**
5.1	It is proposed to roll out the School Sports grant programme as in previous years with funding from an underspend in the current grant programmes.
6.0	**Documents Attached & References**
6.1	N/A

Report on	Update on Capital Projects – DAERA Funding
Date of Meeting	12 September 2019
Reporting Officer	Michael Browne
Contact Officer	Mary McKeown, Charmain Bell, Genevieve Bell

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

1.0	**Purpose of Report**
1.1	To update on the progress of the Capital Projects funded by DAERA at Davagh Forest and Ballyronan Marina
2.0	**Background**
2.1	Davagh Observatory and Visitor Centre Construction of the new Observatory and Visitor Centre began in March 2019. The design is based on the uniqueness of the wider Davagh landscape, an area with naturally dark skies and low levels of light pollution.
2.2	Outdoor Visitor Experience at Davagh Forest Dark Sky Observatory A unique outdoor visitor experience to enhance the visitor experience at the new Centre. Using high-powered projection mapping as series of audio-visual shows will be projected onto the east side of the building. These are being created for night-time events educating visitors on, dark skies, the vastness of the universe, the local heritage and landscapes.
2.3	Solar Walk To further link the natural, archaeological and astronomical heritage of the area, the creation of the Solar Walk will connect Davagh Forest and Beaghmore Stone Circles. The 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 a 3-4km scenic walk.
2.4	Davagh Forest Archaeology Trail The creation of the new Archaeology trail will allow public access to three key Bronze Age sites located within Davagh Forest: (i) Remains of a stone circle comparable to the Beaghmore Stone Circles; (ii) A well preserved ring cairn with two stone aliments; and (iii) A Wedge Tomb, known locally as "The Big Man's Grave". This is a circular walk starting and fishing at the new Observatory and Visitor Centre.

2.5	Ballyronan Marina/Fivemiletown Round Lake Water Sports/Activities Project Initially the Council were considering developing on water glamping and on-water activities at the Roundlake in Fivemiletown. Council officers have been advised that the site is not available to develop such a proposition and have been considering other potential sites for this project within the District.
3.0	**Main Report**
3.1	Davagh Observatory and Visitor Centre To date the building is progressing as planned with all statutory approvals in place. The main timber frame has been formed with external membrane installed. Progress has begun on the internal stud walls. Digital content for the internal interactive exhibition has been approved with Tandem, with final artwork to be released in November 2019. Branding for the new centre is currently underway with first draft proposals available in October 2019.
3.2	Outdoor Visitor Experience at Davagh Forest Dark Sky Observatory Tandem have commenced work on the content for the new outdoor experience. The landscape design of the purpose build outdoor viewing platform and play area in the forest were approved by planning in July 2019. Michael Browne and Mary McKeown attended a site meeting with Tandem on Thursday 8th August discussing the content of the audio-visual shows. Tandem are presenting to the board on the 18th September with proposed content for the AV show and landscape element.
3.3	Solar Walk Council officers met with the landowners on Tuesday 16th July and walked the proposed route from Beaghmore Stone Circles to Davagh Forest. The identified route has been issued to the landowners and is currently going through the legal process for the required lease agreements. MUDC Parks department are liaising with the Forest Service Licence Agreement to include the new trail developments. Procurement for the ICT design team is currently underway, and due for completion in December 2019.
3.4	Davagh Forest Archaeology Trail A proposed route has been identified using part of the existing green Mountain Bike trail, along with the construction of a new path to access the three archaeological sites. MUDC Parks department are liaising with the Forest Service Licence Agreement to include the new trail developments.

	Procurement for the ICT design team is currently underway, and due for completion in December 2019.
3.5	Ballyronan Marina Proposal is to develop a combination of 4 x high end on water glamping pods and on water activities. This unique experience will have an international appeal. The proposal is to develop 4 x on water glamping pods with on water activities.
3.6	A Green Book Economic Appraisal is required to be completed for the Ballyronan Marina on Water Glamping and Activities Project prior to the full application being submitted to DAERA on 31st December 2019.
3.7	The recommendation is move the project concept from Filemiletown to to Ballyronan Marina. DAERA have been consulted with regards to the change of location for this project and are happy the Council works up the application for the Ballyronan site.
4.0	**Other Considerations**
4.1	**Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications**
	Financial: Within budget
	Human:
	Risk Management: N/A
4.2	**Screening & Impact Assessments**
	Equality & Good Relations Implications:
	Rural Needs Implications:
5.0	**Recommendation(s)**
5.1	Ballyronan On Water Glamping Pods Seek approval to relocate the on water glamping pods project from The Round Lake in Fivemiletown to Ballyronan Marina. To work up the full application to be submitted to DAERA on or before 31st December, for the Ballyronan Marina site.
6.0	**Documents Attached & References**

Report on	Darina Allen Visit
Date of Meeting	12 September 2019
Reporting Officer	Michael Browne
Contact Officer	Mary Mc Gee

