Comhairle Ceantair Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster District Council

13 September 2018

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Development Committee to be held in The Chamber, Magherafelt at Mid Ulster District Council, Ballyronan Road, MAGHERAFELT, BT45 6EN on Thursday, 13 September 2018 at 19:00 to transact the business noted below.

Yours faithfully

Anthony Tohill
Chief Executive

AGENDA

OPEN BUSINESS

1. Apologies
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Chair's Business
4. Deputation - Lough Neagh Eels

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

17. Cookstown Town Twinning, Sperrin Choir visit to Plerin-Sur-Mer, 3rd – 6th May 2019
18. Coalisland and East Tyrone Great Place Partnership Group Partnership Agreement
19. Invitation to Bardic Theatre to perform at Liverpool Irish Festival 2018
20. Community Development Report
21. Connecting Pomeroy – Peace IV Project
22. Tender Report for CCTV in Park N Rides
23. Tender Report for the Mid Ulster PEACE IV Sports Engagement Programme
24. Outline Proposals for Gortgonis Leisure Facility
25. Davagh Dark Skies Project

Matters for Information

26. Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 4 July 2018

Report on	**Public Art Rural Proposal**
Date of Meeting	13th September 2018
Reporting Officer	Michael Browne
Contact Officer	Michael Browne

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 secure Council approval to proceed in principle to work in partnership with Derry City and Strabane District Council, Fermanagh & Omagh District Council to scope a major public art project with significant tourism potential under the current Rural Tourism Scheme opened by the Northern Ireland Rural Development Scheme.
2.0	**Background**
2.1	The Sperrins Sculpture Trail is a proposed joint tourism initiative being developed by Omagh & Fermanagh District Council, Mid Ulster Council and Derry City and Strabane District Council acting as led Council for the project.
2.2	Interim support for the sculpture trail has also recently been obtained from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) which has granted approval for the project to be considered for technical assistance funding.
2.3	The Sperrin Sculpture Trail project will embed an iconic public artwork installations within the heart of the Sperrins; one that reflects the rich cultural and natural heritage of the region and opens up, for further exploration, this Area Of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).
2.4	The proposed Sperrin Sculpture Trail project will be developed under the Rural Tourism Scheme as part of the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 (NIRDP). The aim of the programme's Rural Tourism Scheme is to support investment in natural and built heritage projects that can act as a key driver for encouraging rural tourism and particularly out of state visitors whilst preserving the natural assets of the rural community. When the call for expressions of interest was issued, the Department gave a clear indication of its priorities, namely:

	- Develop an iconic and unique offering for visitors - Increase tourism from out of state visitors - Create capital infrastructure - Create jobs
2.5	The Sperrin Sculpture Trail project has been identified as a potential key flagship project and economic driver to deliver upon the strategic aims articulated by each of the three partner councils.
3.0	**Main Report**
3.1	The proposed project would be to commission an artist of international reputation and renown to look at a multiple site projects in the western region and within the Sperrins.
3.2	The artist would need to have such a reputation that any public art piece by them would attract such publicity and interest that there would be immediate benefit to the local economy from visitor numbers.
3.3	Officers are working on a proposal that would connect under this project multiple sites potentially across the Sperrins area.
3.4	Officers are currently scoping a number of sites in the rural area and intend to submit an expression of interest to the Rural Tourism Scheme that is currently open under the Rural Development Programme.
3.5	A number of sites will be put forward to the artist as potential sites based on their availability for Councils to install a public art piece on and their short and long term accessibility for construction and subsequent public access.
4.0	**Other Considerations**
4.1	**Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications**
	Financial: The proposed Sperrin Sculpture Trail project will have 2 phases. Phase 1 is concerned with the technical study and project competition. Phase 2 relates to the capital element of the project. Phase 1 – Technical Study Derry City and Strabane District Council will appoint a competent service provider to compete the technical study for this project identifying sites for the public artwork installation, secure all relevant permissions and compile a fully comprehensive artist’s brief to enable project to proceed to competition. Mid Ulster Council 25% match meet within Business & Communities service within 18/19 expenditure.

	Phase 2 - Full Capital Project Upon completion of phase 1 the project will move to deliver phase 2 of the project, the delivery of the full capital project and launch of the Sperrin Sculpture Trail. Project Financing • The estimated budget for Phase 1 is £67,000. • The estimated budget for Phase 2 is £1,933,000. • It is envisaged that Phase 1 will be financed by DAERA and the 3 partner • Councils. For the delivery of Phase 2 the partners will seek £1,433,000 from DAERA, £300k from Department for Infrastructure (Percent for Art Scheme) with the remaining £200,000 met by the 3 partner councils.
	Human: The three partner councils will establish a Project Reference Group. The successful bidder will liaise closely with this Project Reference Group in the delivery of Phase 1.
	Risk Management: Rural Management will be considered as part of the Scoping Studies undertaken in Phase 1.
4.2	**Screening & Impact Assessments**
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: All Equality and Good Relations Implications will be considered and addressed within Scoping Studies undertaken
	Rural Needs Implications: Rural Needs Implications will be considered as part of the Scoping Studies undertaken in Phase 1.
5.0	**Recommendation(s)**
5.1	To approve in principle to proceed with scoping of this project and to submit an expression of interest to the current Rural Tourism Scheme.
6.0	**Documents Attached & References**
	The Sperrin Sculptural Trail proposal.

THE SPERRIN SCULPTURE TRAIL

REFLECTIONS OF OUR CULTURAL HERITAGE

Derry City & Strabane District Council
Comhairle Chathair Dhoire & Cheantar an tSratha Báin
Derry Cittie & Stràbane Destrick Council

THE SPERRIN SCULPTURE TRAIL

The Sperrins Sculpture Trail is a joint tourism initiative being developed by Derry City and Strabane District Council (DCSDC), Fermanagh & Omagh District Council (FODC) and Mid Ulster Council (MUC). Interim support for the sculpture trail has also recently been obtained from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) which has granted approval for the project to be considered for technical assistance funding.

The Sperrin Sculpture Trail project will embed an iconic public artwork installation within the heart of the Sperrins; one that reflects the rich cultural and natural heritage of the region and opens up, for further exploration, this area of outstanding natural beauty.

The proposed Sperrin Sculpture Trail project will be developed under the Rural Tourism Scheme as part of the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 (NIRDP).

The aim of the programme's Rural Tourism Scheme is to support investment in natural and built heritage projects that have the potential to encourage rural tourism, particularly that derived from out of state visitors, whilst preserving the natural assets of the rural community.

THE SPERRIN SCULPTURE TRAIL

When the call for expressions of interest was issued, the Department gave a clear indication of it's priorities, namely:

- > Develop an iconic and unique offering for visitors
- > Increase tourism from out of state visitors
- > Create capital infrastructure
- > Create jobs

The Sperrin Sculpture Trail project represents a means to drive the development of our natural and cultural assets within the region and to make them accessible to visitors. It is envisaged that the artwork installation will be iconic in nature and produced by an artist of international renown. Visitors will use stunning walking trails and dramatic driving routes to move between the artwork sites in a way that enables them to immerse themselves in the cultural heritage of the Sperrins.

Strategic Context

The Sperrin Sculpture Trail project has been identified as a key flagship project and economic driver to deliver upon the strategic aims articulated by each of the three partner councils.

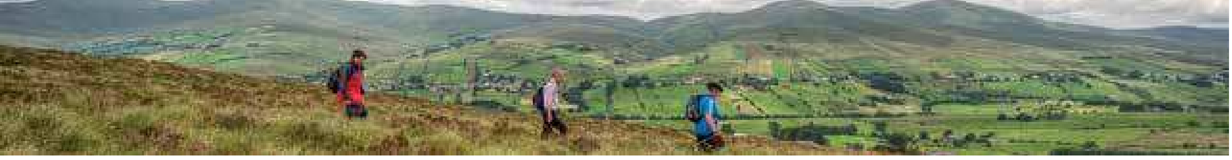
Within the DCSDC Strategic Growth Plan tourism has been identified as a key economic driver with the stated outcome that "we live in the cultural destination of choice offering world class visitor experiences".

Whilst the district's recently launched tourism strategy flagged the economic importance of tourism, it also highlighted the contrasting baseline between the City's tourism product and the rural hinterland, which is much less developed. Rural tourism receives approximately one tenth of the total visitor spend. That said, the strategy recognises that the rural hinterland has many ingredients to facilitate longer term opportunities relating to tourism: a beautiful natural offering including the Sperrins, rivers and the loughs, historic villages and heritage, however accessibility is a challenge.

The development of activity, adventure, heritage focussed visitor experiences is considered to have the greatest potential of addressing the underperformance of tourism in rural areas and providing the platform to attract a new profile of visitors in the medium to longer term.

Within Mid Ulster there is a recognition, that in tourism terms, it is a developing destination which in recent years has not reached its full economic growth potential. The central issue and greatest barrier to success for the area, as highlighted in its tourism strategy ***'Our plan to develop tourism in Mid Ulster to 2021***', is its comparative lack of visibility in the tourism marketplace. This is evidenced by limited levels of visitation (214,000) and spend (£27m) equivalent to 4.6% of NI overnight trips and 3.6% of NI spend in 2014; and its dependence on day trips and visiting friends and relatives.

Visibility in the marketplace is also a barrier to success for Fermanagh & Omagh District Council. The Fermanagh & Omagh District Council. Tourism Development Strategy 2016-2019 states ***"We've highlighted that Omagh and the Sperrins' regional identity is not well enough known, again especially for out-of-state and overseas markets. This results in the question of how to raise visibility and visitation and how long it might take."***



Scope of Works

The Sperrin Sculpture Trail project will have 2 phases. Phase 1 is concerned with the technical study and project competition. Phase 2 relates to the capital element of the project.

Phase 1 – Technical Study

DCSDC will appoint a competent service provider to compete the technical study for this project identifying sites for the public artwork installation, secure all relevant permissions and compile a fully comprehensive artist's brief to enable project to proceed to competition. The three partner councils will establish a Project Reference Group. The successful bidder will liaise closely with this Project Reference Group in the delivery of Phase 1.

The service provider will be required to deliver the following project Phase 1 elements:

a. To liaise with the participating councils in the identification of 9 opportunity sites across the Sperrins' AONB area and wider Sperrins' region (3 per council area).

b. To undertake an options appraisal of these 9 sites identifying 1 preferred site within each council area based upon the potential for successful delivery and capacity to fulfil the project concept.

c. Provide an outline of the potential walking and driving routes linking the preferred sites and taking best advantage of the natural landscape, rights of way, permitted access, local settlements and cultural heritage.

d To negotiate and secure the appropriate permissions/contracts from the relevant landowners regarding the installation and ongoing upkeep of the proposed public artwork installations.

e To secure outline planning permission for public artwork installations on the three priority sites in partnership with each of the participating councils.

f To compile a report on each of the three sites to include an analysis of and recommendations concerning:

- Provision of services.
- Access and egress (including provision for the pan disability community).
- Environmental impact assessment.
- Cultural context (including an overview of local heritage, community and landscape character).

g To engage with local communities, ascertaining the aspirations to be reflected within an iconic public artwork installation.

h To define a proposed budget to deliver the overall project including artwork installation and complementary access & trail route collateral.

- **i** To compile the final artist's brief incorporating all of the elements detailed above in advance of a competition to tender.
- **j** Compilation of a funding application to DAERA for capital element including artwork installation and complementary access & trail route collateral.
- **k** Coordination of an open tendering competition for public artwork installation.

Phase 2 - Full Capital Project

Upon completion of phase 1 the project will move to deliver phase 2 of the project, the delivery of the full capital project and launch of the Sperrin Sculpture Trail.

Project Financing

The estimated budget for Phase 1 is **£67,000.**

The estimated budget for Phase 2 is **£1,933,000.**

It is envisaged that Phase 1 will be financed by DAERA and the 3 partner councils.

For the delivery of Phase 2 the partners will seek £1,433,000 from DAERA, £300k from Department for Infrastructure (Percent for Art Scheme) with the remaining £200,000 met by the 3 partner councils.

Derry City & Strabane District Council

rural Development Programme

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
www.daera-ni.gov.uk

Fermanagh & Omagh District Council
Comhairle Ceantair Fhear Manach agus na hÓmaí

Comhairle Ceantair Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster District Council

Department for Infrastructure
An Roinn Bonneagair
www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Report on;	1) SMART Construct Event Request 2) Mid Ulster Business Awards 2018 3) Mid Ulster Digital Seminars 2018 4) Business of Leadership - Round 2 Conference 5) Mid Ulster Skills Forum; a) Mid Ulster Skills Report and Action Plan (2018-2021) b) Research Study into the Engineering Sector in Mid Ulster c) Brexit Sub-Group 6) Village Renewal Project 7) Coalisland Public Realm Scheme 8) Cookstown Continental Market 2018 - Evaluation Report 9) Rating in Town Centres & REVAL 2020 10) Christmas Off Street Car Parking Charges - Dungannon & Magherafelt 11) Local Full Fibre Networks (LFFN) Challenge Fund 12) Broadband Working Group 13) Brexit Working Group
Date of Meeting	13th September 2018
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	**'SMART Construct' Event Request** SMART Global hosts a series of annual industry-specific events throughout the year across the globe, aimed to educate, identify collaboration opportunities and inspire digital transformation across business sectors. The annual SMART events series explore technology trends within various sectors and encourage collaborative opportunities for businesses across Ireland, the UK and globally.

	Council has received a request (Appendix 1) from Naomh McElhatton (CEO and founder of SMART Global) inviting Council to consider becoming an associate partner for the 'SMART Construct' event scheduled on; **Date:** Wednesday 25 October 2018 **Time:** 9am – 4.30pm **Venue:** Glenavon Hotel, Cookstown The ethos of the event is to engage with companies from the construction, manufacturing and engineering sectors to discuss the progression of technology and innovation within this space. Some of Ireland's largest companies will be in attendance and this presents a key opportunity to showcase the Mid Ulster business offering whilst also affording Council to promote our business support programmes.
2.2	**Mid Ulster Business Awards 2018** At the July 2018 Development Committee it was agreed that Council would provide sponsorship to the Mid Ulster Business Awards Category of 'SME Business of the Year'. The Awards were formally launched at Blessingbourne Estate on 8 August 2018, attended by the Council Chair.
2.3	**Mid Ulster Digital Seminars 2018** Following the highly popular Digital Seminars delivered in 2017, quotations were sought for the delivery of three further Business Breakfast Digital Seminars (in Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt) during Autumn 2018. Following assessment, 42Digital were appointed to manage and deliver the Seminar Programme (detailed on Appendix 2) at a cost of up to £7,750 (including expenses and excluding vat).
2.4	**Business of Leadership - Round 2 Conference** Dungannon Enterprise Centre has submitted a request to Council (Appendix 3) seeking sponsorship of £1,500 towards its forthcoming 'The Business of Leadership' – Round 2 Conference". The event will be held in late October 2018 (date to be confirmed).
2.5	**Mid Ulster Skills Forum** The Mid Ulster Skills Forum was established in April 2017 to maximise the potential for economic growth and enhance the area's competitiveness, support and encourage entrepreneurship, promote stronger alignment between employment, training and economic development in the local area, and to ensure that learning and skills directly contribute to employment, growth and economic success for local residents and businesses. Two reports were commissioned and Cogent Management LLP were successfully appointed to prepare a; (a) Mid Ulster Skills Report and Action Plan (2018-2021) (Appendix 4) (b) Research Study into the Engineering Sector in Mid Ulster (Appendix 5) An update on the work of the Skills Forum's Brexit Sub-Group is also contained at item 3.5 (c) below.

2.6	**Village Renewal Project** Council is leading on the Village Renewal Scheme included within the Rural Development programme 2014 -2020. The LAG has allocated a budget of £2.15m in grant aid to the Village Renewal Scheme for the implementation of strategic and minor works within agreed villages. Council will contribute match funding of 25%, to complement the funding from RDP.
2.7	**Coalisland Public Realm Scheme** A design team has been appointed for the £2.75M redevelopment of Coalisland town centre. The scheme will include works to The Square, Main Street, Lineside, Dungannon Road, Stewartstown Road, Barrack Street, Barrack Square, Station Rd and Washingbay Road. The overarching aim of the project is to: ▪ Create a safe, high-quality pedestrian-friendly environment; ▪ Revitalise and reinvigorate the town to help encourage more visitors and shoppers into the town centre; ▪ Be accessible to pedestrians and vehicles; ▪ Have free flowing traffic and retain most on-street car parking. The works will include the provision of new high quality natural stone paving, street furniture, tree planting, signage, lighting and drainage and will be developed in compliance and co-operation with the Department for Infrastructure and to current DDA standards. The economic appraisal for the public realm scheme has now been completed and is available at Appendix 6.
2.8	**Cookstown Continental Market 2018 - Evaluation Report 2018** Cookstown Continental Market was held on Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd June 2018 on William Street, Cookstown. The Market was delivered in association with Marketplace Europe, Cookstown Town Centre Forum and Mid Ulster District Council. An evaluation report is contained on Appendix 7.
2.9	**Rating in Town Centres & REVAL 2020** The regeneration and survival of our town centres are of critical importance to the Mid Ulster economy. Many businesses are finding it increasing difficult to survive and none more so than our small independent traders. In recent years there has been a steady increase in vacancy rates especially within our towns' retail core, and there is a need to urgently consider measures to stem the continuation of this trend.
2.10	**Christmas Off Street Car Parking Charges Dungannon & Magherafelt** Over the last three 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.
2.11	**Local Full Fibre Networks (LFFN) Challenge Fund** Members will be aware previously of Council's intention to bid for funding to the Local Full Fibre Networks (LFFN) Challenge Fund.

	By way of background to the Fund, there is widespread recognition that 95% of UK premises can now get superfast broadband, whilst only 3% have access to gigabit-capable full fibre infrastructure. With the need for faster connectivity expected to dramatically increase over the coming years, the LFFN programme aims to leverage local and commercial investment in full fibre solutions. A competitive Challenge Fund exists and will provide funding through a series of projects that seeks to stimulate the market by making the deployment of gigabit-capable full fibre infrastructure more commercially viable. It is proposed that Council makes a bid to the LFFN Challenge Fund for the projects detailed in section 3.11 and Appendices 8, 9 and 10. The proposed Mid Ulster projects relates to developing a fibre link capable of delivering gigabit (1,000 mbs per second) connections running between Council buildings which will act as anchor tenants in Dungannon, Cookstown and Maghera. The fibre links will have chambers every 400meters approximately, that allow commercial providers to access these, so they can provide Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) to adjacent properties. Projects must demonstrate that Telecom providers can maximise what has been created which will benefit adjoining areas. Therefore urban and semi urban areas are the main beneficiaries as opposed to rural areas. Successful projects must be completed by 2021.
2.12	**Broadband Working Group** It was previously agreed by Council to establish a Broadband Working Group with a view to developing proposals for broadband enhancement within the Mid Ulster area.
2.13	**Brexit Working Group** A Notice of Motion was previously carried by Council at its meeting on 28 June 2018, stating; "*That this Council supports paragraph 49 of the agreed Joint Report of December 2017 which is an approach that will ensure that there is no hardening of the border in Ireland and wants to see the 'backstop' option as defined in paragraph 49 included in the legally binding withdrawal Agreement. In addition, this Council wants the full EU rights of citizens protected as proposed in the current draft Withdrawal Agreement. That this Council set up a Brexit Working Group made up of appointed Senior Managers and Members".*
3.0	
3.1	**'SMART Construct' Event Request** The SMART Construct full day Conference on 25 October 2018 in the Glenavon Hotel, Cookstown, is designed to educate those working in construction, engineering and manufacturing. Attracting guest speakers and delegates from across Ireland, it will provide an insight into the latest immersive technologies and digital innovation currently changing the dynamics of the space. Connecting industry professionals to innovation, SMART Construct will have keynote speakers, panel discussions and based on last year's success, provide an excellent platform for networking and collaboration opportunities. Delegate tickets are priced at £99+vat, however should Council agree to become an Event Partner, at a cost of £3,000+vat, Mid Ulster businesses will be able to avail of a 50% reduction in the delegate ticket price. The Council Chair, Cllr McPeake, has been invited to open the event, and other associate partner benefits include: • Complimentary passes for Display Stand Managers and Council Members • Listing on SMART Global website (incl. organisations name and logo)

- Pre-conference publicity as an exhibitor via social and email marketing
- Dedicated listing in the SMART Global Programme (distributed on the day)
- Partner name mentioned on all PR and news
- Scheduled social media campaign
- Position on Q&A Panel
- Branding on ALL event material, staging and audio visual coverage

3.2 **Mid Ulster Business Awards 2018**

The 8th annual Mid Ulster Business Awards will take place as follows:

Date: Wednesday 28 November 2018
Time: 7pm
Venue: Corick House Hotel & Spa, Clogher

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 through Julie Forde at Johnston Press at a fee of £65 per person. Any additional Members interested in attending should express their interest to the Head of Economic Development by 28 September 2018. Costs for additional tickets will be charged to individual Members Annual Allowance budget.

3.3 **Mid Ulster Digital Seminars 2018**

Three Digital Seminars will be delivered over the quarter Sept - Nov 2018 by 42Digital as follows.

- **Seminar 1: Achieving Growth with Online Sales and Advertising**
  - Date: Wednesday 19 September 2018
  - Time: 8:30am - 10:30am (breakfast from 8am)
  - Venue: Ranfurly House & Hill of the O'Neill, Dungannon

- **Seminar 2: Achieving Growth with Your Website**
  - Date: Wednesday 17 October 2017
  - Time: 8:30am - 10:30am
  - Venue: The Elk, Toomebridge

- **Seminar 3: Achieving Growth with a Digital Brand and Strategy**
  - Date: Wednesday 14 November 2017
  - Time: 8:30am - 10:30am
  - Venue: Burnavon Theatre, Cookstown

More detailed information on each seminar is attached on Appendix 2. All seminars will commence with an interactive Q&A session with the panel of experts, followed by short presentations, then breaking into workshops where delegates will have the chance to explore the topic with the presenters.

At this year's events, delegates will also have the opportunity to win a half day free digital consultancy support for their business. Registration will be via Eventbrite. Registration for each seminar will open after the previous event has been completed.

3.4 **Business of Leadership - Round 2 Conference**

The Conference will be held in late October 2018 (date to be confirmed) at "The Junction" Beechvalley, Dungannon. The Council was a co-sponsor at their previous Business of Leadership Conference in September 2016. Again the theme is to promote the close alignment between the worlds of sport and business. The confirmed panel includes:

- Dame Mary Peters – Olympic Gold Medallist
- Tommy "Mossy" Quinn, Dublin all –Ireland winning GAA player
- Mervyn Whyte – Event Director of North West 200
- Rory Best, Irish Rugby Union Player

Businesses from across the Mid Ulster District Council area will be specifically targeted to attend this event. In return for sponsorship:

- Unique photo opportunities with guest speakers
- Post event promotions such as press and social media coverage
- 4 complimentary tickets worth £140
- Private breakfast with speakers
- Professional Photo with team
- Company logo displayed on publicity material and in lobby at The Junction.

It is recommended Council support the event and act as a co-sponsor at a cost of £1,500 from Council's economic development budget.

3.5 **Mid Ulster Skills Forum**

(a) Mid Ulster Skills Report and Action Plan (2018-2021)

At its last meeting on 25 June 2018, the Mid Ulster Skills Forum approved the Mid Ulster Skills Report and Action Plan 2018-21 (contained on Appendix 4) and it is planned to launch the document in Autumn 2018.

The Action Plan identifies five strategic priorities, and sets out the goals, key actions and desired outcomes over the next 3 years. The Forum's shared vision is: "*By 2021, to have supported the creation of approximately 2,300 additional jobs in the Mid Ulster Council area through effective collaboration and partnership working".*

The 5 key priorities include:-

1. Attract - Attract external talent and residents to the Mid Ulster area
2. Develop - Develop the skills businesses need to address gaps
3. Engage - Improve how businesses engage with key stakeholders
4. Retain/Sustain – 'Future proof' skills and capability
5. Success - Implement the Strategy and Action Plan and measure success in tangible metrics

Council officers are currently engaging with a variety of stakeholders to secure funding resources to support the implementation of the Action plan as part of a shared approach.

(b) Research Study into the Engineering Sector in Mid Ulster

In 2017, the Mid Ulster Skills Forum's work highlighted Mid Ulster's engineering sector as one of the key priority sectors where support is required to explore and address workforce and skills issues. In order to effectively determine and take forward actions to support this sector, it is imperative that any future work to support this sector in Mid Ulster is based on clear and robust and current sectoral data. However, while information was available at a regional level, a significant gap existed in this data at sub-regional (Mid Ulster District Council Area) level.

To address the gap in local sectoral data, following a procurement exercise, Cogent Management LLP were appointed to undertake a comprehensive Research Study. This work required the collation of robust quantifiable and empirical data on all aspects of the local sector, including a detailed profile and analysis of the industry and its sub sectors, benchmarked against the sector's regional performance.

The views of the 85 engineering businesses who participated in the Survey and one to one consultations were also captured for inclusion. All data was then analysed to evidence and quantify the key issues, challenges and potential opportunities facing the local sector over the next 5 years. This informed the preparation of an Action Plan with recommendations about the sector's needs, issues and key challenges over the next 5 years, to inform the direction of future interventions to promote the sector's growth.

The Report was presented to the Mid Ulster Skills Forum on 25 June 2018 and is attached Appendix 5).

(c) Brexit Sub-Group

One of the sub-groups under the auspices of the Mid Ulster Skills Forum focuses on Brexit. This sub-group, chaired by Stephen Kelly, Manufacturing NI, is currently progressing plans to organise a Mid Ulster Brexit Summit in early December 2018, in partnership with Invest NI and Intertrade Ireland, once the outcome of the Phase 2 Brexit Negotiations are known. The event will seek to provide local businesses with important information in the lead up to Brexit and focus on such areas as customs/tariffs, recruiting and retaining staff, etc. Keynote speakers with expertise in a number of different areas will be engaged to brief local businesses and provide much needed information and advice based upon the outcome of the negotiations. The event will further provide a networking opportunity for businesses and a signposting service to the supports currently available from Invest NI and Intertrade Ireland's Brexit Ready Vouchers.

