

Report on	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP) 2. MEGA Service Level Agreement (SLA) Progress Update (April-Sept 2022) 3. Lough Neagh Partnership Service Level Agreement (SLA) Progress Update (April-Sept 2022)
Date of Meeting	7 th December 2022
Reporting Officer	Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism & Strategic Programmes

Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To provide Members with an update on key activities as detailed below.
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP) Council has agreed to participate in the development and delivery of a Local Labour Market Partnership (LMP) under the Employability NI Programme led by the Department for Communities. The aim of LMPs is to improve employability outcomes and labour market conditions locally by working through coordinated, collaborative, multiagency partnerships. It is the Council's intention that the Mid Ulster LMP will be industry-led; developing and delivering activities relating to skills development, training and employability programmes in the local area.</p>
2.2	<p>MEGA Service Level Agreement (SLA) Progress Update (April-Sept 2022) MEGA (Mid Ulster Manufacturing & Engineering Growth & Advancement) is an award-winning collaborative growth network formed in 2017 with the support of Mid Ulster District Council and Invest NI to address the immediate and medium term skills shortages in the manufacturing and Engineering industries in the Mid-Ulster area. MEGA is unique in that it is an industry-led collaborative network of businesses who are working together towards a common goal. Its main aim is to tackle skills, labour issues in Mid Ulster, create, and implement ways to attract and retain talent in the engineering and manufacturing industry.</p>
2.3	<p>Lough Neagh Partnership Service Level Agreement (SLA) Progress Update (April-Sept 2022) Over the past number of years, a group of 5 Councils from around the shoreline of Lough Neagh (as listed below) have provided a financial contribution towards Lough Neagh Partnership (LNP) to support their work; these are Mid Ulster</p>

District Council, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council, Mid and East Antrim Borough Council and Lisburn and Castlereagh Borough Council.

3.0 Main Report

3.1 Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP)

In May 2022, Council received correspondence from the Department for Communities (DfC) advising that Mid Ulster LMP's annual budget for programme expenditure 2022-23 had been reduced from £374,700 to £274,334.25. Council officers liaised with representatives of Mid Ulster LMP to scale back the operational programme and associated budget following which a revised Action Plan 2022-23 was submitted to the Department.

The Council received a letter of offer dated 1 November 2022 from the Department from Communities for £368,009.25 to support delivery of the Mid Ulster LMP Action Plan 2022/23 (**See Appendix 1**). The breakdown of the amount is as follows:-

Budget	£
Administration costs	93,675.00
Operational/Programme costs	274,334.25
Total Award	368,009.25

In July 2022, Council approved that delegated authority be awarded to the Council's Chief Executive to sign and accept a letter of offer from the Department for Communities. Thus, a signed letter of acceptance and copy of budget schedule has been returned to the Department. In anticipation of the level of work required alongside the short timeframe to complete it in, Council previously agreed to tender a number of LMP programmes but pause formal appointment until Council was in receipt of a letter of offer from DfC.

3.2 MEGA Service Level Agreement (SLA) Progress Update (April-Sept 2022)

The report attached on **Appendix 2** provides an update on MEGA's work across the areas outlined in MEGA's SLA with Mid Ulster District Council. On review of the 6 month progress report, the work is on track across all areas.

3.3 Lough Neagh Partnership Service Level Agreement (SLA) Progress Update (April-Sept 2022)

The report attached on **Appendix 3** provides an update on Lough Neagh Partnership work across the areas outlined in the SLA with Mid Ulster District Council. On review of the 6 month progress report the work is on track across all areas.

4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p data-bbox="229 259 975 297">Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <p data-bbox="229 338 368 367">Financial:</p> <p data-bbox="229 371 903 409">Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP) LMP activity is funded by the Department for Communities (DfC). A letter of offer for £368,009.25 has been received from DfC covering Administration and Operational /Programme expenditure for 2022-23.</p> <p data-bbox="229 557 1342 595">MEGA Service Level Agreement (SLA) Progress Update (April-Sept 2022) Provision was made in 2022/23 Economic Development budget for MEGA to receive funding of £15,000 per annum.</p> <p data-bbox="229 703 1401 786">Lough Neagh Partnership Service Level Agreement (SLA) Progress Update (April-Sept 2022) Provision was made in 2022/23 Economic Development budget for Lough Neagh Partnership Service Level Agreement (SLA) to receive funding of £22,000 this financial year.</p> <p data-bbox="229 943 341 972">Human:</p> <p data-bbox="229 976 903 1014">Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP) Officer's time.</p> <p data-bbox="229 1086 1342 1124">MEGA Service Level Agreement (SLA) Progress Update (April-Sept 2022) Officer's time.</p> <p data-bbox="229 1196 1401 1279">Lough Neagh Partnership Service Level Agreement (SLA) Progress Update (April-Sept 2022) Officers time</p> <p data-bbox="229 1359 496 1397">Risk Management:</p> <p data-bbox="229 1402 903 1440">Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP) Delivery of the LMP Action Plan 2022-23 has to be completed by end of March 2022. LMP staff will work closely with appointed delivery agents to monitor progress and minimise risks.</p> <p data-bbox="229 1579 1401 1662">Lough Neagh Partnership Service Level Agreement (SLA) Progress Update (April-Sept 2022) The project is managed in accordance with MUDC policies and procedures</p>
4.2	<p data-bbox="229 1778 746 1816">Screening & Impact Assessments</p> <p data-bbox="229 1856 794 1895">Equality & Good Relations Implications:</p> <p data-bbox="229 1899 1374 1982">Lough Neagh Partnership Service Level Agreement (SLA) Progress Update (April-Sept 2022) Council policies and procedures were adhered to in the roll out of Lough Neagh Partnerships plan with continuous community engagement.</p>

	<p>Rural Needs Implications: Lough Neagh Partnership Service Level Agreement (SLA) Progress Update (April-Sept 2022) Rural needs around Lough Neagh shoreline are being implemented in the roll out of this plan</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
	<p>It is recommended that Members;</p> <p>5.1 Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP) Note content of the report and receipt of Letter of Offer totalling £368,009.25 from the Department for Communities (DfC) to support delivery of the Mid Ulster LMP Action Plan 2022/2023.</p> <p>5.2 MEGA Service Level Agreement (SLA) Progress Update (April-Sept 2022) Note update report from MEGA for the period April – September 2022.</p> <p>5.3 Lough Neagh Partnership Service Level Agreement (SLA) Progress Update (April-Sept 2022) Note update report from Lough Neagh Partnership for the period April – September 2022.</p>
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	<p>Appendix 1 – Letter of offer from Department for Communities for LMP funding 2022-23.</p> <p>Appendix 2 – MEGA Service Level Agreement - Progress Update (April-Sept 2022)</p> <p>Appendix 3 – LNP Service Level Agreement – Progress Update (April-Sept 2022)</p>