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	This report outlines the planned visit to the region in October by Darina Allen, Ballymaloe and Caroline Hennessy, Head of the Irish Food Bloggers Association and member of the Irish Food Writers Guild. The Invest NI Collaborative Growth Programme and the Seamus Heaney cluster members are coordinating this visit. The idea was born out of a recent study trip to Cork by the Seamus Heaney cluster who collectively felt it was an opportunity not to be passed to host a reciprocal visit to NI. This visit will involve a coming together of three of the Invest NI Collaborative Growth networks, namely Seamus Heaney Cluster, Strangford and Taste Causeway and involve networking and developing new partnerships. The visit will also profile Mid Ulster chefs and food producers as part of the newly launched Taste the Island initiative, the 2019 celebration of NI Food and Drink. TNI will profile this event as part of their PR around Taste the Island.
2.0	**Background**
2.1	Darina Allen is the author of several successful books on Irish food and is a leader of the slow food movement in Ireland she was instrumental in establishing a network of farmers' markets in the Co Cork. In the 1960s she was sous-chef at Ballymaloe House and started giving courses in cooking. Later she moved the cookery classes to her newly established Ballymaloe Cookery School. She is the founder of first Farmers' Markets in Ireland and continues to be involved in helping set up new markets, she is still chair of the her local Midleton Farmers Market. She manages and runs her world renowned Ballymaloe Cookery School and Hotel in Shanagarry, Co Cork and writes for many local and national newsapers including the Irish Examiner.

3.0	**Main Report**
3.1	Darina Allen with Caroline Hennessey will visit Northern Ireland as part of her visit from 6-8 October 2019. She will spend 2 days in mid Ulster and visit a number of businesses. This visit will have the following outcomes - **For Darina Allen** • To highlight the best of local NI food and provide her with editorial content for her weekly column in the Irish Examiner. • To provide an alternative source of producers. • To engage in helping to inform future hospitality skills initiatives • To explore options for future partnership options with suppliers and establishments in NI. **For the Seamus Heaney cluster** • To share best practice in network formation, structuring and creating suitable food/drink/tourism offerings relevant to specific customer segments • To enable network members to learn from others as to how best to exploit their local assets creating value for customers • Create an opportunity for local NI businesses to further develop commercial partnerships • To consider options to enhance the NI food tourism experience via the networks • Through site visits, showcase best practice food tourism in action • To explore opportunities for collaborative R&D, collaborative distribution, collaborative sales **For Stakeholders** • To engage businesses in support of Taste the Island campaign which will be running parallel • To engage with one another in support of the achievements of clusters • To identify opportunities for commercial development/upskilling • Develop stronger connections with one another and share learnings **Proposed Itinerary** 6th October • 17.30 - Arrive Ballyscullion Park • 18.00 - Tour Ballyscullion Park with Richard Mulholland • 18:45 - 21.00 – Dinner at Ballyscullion Park 7th October • 09.00 - Continental Breakfast, Ballyscullion • 10.30 - 12pm - Eel Brunch at Bakehouse NI, Bellaghy with Bronagh Duffin • 12.15 - 14.15pm - Seamus Heaney HomePlace tour, book signing and debrief on cluster activity. • 14.30 - 15.30 - Visit Lough Neagh Fisheries, Toomebridge • 16.00 - Return to Ballyscullion Park • 18.00pm – 21.00 - Networking and sampling showcase event, featuring local chefs and food producers at Ballyscullion - invite to all clusters,

	Council and Stakeholders including TNI, INI and regional food ambassadors. 8th October • 09.00 - Continental Breakfast, Ballyscullion Park and depart.
4.0	**Other Considerations**
4.1	**Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications**
	Financial: £2,500 to cover cost of room and equipment hire, catering, refreshments, photography and all associated costs. The tourism section are seeking funding to cover elements of this from Tourism NI and are currently in discussion on this with them.
	Human: Tourism staff support required.
	Risk Management: Risk assessment will be carried in conjunction with the host establishments and Darina Allen staff.
4.2	**Screening & Impact Assessments**
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
5.0	**Recommendation(s)**
5.1	Proceed with this event to promote and showcase the Seamus Heaney cluster and food producer across Mid Ulster. Darina Allen will also do a book signing in Seamus Heaney HomePlace as part of her visit.
6.0	**Documents Attached & References**

Report on	Corporate Events 2019
Date of Meeting	12 September 2019
Reporting Officer	Michael Browne
Contact Officer	Sharon Arbuthnot

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

1.0	**Purpose of Report**
1.1	To provide an update on the change of date for the Dungannon Annual Christmas Lights Switch On.
2.0	**Background**
2.1	Mid Ulster Regeneration action plan highlights the benefits our Town Centre events: - Increased footfall across the towns in Mid Ulster as a result of the events. - Increased visitor numbers to the towns in Mid Ulster as a result of the events. - Increased profile of the towns in Mid Ulster across the region as a result of the events. - Increased engagement with town centre businesses as a result of the events.

3.0	**Main Report**
3.1	A local community group are currently preparing and organising an event in the town on the evening on Saturday 23 November 2019. With this in mind, we proposing changing the date the Dungannon Christmas Lights Switch On from Saturday 23 November to the evening of Friday 22 November 2019, to avoid any negative impact of the both events.
3.2	The Christmas festivities on the Hill of The O'Neill would then commence on Saturday 23 November & Sunday 24 November 2019.
4.0	**Other Considerations**
4.1	**Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications**
	Financial: Delivered within departmental budget allocation.