3.6 **Village Renewal Project**

A number of Village projects are currently being delivered as outlined below –

- Ballygawley – Works completed
- Caledon, Granville, Augher and Tobermore – Playparks - Works complete.
- Upperlands –Works completed on MUGA. An application has been submitted to the LAG for Playpark element at the Community Centre.
- Maghera – Walkway from Walled Garden to Tobermore Road. Application submitted to the LAG and currently awaiting Letter of Offer.
- Newmills (car park upgrade), Castlecaulfield (conservation area and additional play equipment), Benburb (Car Park at recreational fields) & Gulladuff (EI Scheme at Bus Shelter) – Application has been submitted to the LAG and awaiting Letter of Offer. Construction works due to commence at end of August 2018.
- Ardboe – Planning application has been submitted for development at the Community Building with the provision of a new lift. Application submitted to LAG in August 2018.

- Fivemiletown – Market Yard and Playpark upgrade – Final designs being completed before issuing to community for sign off. Application to LAG mid-September 2018.

- Clady/Glenone, Swatragh, Killyman, The Loup and Tamnamore/Ballynakelly will all receive additional play equipment which will be scheduled for application by the end of October 2018.

The next tranche of Villages includes Pomeroy, Ballinderry & Ballylifford, Clogher, Desertmartin, Stewartstown, Brocagh, Clonoe, Eglish, Broughderg and Galbally.

Legal agreements are being processed through the legal team. Economic Development staff are currently compiling all the leases and completing the application forms and business cases to be submitted to the LAG.

3.7 **Coalisland Public Realm Scheme**

An Information session was held on the 31st May 2018 with the business community. A preferred option has been identified with work ongoing with all key stakeholders including utilities. The completed Economic Appraisal (Appendix 6) will be submitted to the Department of Communities.

3.8 **Cookstown Continental Market 2018 - Evaluation Report**

Having conducted widespread consultation following this year's Continental Market in Cookstown on 2nd and 3rd June 2018, the full evaluation report is enclosed on Appendix 7**.**

3.9 **Rating in Town Centres & REVAL 2020**

To obtain a better understanding of rates, the current revaluation process and the decline of Government financial support to Town Centre traders, a meeting has been arranged with LPS and Departmental Officials.

The meeting will take place on Tuesday 25 September 2018 at 5.30pm in the Chamber of Mid Ulster District Council's Dungannon Office. All Members have been issued with an invitation to attend.

3.10 **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 Magherafelt from Saturday 24th November 2018 to Saturday 5th January 2019 (6 week period). The total cost of implementation will be £23,400.

The normal tariff is 40p for 1 hour (except for Central 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.

3.11 **Local Full Fibre Networks (LFFN) Challenge Fund**
In June 2018, a consultant employed by Newry, Mourne & Down District Council invited local government officers to a meeting to inform interested Councils that a regional Northern Ireland bid to the Local Full Fibre Network (LFFN) Challenge Fund was suggested as the best way forward.

The Fund, managed by Department for Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) has recommended in favour of a single regional joint bid from Northern Ireland Councils instead of Councils competing against each other with individual bids. The consortium will submit a collective bid to DCMS. The structure and format of the collective bid is now being developed to support a standard approach and unified messages.

"Full Fibre Northern Ireland" is the working name for this joint Council collaborative project for submission to the Local Full Fibre Network Challenge Fund, and involves the following Council areas;

1. Newry, Mourne & Down
2. Antrim & Newtownabbey
3. Causeway Coast & Glens
4. Derry City & Strabane
5. Fermanagh & Omagh
6. Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
7. Mid Ulster
8. Mid & East Antrim

£95m funding is expected to be made available across the UK and will be made on a first come first served basis, to projects that demonstrate a robust business case that meets the LFFN programme's objectives.

The estimated dates for key stages of the expected process are shown below.

Stage	Estimated date
Outline bid concept – first presentation to DCMS	August 2018
Strategic Outline Case - presentation to DCMS Investment Panel	End August 2018
Assurance phase - 5 Case Model	October 2018
Funding award	TBC
Procurement	May 2019

An officer team has been working on the project for some time and the projects proposed where fibre will run between are as follows;

- The former High School site in Maghera through the town to Maghera Recreation Centre. See map on Appendix 8.

- Mid Ulster District Council offices, Circular Road, Dungannon to Coalisland Recreation Centre at Gortgonis. See map on Appendix 9.

- Mid Ulster District Council offices, Burn Road, Cookstown, encircling the town to the Mid Ulster Sports Arena, via CAFRE's Loughry Campus, adjacent to new Desertcreat Fire & Rescue facility. See map on Appendix 10.

It is important to note that the premises proposed within our application (detailed above), must be a Council owned facility to act as the anchor tenant.

3.12 **Broadband Working Group**

At a recent meeting of Council it was agreed that a Broadband Working Group be established and membership be sought for 10 Members to serve on the Group, based on the D'Hondt system, which equates to the following membership from each party (5 SF, 2 DUP, 2 UUP, 1 SDLP). Nominations have now been received and are as follows;

SF (5)
Cllr S Clarke
Cllr M Gillespie
Cllr B McGuigan
Cllr J McNamee
Cllr S McPeake

DUP (2)
Cllr K Ashton
Cllr W Buchanan

UUP (2)
Cllr M Glasgow
Cllr R Mulligan

SDLP (1)
Cllr S McAleer

The first meeting of the Broadband Working Group is scheduled to take place on 10th September 2018 at 6pm, in Mid Ulster District Council Offices, Burn Road, Cookstown.

3.13 **Brexit Working Group**

Council has agreed to establish a Brexit Working Group. It is proposed the Working Group comprises of 10 Members, based on the D'hondt system as outlined below;

- 10 Members – 5 SF, 2 DUP, 2 UUP, 1 SDLP

Members are asked to nominate accordingly to serve on the Working Group. Once in receipt of all party nominations, the first meeting of the Working Group can be scheduled within the next few weeks.

4.0	**Other Considerations**
4.1	**Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications**
	Financial: **"SMART" Construct Event request -** £3,000+Vat for Council to become an associate sponsor. Provision of funds from Council's economic development budget**.** **Mid Ulster Business Awards –** Two complementary tickets have been provided as an Award Sponsor and it is proposed these are allocated to the Council Chair and an officer to attend the event. If additional Members wish to attend, there is a fee of £65 per person, which will be charged to the individual Members Annual Allowance budget. **Mid Ulster Digital Seminars** – £7,750+Vat to deliver three Digital Seminars across Mid Ulster. Provision of funds from economic development budget. **Business of Leadership - Round 2 Conference -** £1,500 for Council to become a co-sponsor of the event. Provision of funding from Council's Economic Development budget. **Christmas Off Street Car Parking Charges - Dungannon & Magherafelt** – budget of £23,400 available under the Economic Development Budget.
	Human: Officer time.
	Risk Management:
4.2	**Screening & Impact Assessments**
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
5.0	**Recommendation(s)**
  5.1 5.2	It is recommended that Members; **"SMART" Construct Event Request** Approve that Council act as an associate sponsor at the SMART Construct Event on 25 October 2018 in the Glenavon Hotel, Cookstown at a cost of £3,000+Vat. **Mid Ulster Business Awards 2018** Approve the two complimentary tickets are allocated to the Council Chair and an officer to attend the Mid Ulster Business Awards on 28 November 2018 at Corick House Hotel and Spa, Clogher. If additional Members wish to attend, tickets can be purchased at a fee of £65 per person, charged to individual Members Annual Allowance budget. Any additional Members interested in attending should express their interest to the Head of Economic Development by 28 September 2018.

5.3	**Mid Ulster Digital Seminars 2018** Approve the three forthcoming Digital Seminars at a cost of £7,750+Vat. If interested in attending, Members can register via Eventbrite, or by contacting an officer in the economic development team.
5.4	**Business of Leadership - Round 2 Conference** Approve funding for Council to act as a co-sponsor at the Business of Leadership Round 2 Conference at the Junction, Dungannon, at a cost of £1,500.
5.5	**Mid Ulster Skills Forum** **(a) Mid Ulster Skills Report and Action Plan (2018-2021)** Note Mid Ulster Skills Report and Action Plan (2018-2021). **(b) Research Study into the Engineering Sector in Mid Ulster** Note Research Study into the Engineering Sector in Mid Ulster. **(c) Brexit Sub-Group** Note update on the Mid Ulster Brexit Summit planned for early December 2018 to help local businesses prepare for Brexit.
5.6	**Village Renewal Project** Note progress.
5.7	**Coalisland Public Realm Scheme** Note progress and completion of enclosed Economic Appraisal.
5.8	**Cookstown Continental Market 2018** Note Evaluation Report on Cookstown Continental Market 2018.
5.9	**Rating in Town Centres & REVAL 2020** Note meeting with LPS and Departmental Officials will be held on Tuesday 25 September 2018 at 5.30pm in the Chamber, Mid Ulster District Council's Dungannon Office.
5.10	**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 24th November 2018 to Saturday 5th January 2019 (6 week period) at a cost of £23,400.
5.11	**Local Full Fibre Networks (LFFN) Challenge Fund** Consider and agree proposed routes for application to LFFN Challenge Fund.

5.12 5.13	**Broadband Working Group** Note progress. **Brexit Working Group** Nominate 10 Members to serve on the Brexit Working Group, based on the D'hondt system, after which the first meeting can be arranged.
6.0	**Documents Attached & References**
	Appendix 1 – SMART Construct Event Request Appendix 2 - Mid Ulster Digital Seminars 2018 – Programme of Events Appendix 3: Business of Leadership - Round 2 Conference Details Appendix 4: Mid Ulster Skills Report and Action Plan (2018-2021) Appendix 5: Research Study into the Engineering Sector in Mid Ulster Appendix 6 - Coalisland Public Realm Scheme – Economic Appraisal Appendix 7: Cookstown Continental Market 2018 – Evaluation Report Appendix 8: Local Full Fibre Networks (LFFN) Challenge Fund – Proposed Maghera route Appendix 9: Local Full Fibre Networks (LFFN) Challenge Fund – Proposed Dungannon route Appendix 10: Local Full Fibre Networks (LFFN) Challenge Fund – Proposed Cookstown route

APPENDIX 1
SMART CONSTRUCT EVENT
25 OCTOBER 2018 - GLENAVON HOTEL, COOKSTOWN

From: Naomh McElhatton [mailto:naomh@smartglobal.online]
Sent: 03 August 2018 11:52
To: Fiona McKeown <Fiona.McKeown@midulstercouncil.org>
Shirley McIntyre <Shirley.McIntyre@midulstercouncil.org>;
Subject: SMART Construct

Hi Ladies - great to see you both earlier in the week.

As I mentioned SMART Construct is happening on the 25th October in the Glenavon Hotel, the ethos of the event is to engage with companies from the construction, manufacturing and engineering sectors to discuss the progression of technology and innovation within this space.

We literally have some of Ireland's largest companies in attendance and I think that this is a massive opportunity to showcase the best of Mid Ulster!!

We will create a 50% discount code for the event for you guys to circulate with your database of potential delegates.

Please see attached the partnership pack highlighting the relevant partnership opportunities.

My colleague Gemma will liaise with your comms team to create a series of marketing messages on the build up to the event to gain maximum impact.

If Sean is available we would love him to open the event with a key note on the morning.

Have a look and please come back to me with your thoughts.

Best,
Naomh

Naomh McElhatton
Director of Digital Education
+44 7710 522 134
@naomhs
smartglobal.online


SMART
GLOBAL
SMART Construct
25.10.2018

SMART CONSTRUCT

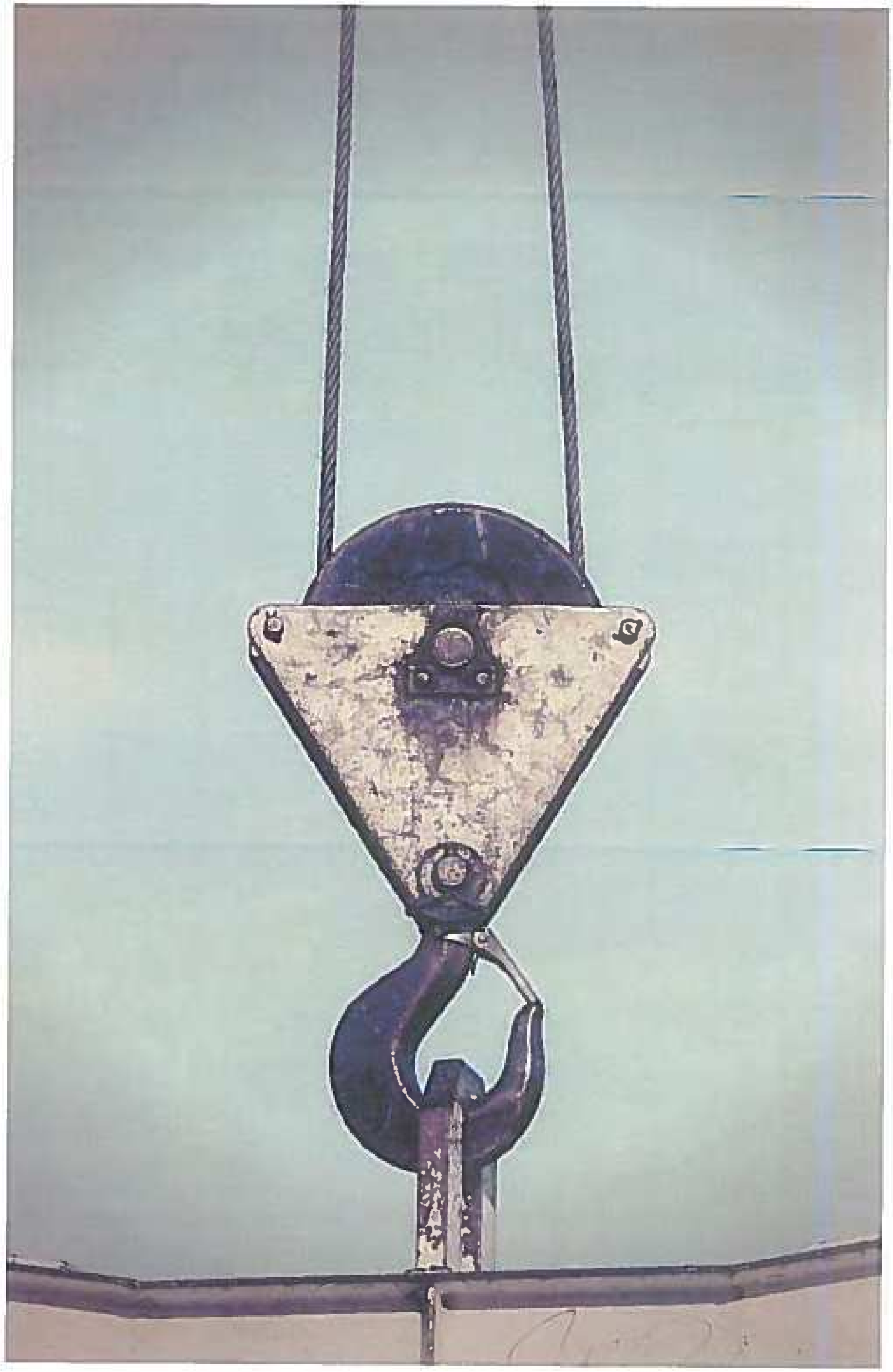
SMART Construct was designed to educate those working in construction, engineering and manufacturing. Providing an insight into the latest immersive tech and digital innovation currently changing the dynamics of the space.

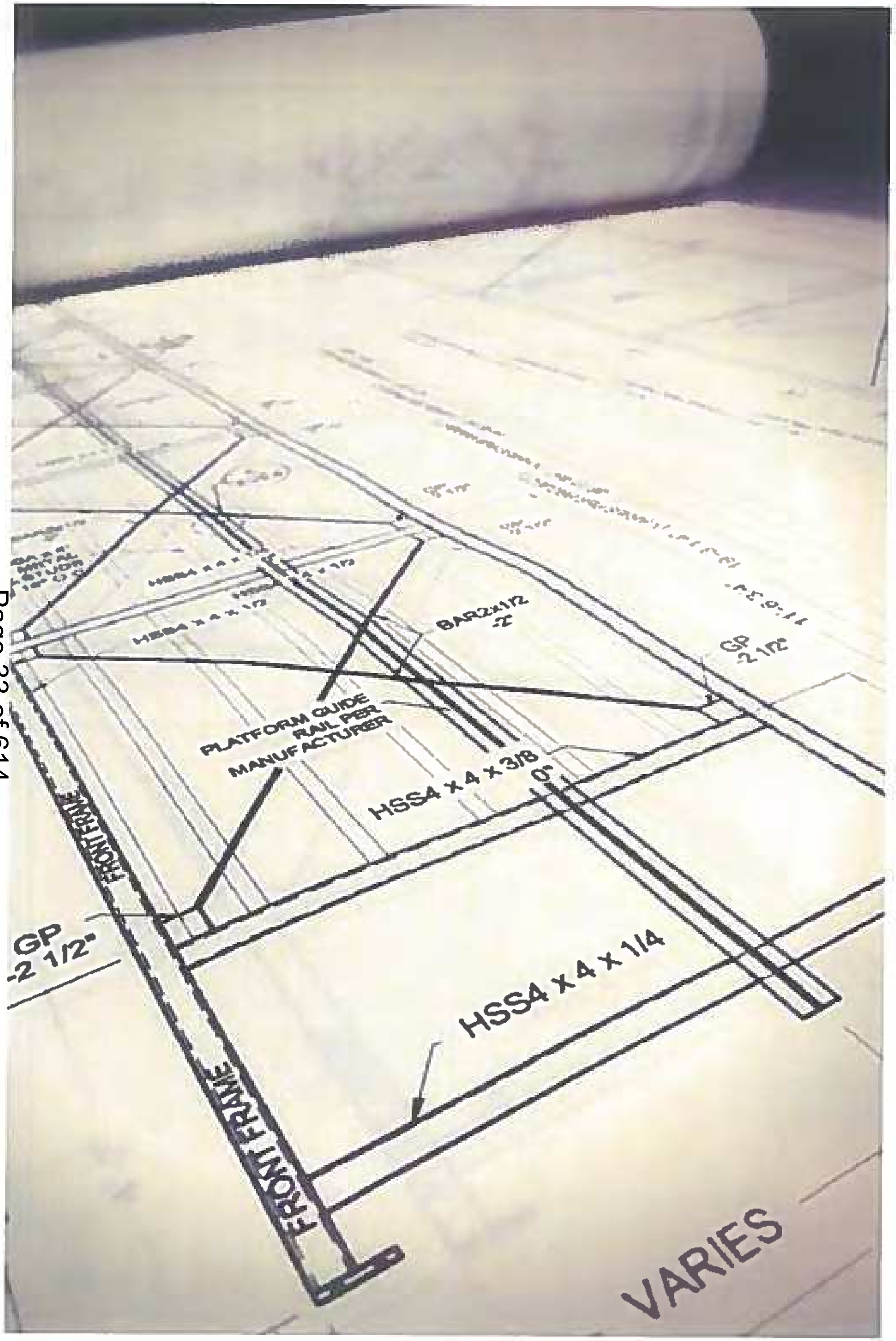
Content Pillars:

– 3D Printing
– AR/VR Simulators
– BIM
– Blockchain & Data
– Commercial Drones
– Cyber Security
– Governance
– Machine Automation & Robotics
– Process & Supply Management
– SMART Cities & IoT
– Sustainability, Energy & Utilities
– Transport & Mobility

The Attendees

- Architects / Designers Builders
- Business Development Managers
- Consultants to the Industry
- Contractors
- Engineers
- Government
- Investors
- Marketing Managers
- Operations
- Procurement Managers
- Project Managers
- Property Owners / Developers Quantity
- Surveyors / Cost Engineers
- R&D / Academics
- Supply Chain Manager
- Urban Planners





Sector Types

- Automotive
- Community
- Civil
- Education
- Electrical & Mechanical
- Engineering
- Entertainment
- Government
- Hotels
- Industrial
- Manufacturing
- Medical
- Offices & Warehouses
- Residential
- Retail
- Sports
- Transport
- Water & Sewer

Become a Partner

The reasons you'll love it

- Put your brand in the spotlight in front of decision makers, waiting to meet a company like yours.
- Build relationships onsite, to generate new leads, engage with a new audience to identify new collaboration opportunities.
- You'll have the opportunity to showcase how your solutions are driving innovation and results in an interactive environment.

SMART GLOBAL

Partnership Opportunities

Where Industry meets Technology

Title Partner

SMART Construct will help your business gain the exposure it needs!

- Invigorate your Business
- Establish your presence in the marketplace
- Introduce new products
- Reinforce relationships with existing customers
- Develop new business partnerships
- Partner name mentioned on All PR and news
- Bespoke social media campaign
- Position on Q&A Panel
- Branding on ALL event material
- Full branding on staging and audio visual coverage
- Pre-launch PR
- Welcome address at opening of conference
- Keynote message within the event brochure
- Online presence included onsite & e-marketing
- Exhibitors booth
- 8 Full conference passes
- Cost £6,000 + vat

SMART GLOBAL

Associate Partner

SMART Construct will help identify new collaboration opportunities.

- Develop new business partnerships
- Partner name mentioned on All PR and news
- Scheduled social media campaign
- Position on Q&A Panel
- Branding on ALL event material
- Branding on staging and audio visual coverage
- Online presence included onsite & e-marketing
- Exhibitors booth
- 4 Full conference passes
- Cost £3,000 + vat

SMART GLOBAL

Exhibitors

- Meet your new customers!
- 3x1x8ft Exhibition booth with logo / area for pop ups and display stands
- 2 complimentary passes for stand managers (which includes breakfast and lunch)
- Exhibitor listing on SMART Global website (incl. organisations name and logo)
- Pre-conference publicity as an exhibitor via social and email marketing
- Dedicated Exhibitor listing in the SMART Global Programme (distributed on the day)
- Cost £950 + vat

Thank you.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

naomh@smartglobal.online
+44 7710 522 134

gemma@smartglobal.online
+44 7708 384 041

www.smartglobal.online /
@SMARTGlobal_

SMART GLOBAL

Appendix 2

Mid Ulster Business Breakfast Digital Seminars 2018

Seminar 1: Achieving Growth with Online Sales and Advertising

Date: Wednesday 19 September 2018
Time: 8:30am - 10:30am (breakfast from 8am)
Venue: Ranfurly House, Dungannon

The 2 workshop sessions will advise specifically how to use **Facebook Advertising** and **Google Ads for a Black Friday sale.**

2 digital experts, Andy Hill (Dokoo Digital) and Mark McColgan (senior Advertising Strategist at Loud Meath Media), will share their knowledge, experience and answer your questions during a 40 minute panel discussion and each will then lead a workshop. After the discussion, you have the choice of attending one of the practical hands on workshops that are focused on providing actionable advice and guidance.

Daniel McDonnell, Style Boutique (Cookstown), will share his digital success story and 2017 Black Friday experience.

Seminar 2: Achieving Growth with Your Website

Date: Wednesday 17 October 2017
Time: 8:30am - 10:30am
Venue: The Elk, Toomebridge

At the workshops, digital experts will explore other aspects of increasing online sales with your website; Dhaiti Conlon (Managing Director of WebsiteNI) will explore **Essential Elements to a Successful Website** while Safron Thomas (Digital Marketing Manager) will take delegates though how to deploy **Data Driven Digital Marketing.**

Colm Grimes (CK International Dungannon) will also be on hand to explain how and why their website works and provide insights into what is required to achieve online growth.

Seminar 3: Achieving Growth with a Digital Brand and Strategy

Date: Wednesday 14 November 2017
Time: 8:30am - 10:30am
Venue: Burnavon Theatre, Cookstown

The final seminar will involve 2 digital experts with experience in digital brand development:

Aiden McGale (former Global Head of Recruitment for Accenture Digital, lead the talent acquisition process for digital marketing agencies across the world) will outline **'How to Develop Your Digital Marketing Strategy'**, and Andi Jarvis (international speaker and digital strategist) will outline '**How to use LinkedIn to Develop Your Personal Brand'.**

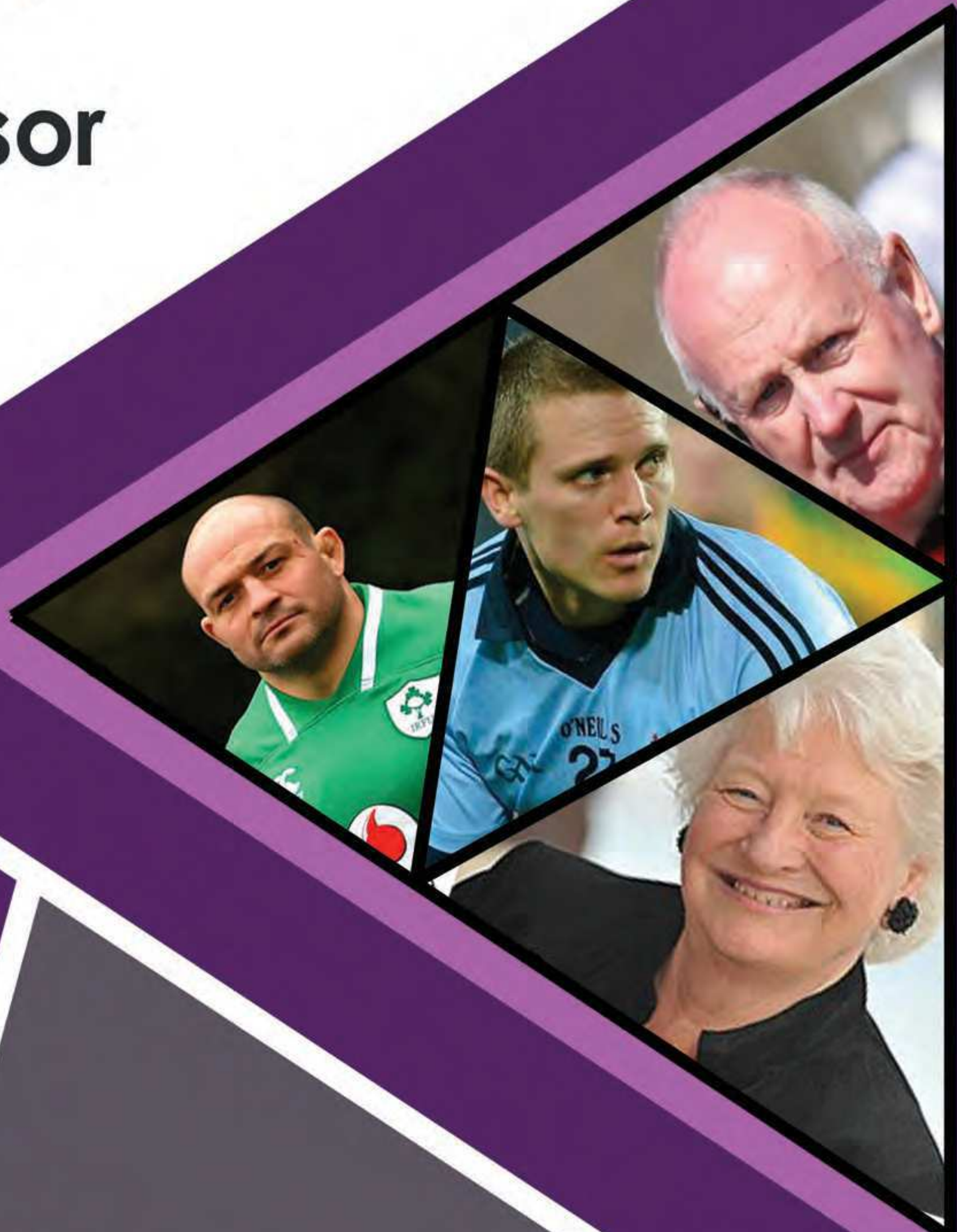
Local entrepreneur Naomh McElhatton (SMART Global / DANI Awards CEO) discuss how she has successfully developed her personal brand to launch the Irish Experience Awards and the SMART Global Conferences Programme).

Please note: Delegates MUST register for each event – this will only open 2 weeks before event 1 and for events 2 and 3 **after** the previous event is over.

APPENDIX 3

THE BUSINESS OF LEADERSHIP ROUND 2

Sponsor Pack



Venue:
The Junction
Beechvalley
Dungannon

Event date: October 2018 TBC

"This is your organisation's opportunity to be part of the most exciting business event in Mid Ulster this year."

In September 2016, Dungannon Enterprise Centre organised the first ever "Business of Leadership" event.

An audience of over 200 listened to Leaders from the world of sport as they shared their experiences of leading in their field of expertise and related their experiences to business people.

Compere, Adrian Logan, interviewed Manager of the NI Football team, Michael O'Neill, GAA All Star, Peter Canavan, Irish Rugby Union player, Tommy Bowe and Portrush Golf Club Manager, Wilma Erskine.

... and now it's Round 2.

We have a new line up of personalities from sport that have a deep understanding of how to successfully lead under pressure, and who are now prepared to share their experience.

This business event, in The Junction, Dungannon, will leave attendees inspired and ready to lead their own teams to success.

Why be part of this event

- The Business of Leadership Round 2 will have a high profile among press and media channels in Northern Ireland. This will be evident throughout the build up to the event and also on the day. All sponsors will be part of the publicity.
- On the day, sponsors will be given photo opportunities with the speakers, at a private breakfast event, which can be used for their own PR.
- All of the speakers are recognised as successful leaders in their own sports. Sponsors have the opportunity to be associated with their success.
- Following the day, there will be post-event promotion of the conference, including videos, social media and printed press coverage.

"Sport has many parallels with business: competition, goals, recognising talent, motivating people, adapting to change. The list goes on."

The Line Up:

Rory Best, OBE, is currently the captain of Ireland's Rugby Union team and plays hooker for Ulster. With over 100 caps for Ireland since 2005, Best is one of the most capped players in Irish national team history and led Ireland this year to a historic third Grand Slam victory.

Mervyn Whyte, is Event Director of the Vauxhall International North West 200. The Limavady man has been involved with the North coast races for 45 years since beginning as a marshal at Station Corner in 1973. Under his guidance and direction, the event has become Ireland's biggest outdoor sporting attraction.

Dame Mary Peters is a former British athlete, best known as a competitor in the pentathlon and shot put. She represented Northern Ireland at every Commonwealth Games between 1958 and 1974 and won 2 gold medals for the pentathlon, plus a gold and silver medal for the shot put. She is a Freeman for Lisburn and Belfast.

Tomás 'Mossy' Quinn, is an Irish All-Ireland winning Gaelic footballer from Dublin. In January 2014, Tomás took up his role as Commercial and Marketing Manager for Dublin GAA, the first role of its kind for GAA counties.

DUNGANNON
ENTERPRISE CENTRE

This is a Dungannon Enterprise Centre managed event

Sponsorship Opportunity

4 complimentary tickets for the event (worth £140)

Private breakfast reception with the celebrity speakers in Deli on the Green

Opportunity to ask the panel one question from the audience

Professional photos taken with individual sponsors and celebrity speakers for your own PR

Company logo prominently displayed on promotional material

Company mentions on online and offline promotion for the event (including Social Media, Printed Press, and Eventbrite)

Company logo on stage display and video footage of the event

Live mentions on the day of the event

Permission to erect pop-up displays in the lobby

Your clients get special discount off their tickets

£1,500 to become a sponsor of The Business of Leadership event - Round 2

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor for this event, please contact brian@dungannonenterprise.com or call 028 8772 3489

APPENDIX 4

MID ULSTER AREA SKILLS REPORT & ACTION PLAN 2018-2021

FINAL

Cogent Management Consulting LLP

March 2018

MID ULSTER AREA SKILLS REPORT & ACTION PLAN 2018-2021

FINAL

CONTENTS

APPENDICES

I Socio-Economic Profile: Mid Ulster Area

II Feedback from Businesses: Statistical Appendix

III Qualifications Framework

List of Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Definition
A Level	Advanced Level
AMME	Advanced Manufacturing, Materials and Engineering
BITC	Business in the Community
CAD	Computer-Aided Design
CAFRE	College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise
CAM	Computer-Aided Manufacturing
CBI	Confederation of British Industry
CEC	Careers and Enterprise Company
CEIAG	Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance
CIPD	Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development
CITB	Construction Industry Training Board
CNC	Computer Numerical Control
DfC	Department for Communities
DfE	Department for the Economy
ETC	Engineering Training Council
EU	European Union
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FE	Further Education
FMB	Federation of Master Builders
FSB	Federation of Small Businesses
FTE	Full-Time Equivalent
GB	Great Britain
GCSE	General Certificate of Secondary Education
GVA	Gross Value Added
HEFCW	Higher Education Funding Council for Wales
HLAs	Higher Level Apprenticeships
HR	Human Resources
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ISCO	International Standard Classification of Occupations
IT	Information Technology
JSA	Job Seekers Allowance
LFS	Labour Force Survey
LGDs	Local Government District
MIG	Metal Inert Gas
MS	Microsoft
MUDC	Mid Ulster District Council
NEETs	Not in Employment, Education or Training
NISCA	Northern Ireland Schools and Colleges Careers Association
NISRA	Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency
NRC	Northern Regional College
NUS	National Union of Students
NVQ	National Vocational Qualifications
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
ONS	Office for National Statistics
PAYE	Pay-As-You-Earn
QUB	Queen’s University Belfast
ROI	Republic of Ireland
SMEs	Small and Medium Sized Enterprises
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
SWC	South West College
SWOT	Strengths, Weaknesses Opportunities, Threats
TIG	Tungsten Inert Gas
UK	United Kingdom
UKCES	UK Commission for Employment and Skills
USA	United States of America
UU	Ulster University
UUEPC	Ulster University Economic Policy Centre
VAT	Value-Added Tax

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction and Background

The Mid Ulster District Council area represents a population of more than 145,000 and it is the fastest growing new Council area in Northern Ireland (its population is expected to grow to 165,000 by 2030). The Mid-Ulster sub-region is home to over 8,000 small businesses, which is the 2nd largest concentration of small businesses outside of the Belfast Metropolitan area. With circa 700,000 people within a one-hour commute of the district boundaries, the area supports approximately 50,000 jobs, which are mainly concentrated within micro businesses and Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs)[1]. As the most entrepreneurial region in Northern Ireland[2], the Mid Ulster area contributes towards producing 7.3% of the region's total economic output (Gross Value Added is £2.075 billon).

Its business base provides the lifeblood of the local economy, whilst the skills and capabilities of its workforce are vital to its sustainability and growth. The availability of a high performing workforce, appropriately equipped to meet the current and future needs of the local industry's key sectors is therefore of vital importance.

While predictions of a changing world of work and the nature of jobs undertaken, alongside increasing technological advancements such as automation, will necessitate a medium-term focus amongst stakeholders in the Mid Ulster area on its ability to upskill and reskill the local workforces (including opportunities for adult and lifelong learning), more immediate concerns are driving a need to review the availability of skills in the Mid Ulster area. For example, the UK's vote to leave the European Union (EU) ('Brexit') is causing many businesses to think more about their future skills needs, assuming less access to migrant labour from the EU. The introduction of the Apprenticeship Levy[3] (April 2017) has also created an urgent need (amongst relevant employers) to ensure that the reforms drive quality over quantity and deliver the skills needed now and in the future.

In recognition of such issues, the Mid Ulster Skills Forum[4] offers a unique opportunity to initiate the development of a Mid-Ulster wide approach to employability and skills. This will help to match education and skills provision to meet the critical workforce needs of local employers in the Mid Ulster area.

It is hoped that the evidence collated, and the resultant Action Plan, will command broad support and will provide a strong foundation for members of the Mid Ulster Skills Forum to address the key skills challenges in the long term, across economic and political cycles.

A Changing Context

There are several macro and sector specific factors that are of relevance when considering the context within which the Action Plan has been developed and will be implemented. Typical example of macro factors include:

- **The importance of skills and accessing talent**, which will only be met if businesses have the widest pool of talent to draw on (this involves increasing employee diversity and accessing global talent).
- **Apprenticeships**, which are a key way of developing skills and are therefore a crucial part of plans for growth and improved productivity.
- **Brexit,** which represents a period of significant uncertainty and has the potential to present particular challenges for the Mid Ulster area.
- **Technological Changes/Advancements** (such as automation) are nothing new but stakeholders in the Mid Ulster area need to think, act and educate now for the economy of the future.

[1] Defined as having: fewer than 250 full time equivalent employees, an annual turnover not exceeding €50m (£35m) and/or an annual balance sheet total not exceeding €43m (£30m).
[2] In terms of business start-ups (Global Entrepreneurship Monitor Report, 2017).
[3] See Section 2.3 for further details.
[4] Which includes representation from local businesses, colleges, universities, local enterprise agencies, key sectoral business organisations, government departments and their agencies and the Council.

Mid Ulster's Platform for Growth

The considerable and growing issue of businesses within the Mid Ulster area accessing prospective employees (or the 'lack of people'), as reflected in Sections 2 and 3 of the Mid Ulster Skill Report and Action, will inevitably not be a surprise to businesses in the area - **the 'need for labour' is now**. However, this issue, coupled with the identified skills issues, should serve as a clear signal to policymakers that urgent attention is required to ensure that the growth of local businesses is not curtailed.

This is not to say that local businesses, with support from key stakeholders, do not have a role to play. They are faced with several options in terms of increasing the pool of prospective employees, such as: seeking to attract external talent to the Mid Ulster area; increasing levels of investment in labour saving technology (such as automation); encouraging more local people back into the labour market (e.g. possibly through higher wages); and/or re-locating to another jurisdiction with easier access to skilled labour.

Beyond these options, there is also a need to actively promote the development of productive, inclusive and engaging workplaces that get the best out of people, but also a need to take a much more strategic view of skills and the systems and mechanisms through which they are developed and sustained. In a period of considerable uncertainty, just focusing on the supply is not enough if businesses are to meet the huge challenges of rapid technological change, an ageing workforce, and changing cultures and expectations amongst the younger workforce. For example, businesses need to think more broadly about their own investment in developing talent and skills and how the growth of different employment models, flexi-working, contract and portfolio working may require a significant change to the ways they attract, invest in and develop people and skills in the future. The HR function within a business has a vital role to play in helping organisations to take a more strategic view of the kind of workforce they will need for the future and how they set about engaging with prospective future employers in a timely and strategic manner.

The opportunity is clear – despite these issues there is the potential to create approximately an additional 2,355 new FTE jobs by 2020[5] if the Action Plan that has been developed is appropriately resourced, financed and implemented.

The Action Plan 2018-2021

The ability to grow, attract and retain skilled labour, build resilience and adaptability in the current and future workforce is a prerequisite for future economic growth in the Mid Ulster area.

The Goal: to create a larger and stronger private sector. In order to achieve this, it will be important to have a successful skills and employment strategy, which enhances skills supply and thereby feeds the demand for well-skilled employees.

The ambition is clear: for all the residents of the Mid Ulster are to be in a position to achieve their goals through productive, fulfilling employment with skills at the heart of personal and professional development, whether entering the world of work for the first time or progressing in their careers.

Other areas face similar challenges. Some have similar strengths. Many have similar ambitions. However, the Mid Ulster area uniquely combines a realistic aspiration to be a top performing region in Northern Ireland at the same time as maintaining its position as being the most entrepreneurial region in Northern Ireland.

Similar to the Council's Economic Plan, the Strategic Priorities, Goals and Actions set out overleaf will require the development of strong partnerships and joint ventures, including strong leadership amongst businesses, using a multi-agency approach to secure and maximise resources in order for them to be fully delivered. The Mid Ulster Skills Forum will work with relevant key responsible Government Departments (e.g. DfE, DE,

---

[5] Please note, the ability to achieve this target is inherently linked to the outcomes of future negotiations associated with Brexit. There is a risk any policy relating to the level of free movement that is afforded to EU27 Nationals in the UK and vice versa exacerbates the situation in the Mid Ulster area.

DfC, DfI etc.) and their delivery bodies in implementing the commitments with the Action Plan. Central to this will be the Council who will act as a key enabler in the region, adopting a direct lobbying approach to become a leading strategic influencer of skills development and policy in the area.

Given the inadequate supply of applicants (or the 'lack of people'), Mid Ulster District Council, alongside other Councils in Northern Ireland, could potentially lobby the UK Government for a regional migration policy post-Brexit i.e. being able to issue work visas for Northern Ireland only rather than having to comply with a one-size fits all UK migration policy. The rationale being that Northern Ireland has a different economic profile than the rest of the UK and therefore migration policy should reflect that.

VISION:
"By 2021, to have supported the creation of approximately 2,300 additional jobs in the Mid Ulster Council area through effective collaboration and partnership working"

Strategic Priorities	Goals	Key Actions	Key Outcomes
1. ATTRACT	We want to attract external talent and residents to the Mid Ulster area	A. Improve market proposition for the Mid Ulster area B. Enhance the image of priority sectors C. Improve connectivity to, and within, the Mid Ulster area D. Support new job creation	• Larger working age population/local labour market & job creation • Improved perceptions of industry/sectors • Greater accessibility/connectivity
2. DEVELOP	We want to develop the skills businesses need to address gaps	E. Improve careers education, information, advice and guidance (CEIAG) F. Increase quality and quantity of apprenticeships	• Improved employability skills • Enhanced professional/technical qualifications • Increased apprenticeships
3. ENGAGE	We want to improve how businesses engage with key stakeholders	G. Improve engagement with prospective employees H. Improve engagement with education providers I. Improve engagement with existing Government strategies and initiatives	• Greater volume & diversity in local labour market • Greater (and more collaborative) business/education provider engagement
4. RETAIN / SUSTAIN	We want to 'future proof' skills and capability	J. Develop pipeline of new initiatives/incentives K. Support technological change and automation L. Support entrepreneurship/new business skills M. Reduce annual rate of staff turnover amongst businesses	• Enhanced business performance/competitiveness • Lower staff turnover rates
5. SUCCESS	We want to implement the Strategy and Action Plan and measure success in tangible metrics	N. Continuation of the Mid Ulster Skills Forum O. Reformat sub-groups of the Mid Ulster Skills Forum P. Seek resources and finance for Strategy and Action Plan implementation	• Implementation of Strategy and the Action Plan to support the achievement of outcomes

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 Introduction

Mid Ulster District Council ('the Council' or 'MUDC') has commissioned Cogent Management Consulting LLP ('Cogent' or 'the Consultancy Team') to develop a Skills Report and Action Plan for the Mid Ulster District Council area for the period 2018-2021.

The report provides a comprehensive analysis of the existing skills shortages, gaps and deficits and the future skills requirements in the Mid Ulster District Council area and identifies a solution and action plan to address these issues.

The newly formed Mid Ulster Skills Forum[6] has acted as a key driver for this initiative supported by the Council.

1.2 Background

The Council area represents a population of more than 145,000 and it is the fastest growing new Council area in Northern Ireland (its population is expected to grow to 165,000 by 2030). The Mid-Ulster sub-region is home to over 8,000 small businesses, which is the 2nd largest concentration of small businesses outside of the Belfast Metropolitan area. With circa 700,000 people within a one-hour commute of the district boundaries, the area supports approximately 50,000 jobs, which are mainly concentrated within micro businesses and Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs)[7]. As the most entrepreneurial region in Northern Ireland[8], the Mid Ulster area contributes towards producing 7.3% of the region's total economic output (Gross Value Added is £2.075 billon). Its business base provides the lifeblood of the local economy, whilst the skills and capabilities of its workforce are vital to its sustainability and growth.

The availability of a high performing workforce, appropriately equipped to meet the current and future needs of the local industry's key sectors is therefore of vital importance. From education through to industrial strategy, the skills that are developed are important both for the local economy and for providing an opportunity for individuals. While predictions of a changing world of work and the nature of jobs undertaken, alongside increasing technological advancements such as automation, will necessitate a medium-term focus amongst stakeholders in the Mid-Ulster area on its ability to upskill and reskill the local workforces (including opportunities for adult and lifelong learning), more immediate concerns are driving a need to review the availability of skills in the Mid-Ulster area. For example, the UK's vote to leave the European Union (EU) ('Brexit') is causing many businesses to think more about their future skills needs, assuming less access to migrant labour from the EU. The introduction of the Apprenticeship Levy[9] (April 2017) has also created an urgent need (amongst relevant employers) to ensure that the reforms drive quality over quantity and deliver the skills needed now and in the future.

In recognition of such issues, the Council had identified skills as one of the four Strategic Priorities in its Economic Development Plan *"Our Plan for Growth"* 2015-2020.

The Council recognises a need to build momentum to address such key labour market challenges and a desire for stronger collaboration and more effective partnership working with local employers, sectoral bodies, government departments, universities, and local schools (careers department).

---

[6] Which includes representation from local businesses, colleges, universities, local enterprise agencies, key sectoral business organisations, government departments and their agencies and the Council.
[7] Defined as having: fewer than 250 full time equivalent employees, an annual turnover not exceeding €50m (£35m) and/or an annual balance sheet total not exceeding €43m (£30m).
[8] In terms of business start-ups (Global Entrepreneurship Monitor Report, 2017).
[9] See Section 2.3 for further details.

To this end, the Mid Ulster Skills Forum offers a unique opportunity to initiate the development of a Mid-Ulster wide approach to employability and skills. This will help to match education and skills provision to meet the critical workforce needs of local employers in Mid-Ulster.

1.3 The Scope of the Work

1.3.1 Overview

Following the completion of an initial piece of research undertaken during 2015 by staff within the Council, which reviewed the statistics and data that was available at that time, it was identified that much of the skills related research that had been undertaken was at a regional level, with a significant gap in information on this issue at a sub-regional level (Mid Ulster District Council area).

Recognising this issue, the Council has identified a requirement for in-depth scoping work to map the issues relevant to businesses in a number of key sectors (and emerging growth sectors) within the Mid Ulster District Council area.

The overall aim of the work is to develop a comprehensive Skills Report and Action Plan 2018-2021 for the Council area. This will require:

- Analysis of skills shortages and skills gaps, including insight into skill level differentials in the Council area;
- Analysis of both current and a future search of workforce needs, to be benchmarked against the regional position;
- A review of local economic development activities throughout the sub-region and a report highlighting the potential opportunities that may be exploited; and
- Identification of the economic gaps and opportunities that require attention.

This analysis will identify and quantify the nature of the challenges facing businesses in the Council area. A resulting Action Plan will use the sourced evidence to develop a strong foundation for members of the Mid Ulster Skills Forum to address the key skills challenges in the short/medium term. All funding opportunities should be considered and explored in full.

A more detailed ‘Statement of Requirements’ is set out below.

1.3.2 Statement of Requirements

The Mid Ulster Skills Report and Action Plan 2018-2021 is required to include:

1. A comprehensive Skills Report identifying skills and deficits gaps (both in skill area and skill level) across each of the following sectors in the Mid Ulster area:

    - Manufacturing & Engineering;
    - Food & Agri-Food;
    - Construction;
    - Retail;
    - IT; and
    - Hospitality.

    The Council also recognises the need to develop and support weaker or new emerging sectors with growth potential.

2. A robust and practical Skills Action Plan (2018-2021) to include a number of interventions detailing opportunities and actions, roles, responsibilities, timescales, costs and funding sources.

The Council has split the work into four key stages as follows:

Stage 1: Desk Research	a) Collate a detailed, robust evidence base which must be referenced from a credible source and provide an analysis of the current and future employability, qualifications and skills challenges in the short, medium and long-term within the Mid Ulster District Council area (2018-2021). b) Collate and summarise the key support provisions for each of the sectors currently available. c) Review the effectiveness of labour market interventions for each of the sectors within the Mid Ulster District Council area. d) Research Government Plans, strategies and policies impacting upon each sector's employment, skills and training needs. e) Research Best Practice examples from Northern Ireland, Great Britain (GB), Republic of Ireland (ROI), Europe and internationally. f) Report on existing local and regional evidence that has an impact on anticipated growth and associated future skills needs across all sectors (including new emerging and weaker sectors).
Stage 2: Consultation and Engagement	a) Conduct in-depth and qualitative face to face business interviews (at a senior level) with: • The owner or HR Manager of a minimum of 32 businesses across the MUDC area with equal representation as far as possible across Dungannon, Cookstown and Magherafelt areas (ensuring a good cross-section business sectors and different sizes of companies). • The Chief Executives of the 3 local Enterprise Agencies (Cookstown Enterprise Centre, Dungannon Enterprise Centre and Workspace Enterprises Ltd.) and all Training Service providers across the MUDC area such as Coalisland Training Services, Network Personnel and Rutledge. • CAFRE (Loughry Campus), South West College (SWC) and Northern Regional College (NRC). • Government departments such Department for the Economy (DfE), Invest NI, Tourism NI and representative sectoral body organisations such as Federation of Small Businesses (FSB), Confederation of British Industry (CBI), NI Food and Drink Association, Manufacturing NI, Business in the Community (BITC), Construction Industry Training Board (CITB), Engineering Training Council (ETC), EEF, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA), Federation of Master Builders (FMB) and Food NI. • Queen's University, Belfast (QUB) and Ulster University (UU). b) Conduct 3 focus group meetings for career teachers/advisors from all secondary/grammar schools within the MUDC area. c) Conduct and analyse the results of an online business survey (using survey monkey) focussing on skills and deficits gaps across the key identified sectors within Mid Ulster. The online survey to all businesses in MUDC area (using the Council's website) will require a minimum 250-300 responses.
Stage 3: Interim Skills Report & Action Plan (2018-21)	a) Report on the analysis of research regarding the provision around skills, training and employability interventions available. b) Develop targets to increase skill levels which match the growing demand across Council's key sectors and emerging growth sectors. c) Determine the current and future key skill gaps that exist (both in skill area and skill level) and outline the nature and level of support or intervention required and key actions needed to deliver and make substantial progress towards the identified targets. d) Develop a robust, practical Action Plan to increase skill levels now and into the future. The Action Plan will clearly state the priorities, specific actions, targets, roles and responsibilities for partners and deliverers and implications for resources and
Stage 4: Final Skills Report and Action Plan (2018-21)	a) Report being to be presented and adopted by the Mid Ulster Skills Forum and Mid Ulster District Council. b) To formally present the findings via MS PowerPoint at a formal launch event.

1.4 Scope of Report and Methodology

1.4.1 Scope of Report

The scope of this report is **tightly focused on the skills needs** of businesses in the Council area, both now and in the medium-term. Whilst it necessarily touches upon jobs and economic growth, it is not an overall economic strategy for the area. This is covered by the Council's Economic Development Plan *"Our Plan for Growth"* 2015-2020.

Second, it describes an **agenda for the Mid Ulster area as a whole** rather than just for Mid Ulster District Council. This agenda will be delivered only with support from both public-sector stakeholders from across Northern Ireland and the private sector in the Council area. This said, the Council is well placed to coordinate, convene and direct other stakeholders.

Third, it seeks to identify **the priorities for action**, drawing together common themes from both existing research and research undertaken as part of this exercise into an up-to-date and integrated agenda for action.

The report has been organised around four strands of activity, namely: a review of the context in which Mid Ulster is operating; extensive data analysis looking at Mid Ulster's strengths and weaknesses; a review of Mid Ulster's relationship with the broader Northern Ireland economy; and wide consultation with the business leaders and key stakeholders within the area involved with the skills agenda. It is hoped this action plan will command broad support and serve Mid Ulster well for the long term, across economic and political cycles.

1.4.2 Methodology

In developing the Skills Report and Action Plan, the Consultancy Team undertook a variety of activities, including:

Desk Research	• A review of key strategies/policies to understand the regional and local context within which the Skills Report and Action Plan will sit including the Council's Corporate Plan, Community Plan and Economic Development Plan. • In-depth research on the external factors that are having, or have the potential to have, an impact on the anticipated growth and future skills needs across the key sectors (e.g. Brexit). • A review of existing research to examine the current and future challenges faced by each of the key sectors identified. • A review of a range of recently published data and metrics to understand the economy of the Council area and in particular its position relating to skills availability, and its performance in comparison to the rest of Northern Ireland. • An examination of existing provision and interventions that seek to: support businesses within the Council area to address their skills needs; and support individuals to become up-skilled in those areas where there are identified skills deficiencies. • In-depth research to appropriately define each of the six identified priority sectors. Please note, Appendix I provides the basis upon which each of the six priority sectors have been defined for the purposes of this report.