	Human: Delivered within Council
	Risk Management:
4.2	**Screening & Impact Assessments**
	Equality & Good Relations Implications:
	Rural Needs Implications:
5.0	**Recommendation(s)**
5.1	Recommendation to change date of the Dungannon Christmas Switch as per report.
6.0	**Documents Attached & References**
6.1	

Report on	Stone Mountain Highland Games
Date of Meeting	12 September 2019
Reporting Officer	Michael Browne
Contact Officer	Mary McKeown

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 permission to attend Stone Mountain Highland Games in Atlanta, Georgia, promoting the Presidential Trail that includes US Grants Homestead.
2.0	**Background**
2.1	The Mid Ulster Council Tourism strategy states that Mid Ulster has the potential to expand its tourism offer significantly. It will focus on one new tourism strand, currently under development – linked to Seamus Heaney - and two strands that are significant and prominent, 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, will 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. To assist in achieving these goals this is an excellent opportunity to promote US Grants Homestead and attract the Scots – Irish decent to Mid Ulster.
3.0	**Main Report**
3.1	**<u>Stone Mountain Highland Games</u>** Celebrating its 47th year, the Stone Mountain Highland Games is a consumer show that takes place annually in Stone Mountain Park northeast of Atlanta, Georgia. The show attracts up to 80,000 individuals of Scots and Scots-Irish descent over a two-day weekend cultural festival featuring music, entertainment, educational and sporting events. Tourism Ireland will again have a presence at the show, and Tourism Northern Ireland are working with TIL to shape the format of the weekend and to recruit Northern Ireland industry to attend.

	They have asked if a representative from Mid Ulster District Council Tourism Department would attend the show and promote the Presidential trail, which includes US Grants Presidential Homestead. The format for the weekend will be as follows: **Thurs 17th October:** Travel to Atlanta, Georgia. **Friday 18th October:** Networking lunch with US based operators; travel influencers; is normally attended by both the British and Irish Counsel Generals who are based in Atlanta and cover the Southern U.S Sites Afternoon: Opportunity for the visiting Northern Ireland industry to present to visitors to the show on their Northern Ireland product offering. Opportunity to reach out to those of Ulster Scots /Scots- Irish descent and profile the Presidential Trail. **Sat 19th / Sun 20th October:** Northern Ireland specific stand at the Stone Mountain Highland Games, with Ulster Scots / Scots- Irish focus. Up to 80,000 visitors attend the festival. **Monday 21st October** NI delegation depart for return travel. Attendance cost at the show is covered by Tourism Ireland, so the only outlay is flight travel, accommodation and meals. Tourism Ireland can subside the cost of the trip, on receipt of documentation, but this will be post event. The subsidy from Tourism Ireland is $800 per organisation. Please see link below for further information: http://www.smhg.org/ https://www.tourismirelandindustryopportunities.com/opportunity-listing/usa-stone-mountain-highland-games
4.0	**Other Considerations**
4.1	**Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications**
	Financial: Attendance at the show will be free and paid by Tourism Ireland; on receipt of documentation, each organisation will receive $800 towards flights, accommodation and meals. Council will cover the remaining balance of this.
	Human: staff time to attend the show
	Risk Management: N/A

4.2	**Screening & Impact Assessments**
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: This is an invaluable opportunity to experience and promote US Grants Homestead as part of the Presidential trail to the American market at Stone Mountain Highland Games in Atlanta.
	Rural Needs Implications:
5.0	**Recommendation(s)**
5.1	Approval given for one member of staff to attend Stone Mountain Highland Games with Tourism Ireland in October 2019
6.0	**Documents Attached & References**

Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Wednesday 3 July 2019 in the Council Offices, Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt

Members Present	Councillor Wilson, Chair Councillors Ashton, Black, Clarke, Corry, Doris, Elattar, Hughes, Kerr, McNamee, Molloy and Monteith
Officers in Attendance	Mrs Campbell, Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation Mr McCreesh, Director of Business and Communities Mr Brown, 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 Forde, Member Support Officer

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

D114/19 Apologies

Councillor Burton, attending an event as current NILGA President
Councillors Cuddy, Kearney and Milne

D115/19 Declaration of Interests

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

D116/19 Chair's Business

The Chair, Councillor Wilson reminded Members that following a notice of motion carried at the Council meeting on 27 June 2019 it had been agreed that Council would explore the possibility of VE Day commemorations in the District. The Chair requested that a paper be presented to the September meeting of the Development Committee.

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council to present a paper to the September committee regarding VE Day Commemorations in the District.

Matters for Decision

D117/19 Community Development Report

The Head of Community Development presented previously circulated report and provided an update on the following:

Declaration of Interest: Councillor McNamee declared an interest in Father Rocks, Cookstown

- **Rolling Grant Awards – Good Relations and Local Community Festivals**

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council to approve the Rolling Grant Awards - Good Relations and Local Community Festivals as per grant recommendations in Appendix 1 of the report to a value of £13,545.

- **Peace IV Partnership**

Declaration of Interest: The Chair, Councillor Wilson and Councillor Ashton declared an interest as Members of the Peace IV partnership.

The Head of Community Development drew attention to appendix 1 tabled at the meeting detailing the grant recommendations totalling £169,774 noting that Positive Steps application had been withdrawn.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Doris

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council to approve the Peace IV Partnership Grant Awards as listed and continue with the Peace grant programme, to promote and keep open the application process to September for potential projects.

- **Housing Working Group**

Members noted the Housing Working Group Minutes.

- **Community Development Update**

Members noted Community Development Update.

D118/19 Economic Development Report

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

Declaration of Interest – Councillors Ashton, Molloy and Monteith declared an interest in Dungannon Regeneration Partnership as Council representatives.

- **Dungannon Regeneration Partnership Proposal**

Councillor McNamee drew attention to the proposal outlined in the report and sought officers' opinion on the proposal and how it sits with the rest of the towns across the district.

Councillor Kerr raised the issue of Donaghmore and other such villages regarding provision of off street car parking. In response the Chair Councillor Wilson advised he would take the issue under Chairs Business.

Councillor Ashton questioned the proposal in terms of the significant cost to Council and the fact that the Department for Communities funding appeared to be off the table. The Councillor suggested that officers should go back to DRP and seek further clarifications.