Consultation and Engagement	• In-depth consultations with the owners or HR Managers of businesses across the Council area (N=35), comprising forum (N=14) and non-forum members (N=21) i.e. the core research sample. • Online survey of businesses operating within the Council area (N=158). • Business consultations (N=193) have been disaggregated by sector as follows: - Manufacturing and Engineering (N=47) - Construction (N=27) - Food and Agri-food (N=10) - IT (N=9) - Retail (N=19) - Hospitality (N=20) - Other (N=61) Please note, a detailed methodology relating to the Consultancy Team's engagement with businesses is included in Appendix II. • In-depth consultations with: - Sectoral Bodies (N=10), including Manufacturing NI, FSB NI, Business in the Community, CBI, CITB, FMB, Food NI, Hospitality Ulster, Food and Drink Sector Skills NI and NI Food & Drink Association. - Government Departments (N=4), including DfE, Invest NI, Tourism NI and NISRA. - Enterprise Agencies (N=3), including Dungannon Enterprise Agency, Cookstown Enterprise Centre and Workspace, Draperstown. - Education providers (N=5) including QUB, UU, NRC, SWC and CAFRE. - Local Training providers (N=2), including Network Personnel & Rutledge Training and Recruitment. • Focus group (N=6) and in-depth consultations (N=4) with post-primary schools in the Council area.

2. A CHANGING CONTEXT

This section sets out the context within which the Action Plan has been developed (see Section 6) and will be implemented, including some of the potential implications of the UK's vote to leave the EU, as well as other broader economic trends that have relevance.

2.1 The Importance of Skills

The Government's framework for raising productivity highlights skills as one of a handful of key productivity drivers. Research undertaken by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) indicates that around 20% of the UK's productivity gap to France and Germany is attributable to low skill levels. In addition, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) estimates that Germany, France and the USA are each about a third more productive than the UK. Research has indicated that the gap could be partially explained by the UK's lower emphasis on technician and higher-level vocational education that combines on and off-the-job training.

There are substantial skills shortages throughout the UK. In 2015, the Employer Skills Survey, conducted by the UK Commission for Employment and Skills (UKCES), reported 209,000 vacancies which were 'hard to fill' due to applicants lacking requisite skills, and around 1.4 million employees lacking some skills to be fully proficient in their current role. The most common technical skills gaps among applicants included specialised skills, knowledge to perform the role and problem-solving skills. The most common people and personal skills gaps included customer-handling skills and time management.

Therefore, lifelong learning is a critical part of realising success in the Mid Ulster area as it will ensure that: young people will be 'work ready'; employees can develop their own talent and progress in work, and the unemployed can either move closer to the labour market or gain employment.

However, it is important to bear in mind that activity in the Mid Ulster area does not and will not operate as a silo; it is part of a wider skills system, in which national (UK) and Northern Ireland policy influences the skills and training of both young people, the unemployed and those in work.

2.2 Accessing Talent – A UK and NI Picture

Accessing appropriate talent and skills is not just an issue for businesses in the Mid Ulster area. It is one of the top three issues for 'ScaleUp' businesses throughout the UK[10], with 82% of scaleup leaders stating that they would be able to grow their company more easily if applicants had the skills needed to meet customer demand.

The ScaleUp survey found that business leaders consider the need to attract staff to join at entry-level positions and therefore to develop talent at the school and graduate level (82%) to be more important than being able to hire people from overseas who had scaled a company before (65%) or to attract large company executives to join the company (56%). The greatest talent 'pinch' was felt among companies with more than 20 employees but less than 250.

More specifically, the skills gaps that scaleups identify for their particular businesses are varied: business skills (34%), management skills (30%), technical skills (29%) and social skills (28%). Notably, only 12% of scaleups surveyed nominated finance skills as one of their top three gap areas.

More than 78% of scaleups reported apprenticeships to be beneficial in developing skills and talent in the business. Notably, scaleup leaders indicated that more work could be done in improving the availability and accessibility of these schemes as a viable career path for students. There was also a desire expressed to ensure that intended levies on these do not impact their ease of use in scaling businesses.

[10] ScaleUp Survey 2016.

Scaleup leaders believe it is critically important for the UK to remain a country open to others and able to easily recruit overseas talent. This is particularly salient given the current political and economic climate following the UK's vote to leave the EU.

The main concerns arising from scaleup business leaders centre around:

- Making it easier to hire the right people with the requisite talent and skills by having more flexible and cost-effective recruitment processes;
- Maintaining the ability to attract and retain talent from abroad – ensuring that despite the Brexit vote, it is easier to obtain overseas skilled labour; and
- Making sure that foreign students that are trained here have more ready access to job opportunities.

These views were strongly held by scaleup leaders regardless of sector or location.

At a local level, a sample of Northern Ireland businesses indicated that the key skills lacking amongst applicants included a combination of technical and practical skills and people skills such as (ordered from most to least commonly cited)[11]:

Technical and Practical Skills	• Specialist skills needed for the role; • Knowledge of how the organisation works; • Knowledge of the organisation's products and services; • Solving complex problems; • Complex numerical skills; • Basic numerical skills; and • Adapting to new equipment.
People Skills	• Ability to manage and prioritise own tasks; • Customer handling skills; • Managing or motivating other staff; • Sales skills; • Team working; • Persuading or influencing others; and • Managing their own feelings or those of others.

A key development in England that has sought to address the access to talent issue has been the creation of the Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC) in 2015, which focuses on the employability of students and developing better linkage and alignment between local entrepreneurs and business leaders with teachers and students. Similar focus is developing in other parts of the UK, for example, in Wales the Agreement on Skills and Employability between the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW), Universities Wales, CBI Wales and NUS (National Union of Students) Wales. The aim is to increase the employment of graduates from Welsh universities through work placements and work experience, employer approved courses and embedding employability skills across all higher education curricula.

In Northern Ireland, the Northern Ireland Schools and Colleges Careers Association (NISCA) works to enhance the quality of careers provision in schools and regional colleges, to promote dialogue with employers and employers' organisations, and to create a desire for life-long learning. Also, Careers Service NI provides a careers information, advice and guidance service throughout Northern Ireland, supporting young people (and their parents) and adults to make informed choices about their future career paths. Part of this service is the Government's 'Connect to Success NI', which is a free online portal (for employers and prospective employees) that exclusively advertises apprenticeships and school work experience opportunities.

The above challenges will only be met if businesses have the widest pool of talent to draw on. It means businesses in the Mid Ulster area must continue to increase employee diversity to unlock the potential

[11] UK Commission for Employment and Skills (UKCES) (2016) 'Employer Skills Survey'.

of the whole UK workforce. Businesses also need access to global talent to fill any skills gaps and to help them compete overseas.

2.3 Apprenticeships

Successive governments have considered apprenticeships to be a key way of developing skills, and they are therefore a crucial part of plans for growth and improved productivity. It is thought that, without government intervention, employers would not invest an economically optimal amount in training, including apprenticeships.

In Northern Ireland, an apprenticeship is a full-time paid job (a minimum of 21 contracted hours per week), available to those aged 16 or over[12]. It incorporates on and off the job training, usually on a day-release basis with a training provider. Apprentices work towards achieving vocational qualifications and essential skills qualifications (reading, writing, maths and computers), leading to a nationally recognised certificate.

Some people become an apprentice by joining a new employer, whilst others begin an apprenticeship with their existing employer. Apprenticeships take at least one year to complete and several years to reach the highest levels. They are available at various levels, depending on the requirements of the job and the apprentice's existing qualifications. The table below explains these levels in more detail.

Apprenticeship levels[13]		
Name	**Level**	**Educational equivalent**
Intermediate	2	Five GCSEs at grades A* to C
Advanced	3	Two A levels
Higher	4, 5, 6 and 7	Diplomas, certificates and degrees
of which: Degree	6 and 7	Bachelor's or master's degree

The world of work is continuing to change, and the government identified a need for higher level skills in the Northern Ireland economy. Consequently, in 2015 Higher Level Apprenticeships (HLAs) were launched (as a pilot) in partnership with local employers, further education colleges and universities. HLAs provide an opportunity for individuals to gain a degree whilst still in work.

As well as providing economic benefits, the government expects apprenticeships to add value in other ways, such as improving outcomes for young people and boosting workplace diversity.

From April 2017, employers with a pay bill of more than £3 million pay a levy to fund apprenticeships ('the apprenticeship levy'[14]). The Levy is charged at a rate of 0.5% of an employer's pay bill, whilst each employer receives an allowance of £15,000 to offset against their Levy payment[15]. At the same time, steps have been made to make it easier for employers to choose and pay for the apprenticeship training and assessment they want. Also, during April 2017, an independent and employer-led Institute for Apprenticeships was created. Its role includes regulating the quality of apprenticeships.

2.4 Brexit

Following the UK's vote to leave the EU in June 2016, the Mid Ulster area is at the beginning of a period of significant uncertainty, during which businesses and households are likely to find it more difficult to plan for the longer term. Brexit will impact businesses in the Mid Ulster area directly if restrictions are placed on their ability to access EU27 Nationals as employees. The Government has, at

---

[12] Terms and conditions apply if an individual is 25 years old and over e.g. there are only some apprenticeships available in specific sectors.
[13] Source: National Audit Office.
[14] Introduced by HM Revenue and Customs across the UK on 6th April 2017.
[15] There are a number of differences in the skills and training systems (and in turn the apprenticeship systems) operating across Northern Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales.

the time of writing, signalled its intention to take the UK out of the single market and the EU Customs Union alongside establishing a new immigration system. What this means, right now, is that the legal status of EU nationals and their ability to live and work in the UK is in doubt. Clearly, the outcomes of future negotiations will be vital in determining the level of free movement that is afforded to EU27 Nationals in the UK and vice versa. This is important as workers from the EU fill vital roles in a variety of sectors in the Mid Ulster area (such as manufacturing & engineering, hospitality and food & agri-food), which are vital to the area's economic growth and productivity. Overall, EU27 Nationals comprise a large proportion of the total migrant population living in the Mid Ulster area.

Although it is hard to predict the shape of the eventual settlement, Brexit has the potential to present particular challenges for the Mid Ulster area. These include:

Brexit - Potential Challenges
• Businesses may postpone investment and expenditure, which in turn will slow the growth in employment and output. Local stakeholders have limited scope to reduce this uncertainty, but they can take steps to reduce uncertainty in other areas such as skills training. • Unless the UK can secure access with limited tariffs or barriers to export markets in the EU and globally, there will be consequences for many exporting businesses in the Mid Ulster area. Reduced access to the EU Single Market is likely to affect many of the key sectors in the Mid Ulster area. If the UK leaves the Customs Union, businesses of all sizes face new costs in reorganising supply chains and managing movement across customs frontiers. A weaker sterling may increase the competitiveness of some sectors, but at the same time it will raise costs for major importers and reduce purchasing power for consumers. • The Government has sought to curb lower-skilled migration from outside the EU through changes to the points-based visa system and the closure of several unskilled visa routes. EU migrants, particularly from countries that acceded after 2004, therefore make up the bulk of incoming lower-skilled workers. Depending upon the settlement on free movement of people, restrictions on migration are likely to hit many of the largest businesses in the Mid Ulster area. Indeed, the withdrawal of mid and lower-skilled labour (in particular) may exacerbate vacancy rates in the Mid Ulster area in lower-paid sectors such as hospitality, food & agri-food and construction, given the relatively low overall rates of unemployment. Mid-skilled and lower-skilled migrants fill a range of roles in the Mid Ulster labour market, including: - Within cyclical sectors, where it is hard to generate and train a pipeline of local workers because the number of jobs varies dramatically from peak to trough e.g. construction; - Sectors where, in principle, enough Northern Ireland workers could be trained (e.g. food & agri-food), but where in practice it appears difficult to match local supply with demand; and - Lower-paid sectors, where local workers appear to be unwilling to undertake the roles e.g. hospitality. Lower-skilled immigration may be the target of new restrictions following exit from the EU. Given this, a challenge for the Mid Ulster area may be to train the low-income local population to fill roles previously filled by migrants, while continuing to secure recruitment in those areas where immigration will remain a key component of the labour force.

These challenges are not insurmountable. In this report, some ways in which Mid Ulster might seek to overcome them and develop the resilience to capitalise on new opportunities are discussed.

2.5 Global Risks

The outlook for the global economy is uncertain. Across the world, the trend towards increased flows of trade, money and people is looking less certain. The era of 'easy growth' fuelled by credit and demographics is probably over, with global economic growth set to slow by almost half, from 3.6% to 2.1%, in the next 50 years[16]. Recently, global trade growth has slowed, alongside a slowdown in leading emerging market economies (such as Brazil, Russia, China and South Africa) and subdued demand across the world. In developed economies, productivity growth has been decelerating for decades[17].

[16] McKinsey Global Institute, Turbulence Ahead, 2016.
[17] OECD, The Productivity-Inclusiveness Nexus, 2015.

Alongside widespread opposition to free trade deals, such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership and Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, the World Trade Organization estimates that protectionist trade measures among the G20 are multiplying at their fastest rate since 2008[18]. National governments are experimenting with alternative economic strategies in response to these challenges.

Strained by growing inequality, the historic global economic consensus is being tested, particularly around migration and security. Global flows of people are facing new restrictions, as developed economies seek to control the scale of immigration in response to the concerns of those left behind by globalisation. In addition, forced migration from refugee crises across the world has altered these patterns substantially. Further, the recent terrorist attacks in Great Britain and other European cities mean that security risks remain front of mind.

The world will also see the continuing rise of disruptive innovation e.g. the further reach of the mobile internet, the cloud and the internet of things and the growth of advanced robotics, hydraulic fracturing, autonomous vehicles and 3D printing. Patterns of work will change dramatically too, with the rise of flexible work enabled by 'gig economy'[19] players such as Deliveroo. Economic growth driven by innovation and technology is here to stay, and regions which are well equipped to adjust to new ways of working will prosper more than others[20].

2.6 Technological Changes/Advancements

The economy is changing. That is nothing new. New technologies replace the old, new occupations and jobs are created and others disappear.

Historical perspectives provide some comfort in relation to technological progress (such as automation) and its impact on society. Research[21] suggests that, for example, automation has, over recent years, increased productivity, which reduced average prices, making goods and services more affordable and freeing up cash for other purchases, thereby promoting consumption. Demand has increased for these products and individuals' quality of life and average income subsequently increased due to automation. Automation has been good for society in general, but at a micro level there are losers and government, through policy and decision-making, need to consider the best options.

Research[22] has estimated that 35% of all jobs within the UK are highly susceptible to automation within the next 10-15 years and that lower-paid jobs in industries that are often dependent on labour from outside the UK are the most likely to be affected. There are also suggestions[23] that demand for jobs becomes more 'U-shaped' with automation, for example:

- There is demand for lower skill occupations that cannot be automated e.g. service industries such as barbers, beauticians etc.;
- Mid-level skills, such as machine operatives etc., are more easily automated and demand is relatively lower;
- Highly skilled occupations that require strategy, thought leadership, conversational skills and persuasion are not easily automated and demand is relatively higher.

Whilst jobs may be at risk due to technological progress (such as automation), others will be created, potentially in occupations created by automation that do not yet exist.

[18] World Trade Organization, Report on G20 trade measures, June 2016.
[19] A labour market characterised by the prevalence of short-term contracts or freelance work as opposed to permanent jobs.
[20] McKinsey Global Institute, Disruptive technologies: Advances that will transform life, business, and the global economy, May 2013.
[21] Source: 2017 Knowledge Economy Report (Connect at Catalyst Inc., January 2018).
[22] Deloitte and Reform (2017) 'Citizens, Government and Business: The State of the State 2017-18'.
[23] Source: 2017 Knowledge Economy Report (Connect at Catalyst Inc., January 2018).

An inability to access skills has prompted some businesses to, wherever possible, consider investing in automation. However, this option requires significant time and substantial capital expenditure. Given the current uncertainty around Brexit, the business case for technology investment does not stack up for many businesses. For example, it would seem irrational for an indigenous large business to invest more in automation in a local plant when potentially hefty tariffs may be imposed on their EU exports and, in addition, their domestic sales may not compete against products from low wage economies, where production standards are lower. Decisions to invest in automation, therefore, involve much more than mere feasibility.

In many services sectors, the opportunity to substitute labour with technology is simply not possible. For example, there are limitations involving low-skilled jobs such as waiting or cleaning hotel rooms in the hospitality and tourism sectors. Also, 'unpredictable environments' in areas such as construction sites, medical care, hospitality, farming etc. make automation very difficult[24].

Planning for the future is key. It looks like society is on the cusp of another technological disruption, where big data, blockchain, artificial intelligence etc. change how individuals live their lives. The world is changing, and the Mid Ulster area has no control over the pace of change. This report considers how stakeholders in the Mid Ulster area need to think, act and educate now for the economy of the future.

2.7 Inward Investment Prospects

Northern Ireland's attractiveness to Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is strongly linked to continued access to inward flows of migrant workers. The talent pool in any economy is always cited as one of the guiding factors on investment location decisions. Given Northern Ireland's acute shortage of skills at all levels, it is likely that foreign direct investors may prioritise other economies (e.g. the Republic of Ireland), where the governments are committed to improving the value proposition for foreign investors[25].

Furthermore, inward investment prospects are, like many other things, dependent on any agreements reached as part of the Brexit negotiations. For example, FDI companies with a base in Northern Ireland have reported that if they wish to invest more (in, for example, technology, automation etc.), they must compete for investment funding against their sister operations around the world. This means that for foreign-owned plants in Northern Ireland, their ability to attract funding for further investment has 'dried up', as global owners are reluctant to invest any more into their Northern Ireland operations until the Brexit outcome is established.

2.8 Trends in Skills Activity

This section summarises key aspects and trends in the skills ecosystem:

- Whilst the UK has been found to compare well on the provision of higher-level qualifications, its performance on most other indicators of qualifications or skills has been found to be *"either poor or mediocre"*[26].
- Many of the biggest challenges lie in the workplace itself. The majority of people who will be working in 2030 are already in the workforce and will be untouched by the current round of educational reforms. However, UK employers spend less on training than other major EU economies and less than the EU average.
- Whilst Northern Ireland's skills levels have been improving, other countries are moving ahead even faster. For example, the Northern Ireland skills profile remains behind many OECD[27] and European Union countries, particularly in terms of the high proportions of individuals in Northern Ireland with

[24] Source: McKinsey (2016).
[25] CBI Northern Ireland 'Response to Migration Advisory Committee's Call For Evidence'.
[26] From 'inadequate to 'outstanding': making the UK's skills system world class (CIPD, April 2017).
[27] Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

low or no qualifications. Improving the skills and employability of those who face the greatest barriers to accessing the labour market remains a priority so that all can share in the benefits of growth[28]. The task is to:

- Equip all people with the education and skills that will allow them to achieve their full potential;
- Ensure that Northern Ireland has a skills pipeline that meets, and responds in an agile way to, the changing demands of business and the economy; and
- Support those who need help to access the skills that will help them compete for employment opportunities.

• The Northern Ireland Skills Barometer[29] is considered to be a valuable tool to help understand the Northern Ireland skills landscape and to identify growth sectors, skills shortages and future skills needs. This and other research points to the importance of developing Northern Ireland's skills base and the employability of its people and, in particular, the importance of skills in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).
• The Department of Education (DE) and DfE work closely together on cross-cutting issues related to the education and training provision for 14 to 19-year olds. They share a common focus on young people having access to the right courses; on quality teaching and learning; on careers provision; on helping young people avoid being part of the not in employment, education or training (NEETs) statistics and STEM. Both Departments are determined to enhance the contribution of schools, further education, higher education and training to the development of the local economy.

2.9 Sector Specific Considerations[30]

2.9.1 Manufacturing and Engineering

Across Northern Ireland, the manufacturing and engineering sector has been in long-term decline as the service sector has grown. However, in the Mid Ulster area, it still accounts for 21% (10,740 employee jobs) of employment and is highly productive, representing 17% of Northern Ireland's manufacturing GVA (in 2015). The sector is of profound importance to the area's economy – especially in key specialisms such as the manufacture of mining and quarrying machinery, production of general and special purpose machinery etc., which have linkages and supply chain associations with the construction and food & agri-food sectors. For instance, 40% of world's mobile crushing and screening equipment is made in the Mid Ulster area.

Key challenges and priorities facing the sector across Northern Ireland include:

• In terms of the skills profile, the sector relies on a strong foundation in the basic numeracy and literacy, management and STEM skills. However, the sector also needs more high-level and technical skills e.g. interpersonal/communication skills, problem-solving and commercial acumen etc.
• The increasing use of design packages and bespoke software in the manufacturing process is also requiring greater 'IT literacy' and skills in utilising specific computer-aided design (CAD)/computer-aided manufacturing (CAM) and computer numerical control (CNC) machining software. 'Smart factories' of the future will require workers with the relevant production and IT 'know-how'. The general shift to shorter, more tailored production runs, driven by both customer demand and the availability of more flexible production technology, is also increasing demand for design skills.
• Within the manufacturing and engineering sector as a whole, there is a marked difference between the Advanced Manufacturing, Materials and Engineering (AMME) subsector and other subsectors, particularly in the distribution of skills levels amongst the workforce.
• In the absence of disruptive innovations and exogenous shocks, it appears that the manufacturing and engineering sector might continue to provide employment opportunities across all skill levels, although the AMME subsector is likely to have a growing need at skill level 4+[31]. The skills system, therefore, needs to serve this plurality of skills needs.

[28] 'Economy 2030': Industrial Strategy for Northern Ireland (DfE, January 2017).
[29] Ulster University Economic Policy Centre (UUEPC) and DfE (June 2017).
[30] Where appropriate, this section draws upon the key findings, and definitions for each sector, as set out in Appendices I and II.
[31] Please see Appendix III for the Qualifications Framework.

Yet once more, management and leadership skills will be critical to helping 'the makers' flourish – especially against the background of innovation, digitalisation and technological change/advancement. As international competition intensifies, so does the pressure on local businesses to perform and to innovate.

2.9.2 Food & Agri-Food

The production and processing of food plays a critical role in the Northern Ireland and Mid Ulster area economies. The sector creates 2.2% of Northern Ireland's GVA[32] and accounts for 3,379 employee jobs (7% of employment) in the Mid Ulster area. The sector also makes a significant contribution to jobs and wealth creation throughout the local economy through its purchase of goods and services such as transport, packaging and engineering. Businesses range from small-scale family-owned and locally focused businesses, to larger firms serving the domestic, national and international retail and foodservice markets and seeking to expand further internationally.

Despite the above, there is a recognised shortage of appropriate skills within Northern Ireland to serve the food & agri-food sector, with the future success of the sector requiring greater investment in innovation and skills.

Key challenges and priorities facing the sector across Northern Ireland include:

- A poor perception of the industry, lack of understanding of agriculture and food production, lack of awareness of the career options, and difficulty in recruiting graduates, particularly those with scientific and technical skills. The sector must become an attractive career option - from semi-skilled to technical to business management, with opportunities for graduate talent.
- Management and leadership training must be enhanced, and industry must increase their uptake of the support on offer.
- There is a need for business skills in the industry, both at primary and processing levels - cost analysis, commercial viability, and application of technical skills.
- A lack of marketing skills and failure to appreciate the need to meet or exceed customer expectations, throughout the supply chain.
- The need to better harness the fresh talent at FE Colleges, universities and CAFRE, through apprenticeships opportunities, both on-farm, in the factory and in skilled occupations such as the bakery sector.
- Like many other industries, the sector also faces the challenges of dealing with rising energy and other input costs, securing affordable finance from lenders, upskilling its workforce and competing on price and quality of products and produce.
- Introducing food into the education curriculum at pre-school, primary and secondary level was recently suggested by the Agri-food Strategy Board[33] to be an approach that could enhance the understanding of agriculture and food. It also suggested examining the scope for development of primary and secondary level curriculum-based training in agriculture and food to GCSE exam level.

The Northern Ireland Government has prioritised the food & agri-food industry for development, and with its support, the sector can capitalise on the clear opportunities available and overcome the barriers to growth.

2.9.3 Construction

The construction sector is a major component of the economy in the Mid Ulster area economy, with a workforce of over 4,425, many of whom are working outside of the area. There are around 1,340 construction businesses, with the overwhelming majority being micro-sized companies with less than 10 employees.

[32] Source: 'Agri-Food Horizon Panel Report' (MATRIX, 2008).
[33] 'Going for Growth: A Strategic Action Plan in Support of the Northern Ireland Food Industry' (Agri-Food Strategy Board, 2013).

Key challenges and priorities facing the sector across Northern Ireland include:

- *A steady supply of talent* - The image of the construction sector has long been a barrier to attracting young people, many of whom associate the industry with insecurity, difficult working conditions and low pay. The pool of people employed in the industry younger than 25 years old has shrunk significantly over the past decade. The sector is stereotyped as being male and working class. However, the construction sector offers a wide variety of roles in trades and professions and clear progression paths. Nonetheless, this is rarely showcased and there is not a coordinated approach to debunking misperceptions or promoting the positive aspects of working in the sector.
- *Boom and Bust:* More so than in most other sectors, the construction sector has historically endured a boom and bust cycle that many in the industry accept as an intractable issue. This cyclical nature means that companies may adopt short-term horizons that makes investing in people a difficult choice. It is likely that no single solution is likely to solve this problem but nonetheless actions should be identified and implemented with the intention of mitigating the negative effects of boom and bust.
- *Migration*: Migration is a further area of concern for the sector, especially given the uncertainty associated with the Brexit negotiations.
- *Improving Training Provision*: The provision of training needs to be of the quantity, quality and type to match any forecasted need for skills in the sector. This includes the training made available to the current workforce, as well as the training of new entrants for the sector. Barriers to achieving this include the capacity and resources of businesses (the majority of which are small or micro businesses) to upskill their workforce, the ability of training providers to recruit teachers and lecturers of a high quality and the matching of training to the ever-changing needs of the sector resulting from such factors as the introduction of new methods and technology. In order to help mitigate the effects of the cyclical nature of the industry, the provision of training that looks to provide a workforce with the skillset and flexibility to move between sectors is also desirable.
- *Business models*: The sector's existing business models, low margins and fragmented supply chains do not encourage firms to invest and innovate. There are opportunities to unlock the industry's technical knowledge and vision to help deliver the solutions needed while collaborating with key actors in the sector such as the government's Construction Leadership Council.

The skills system needs to support the construction sector through developing skills across the different levels, working closely with employers to ensure mismatches are minimised and that training content matches need. Once more, this activity needs to be shaped by the understanding that advanced technical skills at higher levels (level 4+) are likely to increasingly shape the construction industry.

2.9.4 Retail

The retail sector comprises the largest sector of the private economy in Northern Ireland. It is not surprising, therefore, that retail is identified as an important factor contributing to local economies. However, the sector is polarised with a concentration of large multiple retailers at one extreme and, at the other, a large majority of small businesses.

Key challenges and priorities facing the sector across Northern Ireland include:

- Employers face considerable challenges in that, retail employs the highest proportion of part-time workers, suffers a higher than average staff turnover, and has a poor image as a career destination, particularly for well-qualified employees. Indeed, retailing has traditionally been 'trapped in a low skills, low pay equilibrium'[34].
- While independent retailers greatly outnumber the multiples, they are economically weak in comparison with the efficiency and productivity generated by the large corporate chains. As a result, the independent sector has steadily declined in contrast with the rising dominance of a few large multiples, particularly in sectors such as food. An associated impact is a decline in specialist skills, profitability and increased costs for independents due to this greater competition.
- Furthermore, developing technology has driven efficiency within retail operations; within stores, supply chains and in more recent sales channels such as the Internet. This has been mainly exploited by the larger multiples, as smaller independents often lack the resources, economies of scale and the skills to keep up with new technology.

[34] Skillsmart Retail, 2004.

- For the retail industry, replacement demand i.e. the labour required to replace those leaving the industry is typically much higher than the labour required to meet expansion. However, the need to match labour with daily and weekly trading peaks in retail has encouraged a more flexible, efficient staffing approach using part-time employment. Not surprisingly, part-time work typically attracts a greater proportion of 'returners' to the retail workforce and therefore a higher ratio of female: male employees.
- Sales and customer services underpin the retail sector and not surprisingly these occupations account for the majority of employment within retail. While management occupations comprise the second largest occupational group in retail, it is a much smaller proportion of the workforce than in other sectors. Undoubtedly, this occupational structure affects the qualification/skills profile and quality of entrants into the retail sector. The nature of retail sales occupations has traditionally demanded low-level skills. As a result, retail employs a relatively high proportion of workers with lower than average levels of qualification attainment. A key implication of low skills is lower pay, which in turn can greatly influence the attraction, recruitment and labour turnover in retail.
- New technology requires workers to have up-to-date IT skills, which can be a challenge for older workers who are less likely to have good IT skills than younger workers.
- The retail industry in Northern Ireland needs to raise and enhance the image of the sector, to identify the skills sets for specific roles, and to clarify the retail qualifications and training required for delivering these. This means presenting retail as an attractive and promising career to those who may be overlooking it in favour of other options. To continue to attract younger workers, the opportunity to use and develop technology-based skills and knowledge within a retail career should be promoted. The range of potential career options at higher levels and in management roles should also be promoted to undergraduates and graduates through universities and careers intermediaries.

2.9.5 IT

The Northern Ireland IT sector comprises over 1,300 businesses and has a strength in its software engineering expertise, along with clusters in mobile telecoms, financial software, information management, cyber security and connected health. The sector employs around 15,000 people, the majority (75%+) of which are employed in computer programming and consultancy. The median earnings for IT specialists in Northern Ireland is well above the region's average salary, whilst IT companies typically pay better than average wages.

However, in the Mid Ulster area, the sector accounts for less than 1% (233 employee jobs) of employment, who are employed by 62 businesses (representing 1% of the business base within the Council area).

Key challenges and priorities facing the sector across Northern Ireland include:

- The pace of digital change makes predicting the future difficult, but there are a number of trends that are driving innovation and development in the Northern Ireland IT sector. For example, as the capabilities of computers expand beyond routine work, tasks that were once considered too complex for automation will be converted into well-defined problems capable of digital solutions. Exponential growth in computing power, combined with a dramatic reduction in cost, has seen computer technologies transform the workplace, displacing labour from some jobs but also creating new types of work that call for different skills. Jobs and skillsets that barely existed five years ago, such as iOS/Android developer, data scientist, cloud services specialist, big data architect, will experience an increase in demand by businesses.
- There are specific challenges to growing the IT sector in Northern Ireland, including, *inter alia*, the supply of skilled, committed and passionate talent. Leading countries have a strong focus on education and training, drawing on a tech-savvy workforce with exemplary project management and system integration strengths. However, while Northern Ireland has a particular strength in the calibre of its software engineers, it has a weakness in the quantity of talent that is available to support the growth of the ICT sector.
- An undersupply in STEM-related subjects is a consistent finding across skills research for many years now. There are a number of reasons for this finding, not least because sectors such as IT have significant growth potential and the skills are in demand across a wide range of sectors and occupations. However, a further reason could be that ICT is amongst a relatively small number of occupations that require a qualification in a relevant subject discipline. This places greater significance on the volume of qualifications being achieved in these subjects on an annual basis relative to other subject areas.
- Furthermore, the continuing decline in females entering the IT profession is a real threat for Northern Ireland (as it is throughout the UK) and an issue that needs to be addressed. Doubtless the continued poor

representation of women within the IT workforce is an inevitable waste of valuable potential resource and, as such, is an issue which warrants further examination by the government.

- Talent production needs to accelerate past addressing the current shortfall to drive growth, rather than maintain the status quo. In addition, a digitally talented and capable workforce will drive the whole economy, not just the IT sector. The attraction of talent from outside of Northern Ireland offers a major opportunity to address the talent gap and introduce a diversity of talent and skills that other regions thrive on to progress.

2.9.6 *Hospitality*

While the hospitality sector in Northern Ireland faces a range of unique challenges (e.g. uncertainty associated with Brexit and the recent introduction of the National Living Wage), encouragingly, the trajectory of growth remains upwards. Across Northern Ireland, the hospitality sector is, at the time of writing, enjoying the benefit of a more competitive exchange rate, along with a significant increase in investment in the hotels sector. In the Mid Ulster area, the sector accounts for 6% (2,968 employee jobs) of employment, with the food and drink component of the sector (pubs, restaurants etc.) being a key contributor.

Key challenges and priorities facing the sector across Northern Ireland include:

- The sector also has a prominent role in the local economy, supporting tourism, attracting investment and contributing to overall quality of life. It has a strong part-time working representation in its labour force (on average, nearly two-thirds of all jobs within hospitality are part-time) – offering flexible working and opportunities for youth employment and employment for those attempting to re-engage with the labour market.
- The biggest challenges facing businesses in the sector are the supply and retention of talent across all levels of their business, along with the high reliance on EU nationals, who represent between 12% to 24% of the current workforce. The sector already struggles to recruit, with particular challenges in recruiting chefs, other kitchen staff, housekeeping and front of house staff, which are among the roles with the highest proportion of EU migrant workers.
- Consequently, the sector is likely to be more significantly impacted by any change in the availability of EU labour than other sectors which rely less heavily on EU nationals. The hospitality sector is also associated with high levels of staff turnover - each year it loses and has to recruit a large number of people relative to its total employment.
- It is estimated that the high levels of staff turnover, coupled with projected employment growth in the sector, will generate a significant labour market requirement for workers from outside the sector. This figure will increase over time as the total employment in the sector grows. This recruitment need is currently filled with a combination of:

  - UK workers previously unemployed or inactive;
  - UK workers moving from other sectors;
  - EU nationals; and
  - Rest of the world nationals.

- However, assuming the continuation of current levels of recruitment from UK and rest of world migrant workforce, restrictions to new EU migrants entering the UK for work in the sector will likely generate a recruitment gap, which will have a cumulative impact on the UK hospitality sector over time.

- The hospitality sector faces challenges in recruiting enough workers, particularly in specific roles. Key reasons for this include:

  - A lack of willingness by job seekers to work in the sector due to: careers not being seen as viable in the long-term - roles are often seen as short-term and temporary and primarily aimed at young people/students; roles are perceived to be low-paid and high-effort; seasonal work and shift patterns in the industry are not desired by UK workers; and a lack of knowledge about career progression and opportunities within the hospitality industry.
  - A lack of necessary skills - chefs and front of house staff are the two most frequently cited hard-to-fill roles in the sector.
  - Overall labour market conditions in the context of low unemployment.

3. MID ULSTER'S PLATFORM FOR GROWTH

This section sets out the Consultancy Team's understanding of the economy of the Mid Ulster area and in particular, its position relating to skills availability, and its performance in comparison to the rest of Northern Ireland.

It draws together a wide range of data (demographic, economic, supply and demand of skills) and the findings from the primary research in order to paint a detailed picture of the labour market and skills need in the Mid Ulster area. Please note, detailed findings are included in Appendices I and II.

3.1 Mid Ulster's Economic Performance

Located in the heart of Northern Ireland, the Mid Ulster area has been at the forefront of industrial and entrepreneurial development. The reputation of the area in the fields of manufacturing, engineering and food sectors is well known, and where other regions have seen manufacturing decline, the area has worked hard to retain and attract such industries into the area and has been successful in this endeavour.

The economic performance of the Mid Ulster area has been driven by a set of complementary strengths, which, in combination, delineate its unique position in Northern Ireland economy. Given the preceding analysis of the changing context - and in particular, the vote to leave the EU - the Consultancy Team is of the view that the need for each of these strengths has the potential to become more, not less, significant in the future. Therefore, the skills priorities that have been set out for the area begin with sustaining and developing these platforms for growth:

- Mid Ulster (incorporating the former council areas of Cookstown, Dungannon and South Tyrone and Magherafelt) possesses the second largest business base outside of Belfast[35].
- Strategically located, the Mid Ulster area has a widely acknowledged strong, diverse and dynamic business base, together with an educated and entrepreneurial workforce.
- It has the 2nd lowest claimant count in the region at 1.3%[36].
- The Gross Value Added (GVA) is £2.075 billon, the 4th highest in the region in 2014, producing 7.3% of the region's total economic output.
- The area population of 145,000 is the fastest growing new Council area.
- Total workforce - 91,711 of working age (aged 16-64).
- 700,000 people within a one-hour commute of the district boundaries.
- Circa 11,000 people employed in circa 600 manufacturing & engineering businesses in Mid Ulster area.
- 40% of world's mobile crushing and screening equipment is made in the Mid Ulster area.

3.2 Business Start-Up v Business Scale-Up

It should be noted that while regions with strong entrepreneurial foundations grow faster, they do so not through continual replication of small businesses but rather through retaining employment growth in those establishments that ultimately become large[37]. Therefore, the Mid Ulster area needs to be an attractive place not only to start new businesses up but also to scale them up. This is reflected in the recent Scale-Up Report on UK Economic Growth, an independent report to the government[38].

Scale-up companies, such as those present in the Mid Ulster area, can be major contributors to local economies, especially with regards to acting as role models and inspiring others. Scale-up companies can have a particularly dynamic effect on local ecosystems when they are clustered together, buying goods and services from each other, attracting and developing talented people and building networks with the local ecosystem.

---

[35] Circa 8,245 businesses, which represents 12% (N=70,060) of the regional total.
[36] NISRA (2017) 'Northern Ireland Labour Market Report March 2017'.
[37] See, for example, Glaeser, Kerr & Kerr, Entrepreneurship and urban growth; An Empirical Assessment with Historical Mines, NBER Working Paper No. 18333, August 2012.
[38] Coutu, Sherry, The Scale-Up Report on UK Economic Growth, November 2014.

However, scale-ups businesses report problems accessing talent and recruiting people with appropriate skills, with skills shortages being cited as the most significant issue.

The Mid Ulster area needs sufficient numbers of people who have the right skills. This requires action by both business and government. There are some short-term 'fixes' required and some long-term 'fixes', which fall primarily to the government to address. For example, young people should be made aware of the skills they need for the jobs that will be available to them when they are finished with full-time formal education, whilst career opportunities should be promoted to those who are employed and unemployed (including this categorised as students).

3.3 Mid Ulster's Business and Employee Profile

There are circa 8,245 VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses within the Mid Ulster area. These businesses represented 12% the total number of registered businesses within Northern Ireland and the area has the second largest business base outside of the Belfast Metropolitan area.

- Four-fifths (80%) of the businesses within the Mid Ulster area are operating within the six identified priority sectors.
- The Mid Ulster area has a relatively high concentration of Food & Agri-Food businesses (38%) compared to Northern Ireland as a whole (26%).
- The area also has higher proportions of Construction (16% versus 13%) and Manufacturing & Engineering (7% versus 6%) businesses when compared to Northern Ireland as a whole.
- The manufacturing & engineering sector within the Mid Ulster area has strong specialisms in the production of general and special purpose machinery, along with the manufacture of products which directly supply the construction and agricultural sectors. It was also noted that the manufacture and wholesale of produce, which falls within the broader Food & Agri-Food sector, are concentrated in the Council area.
- It was also suggested that, in addition to the portfolio of companies in the quarrying and construction sectors (including those companies specialising in the manufacture of mining and quarrying machinery), food manufacture and the agri-food business is also well represented in the area.
- Employment specialisms within the Council area are strongly associated with the most prominent employing sectors in the economy, namely supplying bespoke machinery for the manufacturing and construction sectors.

The Consultancy Team's primary research with businesses indicates that most of the businesses are headquartered in the Mid Ulster area, which is broadly reflective of the area's largely indigenous business base (with a small cohort of FDI businesses).

Whilst there is a proportionately lower rate of business start-ups within the Mid Ulster area[39], those businesses which do start-up tend to be more sustainable, resulting in a lower business death rate than in most other Northern Ireland LGDs.

Over the period 2012/13 to 2016/17, there was a range of activity in the Mid Ulster area that was supported by Invest NI. For example:

- 798 unique businesses within the Mid Ulster area received 3,061 offers of support from Invest NI, including 780 (98%) businesses that were locally owned.
- The value of the support provided by Invest NI (£68.31m) contributed towards leveraging further investments totalling £362.56m, including £46.78m from externally-owned businesses into the Mid Ulster area.

As of 2016, the total employee jobs within the Mid Ulster area equated to 52,372, which represented 7% of the total employee jobs in Northern Ireland. The area is, vis-à-vis the Northern Ireland average, less dependent on the public sector for its employee jobs.

[39] The 'birth rate' (i.e. the number of business births as a proportion of the total number of active enterprises) in the area was 9.3%, which was lower than the overall business birth rate of 10.2% for Northern Ireland.

In 2015, nearly two-thirds (63%) of the employee jobs in the Mid Ulster area were in the six identified priority sectors, as illustrated below:

Employee Jobs (2015) by Sector and Gender[40]							
Sector		**Mid Ulster area**					
		Male		**Female**		**Total**	
		No.	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**
Priority Sectors							
Manufacturing & Engineering		8,869	83%	1,871	17%	**10,740**	**21%**
Retail		4,675	47%	5,260	53%	**9,935**	**20%**
Construction		3,826	86%	599	14%	**4,425**	**9%**
Food & Agri-Food	*Agriculture*	*41*	*79%*	*11*	*21%*	***52***	***<1%***
	Food Manufacturing	*2,324*	*70%*	*1,002*	*30%*	***3,326***	***7%***
	Subtotal	**2,365**	**70%**	**1,013**	**30%**	**3,379**	**7%**
Hospitality		1,138	38%	1,830	62%	**2,968**	**6%**
IT		150	64%	83	36%	**233**	**<1%**
Subtotal Priority Sectors		***21,024***	***66%***	***10,656***	***34%***	***31,680***	***63%***
'Other' Sectors		**6,070**	**33%**	**12,406**	**67%**	**18,476**	**37%**
Total Employee Jobs		**27,094**	**54%**	**23,062**	**46%**	**50,156**	**100%**

Key points to note include:

- Nearly two-thirds (63%) of the employee jobs in the Mid Ulster area were in the six identified priority sectors. The area has, vis-à-vis the Northern Ireland average (43%), a higher dependence on these priority sectors for its employee jobs.
- The dependence on these sectors is particularly pronounced within the manufacturing & engineering and retail sectors, whereby over a fifth (21% & 20% respectively) of the employee jobs in the Council area are within these sectors (compared to 9% and 17% respectively of all employee jobs at a Northern Ireland level).
- The Mid Ulster area is, vis-à-vis the Northern Ireland average (of 8% and 2% respectively), less dependent on the hospitality (6% of jobs) and IT (less than 1%) sectors for its employee jobs.
- Two-thirds (66%) of employee jobs within the six priority sectors are held by males. The gender imbalance is more pronounced in some sectors than others. For example, less than a third (<33%) of the employee jobs in the construction, manufacturing & engineering and food & agri-food sectors are held by females. The clear gender imbalance perhaps points to some potential solutions to address some of the skills issues faced by businesses in the area.
- Full-time workers in the Mid Ulster area also earn nearly a fifth (16%) less per week than an equivalent worker elsewhere in Northern Ireland.

3.4 Availability of Skilled Labour (at Present and in Future)

Mid Ulster District Council is, in population terms, the sixth largest local government district (LGD) in Northern Ireland. In recent years, the Mid Ulster area has demonstrated the fastest population growth of the 11 LGDs, which has largely been driven by strong natural increases (i.e. number of births well in excess of number of deaths) and consistent net inflows of migration. However, the uncertainty associated with Brexit is likely to impact on future levels of net inward migration into the area. In contrast to the net inward migration experienced over the last decade, there is projected to be consistent net out-migration between 2015 and 2020 based on a subdued labour market.

[40] Source: NISRA Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) 2015. Please note, the sample sizes in the 2016 BRES were too small to enable sectoral analysis. Further details are included in Appendix II.

There is a greater proportion of children (aged 0-15 years old) within the Mid Ulster area (23.1%) than the average for Northern Ireland (20.9%). This relatively larger share of people aged below 16 years old provides some indication that the area may potentially have a larger supply of future labour to draw on.

The performance of the labour market in the Mid Ulster area has, relative to Northern Ireland averages, been historically strong. For example:

- Greater proportions of the working age population within the Mid Ulster area are, in comparison to Northern Ireland averages, economically active (76.0% versus 74.0%) and in employment[41] (72.9% versus 69.3%). This provides some indication that the labour market in the Mid Ulster area is, to a greater extent than the Northern Ireland average, operating more efficiently with minimal excess supply.
- As per the latest Labour Force Survey (LFS)[42], just 3.1% of the working age population is unemployed versus 4.7% across Northern Ireland.
- As of early 2017, there was a marked difference between employment levels amongst males and females in the Mid Ulster area. For example, over four-fifths (82.4%) of males of working age were in employment, compared to just two-thirds (59.9%) of females. This provides some indication that there is potential to support more females to move from economic inactivity and unemployment into employment within the Council area.
- Nearly a quarter (24%) of the working age population in the Mid Ulster area is categorised as being economically inactive. As is the case throughout the UK as a whole, there will always be individuals within labour market classified as economically inactive at a given point in time (e.g. students, early retirees etc.). Notwithstanding this, the proportion of the working age population in the Mid Ulster area that is classified as economically inactive (24.0%) remains higher than the UK average rate of 21.5%. **There is, therefore, the potential for a proportion of those who are not seeking a job and/or indicate that they do not want a job to be encouraged to move into the active labour market[43].**
- Claimant count data provides details on the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) benefits from Jobs and Benefits offices. As of November 2017, the Jobs and Benefits Offices within the Mid Ulster area recorded that there were 1,310 claimants of JSA benefits. This equates to circa 1.5% of the working age (16-64) population (89,000) in the Mid Ulster area, which is over one percentage point lower than the Northern Ireland average.
- The short-term claimants (of which there were just 1,010 in the Mid Ulster area) represent the more likely pool of candidates to fill existing and arising employment vacancies than the long-term claimants.

Discussion with NISRA indicates that the number of vacancies that are notified and added in Department for Communities (DfC) job centres/jobs and benefits offices is one measure of estimating the demand for labour in a given area[44].

Analysis of data relating to employment vacancies indicates that, in the 2016/17 fiscal year, there were 4,743 vacancies notified and added in job centres/jobs and benefits throughout the Mid Ulster area. This equates to a 32% uplift in the number of notified employment vacancies when compared to the previous year. Of note:

- Over a fifth (21%) of the notified vacancies were for Elementary Occupations, whilst a similar proportion (18%) were for 'Skilled Trades'. A further 13% were for 'Process, Plant and Machine Operatives'.

---

[41] Those (aged over 16 years old) who undertook some paid work in the reference week of the survey (either as an employee or self-employed); those participating in government training and employment programmes; and those doing unpaid family work.

[42] Further details are included in Appendix I.

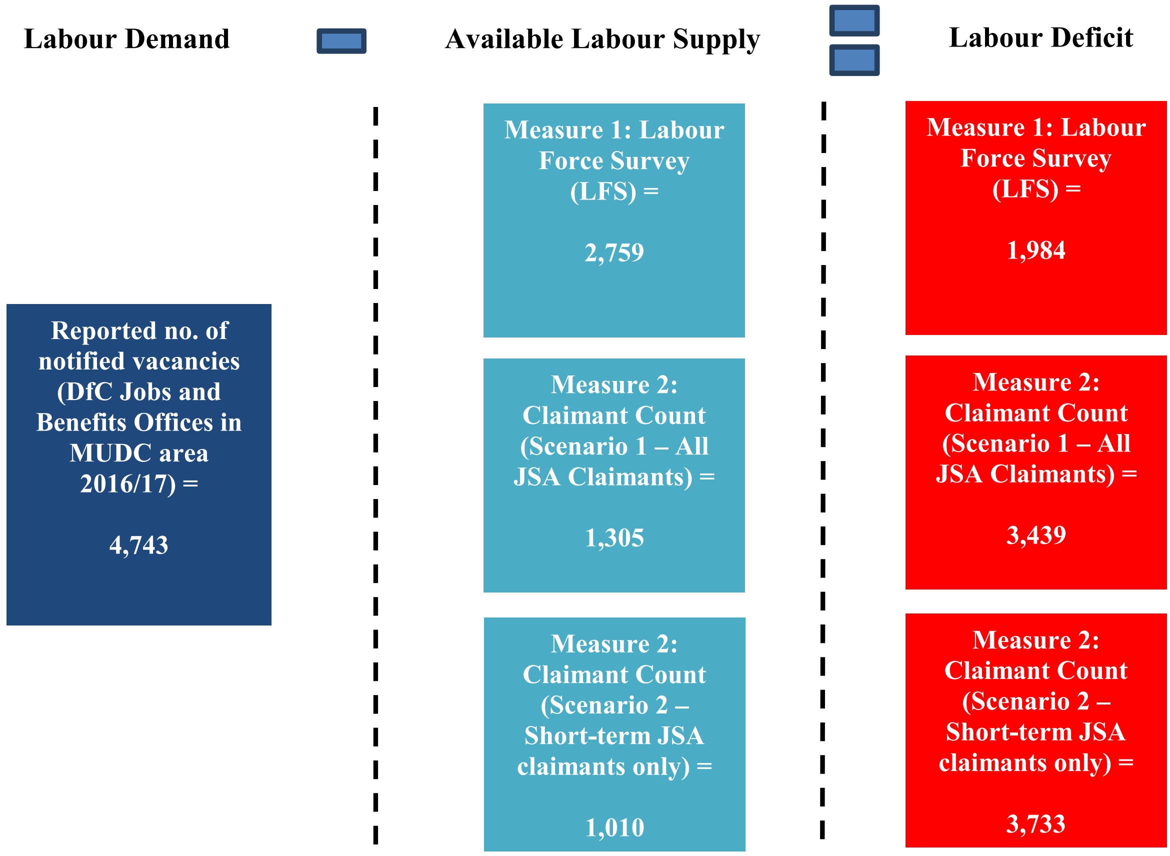
[43] For example, the Northern Ireland Economic Inactivity Strategy (further details of which are included in Appendix I) focuses on the forms of economic inactivity which are caused when an individual's particular personal circumstances, often combined with various structural issues, geographical nuances and economic conditions, restrict their access to the labour market.

[44] However, according to NISRA, this only represents a minimum position, as it does not represent the total 'unmet demand' for staff by employers in Northern Ireland (i.e. it is solely those vacant positions that employers notify to DfC).

- Nearly a fifth (18%) of the notified vacancies were in the 'Other Service Activities' sector, whilst similar proportions were in the 'Wholesale and Retail' and 'Manufacturing' sectors (17% and 15% respectively). A further 10% were in the 'construction' sector.

Based on the preceding analysis (and that included in Appendix I), the Consultancy Team has estimated that there is, at the time of writing, a **deficit of available skilled labour within the Mid Ulster area**. This is depicted in the diagram below:

Figure 3.1: Estimated Labour Deficit in the Mid Ulster area



Key points to note include:

- Depending on which measure is used (i.e. the LFS or claimant count data), it is estimated that the pool of available labour within the Mid Ulster area ranges from 1,010 to 2,759 individuals.
- However, given that there are, as a minimum, 4,743 job vacancies to be filled, there is a resultant **deficit of available labour within the Mid Ulster area,** estimated to range from 1,984 (if the LFS measure of unemployed is adopted) to 3,733 (if only short-term claimants of JSA are considered) individuals.
- Given that the measure of labour demand is solely those vacant positions that employers notify to DfC[45], there is potential that the actual 'unmet demand' for labour within the Mid Ulster area is in excess of 4,743 stated above. Such a scenario would **exacerbate this calculated labour deficit**.
- Conserve to the above point, as previously stated there is potential for a proportion of those who are classified as economically inactive to be encouraged to move into the active labour market. Such a scenario would potentially increase the labour supply in the Mid Ulster area and contribute towards reducing the labour deficit.
- The key finding seems to be that **employers within the Mid Ulster area are likely to be experiencing issues accessing prospective employees**, given this deficit in the local labour market. Therefore, in the absence of significant net inflows of human resources into the area, any

[45] According to NISRA, it does not represent the total 'unmet demand' for staff by employers in Northern Ireland.

initiatives/interventions taken forward as part of this Skills Strategy and Action Plan should, in the first instance, **seek to attract external talent and residents to the Mid Ulster area.**

3.5 **Education and Skills (at Present and in Future)**

When seeking to improve employability and productivity within the workforce, it is important to develop skills at all levels. Improving the skill sets of those with no formal qualifications enhances employability prospects, whilst also addressing associated issues such as poverty and social exclusion.