Councillor Monteith concurred with Councillor Ashton as did Councillor Molloy who suggested that following Officers findings perhaps DRP should make a presentation to the committee in due course.

The Chair Councillor Wilson summarised the comments that Officers review the proposal with Dungannon Regeneration Partnership and have discussions with Department for Communities and report back to the Development Committee following which DRP could make a presentation to the Committee, if required.

Proposed by Councillor Ashton
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that Officers review the proposal with Dungannon Regeneration Partnership and have discussions with Department for Communities and report back to the Development Committee following which DRP could make a presentation to the Committee, if required.

- **Mid Ulster Skills Forum/Skills Action Plan 2018-21**

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Kerr

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council to grant approval to:

(i) <u>Invest NI Collaborative Growth Programme</u>
Submission of an application form to Invest NI and allocate match funding of 50% (up to £25,000) out of existing Local Economic Development budget for a detailed Scoping Study (Phase 1) into future 'industry/education engagement' products and services. If the study produces a positive outcome, this may lead to further funding opportunities.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Kerr

(ii) <u>Mid Ulster Jobs Fair</u>

Funding of up to £8,000 out of the existing Local Economic Development budget to hold a Mid Ulster Jobs Fair in Cookstown during Enterprise week (November 2019) in partnership with the Mid Ulster Skills Forum, Department for Communities and Network Personnel.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor McNamee

(iii) Careers Attractiveness Initiative
Funding of up to £20,000 out of the existing Local Economic Development budget to appoint a suitably qualified company to create appropriate content including storyboards and videos etc. to showcase the attractiveness of jobs/careers in key priority sectors within Mid Ulster.

- **Mid Ulster Business Excellence Awards 2019 Proposal**

Councillor Ashton drew attention to the detail of the venue sponsorship packages and highlighted that the pre-event news coverage was detailed as Larne Times,Carrick Times and Ballymena Times and asked why local papers were not involved. In response the Head of Economic Development stated it was her understanding that the Awards venue was Corrick House and that it would appear the newspaper coverage aforementioned was a typographical error on behalf of the organisers not Council.

The Chair, Councillor Wilson stated that it was his view that Council supports efforts to promote local businesses and acknowledges business achievements through the Civic Awards process.

Councillor Monteith stated that clarity was needed regarding the newspaper coverage as he understood one of the titles mentioned in the proposal was closing. He expressed some concerns about how the Business Awards would be promoted in that particular part of the district, and indicated there was a need for Mid Ulster Council to receive value for money.

In response the Head of Economic Development said that JPI Media were doing some work in the Clogher Valley area to promote the Business Awards such as having coverage on the local radio station, visiting local businesses, promotional activities at the Omagh and Clogher Valley Shows etc.

Councillor McNamee proposed that Council should sponsor an Award Category this year and carry out a comprehensive review for next year.

In response to a Member's question, the Head of Economic Development advised that Council had sponsored the "SME Business of the Year" award category last year.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that

(i) approval be granted to Mid Ulster District Council sponsoring the Mid Ulster Business Awards in 2019/20 at Category Sponsorship £1,750 + Vat (SME Business of the Year Award Category); and
(ii) a comprehensive review of Council sponsorship of the event be completed prior to the 2020/2021 event.

- **Review of Northern Ireland Non-Domestic Rating System -**

The Chair, Councillor Wilson advised that a paper had been requested for committee but on reflection it was a sizable document which was beyond the remit of just the Development Committee but would cover all of Council. The Chair said much consideration was needed and as such he would propose that an all Member workshop/briefing session be held in the near future.

Councillor Monteith stated he would second the proposal as long as the response is completed in time. He stated such issues highlights the need for committees in August.

The Director of Business and Communities advised that it was a complex piece of work which impacted Councils income capacity and thus any response should be well prepared and thought through as Council would have to stand over it. He clarified that Council was aware that a consultation process was due to open in July 2019 but no further details are available at this time. He advised that Council's Head of Economic Development had written to the Department of Finance to raise objections and that it was scandalous that the Department is considering opening a consultation process at a time when many local authorities were in recess.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor Monteith

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that an all Member workshop be held to discuss Council's response to the Review of the Northern Ireland Non- Domestic Rating System.

It was noted that Mid Ulster District Council has registered its interest in the forthcoming stakeholder engagement sessions. If any interested member wishes to register to attend, they can do so by emailing ratingpolicy@cfg@finance-ni.gov.uk

- **Business Eye Article on Mid Ulster**

Members noted Business Eye Article on Mid Ulster (June 2019).

- **Magherafelt Town Centre Forum Minutes**

Members noted Magherafelt Town Centre Forum Minutes (10 April 2019).

- **Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes**

Members noted Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes (11 April 2019).

- **Cookstown Town Centre Forum Minutes**

Members noted Cookstown Town Centre Forum Minutes (10 April 2019).

- **Full Fibre Northern Ireland (FFNI)**

  Proposed by Councillor McNamee
  Seconded by Councillor Clarke

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

(i) Note receipt of the Full Fibre NI Consortium Agreement with Newry Mourne and Down District Council and associated letter of offer and grant agreement from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and that approval to accept and seal the documents will be sought from Council's Policy & Resources Committee and Council Meeting in July 2019.
(ii) Director of Business & Communities (or his nominee) represent Mid Ulster District Council on the FFNI Steering Group, the body responsible for strategic oversight of the programme.
(iii) Economic Strategies Manager and Head of IT represent Mid Ulster District Council on the FFNI Operational Group to oversee operational programme delivery and participation in the procurement exercises undertaken by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, on behalf of the Consortium to deploy the funding.

D119/19 NI Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 – Village Renewal Scheme – Update on Village Projects in Group 7

Declaration of Interest: Councillors Wilson and Clarke declared an interest in NI Rural Development Programme 2014-2020

The Head of Economic Development presented previously circulated report to provide members with an update on the Village Renewal Scheme.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Black

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

(i) Recommendation to progress projects and reallocate underspend to date, and any further underspend in subsequent procurement processes, to the six remaining villages as undernoted, which have not been allocated funding.
- Knockloughrim/Curran
- Tamlaght, Culnady and Innishrush
- Dunnamore, gortacladdy, Killeenan
- Ballymaguigan/Creagh
- Washingbay/Killeen
- Tullyhogue/Tullywiggan/Donaghey

(ii) Provision of 25% match funding from Council (£60,000) being sought at the Policy and Resources Committee in September 2019.

D120/19 Lough Neagh Partnership Core Funding 2019/20

The Head of Tourism drew attention to the previously circulated report and sought approval for annual contribution for year 2019/20 to the core running costs associated with Lough Neagh Partnership (LNP) in the delivery of marketing tourism, recreational, environmental and heritage activities on Lough Neagh (LN) and the shoreline on behalf of Mid Ulster District Council.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Corry

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

(i) Mid Ulster District Council funding Lough Neagh Partnership £22,000 as requested subject to funding being secured from all five Councils on the shores of Lough Neagh.
(ii) Lough Neagh Partnership submitting a quarterly update to MUDC.

D121/19 Learning Journey to The Midlands for 40 Tourism Cluster Group Members and Lead Officers

The Head of Tourism drew attention to the previously circulated report to inform Council of plans to develop a one-day Learning Journey to the Midlands on Wednesday 25th September with Tourism Cluster Business members (40 people) and tourism staff. Cost per person £15.00 to help cover admissions and coach costs.

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Monteith

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that approval be given to the Council supporting the Midlands Learning Journey proposal.

D122/19 Sperrins Sculptures

The Head of Tourism drew attention to the previously circulated report to seek Members approval for additional funding for the Sperrins Sculptures Trail.

Proposed by Councillor Sean
Seconded by Councillor McNamee

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that approval be given to the increase Councils' potential contribution by £8,633 to progress to the next stage of design with the preparation of an artists' brief for the Sperrins Sculpture Trail project. (Both Derry and Strabane and

Fermanagh and Omagh Councils have obtained approval for the potential additional funds as detailed in this report).

D123/19 Tourism Skills Programme

The Head of Tourism drew attention to the previously circulated report and sought approval for the delivery of a bespoke tailored training and mentoring skills programme to the Tourism sector across Mid Ulster.

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Corry

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council to approve the proposal and agree to deliver the Tourism Training Skills Programme with an option to deliver a phase 2 in 2020/2021.

D124/19 Trade & Consumer Platforms 2019-2020

The Head of Tourism drew attention to the previously circulated report which sets out the plans for Mid Ulster to promote and profile the Mid Ulster tourism product, key themes and cluster experiences to consumers and the travel trade worldwide who are planning to holiday in Ireland.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Doris

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that representatives from Tourism attend and promote Mid Ulster Council key themes and tourism product at these events and capitalise on all FOC opportunities, including branding and Taste the Island.

D125/19 GOGA#2 Project Plan (2021-2024)

The Acting Head of Leisure drew attention to the previously circulated report to inform members about the GOGA (Get Out Get Active) 2 Project Plan (2021 – 2024). Live Active NI is a community interest company established by Disability Sport NI to bring the benefits of active recreation to everyone in the community, with a particular focus on under-represented groups. Mid Ulster District Council has been highlighted as a potential partner due to the lack of previous funding by the Spirit of 2012 and its geographical mix of both rural and urban and its area.

Councillor Monteith spoke of a meeting between Sperrinview Special Needs School and Members at which time they had raised items for consideration to accommodate inclusion of people with special needs in activities. He highlighted that many of the suggestions had been easy non cost initiatives and proposed that officers meet with representatives of special needs schools and groups to promote inclusion.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Molloy

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council to

(i) agree in principle to support the GOGA#2 proposal with more detail to be presented to committee if the funding application submitted by Disability Sport NI is successful and an offer of support is received.
(ii) meet with representative of Special Needs Schools/Groups to see how the programme could be developed to promote inclusion of people with Special Needs.

D126/19 Sports Representative Grants

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

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Kerr

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council to agree the Sport Grant Allocations.

D127/19 JC Decaux Advertising Licence Agreement at Railway Park

The Head of Parks drew attention to the previously circulated report to ask for consideration to extend billboard advertising rental contract with current provider JC Decaux at Railway Park, Dungannon.

Councillor Monteith stated that the billboards were an eyesore as was the area surrounding and they were used as an excuse not to maintain the area. He stated that the money received from them should be used to provide activities in Railway Park and he had an issue that this was not the case. He was emphatic that the area was not maintained to a satisfactory standard and this had been the case for years, he said the Council was neglecting this area, that the billboard was an eyesore and the grass hadn't even been trimmed.

Councillor Molloy proposed that the Head of Parks investigate investment in the area to upgrade it, he concurred that the grass was an eyesore and suggested that even if Meadow flowers were planted it would improve the appearance.