As of March 2017[46], the proportion of the working age population in the Mid Ulster area with:

- No qualifications (16.3%) was marginally higher than the average rate across Northern Ireland (16.0%); and
- Qualifications of National Vocational Qualifications (NVQ) level 4 or above was 30.2%, which was marginally lower than the Northern Ireland average (32.5%).

Interestingly, despite the below average performance at both ends of the education spectrum, recent education publications (2015/16)[47] have shown that school leavers within the Mid Ulster area are performing at a level above the Northern Ireland average attainment. For example:

- At the GCSE qualification level, 85.4% of school leavers in the Mid Ulster area (N=1,882) attained at least 5 GCSE grades A* to C, compared with a rate of 81.7% across Northern Ireland as a whole.
- In addition, 58.4% of school leavers in the Mid Ulster area achieved at least 2 A-levels with grades A*-E, compared with a rate of 57.3% of pupils in Northern Ireland as a whole.

Almost four-fifths (79.2%, N=1,882) of school leavers in the Mid Ulster area proceeded to attend either an Institute of Higher Education e.g. universities or teacher training colleges (44.3%) or Institutes of Further Education (34.9%). Each of these proportions were higher than the average rates across Northern Ireland, indicating a greater propensity for Mid Ulster students to progress into further and higher education than is demonstrated elsewhere.

Students from the Mid Ulster area enrolled in Further Education (FE) Colleges are, vis-à-vis students from other areas of Northern Ireland, more likely to student subjects which are considered to be STEM[48] subjects.

Interestingly, only 16.8% of school leavers in the Mid Ulster area entered the labour market, either directly into employment (7.9%) or as part of some form of training (8.9%). Notably, these figures were lower than the corresponding figures for Northern Ireland as a whole (8.9% and 9.7% respectively).

As of April 2017, there were 919 individuals within the Mid Ulster are participating on Apprenticeships within the Apprenticeships NI Framework[49], which were relatively evenly split between Levels 2 (37%), 2/3 (27%) and 3 (36%). Almost three-quarters (72%) of the overall apprentices, and nearly all (91%) of the Level 2/3 apprentices were male. Whilst there are some exceptions across individual sector disciplines (e.g. within disciplines relating to the hospitality and food & agri-food sectors), this provides some indication that there is potential to support more females to move into apprenticeship within the Council area.

The recent update to the 2015 Northern Ireland Skills Barometer[50] projected that (under an assumed high-growth scenario), there will be 87,000 new jobs within Northern Ireland by 2026, which is broadly similar to the target from the Industrial Strategy to create 80,000 new jobs by 2030. Whilst this study

[46] Department for Communities (2017) 'Labour Market Analysis: Mid Ulster Local Government District'.
[47] Department of Education (2017) 'School Leavers Survey 2015/16'.
[48] Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, including any subjects that fall under these four disciplines.
[49] Data provided by the Department for the Economy from its Client Management System as at 28th July 2017.
[50] Ulster University and DfE (2017) 'NI Skills Barometer: Update Report'.

looks at Northern Ireland as a whole (without comparable data being available at a LGD level), it is important to recognise the projected demand for jobs and skills across Northern Ireland as this would likely resemble the localised trends.

At an overall level, the study projects that there will be an annual average gross demand of 80,400 jobs between 2016 and 2026, of which 28,600 would be required to be filled from the education system and migration, rather than from the existing labour force. The sectors which are anticipated to deliver the greatest level of job growth over 2016-2026 are (those denoted in bold are part of the six identified priority sectors):

- **Construction;**
- **Manufacturing;**
- **ICT;**
- **Restaurants and hotels;**
- **Professional, scientific and technical;**
- Admin and support services; and
- Health and social work.

3.6 Specific Sectoral Skills Needs

In this section, the six identified priority sectors within the Mid Ulster area are investigated further. In doing so, the following subsections provide the key findings emerging from the primary research with the businesses located within the Mid Ulster area (a detailed analysis is included in Appendix II).

3.6.1 Employment and Employee Profile

In total, the businesses that participated in the research stated that, as of 2017, they had 11,734 employees based in Northern Ireland, of which 9,962 (85%) were based within the Council area.

Across the businesses, three-quarters (75%) of all employees were male. This compares with an overall working age male population in the MUDC area of 51%. The gender imbalance is more pronounced in some job roles[51] than others. For example:

- 'Skilled trade' workers are over-represented by 45% towards males. It is noted that nearly a fifth (18%) of all workers were reported as being in this category;
- 'Elementary' workers are over-represented by 35% towards males;
- 'Professional Services' workers are over-represented by 31% towards males;
- 'Process, Plant & Machine Operatives' workers are over-represented by 28% towards males. It is noted that a third (32%) of all workers were reported as being in this category;
- 'Managers/ Directors' workers are over-represented by 23% towards males;
- 'Admin/Secretarial' workers are over-represented by 27% towards females; whilst
- 'Caring, Leisure & Other Service' workers are over-represented by 20% towards females.

The construction (88% of employees are male) and the manufacturing & engineering (86%) sectors are particularly skewed towards male employees. However, nearly two-thirds (62%) and over half (56%) of workers in the hospitality and retail sectors respectively are female.

The clear gender imbalance perhaps points to some potential solutions to address some of the skills issues faced by businesses in the area e.g. there may be opportunities to build upon existing initiatives such the promotional profile articles in regional newspapers (e.g. Belfast Telegraph) of 'successful

[51] As per Standard Occupational Classification 2010 (as per ONS Labour Market Statistics) based on the OECD International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO).

women in work in the manufacturing industry'[52] or promotion activities undertaken[53] to encourage women into professional roles in the construction sector e.g. quantity surveying, architecture etc.

There is a dependence within the manufacturing & engineering, construction and food & agri-food sectors on employees categorised as being 'Skilled Trade' or 'Process, Plant & Machine Operatives', with 50%+ of their employees falling within these job roles.

The hospitality (68%), retail (54%), food & agri-food (54%) and manufacturing & engineering (54%) sectors have particularly strong representation amongst young people (aged 18-34) compared with the overall profile in the Mid Ulster area (35%). Whilst this is encouraging in many respects, it may also signal a key factor in the recruitment and skills issues facing those same businesses. That is, they may well have maximised much of the available opportunity to recruit from that pool of individuals.

On an overall basis, the businesses draw heavily upon the Mid Ulster area's local population for their workforce, with respondents suggesting that over half (56%) of their workforce originally came from the Council area.

However, it is evident that some sectors are more reliant on drawing employees from outside the area. In particular, nearly two-thirds (64%) of the employees in the food & agri-food sector originally came from elsewhere in the EU (other than the UK or the Republic of Ireland), including countries such as Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, Lithuania and Hungary. As previously highlighted, the uncertainty associated with Brexit may have significant consequences for sectors such as the food & agri-food sector, whereby restrictions may be placed on businesses ability to access EU27 Nationals as employees.

Positively, nearly three-quarters (71%) of the businesses indicated that their annual rate of staff turnover[54] was, as of 2017, 5% or less. However, a small cohort of businesses (7%), primarily operating in the hospitality, manufacturing & engineering and food & agri-food sectors, were experiencing a staff turnover rate of over 20%. It was suggested that a number of interrelated issues have contributed to this position:

- A small local labour pool; resulting in
- Strong wage competition;
- Individuals being asked to operate in roles within which they are not proficient and being required to work regular overtime; and
- Low staff morale.

In terms of principal markets, over two-fifths (43%) of businesses indicated that they have 70%+ of their sales in external or export markets, which exposes them to, for example, currency fluctuations, competition labour etc. Discussion with these businesses indicates that the uncertainty associated with Brexit is already having significant consequences for their business operations.

3.6.2 *Issues Attracting and Retaining Staff*

Nearly three-quarters (71%) of the businesses suggested that they had faced challenges in attracting appropriately skilled staff during recent times (e.g. in the last 3 years). This issue was particularly prevalent in those businesses that operate in the manufacturing & engineering, food & agri-food and construction sectors.

Compounding these issues was the fact that nearly two-fifths (39%) of businesses suggested that they also experienced issues retaining appropriately skilled staff. Again, this issue was particularly prevalent in the food & agri-food and manufacturing & engineering sectors.

[52] Developed by Manufacturing NI.
[53] By CITB.
[54] i.e. the percentage of staff who leave each year as a proportion of the total employees

The findings suggest that issues associated with attracting and retaining staff are particularly acute for the following 'hard to fill' roles and specialisms:

Manufacturing & Engineering	• Welders[55] • Hydraulic fitters • Automotive engineers/electricians • Design engineers • Mechanical engineers • Health and safety professionals • Electricians • Marketing staff	• Individuals with spray painting expertise e.g. parts spraying • Materials handlers • Skilled joiners with Computer-aided design (CAD) expertise • Machine/production operatives • Assembly workers • Health and safety staff
Construction	• Process engineers • Chemists (related to cement processing) • Design technicians • Planners	• Skilled/unskilled construction operatives • IT staff • Skilled and experienced joiners • Skilled and experienced plumbers
Food & agri-food	• Skilled and experienced butchers • Skilled and experienced bakers • Innovation staff • Specification writing	• New product development staff • Quality controllers/assurance • Skilled/unskilled production operatives • Refrigeration engineers
Retail	• Shop floor operatives (specifically for the night and early morning shifts)	•
Hospitality	• Experienced Chefs • General kitchen/bar staff	• Housekeeping staff

The principal reasons for the recruitment and retention related issues include:

- Nearly two-thirds (65%) of the businesses suggested that **applicants did not have the necessary skills** (with skills and qualifications less advanced than required for job role).
- Three-fifths (60%) suggested that **few or no applicants** contributed towards having certain positions/vacancies that were considered 'hard-to-fill'. Research suggests that the lack of applicants may be a result of economic activity and employment levels for those over 16 years old being considerably higher (between January and March 2017) for the Mid Ulster area vis-à-vis Northern Ireland averages (76.0% versus 74.0% and 72.9% versus 69.3% respectively).
- A similar proportion (59%) also suggested that **applicants did not have the necessary experience**.

The following provides an indication as to the extent these issues were prevalent across individual sectors:

- Over three-quarters (78%) of the businesses that operate in the manufacturing & engineering sector, and a similar proportion (77%) that operate in the hospitality sector, indicated that **few or no applicants** contributed towards having certain positions/vacancies that were considered 'hard-to-fill'.
- More than two-thirds (66%+) of the businesses that operate in the hospitality, food & agri-food, manufacturing & engineering, construction and IT sectors indicated that **applicants not having the necessary skills** contributed to having 'hard to fill' vacancies.
- Within the retail, construction and food & agri-food sectors, over two-thirds (69%, 67% and 67% respectively) of businesses suggested that **applicants not having the necessary experience, rather than skills**, contributed to having 'hard to fill' vacancies.

[55] One core research respondent noted that they faced particular challenges in recruiting welders with experience in MIG (Metal Inert Gas), TIG (Tungsten Inert Gas) and aluminium welding, which are all types of welding processes.

Inadequate supply of applicants

Businesses cited that an inadequate supply of applicants was primarily due to:

Reasons for an inadequate supply of applicants
• **Competition within the local labour market; and/or** • **The small local labour market within the Mid Ulster area;** And to a lesser extent: • A perception (amongst potential applicants) that the Mid Ulster area is too far away from their homes; and/or • The hours associated with the job; • A perceived lack of career prospects in the job/industry; and/or • Potential applicants not having a suitable means of transport to the business' location (including suitable public transport options); and/or • The wages offered being less favourable/competitive relative to those offered elsewhere; and/or • Negative perceptions of the industry/sector.

Across each of the six identified priority sectors, competition within the local labour market, along with the small local labour market, were consistently cited as being the key cause of positions being 'hard to fill'.

However, there were a number of subtle differences between sectors as to what additional factors (above and beyond the two key reasons cited above) that contributed towards an inadequate supply of applicants. For example:

- A **perceived lack of career prospects in the job/industry** was cited by businesses in the food & agri-food, construction and retail sectors as one of the key reasons why they had an inadequate supply of applicants. This view was shared by several stakeholders such as Invest NI, the two FE Colleges, the local enterprise agencies and key sectoral business organisations e.g. CITB, Food & Drink Sector Skills, Hospitality Ulster, CBI, BITC, Tourism NI, FMB, Manufacturing NI etc. These stakeholders suggested that more collaborative awareness raising and promotion, particularly within schools (and where possible involving parents[56]), could be undertaken by businesses in an effort to identify the nature and type of opportunities that might be available for individuals in the six priority sectors. For instance, there could be more joined-up and widespread use of social media channels (e.g. case study materials/profiles identifying the type of roles, skills required, opportunities available etc.), facilitated site visits, open nights or insight/exploration days for students and parents, preferably outside of school hours (where possible) etc.

- **Potential applicants not having a suitable means of transport to the business' location** (including suitable public transport options), was cited by businesses in the food & agri-food sector. Indeed, Invest NI, the local enterprise agencies and key sectoral business organisations (e.g. CBI, Manufacturing NI etc.) suggested that connectivity to, and within, the Mid Ulster area could be improved. For example, this could include enhancements to the existing public transport linkages and park and ride facilities.

- **The wages offered being less favourable/competitive** relative to those offered elsewhere, was reported by businesses in the food & agri-food, hospitality, retail and, to a lesser extent, manufacturing & engineering sectors. Indeed, a representative from the CITB suggested that wage levels are, in some instances, not high enough to attract employees into the construction sector in the local marketplace.

[56] Who are considered to be the key 'influencer' in students' future careers options.

- **Negative perceptions of the industry/sector** was reported by businesses in the food & agri-food, retail and, to a lesser extent, construction sectors. Again, this view was shared by several stakeholders such as the two FE Colleges, Invest NI, the local enterprise agencies and key sectoral business organisations e.g. CITB, Food & Drink Sector Skills, Hospitality Ulster, CBI, BITC, Tourism NI, FMB, Manufacturing NI etc. These stakeholders suggested that more collaborative awareness raising and promotion, particularly within schools (and where possible involving parents), could be undertaken by businesses in an effort to, *inter alia*, redress the negative perceptions of certain sectors. For instance, the 'tasty careers' initiative[57] for the food & agri-food sector could be expanded and, where possible, replicated for the other priority sectors.

- **A perception that Mid Ulster is too far away from potential applicants' homes**, was reported by businesses in the IT, construction and food & agri-food sectors.

- **The hours associated with the job** was reported by businesses in the hospitality and the food & agri-food sectors.

Lack of skills and/or qualifications

For those businesses that experienced challenges attracting and/or retaining staff with the necessary skills and/or qualifications required for the job role:

Types of skills and/or qualifications applicants lack
• Nearly three-quarters (71%) of the businesses cited that they required **general employability skills[58] and attributes** (e.g. good work ethic, 'can do' approach and a positive attitude, initiative and flexibility etc.). This was broadly consistent across each of the key sectors. • Nearly three-fifths (60%) suggested they required the requisite **professional or technical qualifications** (e.g. essential skills, GCSEs, A Levels, degrees, technical/vocational qualifications etc.). This was more prevalent in the hospitality and manufacturing & engineering sectors. These businesses were asked to identify the specific qualifications and posts that they require and those that they anticipate that they will require during the period to 2020. These findings have been collated and presented in Appendix II and are aligned with the Qualifications Frameworks and the main stages of education/employment that are set out in Appendix III. • A similar proportion required the requisite **technical/practical employability skills** (e.g. specialist skills or knowledge, lacked a knowledge of products and services offered by the business etc.). This was more prevalent in the food & agri-food and retail sectors.

Significance of Issues on Businesses

In summary, businesses ranked the aforementioned key issues in order of importance as follows:

1. **An inadequate supply of applicants i.e. a 'lack of people';**
2. **A lack of broader employability skills (in order of importance these were a lack of: strong work ethic; positive 'can do' attitude; specialist skills or knowledge; and general communication skills); and then**
3. **A lack of professional or technical qualifications.**

[57] Which is an initiative designed to raise the profile of, and provide information on, the food & agri-food sector in Northern Ireland. The initiative provides a dedicated website (which has, *inter alia*, details of job vacancies, job descriptions, training opportunities, an 'interactive careers map' etc.), promotional booklets and Tasty Careers Ambassadors who undertaken school visits to promote careers in the sector.

[58] NB - The UK Commission for Employment and Skills (UKCES) defines employability as *"the skills almost everyone needs to do almost any job"*, although it is recognised that employability is not just about skills, it is also about capabilities or competencies, aptitude, attitude and behaviour.

As previously highlighted, the situation for businesses in the Mid Ulster area, and in particular the issue relating to an inadequate supply of applicants, is compounded by wider macro factors such as relatively high rates of economic activity and employment levels (as set out above) and corresponding low levels of unemployment within the Council area vis-à-vis the Northern Ireland averages.

Again, this points to the fact that any initiatives/interventions taken forward as part of this Skills Strategy and Action Plan should, in the first instance, seek to attract external talent and residents to the Mid Ulster area. This view was shared by several stakeholders such as Invest NI, the two FE Colleges, the local enterprise agencies and key sectoral business organisations e.g. CITB, Food & Drink Sector Skills, Hospitality Ulster, CBI, BITC, Tourism NI, Manufacturing NI etc.

Furthermore, to re-dress this issue, it was suggested that Mid Ulster District Council, alongside other Councils in Northern Ireland, could potentially lobby the UK Government for a regional migration policy post-Brexit i.e. being able to issue work visas for Northern Ireland only rather than having to comply with a one-size fits all UK migration policy. The rationale being that Northern Ireland has a different economic profile than the rest of the UK and therefore migration policy should reflect that.

Impact of Recruitment and Retention Related Issues

Businesses across each of the six identified priority sectors suggested that the recruitment and retention related issues were having a range of impacts on their respective businesses. For example:

- Nearly four-fifths (80%) of the businesses cited that the issues had **increased the workload for other staff** (e.g. additional shifts, additional responsibilities and duties that are not part of their job description etc.).
- Nearly two-thirds (58%) suggested that they have been **unable to maintain current operations or to achieve growth in line with projections**, whilst a similar proportion (54%) experienced **difficulties in meeting customer services objectives**.
- Just under half (43%) suggested that they had **increased operating costs** (e.g. paying overtime to service contracts, recruitment fees etc.) and had experienced **delays in developing new products/services**.

The impact of these issues experienced by businesses was broadly consistent across the various sectors.

Businesses indicated that they have taken a variety of steps to overcome the problem of having 'hard-to-fill' vacancies, including changing their recruitment practices. For instance:

- Nearly two-thirds (64%) of the business respondents cited that they have started **advertising or are advertising more widely** (e.g. regional newspapers in addition to local newspapers, social media such as Facebook, online forums etc.).

- Over two-fifths (43%) of the business respondents suggested that they **upskill or train their existing workforce** to fill the vacancies, whilst a similar proportion (40%) have **increased the salary of the posts** to make the job more attractive.

- Of note, those businesses that operate within the food & agri-food sector have, to a greater extent than the other sectors, actively sought to attract workers from outside Northern Ireland. There may be an opportunity for businesses in the other priority sectors to be more proactive in adopting a similar practice.

Interestingly, the analysis indicates that the above types of practices seem to be more prevalent amongst a small pool of businesses (across the six identified priority sectors), which perhaps suggests that these types of practices could be encouraged more amongst the wider business base within the Mid Ulster area.

3.6.3 *Views on New Entrants into the Labour Market*

A number of businesses operating in the construction, manufacturing & engineering and food & agri-food sectors suggested that there was very little, if any, evidence of individuals coming directly from schools into the workplace (regardless of sector). During consultation, these businesses expressed their view (which was one shared by key stakeholders such as the local enterprise agencies and key sectoral business organisations e.g. Hospitality Ulster, CBI, BITC, FMB, Manufacturing NI etc.) that schools appeared to be encouraging students to remain in the education system and to progress to the Further/ Higher education sectors, rather than channelling them into employment. Furthermore, it was suggested that schools appeared to be guiding students towards other sectors (e.g. law, medicine, ICT etc.) that were perceived to be more attractive.

This finding is supported by the fact that, as previously highlighted, only 16.8% of school leavers in the Mid Ulster area enter the labour market, either directly into employment (7.9%) or as part of some form of training (8.9%). Notably, these figures were lower than the corresponding figures for Northern Ireland as a whole (8.9% and 9.7% respectively).

Across each of the six identified priority sectors, over half of the businesses (52%) strongly agreed (8%) or agreed (44%) that, on average, any new entrants into the labour market that were recruited since 2014 were considered to be 'well prepared for work'. However, businesses that operate in the retail and hospitality sectors strongly disagreed (11% and 7% respectively) or disagreed (56% and 50% respectively) with this statement, potentially suggesting that more could be done for new entrants that enter the workforce of these two sectors.

3.6.4 *Views on Existing Workforce (including training)*

Encouragingly, over two-thirds (69%) of businesses suggested that all (42%) or almost all (27%) of their existing workforce were 'fully proficient in their jobs'. This finding was broadly consistent across each of the six priority sectors. Of note, food & agri-food businesses suggested that maintaining high levels of proficiency amongst staff is a necessity, given both the highly-regulated industry within which they operate but also due to the regularity of which they were audited by their customers.

Businesses indicated that there are a variety of reasons as to why some of the existing workforce are not considered to be fully proficient in their jobs. For instance, over half (56%) of businesses cited this was due to insufficient time and resources being dedicated towards the training and development of staff.

For those within their existing workforce that were not considered to be fully proficient in their jobs, it was suggested that the following employability skills are required:

- **General skills and attributes** (e.g. good work ethic, flexibility, basic literacy, numeracy or communication skills etc.) – this was particularly pronounced for those businesses that operate in the construction, retail and, to a lesser extent, manufacturing & engineering sectors; and/or
- **Technical/practical employability skills** (e.g. specialist skills or knowledge, numerical/ statistical skills, IT skills, communicating in a foreign language etc.) – this was particularly pronounced for those businesses that operate in the construction and, to a lesser extent, the food & agri-food sectors.

Businesses across each of the six priority sectors reported that they had taken a variety of steps to improve workforce proficiency. For example:

- Nearly all (84%) indicated that they provided dedicated additional time and resources towards the training and development of their staff; and/or
- Nearly a quarter (22%) reallocated work/jobs within the business to redress this issue; and/or
- A small number of the businesses (11%) suggested that they have also implemented 'other' types of initiatives such as a 'buddy system', new or more regular performance reviews/appraisals etc.

In addition, nearly all (88%) of the businesses offered on-the-job training opportunities to their existing workforce, which was typically delivered at the business' location and involved 'hands-on' training. Furthermore, two-thirds (60%) of the businesses provided off-the-job training, which was delivered to employees at a place other than their business' location. From a sectoral perspective, the analysis suggests that more on-the-job training opportunities could potentially be provided by businesses that operate in the construction, retail and hospitality sectors.

On-the-job training is considered to be beneficial as it can be tailored to the specific needs of a particular role and/or to the work practices/operations of an individual business. For some businesses, this type of training was suggested as a necessary response to the challenges they faced in attracting staff with the requisite skills and experience. In these cases, in-house training was provided to upskill existing staff for those 'hard to fill' roles e.g. welders and bakers. Indeed, key sectoral business organisations (e.g. CITB, Manufacturing NI etc.) suggested that businesses are increasingly 'training their own' to address the labour and skills shortages.

Off-the-job training involves various types of apprenticeships delivered through South West College and Northern Regional College, along with courses that are specific to individuals and/or the businesses, some of which are required to obtain accreditation e.g. in the construction sector, staff are required to completed the industry approved health and safety training course and assessment to be registered on the Construction Skills Register.

Nearly two-thirds (59%) of the businesses that participated in the research have not yet participated in some form of training programme (labour market intervention) e.g. apprenticeships or other public sector funded programmes within the Mid Ulster area. It was suggested that the reasons for this are that there is a lack of awareness of what types of programmes are available in the marketplace and/or that the existing programmes are not appropriate for individual businesses operating in the six priority sectors.

These findings suggest that there may be opportunities to promote, market and raise awareness of the various programmes that are available to businesses located in the Mid Ulster area. Also, there may be a requirement to ascertain businesses specific needs (across each of the sectors) and better align existing programmes, or develop new programmes, to address help address those needs.

Notwithstanding the above, for those businesses that did partake in training programmes/labour market interventions, the type and level of uptake were different across different sectors. For example:

- Businesses that operate in the manufacturing & engineering, construction and food & agri-food sectors predominantly availed of support through an Invest NI intervention (such as Skills Growth Programme and its precursor programmes) and were also involved in apprenticeships.
- Conversely, businesses that operate in the retail and hospitality sectors largely availed of support offered by the Council and/or other sources e.g. Network Personnel, Workable NI etc.

3.6.5 *Apprenticeships and the Apprenticeship Levy*

Over a third (36%) of the businesses that participated in the research were unaware of apprenticeships, whilst a much greater proportion (70%) were unaware of the apprenticeship levy. Awareness of apprenticeships and the apprenticeship levy was particularly low amongst those businesses that operate in the retail and hospitality sectors. Whilst businesses that operate in the manufacturing & engineering, construction and food & agri-food sectors reported high levels (71%+) of awareness of apprenticeships, these same businesses were less aware of the apprenticeship levy (56% or less).

These findings suggest there may be opportunities to better promote and raise awareness of apprenticeships, and to a greater extent, the apprenticeship levy amongst businesses (across each of the sectors) in the Mid Ulster area. This view was shared by several stakeholders such as DfE and key sectoral business organisations e.g. CITB, CBI etc. For example, there may be opportunities to:

- Better promote and raise awareness of initiatives such as the Government's 'Connect to Success NI'[59]; and/or
- Establish a 'brokerage scheme' with DfE in the Mid Ulster area[60], which would involve DfE scheduling and facilitating meetings with businesses (within each of the Council's six priority sectors) to stimulate demand for apprenticeship schemes – focusing apprenticeships on the specific needs of businesses.