The Head of Parks acknowledged that Members had pointed out that there is a maintenance issue and that Council hoped to address it. He stated that the development of the new path is nearer to the Ballygawley Road side of the park and advised Members that the budgets were reliant on the income from the billboards in the current financial year.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Doris

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that

(i) approval be given to extending the current Licence Agreement for one year under the current terms and conditions;

(ii) Officers explore investment for the maintenance and upgrade of the area of the bill boards.

D128/19 Knockmany Forest and Washingbay Capital Projects Revised Letter of Offer Sport NI

The Head of Parks drew attention to the previously circulated report and sought approval to accept revised Letter of Offer from Sport NI in relation to additional funding for Knockmany Forest and Washingbay Capital Projects.

Councillor Doris advised that she had been approached by users of the Washingbay facility who had highlighted that the public conveniences are closed when the centre is closed and sought an extension to the opening hours to accommodate park users. In response the Head of Parks advised that there was a service level agreement with the Community Centre and extended access to the public conveniences could be explored.

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Clarke

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

(i) Accept the terms and conditions associated to the revised Letter of Offer and to manage the programme of works as agreed in conjunction with Sports NI and associated stakeholders.

(ii) Additional funding package from Sport NI for the Knockmany Project and increase the IST contract Value from £261,796.84 to £304,386.64 + 10% contingency sum resulting

(iii) Additional funding package from Sport NI for the Washingbay Wetlands Park Project and increase the IST contract Value from £229,415.10 to £237,612.10 + 10% contingency sum resulting in upper limit of potential spend of £261,373.31 for construction scheme delivery costs excluding VAT.

(iv) Existing IST contracts being extended to cover this additional spend.

(v) The extension of the opening hours of the public conveniences at the site to be discussed with the Community Centre.

Matters for Information

D129/19 Minutes of Development Committee held on 13 June 2019

Members noted Minutes of Development Committee held on 13 June 2019.

Councillor Ashton sought an update on the barbeque area of Dungannon Park. In response the Head of Parks stated that there was a request for an upgrade and costings were being sought.

D130/19 Leisure Services Update

Members noted Leisure Services Update.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Ashton

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 D131/19 to D134/19.

D135/19 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7 pm and concluded at 7.37 pm

CHAIR _____

DATE _____

APPENDIX 1

Development Committee 3rd July 2019 - Community Development Report

PEACE IV Partnership Meeting -Grant Recommendations

The PEACE IV grants phase 4 programme closed on 31st May 2019, there were six grant applications received as detailed below:

Grants	Theme	Grants overview	Grant Award Amount Up to
Castlecaulfield Horticultural Society: Getting Caulfield Buzzing	SSS	To offer a range of activities and opportunities for people of all ages, backgrounds and ability in Castlecaulfield. To decrease levels of social isolation and learn new skills – more opportunity to socialise and meet people in the community building.	£25,000
Dungannon Enterprise Centre: Project LEAD	BPR	Develop capacity building to support increased cohesion through the development of leadership and social entrepreneurial skills for 16 women from across all communities reflective of the diverse range of community and voluntary groups.	£40,320
Gaslight Media Trust: Project 'JustUs Training the Trainer Prog'	BPR	Gaslight Media Trust will deliver a training programme to Youth Educator Practitioners currently working with young people in youth work settings across Mid Ulster. The programme addresses identity and diversity and good relations issues with a view to broadening young people's perspectives.	£13,016
NIRWN: Project #selfie	BPR	To develop and empower women of Mid Ulster to contribute to the community development and community cohesion of their area. The project will support women to build confidence and develop relationships at individual and group level so that they can be enabled to voice their own concerns and those of their area	£41,438
Rural Action: SMART Schools – new thinking for Rural Schools	BPR	Smart Schools is an Innovative Pilot Programme designed to facilitate new thinking towards the sustainability of small rural schools across the Mid Ulster District Council. 9 rural schools will be targeted to come together across the district and will look specifically at a sustainable schools model.	£50,000
Positive Steps	BPR	Application withdrawn; potential to work with the group for a potential resubmission	
Total value of Grants			£169,774

Proposal - It was agreed to continue with the Peace grant programme and continue to promote and keep open the application process to September for potential projects. Officers to continue to support groups access grant funding where possible.

Report on	2019 Summer Activities
Date of Meeting	12th September 2019
Reporting Officer	Oliver McShane
Contact Officer	Leigh Gilmore

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

1.0	**Purpose of Report**
1.1	To provide Members with an update on the 2019 Leisure Summer Programme activities.
2.0	**Background**
2.1	The 2019 Summer Activity Programme had a wide range of camps and schemes including Summer Schemes, Canoeing, Tennis, Bowling, Gymnastics, Football, Disability, Gaelic, Hockey, Multisport, Dance, Athletics and Golf.
2.2	These activities took place right across the District at - Ballyronan, Fairhill, Cookstown LC, Mid Ulster Sports Arena, Cookstown HS, Dungannon Park, Royal School Dungannon, Greenvale LC, Maghera LC, Moneymore RC, Meadowbank Sports Arena, Tobermore Golf Centre, Backrow Draperstown
2.3	All summer schemes continue to run with morning and afternoon sessions making it more suitable for parents.
2.4	Early drop offs, breakfast clubs and in most cases supervised lunches were available this year. Summer schemes ran from between 4 and 8 weeks offering free play sessions structured programmes and trips.
3.0	**Main Report**
3.1	All camps were delivered by fully qualified and experienced coaches, Leisure Department staff organised our summer scheme programmes. Activities on offer at camps and schemes were - Arts & Crafts, Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Bouncy Castles, Bowling, Canoeing, Climbing Wall, Dance, Disability Sports, Dodge Ball, Football, Gaelic Football, Gymnastics, Golf, Goal Keeping, Hockey, Multi Sports, Olympic Handball, Rugby, Soft Play Area, Swimming, Table Tennis, Tennis, Walking

Extensive programmes were also organised locally by Governing Bodies of Sport. Derry GAA, Tyrone GAA, IFA & Ulster Hockey.

Although welcomed, their popularity can affect numbers attending MUDC scheme's and camps.

Everybody Active 2020 Coaches also lead a range of Schemes and Camps across the District focusing on community health.

3.2 **Attendance**

In total across the summer, children took part over 14,000 times in this year's Summer Activity Programme.

Activity	2019
Summer Camps	3105
Summer Schemes	9836
EBA Schemes	459

The vast majority of the children and young people that attended the programmes came from within the District. Speciality camps advertised externally attracted interest from residents from outside the district - Canoeing at Ballyronan and the Goalkeepers course at MUSA.

The 2019 Summer Activity Programme was successful at keeping children engaged with the range of activities on offer. Approximately 2,300 individuals registered across all programmes.

On review, overall numbers were down slightly on last year, primarily due to the closure of Dungannon Leisure Centre. We are currently reviewing other reasons for the change in attendance.

There was also good access to programmes and schemes across the district. The unavailability of gymnastics coaches did impact on this activity.

Tobermore Golf Driving range proved extremely popular this year as a result of the Open held in Portrush and our existing Primary Schools programme. The driving range continues to enjoy the benefits of the increased awareness of golf with user numbers remaining consistently high.

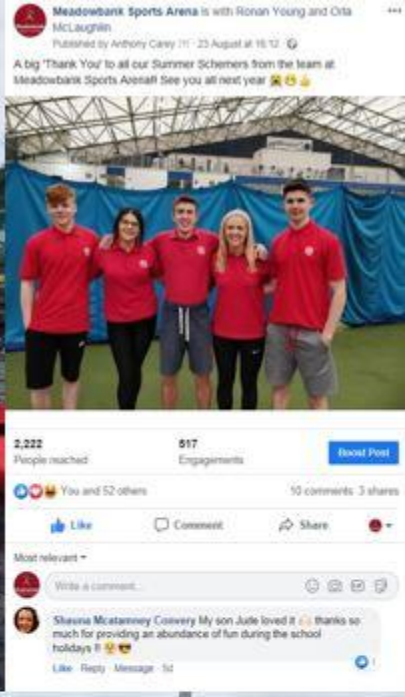
4.0 Other Considerations

4.1 Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications

Financial:
Within budget

Human:
N/A

	Risk Management: N/A
4.2	**Screening & Impact Assessments**
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
5.0	**Recommendation(s)**
5.1	Report provided for information.
6.0	**Documents Attached & References**
6.1	Appendix 1 Capture Summer 2019


Meadowbank Sports Arena is with Ronan Young and Orla McLaughlin
Published by Anthony Carey [?] · 23 August at 16:12
A big 'Thank You' to all our Summer Schemers from the team at Meadowbank Sports Arena!! See you all next year
2,222
People reached
617
Engagements
Boost Post
You and 52 others
10 comments 3 shares
Like
Comment
Share
Most relevant
Write a comment...
Shauna Mcatamney Convery My son Jude loved it thanks so much for providing an abundance of fun during the school holidays !!
Like · Reply · Message · 5d

MID ULSTER SPORTS ARENA

Report on	US Ulster Scots Familiarisation Trip
Date of Meeting	12 September 2019
Reporting Officer	Michael Browne
Contact Officer	Genevieve Bell

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 inform members of a US Ulster Scots Fam Trip to Northern Ireland in September 2019 (visiting US Grant Ancestral Homestead as part of the 3 day trip)
2.0	**Background**
2.1	There are four Homesteads throughout Northern Ireland that tell the story of Presidential connections between NI / Ulster and the U.S. namely: • US Grant Ancestral Homestead (Ballygawley, Dungannon) • Andrew Jackson Cottage (Carrickfergus) • Chester Alan Arthur Cottage (Cullybackey) • Woodrow Wilson Homestead (Strabane) Officers from Tourism NI and relevant Council officers areas are working together to produce a US American Presidents Trail. As part of a trip to Northern Ireland and the Republic a group of US Ulster Scots tour operators will visit the 4 Homesteads in September 2019.
3.0	**Main Report**
3.1	A U.S. Ulster Scots tour operator group will visit Northern Ireland from 23-26th September for a 3 day familiarisation trip. The group will visit US Grant Ancestral Homestead on Tuesday 24th September at 5pm. This is an excellent opportunity to showcase the Homestead which will be brought to life with living history and a guided tour of the site. Light refreshments will also be served.
4.0	**Other Considerations**
4.1	**Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications**
	Financial: £500 to cover hire of Craic theatre (living history), tour guiding and light refreshments

	Human: Tourism staff required.
	Risk Management: Will be carried out on site
4.2	**Screening & Impact Assessments**
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
5.0	**Recommendation(s)**
5.1	For information.
6.0	**Documents Attached & References**
	US Ulster Scots Fam Trip Itinerary attached.

tourism northernireland

US ULSTER SCOTS FAM

23rd – 26th SEPTEMBER 2019

Day 1: Mon 23 Sept

TBC **Morning arrival at Dublin Airport and transfer to Belfast with your guide, SEAMUS MILLIKEN, Toast the Coast**

Arrive Titanic Hotel – where you will be having lunch (and returning to overnight later)