Of those businesses that were aware of the apprenticeships, nearly two-thirds (60%) either strongly agreed (18%) or agreed (42%) that apprenticeships were appropriate for their business. Conversely, the analysis also suggests that there was, across the sectors, general agreement that the apprenticeship levy is not appropriate for businesses. In the main, businesses considered the apprenticeship levy to be an additional tax that they would be required to pay, with little or no means of accessing any subsequent benefits.

A number of specific actions were identified that the Northern Ireland Government (e.g. DfE etc.) could be taking to ensure that appropriate training support is available in Northern Ireland for apprenticeships. These included:

- DfE and individual FE Colleges could be more proactive about sourcing work placements for apprentices and working with the host businesses to tailor the content of the NVQ to support the practical needs of businesses within the Mid Ulster area.
- There could also be more support provided for older apprentices (i.e. those over 25 years old) in the marketplace.
- Apprenticeships could be better supported and promoted within schools, which in turn would help inform a student's decision-making process in relation to their future career options.

3.6.6 Future Employment Scenarios

Businesses were asked to quantify (in the context of their businesses' recent performance and current or anticipated changes in the marketplace) the extent to which they considered skills-related issues were having an impact upon their business' growth and performance. 25 businesses indicated the following:

- In total, during the 3 years to 2017, employment within their business had increased by 12% (from 4,894 employees during 2014 to 5,503 employees at present). This equates to a compound annual growth rate of 3.99%;
- Under current labour market conditions, those same 25 businesses projected that their employment would likely increase by 8% (419 jobs) over the 3-years to 2020 (or a compound annual growth rate of 2.48%);
- However, when asked what the position might be if their business had access to the requisite skills (where it might currently be facing issues), the businesses projected that their employment could grow to 6,391 (i.e. 888 new jobs or a compound annual growth rate of 5.11%); and
- ***In summary, for the 25 businesses, if the skills issues that they are encountering are addressed, there is potential for them to create an additional 469 new jobs by 2020 than might otherwise be the case or to double their annual growth rate.***

[59] Which is a free online portal (for employers and prospective employees) that exclusively advertises apprenticeships and school work experience opportunities.
[60] Similar to the scheme implemented by DfE (taught through Belfast Metropolitan College in partnership IT Assist) for the ICT sector in the greater Belfast area (involving companies such as Kainos, Liberty IT, Fujitsu etc.).

Projected Employment Under Two Scenarios (2014-2020)							
Location	**2014 (actuals)**	**2017 (actuals)**	**% change (2014-2017)**	**Projected, under current conditions**		**Projected, given access to requisite skills**	
				2020	**% change (17-20)**	**2020**	**% change (17-20)**
In Northern Ireland	5,462	6,135	12%	6,520	6%	6,973	14%
In the Council area	4,894	5,503	12%	5,922	8%	6,391	16%
No. of FTEs (N=24)	4,702	5,309	13%	5,706	7%	6,251	18%
No. Agency/Contract Workers (N=31)	645	687	7%	724	5%	477	-31%

In addition, if the estimated 942 new FTE jobs to potentially be created (given access to requisite skills) over the 3-years to 2020 is 'grossed up' to the entire business population (i.e. by a factor of 5[61]), this equates to the potential creation of approximately an additional 4,710 new FTE jobs by 2020 than might otherwise be the case.

The Consultancy Team recognises that the projected employment figures provided by businesses are subject to 'respondents' effect'. That is, businesses may have exaggerated (in an upwards direction) their projected employment if they had access to the requisite skills. That being the case, for prudence the Consultancy Team, in agreement with the Mid Ulster Skills Forum, applied a 50% optimism bias sensitivity to the potential employment creation reported by businesses. Under this sensitivity, this equates to the potential creation of approximately an **additional 2,355 new FTE jobs by 2020**[62] than might otherwise be the case.

However, such a position will be significantly constrained given the previously identified estimated labour deficit in the Council area, which ranges from 1,984 persons (if the Labour Force Survey measure of unemployed is adopted) to 3,717 (if only short-term claimants of Job Seekers Allowance benefits are considered).

A further point to note is businesses' views that they would become much less reliant on agency/contract workers if the skills issues that they are encountering were addressed, with a suggested reduction in agency staff of 31% by 2020.

The Consultancy Team further notes that the projected employment figures referred to above relate to businesses' anticipated growth plans (or 'expansion demand') and do not take account of replacement demand i.e. the number of positions that will become available as a result of staff leaving employment (typically due to retirement, family reasons, ill health or to move to another sector). The Northern Ireland Skills Barometer[63] estimates that circa 67% of future employment (2016-2026) will be derived from replacement rather than expansion demand, albeit replacement rates (based on current trends) may change. For example:

- In austere times people may become more reluctant to leave the security of their current job; and/or
- A change in policy could change behaviour e.g. the introduction of the living wage could increase supply from unemployment or the economically inactive.

Discussion with key stakeholders (e.g. the Council and Invest NI) indicates that further work (beyond the scope of this assignment) may need to be undertaken to explore replacement demand on a sub-regional basis (i.e. in the Mid Ulster area) in more detail.

---

[61] Given that, on average, the businesses that participated in the research (including 'other' sectors) account for a fifth (20%) of the employee jobs within the six priority sectors in the Mid Ulster area. Please see Appendix II for further details.

[62] Please note, the ability to achieve this target is inherently linked to the outcomes of future negotiations associated with Brexit. There is a risk any policy relating to the level of free movement that is afforded to EU27 Nationals in the UK and vice versa exacerbates the situation in the Mid Ulster area.

[63] NI Skills Barometer Update Report 'Skills in Demand' (Ulster University and the DfE, June 2017).

3.6.7 *Moving Forward*

Businesses cited some recommendations/specific actions as to how to address the gaps between the demand and supply of people/skills within their sector within the Mid Ulster area. These include:

- There could be more awareness raising and promotion within schools in an effort to encourage young people to pursue careers in the six priority sectors. For example, this could include businesses facilitating site visits for local careers teachers in order for them to identify the nature and type of opportunities that might be available for young people, to assist redressing the negative perceptions of certain sectors etc.
- Connectivity to, and within, the Mid Ulster area could be improved. For example, this could include enhancements to the existing public transport linkages.

In relation to skills and employability issues, it was suggested by businesses that collaboration between the public sector and employers could be enhanced or improved moving forward. For example:

- Linkages between careers teachers in schools and local businesses could be enhanced, which would, amongst other things, assist careers teachers to better understand the needs of the businesses/sectors etc.
- There may be opportunities for the public sector to better promote, market and raise awareness of the various programmes that are available to businesses located within the Mid Ulster area.
- Also, there may be a requirement to ascertain businesses specific needs (across each of the sectors) and better align existing programmes, or develop new programmes, to address help address those needs.

3.7 Differentiating the Issues

The Consultancy Team's research and consultations with businesses throughout the Mid Ulster area provides a clear indication that when businesses discuss skills they are for the most part not referring to qualifications. Although these two terms are often treated interchangeably, skills are not the same as qualifications. Skills associated with the ability to use initiative, to apply 'common sense,' to communicate with others, to perform numerical and analytical tasks, and use computers to help solve problems are at the heart of how businesses in the Mid Ulster area function. Other attributes, such as the ability to work well with customers and clients, and being creative, are also highly valued in some jobs. However, it should be recognised that some of these are difficult to pin down as specific skills.

The process of acquiring qualifications undoubtedly builds on and improves skills – the well-educated, for example, also tend to be highly skilled. But qualifications also provide specialist knowledge, they validate personal competencies to clients and customers, and they signal to employers a wide range of desirable attributes and skills. These complement the generic skills that are used in the workplace but are distinct from them and should not be readily used as proxies for one another.

Both qualifications and skills matter, as a workforce with low levels of qualifications, is also one likely to have low levels of skills. The Consultancy Team's consultations with businesses in the Mid Ulster area provide a strong indication that they consider that a 'skills gap' exists which is more damaging to their business' prospects than a 'qualifications gap'. It appears to be skills mismatch rather than qualifications mismatch which is having the bigger impact on local productivity. This has important implications as it raises the question as to whether too much emphasis is being placed by policymakers on qualifications rather than skills[64]. This question is perhaps beyond the scope of this current exercise, but what is evident from the research is that whilst qualifications are easy to measure, skills are difficult to both define and measure.

[64] Indeed, the 2014 OECD review of UK skills policy noted that, with likely changes in the economies of most OECD countries with the growth of employment in technical and associate professional occupations, many would need a substantial and growing amount of post-secondary vocational provision below bachelor's degree level. The OECD concluded that *'the UK system therefore contains a substantial gap in provision, or alternatively, overprovision of vocational bachelor degrees for jobs that do not require three years of training'.*

4. SWOT ANALYSIS

The following SWOT analysis draws together both existing research and new analysis to understand the Mid Ulster area's strengths and weaknesses across the most important factors that relate specifically to skills and its influence on economic growth. The Consultancy Team has sought to understand what strengths have driven the Mid Ulster area's past economic success (including whether the area can rely on them in the future) and what weaknesses and threats challenge the area's economic success today (including whether these challenges are likely to worsen or improve).

Strengths	Weaknesses
• The second largest concentration of small businesses outside of the Belfast Metropolitan area. • Strategically located, the area has a widely acknowledged strong, diverse and dynamic business base, together with an educated and entrepreneurial workforce. • It has the 2nd lowest claimant count in the region. • The area population of 145,000 is the fastest growing new Council area. • Strong specialisms in the production of general and special purpose machinery, along with the manufacture of products which directly supply the construction and agricultural sectors (e.g. 40% of world's mobile crushing and screening equipment is made in the Mid Ulster area). • School leavers within the Mid Ulster area are performing at a level above the Northern Ireland average attainment. • High levels of on-the-job and off-the-job training amongst the business base.	• The calculated deficit of available skilled labour within the Mid Ulster area. • Inadequate supply of applicants for certain positions/vacancies that are considered 'hard-to-fill'. • A lack of broader employability skills amongst those in the labour market. • Clear gender imbalance in the workforce, which is more pronounced in some sectors and roles than others. • Levels of earnings are lower for workers in the Mid Ulster area vis-à-vis elsewhere in Northern Ireland. • The proportion of the working age population in the Mid Ulster area that is classified as economically inactive is higher than the UK average. • Below average performance at both ends of the education spectrum e.g. those with no qualifications and those with NVQ level 4 or above. • Number of school leavers in the Mid Ulster area entering the labour market, either directly into employment or as part of some form of training, is lower than the corresponding figures for Northern Ireland. • Some sectors (e.g. food & agri-food) are reliant on drawing employees from outside the Mid Ulster area such as EU nationals. • Some sectors are not viewed as offering an attractive career option by existing and potential employees. • Currently, many vacancies require technical skills that applicants do not possess, as skills mismatches between labour supply and demand imply that qualifications and training being completed often does not meet the needs of occupations in the Mid Ulster area. • There are concerns that there is an excessive focus (amongst local schools) on degree-level qualifications through universities when alternative and more vocational qualifications through alternative routes might be more appropriate for the individual. • Lack of awareness and understanding of Apprenticeships and, in particular, the Apprenticeship Levy. • A view that the Apprentice Levy priorities young people at the expense of other groups and areas such as adult education. • Poor connectivity to, and within, the Mid Ulster area.

Opportunities	Threats
• The Mid Ulster Skills Forum offers a unique opportunity to initiate the development of a Mid-Ulster wide approach to employability and skills. • Promotion of Mid Ulster area as a positive life destination. • Support for new economic migrants. • Highlight positive career options within the Mid Ulster area's key sectors. • Whilst jobs may be at risk due to technological progress (such as automation), which could be considered a threat (as per adjacent column), others will be created, potentially in occupations that do not yet exist. Opportunity, therefore, to support technological change and automation. • Opportunity to attract and retain skilled labour, build resilience and adaptability in the current and future workforce. • Opportunity to create a larger and stronger private sector. • Job creation and growth that translates into opportunity, with employment rates maintained higher than the Northern Ireland average. • Diversity and resilience, with strong performance across a wider range of economic sectors in order to improve the area's resilience against crises. • Strong sectoral strengths - protect and grow the Mid Ulster area's key sectors, whilst recognising the importance of emerging sectors. Opportunity, therefore, to the region to identify its unique strengths and use these to build strong regional propositions which will be attractive to potential investors and which can be promoted internationally. • Increase uptake, and quality, of modern apprenticeships, including exploration of shared apprenticeship schemes. • Increase and improve business engagement with, and recruitment directly from, secondary, further and higher education establishments. • Develop and promote a range of high-quality vocational routes to employment as complementary to a university education. • Improve careers education, information, advice and guidance (CEIAG) to develop the skills businesses need to address gaps. • Opportunity to explore, in conjunction with SWC and other stakeholders, the potential for additional support to be provided towards the development of an advanced Manufacturing & Engineering Innovation Centre/Facility in the Mid Ulster area.	• Uncertainty associated with the Brexit negotiations. • Inability to gain access to 'people' to meet businesses' requirements. • The continued absence of the Northern Ireland Executive and absence of clear policy direction. • Recent changes to the welfare system in Northern Ireland. • Jobs at certain skill levels are highly susceptible to technological progress (such as automation).

5. CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Overarching Conclusion

The considerable and growing issue of businesses within the Mid Ulster area accessing prospective employees (or the lack of 'people'), as reflected in Sections 2 and 3 of this report, will inevitably not be a surprise to businesses in the area - **the 'need for labour' is now**. However, this issue, coupled with the identified skills issues, should serve as a clear signal to policymakers that urgent attention is required to ensure that the growth of local businesses is not curtailed.

This is not to say that local businesses, with support from key stakeholders, do not have a role to play. They are faced with several options in terms of increasing the pool of prospective employees, such as: seeking to attract external talent to the Mid Ulster area; increasing levels of investment in labour saving technology (such as automation); encouraging more local people back into the labour market (e.g. possibly through higher wages); and/or re-locating to another jurisdiction with easier access to skilled labour.

Beyond these options, there is also a need to actively promote the development of productive, inclusive and engaging workplaces that get the best out of people, but also a need to take a much more strategic view of skills and the systems and mechanisms through which they are developed and sustained. In a period of considerable uncertainty, just focusing on the supply is not enough if businesses are to meet the huge challenges of rapid technological change, an ageing workforce, and changing cultures and expectations amongst the younger workforce. For example, businesses need to think more broadly about their own investment in developing talent and skills and how the growth of different employment models, flexi-working, contract and portfolio working may require a significant change to the ways they attract, invest in and develop people and skills in the future. The HR function within a business has a vital role to play in helping organisations to take a more strategic view of the kind of workforce they will need for the future and how they set about engaging with prospective future employers in a timely and strategic manner.

The opportunity is clear – despite these issues there is the potential to create approximately an additional 2,355 new FTE jobs by 2020[65] if the Action Plan that has been developed (see Section 6) is appropriately resourced, financed and implemented. To achieve this, the Mid Ulster Skills Forum will work with relevant key responsible Government Departments (e.g. DfE, DE, DfC, DfI etc.) and their delivery bodies in implementing the commitments with the Action Plan.

[65] Please note, the ability to achieve this target is inherently linked to the outcomes of future negotiations associated with Brexit. There is a risk any policy relating to the level of free movement that is afforded to EU27 Nationals in the UK and vice versa exacerbates the situation in the Mid Ulster area.

6. THE ACTION PLAN 2018-2021

6.1 Introduction

The ability to grow, attract and retain skilled labour, build resilience and adaptability in the current and future workforce is a prerequisite for future economic growth in the Mid Ulster area. This section sets out Mid Ulster's skills ambitions and the priorities for action that will be required to deliver them. It aims to be realistic about the challenges that the Mid Ulster area faces and its baseline position. Each of the Actions presented, and the means by which they are anticipated to be created, have been agreed with the Mid Ulster Skills Forum.

The priorities range from those which could straightforwardly be described as corrections for market failures (e.g. in the provision of training), through broader advocacy relating to existing areas of public policy (e.g. immigration), to priorities that address the governance issues that need to be resolved to support Mid Ulster's development.

While some of the suggested actions are challenging, the Consultancy Team has sought to ground them in what is achievable, whilst recognising that it does not have all the answers to some very intractable questions. Instead, the Consultancy Team suggests that it is better to focus on making significant progress in a limited number of areas, by building on what the Mid Ulster area already has and recognising that meaningful change will be gradual and requires stability and consistency.

6.2 The Goal

The Council's economic strategy is clear: to create a larger and stronger private sector. In order to achieve this, it will be important to have a successful skills and employment strategy, which enhances skills supply and thereby feeds the demand for well-skilled employees.

The Skills Forum wishes to lead the way as an exemplar of what can be achieved through a dynamic, integrated work and skills system which recognises that with better skills comes improved employability and, in turn, increased productivity. Over the medium term, the Mid Ulster area needs a transformational education, skills and employment system that delivers the employability and technical skills needed to drive the productivity in the area's growth sectors. Such a system is one which prepares all individuals for the rapidly changing world of work and upskills those already in work – so they can develop their full potential in terms of knowledge, skills and capabilities.

The ambition is clear: for all the residents of Mid Ulster to be in a position to achieve their goals through productive, fulfilling employment with skills at the heart of personal and professional development, whether entering the world of work for the first time or progressing in their careers.

The Skills Forum wants to ensure that Mid Ulster's employers have access to, and ownership of, an adaptable, resilient local workforce with the skills they need to thrive now as well as a work-ready talent pool to draw upon for the future.

However, the Mid Ulster area's future success in those sectors where it has historically been successful (e.g. manufacturing & engineering, construction, food & agri-food etc.) cannot be taken for granted, perhaps in particular following the UK's vote to leave the EU in June 2016. Both Northern Ireland and the Mid Ulster area is at the beginning of a period of significant uncertainty, which has the potential to deter investment and reduce growth.

Other areas face similar challenges. Some have similar strengths. Many have similar ambitions. However, the Mid Ulster area uniquely combines a realistic aspiration to be a top performing region in Northern Ireland at the same time as maintaining its position as being the most entrepreneurial region in Northern Ireland. However, to pursue these aspirations while managing the implications of the vote to leave the EU, and within constrained public finance, it is recognised that one of the main drivers of strong economic growth will be the availability of a high performing skilled workforce.

This action plan is designed to support the delivery of the Council's Economic Development Plan and a Mid-Ulster area economy with:

- A workforce with the skills necessary to deliver economic growth.
- Job creation and growth that translates into opportunity, with employment rates maintained higher than the NI average.
- Diversity and resilience, with strong performance across a wider range of economic sectors in order to improve the area's resilience against crises.
- Strong sectoral strengths - protect and grow the Mid Ulster area's key sectors, whilst recognising the importance of emerging sectors.

Whilst the concept is simple, the context is highly complex, with some elements devolved whilst others remain under the purview of central Government. Against that backdrop, stakeholders must establish how best to focus resources and efforts in order to maximise the impact of activity across Mid Ulster. The Action Plan aims to draw together those numerous interrelated strands of activity across a rich and diverse work and skills landscape, to bring cohesion, and to set out a direction of travel for the coming years.

Importantly, it must become a shared vision to which all stakeholders in the Mid Ulster area can commit and work towards together. Achieving the goals that have been set out will require focused implementation and a coordinated approach amongst a range of public and private sector stakeholders. No single body has all the levers that the area will require to drive success and different priorities and sectors can have different leaders. However, Mid Ulster District Council, through its Economic Development and Community Plans, is well placed to coordinate and drive this agenda as a whole by building partnerships across government, business and wider society.

6.3 What will this Action Plan Support?

Given the specific focus of this action plan, the ultimate measure of its success will be the availability of appropriately skilled individuals to support business growth, job creation and increased productivity. The Consultancy Team's consultations with businesses based in the Mid-Ulster area indicates that if this is achieved it could support the creation of an additional 2,355 new FTE jobs in the area by 2020[66].

6.4 The Action Plan

Similar to the Council's Economic Plan, the Strategic Priorities, Goals and Actions set out overleaf will require the development of strong partnerships and joint ventures, including strong leadership amongst businesses, using a multi-agency approach to maximise resources in order for them to be fully delivered. Central to this will be the Council who will act as a key enabler in the region, adopting a direct lobbying approach to become a leading strategic influencer of skills development and policy in the area.

[66] Please note, the ability to achieve this target is inherently linked to the outcomes of future negotiations associated with Brexit. There is a risk any policy relating to the level of free movement that is afforded to EU27 Nationals in the UK and vice versa exacerbates the situation in the Mid Ulster area.

VISION:
"By 2021, to have supported the creation of approximately 2,300 additional jobs in the Mid Ulster Council area through effective collaboration and partnership working"

Strategic Priorities	Goals	Key Actions	Key Outcomes
1. ATTRACT	We want to attract external talent and residents to the Mid Ulster area	A. Improve market proposition for the Mid Ulster area B. Enhance the image of priority sectors C. Improve connectivity to, and within, the Mid Ulster area D. Support new job creation	• Larger working age population/local labour market & job creation • Improved perceptions of industry/sectors • Greater accessibility/connectivity
2. DEVELOP	We want to develop the skills businesses need to address gaps	E. Improve careers education, information, advice and guidance (CEIAG) F. Increase quality and quantity of apprenticeships	• Improved employability skills • Enhanced professional/technical qualifications • Increased apprenticeships
3. ENGAGE	We want to improve how businesses engage with key stakeholders	G. Improve engagement with prospective employees H. Improve engagement with education providers I. Improve engagement with existing Government strategies and initiatives	• Greater volume & diversity in local labour market • Greater (and more collaborative) business/education provider engagement
4. RETAIN / SUSTAIN	We want to 'future proof' skills and capability	J. Develop pipeline of new initiatives/incentives K. Support technological change and automation L. Support entrepreneurship/new business skills M. Reduce annual rate of staff turnover amongst businesses	• Enhanced business performance/competitiveness • Lower staff turnover rates
5. SUCCESS	We want to implement the Strategy and Action Plan and measure success in tangible metrics	N. Continuation of the Mid Ulster Skills Forum O. Reformat sub-groups of the Mid Ulster Skills Forum P. Seek resources and finance for Strategy and Action Plan implementation	• Implementation of Strategy and the Action Plan to support the achievement of outcomes

The following subsection provides further details on each Strategic Priority of the Action Plan, including the rationale for each Action and the specific activities that fall under each, along with associated timeframes for delivery i.e. short (year 1), medium (year 2) or long-term (year 3+). The Mid Ulster Skills Forum will work with relevant key responsible Government Departments (e.g. DfE, DE, DfC, DfI etc.) and their delivery bodies in implementing the commitments with the Action Plan.

Strategic Priority	Action	Rationale	Activities	Lead	Timeframe
1. ATTRACT **We want to attract external talent and residents to the Mid Ulster area**	**A. Improve market proposition for the Mid Ulster area**	Increase supply of labour and compete for talent from other areas	1. Develop a cohesive and strong marketing/promotional campaign for the Mid Ulster area. This should: • Identify key messages to be used consistently across organisations and existing communication mediums/platforms. • Promote the area's sectoral clusters e.g. manufacturing & engineering, construction and food & agri-food businesses. • Identify, in conjunction with key stakeholders (e.g. the Home Office), if there are areas of NI, GB, the EU or the rest of world where employment and lifestyle opportunities within the Mid Ulster area could be actively targeted and promoted, thereby addressing labour shortages in the Mid Ulster area.	Skills Forum with relevant key responsible departments & stakeholders	Short term
	B. Enhance the image of priority sectors	Increase volume and diversity	2. Provide collective input into the campaign being developed by industry (in partnership with DfE) to promote the hospitality sector in Northern Ireland. This should involve the development of a 'skills brand and toolkit' to include key messages that businesses can use as part of their own promotional campaigns.	Skills Forum with relevant key responsible departments & stakeholders	Short term
			3. Explore opportunities to initiate the development and implementation of promotional campaigns across the Mid Ulster area and NI for the Manufacturing & Engineering; Food & Agri-Food; Construction; ICT; and Retail sectors. This should involve the development of a 'skills brand and toolkit' for each sector to include key messages that businesses can use as part of their own promotional campaigns.	Skills Forum with relevant key responsible departments & stakeholders	Medium term
			4. Develop new, and support existing, initiatives to promote and redress the gender imbalance towards males in individual sectors (e.g. manufacturing and engineering, construction, food and agri-food and IT). For example, Manufacturing NI is involved in developing promotional profile articles in regional newspapers (e.g. Belfast Telegraph) of 'successful women in work in the manufacturing industry'.	Skills Forum with relevant key responsible departments & stakeholders	Short term
	C. Improve connectivity to, and within, the Mid Ulster area	Make the Mid Ulster area a preferred place to live and work – supports Actions A and B	5. Explore possible enhancements to the existing public transport linkages/networks and road infrastructure e.g. additional park and ride facilities, private bus transportation, proposals relating to the A29 road etc.	Skills Forum with relevant key responsible departments & stakeholders	Medium term
	D. Support new job creation	Supports achievement of outcomes	6. Support the creation of approximately 2,300 additional jobs in the Mid Ulster Council area[67] (from a baseline position of 31,493 employee jobs across the six priority sectors[68]).	Skills Forum with relevant key responsible departments & stakeholders	Long term

[67] Please note, the ability to achieve this target is inherently linked to the outcomes of future negotiations associated with Brexit and in particular the level of free movement that is afforded to EU27 Nationals in the UK and vice versa.
[68] Source: NISRA Business Register and Employment Survey 2015.