1430 **Belfast City Orientation Tour by coach** - during your tour you will see many of Belfast's famous attractions (allow 1 hour)

1530 **Visit to Belfast City Hall** – at the centre of Donegall Square proudly stands Belfast City Hall, the civic headquarters of Belfast City Council. The grounds feature a number of statutes and memorials relating to Belfast's historic past. Daily tours of the building allow visitors to admire the opulent interiors, artwork and stained glass windows. (allow 1 hour)

Belfast City Hall

1645 **Linen Hall Library** - founded in 1788, it is the oldest library in Belfast and the last subscribing library in Ireland. It is renowned for its Irish and Local Studies Collections, ranging from Early Belfast and Ulster printed books to the 250,000 items in the Northern Ireland Political Collection, the definitive archive of the recent troubles. *(please note Library closes at 1730)*

1700 **Return to Titanic Hotel** - freshen up for dinner

1900 **Dinner in Hadski's**

Coach required for drop off and pick up

2230 **Return to hotel for overnight**

Day 2: Tues 24 Sept

0900 Depart Belfast via scenic Causeway Coastal Route

0930 **Andrew Jackson Cottage & US Rangers Centre** - meet Dr David Hume from Toast the Coast and experience a snapshot of his Ulster Scots Foodie Tour

Andrew Jackson Cottage

1030 Continue North

1100 **Ballycarry Templecorran Graveyard** - Templecorran stands on an early ecclesiastical site in the village of Ballycarry, an area favoured for Scottish settlers in the early 17th century. Home of the first Presbyterian minister in Ireland for a brief period in the 1690s, it was one of the parishes for which the celebrated novelist, Jonathan Swift was responsible. With stunning views and it's a connection to yonder lands, Templecorran cemetery is steeped in history, notably a monument to James Orr. James Orr known as the Bard of Ballycarry was a foremost of the Ulster Weaver Poets and writing at the same time as Robert Burns. He was one of many Ulster Presbyterians who fled to America after taking part in the ill-fated Ulster Irish Rising in 1798. (30mins stop)

1200 **Broth/Stew lunch in the Prom Cafe Larne** (after viewing the Ulster American Memorial/Port memorial) Departure of Goodwill ship to Boston in year 1717. Cafe views look yonder to Scotland

1315 Depart Cafe

1345 **Glenarm St Patrick Church & Old Friary -** sits on the coast road in Glenarm looking out to sea towards Scotland and inland to Glenarm Castle Estate. The site was donated by Scotsman Robert Bissett and dates back to 1465 were a Franciscan order was established. A favoured burial place for locals and Scottish settlers alike, inside many points of interest including a fine collection of stain glass windows. One such of St Patrick in a purple robe, an unusual depiction. (30 mins stop)

1500 **Arthur Cottage** - in the village of Cullybackey, is the ancestral home of Chester A. Arthur, the 21st President of the United States. The thatched cottage and interpretive centre detail the story of President Arthur and his road to the Presidency. President Arthur's grandparents lived in Cullybackey at Arthur Cottage. Their son, William (the President's father) was born 1797 in the cottage and emigrated, with other members of the family, to North America between 1816 and 1820. (allow 30 mins)

1530 Depart Cullybackey for Ballygawley *(David will depart group here)*

1700 **Ulysses S Grant Homestead** - Visit the homestead of the US Grant, 18th President of the United States, whose great grandfather was born just outside the Ballygawley. The original ancestral homestead has been preserved and is open to visitors all year round. (allow 1 hour)

1800 Depart for Omagh

1830 **Check into Silverbirch Hotel** – freshen up for dinner

1930 **Dinner in hotel restaurant**

Overnight

Day 3: Wed 25 Sept

0945 After a leisurely breakfast - depart hotel for short drive to the Folk Park

1000 **Ulster American Folk Park** *(with refreshments before departure)* - a world to excite your inner explorer. Immerse yourself in the story of the brave emigrants who made the journey across the Atlantic to America hundreds of years ago. Wander through the thatched cottages and log cabins and meet costumed characters who will show you traditional crafts, tell you a few stories and maybe even share a bit of their good food. Board a full-scale emigrant ship to experience the conditions faced by many as they set sail for a new life in America. (allow 1 hour 30 mins)

1100 Depart for Derry~Londonderry

1200 Arrive Derry – **meet your Derry Guide to take the Walking Tour of Derry's Walls** – this year is the 400th anniversary of the walls and the tour tells the story of the plantation of Ulster.

Derry's walls

1300 **Lunch at Shipquay Hotel followed by a showaround** (allow 1 hour 30 mins)

1430 **Siege Museum** – a permanent display of the history of the Siege of Londonderry and of the Associated Clubs of the Apprentice Boys of Derry, including artefacts, video and interactive media. (allow 45 mins)

1530 **Museum of Free Derry** - opening in 2007 the museum's object is to tell the story of what happened in the city during the period 1968 – 1972, popularly known as 'Free Derry', and including the civil rights era, Battle of the Bogside, Internment, Bloody Sunday and Operation Motorman. (allow 45 mins)

1615 **Guild Hall Tour** - A major £9.5m restoration of the Guildhall was completed in June 2013. The building which had been closed since 2012 now also boasts a new multi-faceted tourism experience providing a central hub for visitors exploring the city.

1730 **Check into Bishop's Gate Hotel** – freshen up for dinner

1900 **Dinner in Soda & Starch**

Coach not required - return to hotel for overnight

Day 4: Thu 26 Sept - Depart for ROI after leisurely breakfast