Strategic Priority	Action	Rationale	Activities	Lead	Timeframe
2. DEVELOP **We want to develop the skills businesses need to address gaps**	**E. Improve careers education, information, advice and guidance (CEIAG)**	Harness and encourage local talent	7. Work with DfE/DE to inform, where appropriate, future joint Action Plans emanating from the 'Preparing for Success 2015-2020' Careers Strategy to ensure that the needs of principals and careers teachers (including training) are being met, that the types of resources/information available to schools is consistent and that businesses/industry have opportunities to, where possible, shape the curriculum design and inform careers education programmes.	Skills Forum with relevant key responsible departments & stakeholders	Medium term
			8. Support education providers to encourage business representatives to act as governors etc., thereby bringing business/industry expertise into the decision-making processes.	Skills Forum with relevant key responsible departments & stakeholders	Medium term
	F. Increase quality and quantity of apprenticeships	Grow local talent	9. Establish a 'brokerage scheme' with DfE in the Mid Ulster area, similar to the scheme implemented for the ICT sector in the greater Belfast area. This would involve DfE scheduling and facilitating meetings with businesses (within each of the Council's six priority sectors) to stimulate demand for apprenticeship schemes – focusing apprenticeships on the specific needs of businesses.	Skills Forum with relevant key responsible departments & stakeholders	Short term
			10. Promote and raise awareness of initiatives such as the Government's 'Connect to Success NI', which is a free online portal (for employers and prospective employees) that exclusively advertises apprenticeships and school work experience opportunities.	Skills Forum with relevant key responsible departments & stakeholders	Short term
			11. Support a 10% increase in the number of individuals within the Mid Ulster area participating on Apprenticeships (within the Apprenticeships NI Framework) from a baseline position of 919 (as of July 2017).	Skills Forum with relevant key responsible departments & stakeholders	Long term
3. ENGAGE **We want to improve how businesses engage with key stakeholders**	**G. Improve engagement with prospective employees**	Increase supply of labour to increase volume and diversity	12. Establish additional thematic/sectoral sub-groups of the Mid Ulster Skills Forum, which should focus on, and have a remit for, the development of each of the Council's six priority sectors. These groups should, amongst other things, define the future needs of individual sectors and, where appropriate, instigate sector specific collaborative opportunities beyond the Mid Ulster area e.g. to pursue, in conjunction with other Council areas, the development of a Manufacturing Strategy for NI.	Skills Forum with relevant key responsible departments & stakeholders	Short term
			13. Expand the 'tasty careers' initiative for the food & agri-food sector.	Skills Forum with relevant key responsible departments & stakeholders	Short term
			14. Replicate the 'tasty careers' initiative for other priority sectors.	Skills Forum with relevant key responsible departments & stakeholders	Short term
			15. Expand on existing, or establish new, social media channels (on twitter e.g. @midulsterjobs) for businesses to, through a centralised search point, advertise existing posts/vacancies, work placements and apprenticeship opportunities.	Skills Forum with relevant key responsible departments & stakeholders	Short term

<table>
<tr><th>Strategic Priority</th><th>Action</th><th>Rationale</th><th>Activities</th><th>Lead</th><th>Timeframe</th></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="4">3. ENGAGE

We want to improve how businesses engage with key stakeholders</td><td rowspan="3">H. Improve engagement with education providers</td><td rowspan="3">Perception and inspiration – there are opportunities to inspire the future workforce</td><td>16. Consider strategies to better coordinate education providers and businesses. For example, this may include expanding existing school/college partnerships with businesses or re-establishing former initiatives such as the Business Education Partnerships (previously funded through DfE and DE).</td><td>Skills Forum with relevant key responsible departments & stakeholders</td><td>Short term</td></tr>
<tr><td>17. Through existing or new school/college partnerships with businesses, develop a structured approach (to include sectoral communication plans) which should serve to formalise the practicalities of businesses engaging with education providers e.g. when businesses engage, how often, who they engage with, through what means etc. This approach should be ‘tiered’ and adapted as students’ progress through the education system e.g. different types of information/engagement for different age groups.</td><td>Skills Forum with relevant key responsible departments & stakeholders</td><td>Medium term</td></tr>
<tr><td>18. Through existing or new school/college partnerships with businesses, agree on practical methods for businesses to engage, in a joined-up manner, with careers teachers, students and parents (as they are the key ‘influencer’ in students’ future careers options). For example:

• More widespread use of social media channels e.g. case study materials/profiles identifying the type of roles, skills required, opportunities available etc.
• Facilitated site visits, open nights or insight/exploration days for students and parents, preferably outside of school hours (where possible).
• Career fairs/days e.g. ‘Mid Ulster Jobs Fair’ - facilitated in non-school environments e.g. Council (local civic centres) or business premises (this might include businesses organising transport to and from the schools). Where possible, this should involve existing jobs fairs delivered by DfC in conjunction with local Councils.
• Bursaries or sponsorships.
• Guest speakers or sector ‘Ambassadors’ e.g. local business leaders under 35 years old who provide a ‘view from the younger generation’.
• Work experience gained through business placements and/or internships – these can provide opportunities for students to learn about a particular sector or type of work and determine whether it is the right field for them. They also play a useful part in strengthening students’ employment readiness.</td><td>Skills Forum with relevant key responsible departments & stakeholders</td><td>Medium term</td></tr>
<tr><td>I. Improve engagement with existing Government strategies and initiatives</td><td>Lack of awareness of what initiatives are available to businesses</td><td>19. Promote and raise awareness of the various programmes that are available to businesses located in the Mid Ulster area.</td><td>Skills Forum with relevant key responsible departments & stakeholders</td><td>Short term</td></tr>
</table>

Strategic Priority	Action	Rationale	Activities	Lead	Timeframe
4. RETAIN / SUSTAIN **We want to 'future proof' skills and capability**	**J. Develop pipeline of new initiatives/incentives**	Support businesses sustain skills and capability	20. Explore, in conjunction with DfE and DfC, the potential for additional support to be provided for older apprentices (i.e. those over 25 years old) and those categorised as economically inactive in the marketplace.	Skills Forum with relevant key responsible departments & stakeholders	Short term
			21. Explore, in conjunction with SWC and other stakeholders, the potential for additional support to be provided towards the development of an advanced Manufacturing & Engineering Innovation Centre/Facility in the Mid Ulster area.	Skills Forum with relevant key responsible departments & stakeholders	Medium term
	K. Support technological change and automation	Finding the right balance of technology and human capital will enable both businesses and people to succeed	22. Raise awareness of existing, and/or develop new, initiatives to support businesses to implement technological change and/or automation to redress the existing and potential future labour shortages.	Skills Forum with relevant key responsible departments & stakeholders	Medium term
			23. Raise awareness of existing, and/or develop new, initiatives to support businesses to invest in training, reskilling and education for those displaced by automation and embrace new working models. Whilst future labour demand could be in occupations created by automation that do not yet exist, there is a need to think, act and educate now for the benefit of the economy in the future[69].	Skills Forum with relevant key responsible departments & stakeholders	Medium term
	L. Support entrepreneurship/new business skills	Enhance business performance/ competitiveness	24. Raise awareness of existing, and/or develop new, initiatives to support entrepreneurship and leadership development.	Skills Forum with relevant key responsible departments & stakeholders	Medium term
	M. Reduce annual rate of staff turnover amongst businesses		25. Support 80%+ of business respondents indicating that their annual rate of staff turnover is, as of 2021, 5% or less (from a baseline position of 71%, N=188[70]).	Skills Forum with relevant key responsible departments & stakeholders	Long term
5. SUCCESS **We want to implement the Strategy and Action Plan and measure success in tangible metrics**	**N. Continuation of the Mid Ulster Skills Forum**	Supports the implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan and the achievement of associated outcomes	26. Maintain the collaborative and partnership working of the Mid Ulster Skills Forum	Skills Forum with relevant key responsible departments & stakeholders	Short term
	O. Reformat sub-groups of the Mid Ulster Skills Forum		27. Reformat sub-groups of the Mid Ulster Skills Forum to best support the Strategy and implementation of the Action Plan.		Short term
	P. Seek resources and finance for Strategy and Action Plan implementation		28. Discuss and agree with key stakeholders/partners the resources and finance required to implement and fulfil Strategy and Action Plan.		Short term

69 Source: 2017 Knowledge Economy Report (Connect at Catalyst Inc., January 2018).
70 Source: Survey Findings, as per Statistical Appendix (Cogent Management Consulting, March 2018).

6.5 Wider Considerations

The above Action Plan should be seen as a living document that is reviewed and updated in response to emerging opportunities and changes in the employment and skills landscape over time. At the time of writing, the Consultancy Team has identified that such opportunities and changes might involve:

The Apprenticeship Levy	Businesses must have confidence that the apprenticeship levy system, and the funding available for skills, can deliver what they need. Each sector has very different skills needs, structures and routes to progression and businesses require flexibility to train according to their specific needs.
Brexit	With the advent of Brexit, competitiveness has never been more important – appropriately skilled labour is vitally important for businesses' competitiveness. The Brexit sub-group of the Mid Ulster Skills Forum is tasked with identifying new opportunities and key challenges, as the final position relating to Brexit becomes clearer.
Welfare reform	Given the recent changes to the welfare system in Northern Ireland, the Skills Forum may, for example, identify future opportunities to explore the challenges associated with attracting long-term unemployed back into the labour market.

Appendix III – Qualifications Framework

Main stages of education/employment

- Professional or postgraduate education, research or employment
- Higher education Advanced Skills Training
- Entry to professional graduate employment
- Specialised education and training
- Qualified/Skilled worker Entry to higher education Completion of secondary education
- Progression to skilled employment Continuation of secondary education
- Secondary education. Initial entry into employment or further education

Level	Framework for higher education qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland	Regulated Qualifications Framework for England and Northern Ireland
8	Doctoral Degrees	Technical/Vocational Qualifications Level 8
7	Master's Degrees, Integrated Master's Degrees, Postgraduate Diplomas, Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE), Postgraduate Certificates	Technical/Vocational Qualifications Level 7
6	Bachelor's Degrees with Honours, Bachelor's Degrees, Professional Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE), Graduate Diplomas, Graduate Certificates	Technical/Vocational Qualifications Level 6
5	Foundation Degrees, Diplomas of Higher Education (DipHE) Higher National Diplomas (HND)	Technical/Vocational Qualifications Level 5, Higher National Diplomas (HND)
4	Higher National Certificates (HNC), Certificates of Higher Education (CertHE)	Technical/Vocational Qualifications Level 4 Higher National Certificates (HNC)
3	Access to HE Diploma	Technical/Vocational Qualifications Level 3, GCE AS and A Levels
2		Technical/Vocational Qualifications Level 2 GCSEs at grade A* - C (NI) Essential Skills Qualifications (NI)
1		Technical/Vocational Qualifications Level 1. GCSEs at grade D-G Essential Skills Qualifications (NI)
Entry Level		Entry Level Certificates (sub levels 1-3), Essential Skills Qualifications (NI)

APPENDIX 5

MID ULSTER ENGINEERING SECTOR STUDY

FINAL REPORT

Comhairle Ceantair Lár Uladh Mid Ulster District Council

Cogent MANAGEMENT CONSULTING

Cogent Management Consulting LLP

June 2018

MID ULSTER ENGINEERING SECTOR STUDY

FINAL REPORT

CONTENTS

APPENDICES

I **Definition of the Sector**

II **Mid Ulster Area: Key Statistics**

III **Database of Engineering Businesses in the Mid Ulster Area**

IV **Feedback from Businesses: Statistical Appendix**

List of Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Definition
A Level	Advanced Level
AMME	Advanced Manufacturing, Materials and Engineering
BIM	Business Information Modelling
BRES	Business Register and Employment Survey
CAD	Computer-Aided Design
CAE	Computer-Aided Engineering
CAM	Computer-Aided Manufacturing
CBI	Confederation of British Industry
CNC	Computer Numerical Control
DAERA	Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
DfC	Department for Communities
ETCNI	Engineering Training Council NI
EU	European Union
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FE	Further Education
FTE	Full-Time Equivalent
GB	Great Britain
GCSE	General Certificate of Secondary Education
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GVA	Gross Value Added
HR	Human Resource
IDBR	Interdepartmental Business Register
IT	Information Technology
JSA	Job Seekers Allowance
LFS	Labour Force Survey
LLP	Limited Liability Partnership
MIG	Metal Inert Gas
MUDC	Mid Ulster District Council
NI	Northern Ireland
NISRA	Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
ONS	Office of National Statistics
PAYE	Pay-As-You-Earn
PSM	Private Sector Median
R&D	Research and Development
RoI	Republic of Ireland
SIC	Standard Industrial Classification
SMEs	Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises
SOC	Standard Occupational Classification
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
TIG	Tungsten Inert Gas
UK	United Kingdom
UKCES	United Kingdom Commission for Employment and Skills

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction and Background

The Mid Ulster District Council area represents a population of more than 145,000 and it is the fastest growing new Council area in Northern Ireland (its population is expected to grow to 165,000 by 2030). The Mid-Ulster sub-region is home to over 8,000 small businesses, which is the 2nd largest concentration of small businesses outside of the Belfast Metropolitan area. These businesses provide the lifeblood of the local economy.

With circa 700,000 people within a one-hour commute of the district boundaries, the area supports approximately 50,000 jobs, which are mainly concentrated within micro businesses and Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs)[1]. As the most entrepreneurial region in Northern Ireland[2], the Mid Ulster area contributes towards producing 7.3% of the region's total economic output (Gross Value Added is £2.075 billon).

The Interdepartmental Business Register (IDBR)[3] estimates that there are 4,870 production businesses in Northern Ireland, of which 775 are located in the Mid Ulster area. The Council understands from its knowledge of the local business landscape that a considerable proportion of the 775 are categorised as businesses operating in the engineering sector (with possibly some being classified under other headings as well e.g. motor trades). However, to date there is no data available to confirm accurate figures.

Similarly, there is currently no, or very limited, data on employment figures for the engineering businesses in the Mid Ulster area. There is, therefore, no way to identify the proportion of the overall employment figure attributable to the engineering sector, its comparison with Mid Ulster's key sectors and its contribution to the Mid Ulster economy.

In recognition of such issues, the Council is now seeking to address this lack of data on the engineering sector in the Mid Ulster area to provide a clearer insight into the profile of the local sector, and make recommendations about its needs, issues and key challenges over the next 5 years, supported by a robust evidence base, to inform the design, direction, timeframe and costs of future interventions to promote the sector's growth.

The Importance of the Engineering Sector

Northern Ireland has a rich and often underestimated engineering and industrial history. Whilst the number of people employed in the engineering sector has reduced significantly over the last few decades (primarily as a result of cheaper international labour costs), the fundamental skills and expertise base - which created the sector in the first instance - remains strong, with small and large companies producing increasingly more complex and higher value-added products.

The sector has a decisive role in the performance of the Northern Ireland economy. It provides highly skilled and well-paid jobs, drives innovation, R&D and productivity, as well as providing external balance to the economy.

The Mid Ulster area has been at the forefront of industrial and entrepreneurial development. The reputation of the area in the fields of manufacturing and engineering is well known, and where other regions have seen manufacturing and engineering decline, the area has worked hard to retain and attract such industries into the area and has been successful in this endeavour.

The economic performance of the engineering sector in the Mid Ulster area has been driven by a set of complementary strengths, which, in combination, delineate its unique position in the Northern Ireland economy[4]. For example:

[1] Defined as having: fewer than 250 full time equivalent employees, an annual turnover not exceeding €50m (£35m) and/or an annual balance sheet total not exceeding €43m (£30m).
[2] In terms of business start-ups (Global Entrepreneurship Monitor Report, 2017).
[3] NISRA (2018) 'Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR)'. Figures as at 31st January 2018.
[4] Further specific details are included in Appendix II.

- Mid Ulster (incorporating the former council areas of Cookstown, Dungannon and South Tyrone and Magherafelt) possesses the second largest business base outside of Belfast[5].
- Strategically located, the Mid Ulster area has a widely acknowledged strong, diverse and dynamic business base, together with an educated and entrepreneurial workforce.
- It has the 2nd lowest claimant count in the region at 1.3%[6].
- The Gross Value Added (GVA) is £2.075 billon, the 4th highest in the region in 2014, producing 7.3% of the region's total economic output.
- The area population of 145,000 is the fastest growing new Council area.
- Workforce - 91,711 of working age (aged 16-64).
- 700,000 people are within a one-hour commute of the district boundaries.
- There is **a minimum of 532 engineering businesses are located in the Mid Ulster area** - the area has a higher proportion of engineering businesses when compared to Northern Ireland as a whole. This reflects the relative importance of the sector to the Mid Ulster economy.
- The engineering sector supports jobs and economic growth across in both rural and urban areas. **In the Mid Ulster area, the sector is the largest employer and accounts for more than a quarter of the economic output.**
- **Over a fifth (21%) of the employee jobs (10,740 employee jobs) in the Council area are within the engineering sector** (compared to 9% of all employee jobs at a Northern Ireland level). Again, this reflects the importance of the sector to the Mid Ulster economy in terms of employment. The sector is highly productive, representing 17% of Northern Ireland's manufacturing GVA (in 2015).
- Over four-fifths (83%, N=10,740) of the employee jobs within the engineering sector in the Mid Ulster area are held by males (which is broadly comparable with the Northern Ireland figures for the sector).

The engineering sector is of profound importance to the area's economy – especially in key specialisms such as the manufacture of mining and quarrying machinery, production of general and special purpose machinery etc., which have linkages and supply chain associations with the construction and food & agri-food sectors. For instance, 40% of world's mobile crushing and screening equipment is made in Northern Ireland, with many of the businesses in the Mid Ulster area contributing towards this level of activity.

Sector Profile – Mid Ulster Area

The Consultancy Team's analysis illustrates that:

- Nearly two-fifths (37%) of the businesses in the engineering sector fall within the 'Manufacture of fabricated metal products, expect machinery and equipment' and 'Manufacture of machinery and equipment' sub-sectors.
- There is a notable clustering of engineering businesses in the Dungannon area, particularly amongst those businesses that fall within the two main sub-sectors.
- Nearly all the businesses within the sector are categorised as SMEs, which is broadly reflective of the Council area as a whole.
- In total, the businesses that participated in the research stated that, as of 2018, they had 4,240 employees based in Northern Ireland, of which 3,901 (92%) were based within the Council area.
- Across the businesses, over four-fifths (87%) of all employees in the sector were male. This compares with an overall working-age male population in the Council area of 51%. The gender imbalance is more pronounced in some job roles in the engineering sector than others e.g. 'Skilled trade' workers such as Welders, Electricians, IT Engineers etc. and 'Process, Plant & Machine Operatives' workers.
- Whilst the overall workforce in the Council area receives salaries that are lower than their counterparts working in other Council areas across Northern Ireland (per Appendix II), on average, over three-quarters (78%) of the employees within the engineering sector receive salaries above the Northern Ireland 'Manufacturing' sector median, which equates to £21,180 per annum.
- Employee salaries in the sector have increased significantly of recent years, particularly amongst those employed in various 'skilled trade' roles e.g. welders. A highly competitive and small local labour market has created an *"employee market"*, which has necessitated salary increases in order to retain existing, or to attract new, staff.
- The engineering sector in the Mid Ulster area has a particularly strong representation amongst young people (aged 18-34 years old) when compared with the overall profile in the Mid Ulster area.

[5] Circa 8,505 businesses, which represents 12% (N=71,615) of the regional total.
[6] NISRA (2017) 'Northern Ireland Labour Market Report March 2017'.

- Whilst engineering businesses draw heavily upon the Council area's local population for their workforce, a quarter (25%) of the workforce within the sector originally came from elsewhere in the EU (other than the UK or the Republic of Ireland). The uncertainty associated with the UK's decision to leave the EU (i.e. Brexit) may have a significant impact on business' operations, whereby restrictions may be placed on businesses ability to access EU27 Nationals as employees.
- Over four-fifths (82%) of the business respondents' employees typically travel to work from within the Mid Ulster area. On average, higher salaries seem to be acting as an incentive for employees to travel further for work.
- Nearly a fifth (16%) of the businesses indicated that their staff turnover was, as of 2018, greater than 20%. A number of interrelated issues have reportedly contributed to this position:
    - A small local labour pool; resulting in
    - Strong wage competition;
    - Individuals being asked to operate in roles within which they are not proficient and being required to work regular overtime; and
    - Low staff morale.

Prospects for Growth and Support Required

The Consultancy Team's analysis also illustrates that:

- Whilst businesses' turnover/sales within the engineering sector in the Mid Ulster area is anticipated to grow over the 2018-2023 period, the levels of overall growth are anticipated to be slower than the previous five-year period i.e. 2013-2018.
- Businesses will, as of 2023, be marginally more reliant on the GB (England, Scotland and Wales) and, to a lesser extent, the Republic of Ireland markets for their sales/turnover.
- Businesses anticipate that they will continue to be reliant on the engineering sector for the majority of their sales. For example, by 2023, over a third (35%) of businesses anticipate that 75%+ of their sales will be within the engineering sector, which represents a marginal (3 percentage points) increase on their 2018 position.
- Over a quarter (28%) of the businesses indicated that at least 50% of their sales are (as of 2018) represented by their single largest customer, which may expose them to risks such as: pressure from their business' and/or their customer's competition; downward pricing pressure from the customer, which may result in decreased profits and cash flow; and an overdependence on too few customers can lower the value of a business.
- In terms of employment growth, it is the estimated that, **by 2023, approximately 749 new jobs within the engineering sector in the Mid Ulster area could potentially be created**.
- However, there are a number of identified issues that are inhibiting the future growth of the sector and of individual businesses. These are (in rank order):

1. Skills/qualifications related issues;
2. Staff recruitment/retention issues;
3. Uncertainty relating to UK's decision to leave the EU (i.e. Brexit);
4. Rising Operating Costs;
5. Negative/adverse perceptions of the sector;
6. Site/premises constraints;
7. Public transport linkages/network and road infrastructure related issues;
8. Competition in domestic (UK) markets;
9. Competition in export (non-UK) markets;
10. Negative/adverse perceptions of the MUDC area; and
11. Technological changes/advancements related issues.

- There are opportunities for Government (including support available through organisations such as the Council, Invest NI etc.) to provide specific support to businesses in order to assist the sector to grow.

Conclusions

The future of the engineering sector in Europe and worldwide has had much attention, with many of the known challenges and priorities facing the sector being equally relevant in a Mid Ulster area context.

The considerable and growing issue of businesses within the engineering sector in the Mid Ulster area accessing prospective employees (or the 'lack of people') with the requisite skills, as reflected in Sections 2-4 of this report, will inevitably not be a surprise to businesses in the area. However, this issue, coupled with the wide range of other identified issues, should serve as a clear signal to policymakers that urgent attention is required to ensure that the growth of local engineering businesses is not curtailed.

This is not to say that local businesses, with support from key stakeholders, do not have a role to play. They are faced with several options in terms of increasing the pool of prospective employees, such as: seeking to attract external talent to the Mid Ulster area; increasing levels of investment in labour saving technology (such as automation); and/or encouraging more local people back into the labour market (e.g. possibly through higher wages).

Beyond these options, there is also a need to actively promote the development of productive, inclusive and engaging workplaces that get the best out of people, but also a need to take a much more strategic view of recruitment, skills and the systems and mechanisms through which they are developed and sustained. In a period of considerable uncertainty, just focusing on the supply is not enough if businesses are to meet the huge challenges of rapid technological change, an ageing workforce, and changing cultures and expectations amongst the younger workforce. For example, businesses need to think more broadly about their own investment in developing talent and skills and how the growth of different employment models, flexi-working, contract and portfolio working may require a significant change to the ways they attract, invest in and develop people and skills in the future. The HR function within a business has a vital role to play in helping organisations to take a more strategic view of the kind of workforce they will need for the future and how they set about engaging with prospective future employers in a timely and strategic manner.

Businesses also need to think more about enhancing their business' attractiveness to both its existing and prospective employees. This may include, for example, refurbishment works at their premises to provide better working environments, as well enhancing their branding/promotional materials, creating/updating their business' website etc.

There is, however, a solid foundation for the future growth of the sector. It is encouraging to note that the sector is generally optimistic about their business prospects over the next 5 years, both in terms of turnover/sales and employment.

To support this growth, and **in recognition of the importance of the sector in the Mid Ulster area**, South West College was recently designated as the 'Engineering & Advanced Manufacturing Hub' within the Northern Ireland Further Education sector. In essence, the College now leads on the development of all Engineering & Advanced Manufacturing training within the Further Education sector.

However, there are a number of other areas where the Council and other key stakeholders should seek to develop the infrastructure and eco-system to ensure that engineering businesses can fulfil their full potential in the future.

In conclusion, **there is a unique opportunity for growing the local, and wider, engineering sector and employment creation.** The opportunity, therefore, is clear – despite the identified issues there is potential to create approximately an additional 749 new jobs by 2023 if the Action Plan that has been developed (see Section 6) is appropriately resourced, financed and implemented.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 Introduction

Mid Ulster District Council ('the Council' or 'MUDC') has commissioned Cogent Management Consulting LLP ('Cogent' or 'the Consultancy Team') to undertake a research study into the Engineering Sector within the Mid Ulster District Council area.

This report provides robust quantifiable data on all aspects of the sector, including a detailed profile and analysis of the industry and its sub sectors, benchmarked against the sector's regional performance. It also provides a comprehensive analysis of the key issues, gaps and potential opportunities facing the sector over the next 5 years, informing an Action Plan with recommendations detailing what is required to address these.

1.2 Background

The Council area represents a population of more than 145,000 and it is the fastest growing new Council area in Northern Ireland (its population is expected to grow to 165,000 by 2030). The Mid-Ulster sub-region is home to over 8,000 small businesses, which is the 2nd largest concentration of small businesses outside of the Belfast Metropolitan area. These businesses provide the lifeblood of the local economy.

With circa 700,000 people within a one-hour commute of the district boundaries, the area supports approximately 50,000 jobs, which are mainly concentrated within micro businesses and Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs)[7]. As the most entrepreneurial region in Northern Ireland[8], the Mid Ulster area contributes towards producing 7.3% of the region's total economic output (Gross Value Added is £2.075 billon).

The Interdepartmental Business Register (IDBR)[9] estimates that there are 4,870 production businesses in Northern Ireland, of which 775 are located in the Mid Ulster area. The Council understands from its knowledge of the local business landscape that a considerable proportion of the 775 are categorised as businesses operating in the engineering sector (with possibly some being classified under other headings as well e.g. motor trades). However, to date there is no data available to confirm accurate figures.

Similarly, there is currently no, or very limited, data on employment figures for the engineering businesses in the Mid Ulster area. There is, therefore, no way to identify the proportion of the overall employment figure attributable to the engineering sector, its comparison with Mid Ulster's key sectors and its contribution to the Mid Ulster economy.

In recognition of such issues, the Council is now seeking to address this lack of data on the engineering sector in the Mid Ulster area to provide a clearer insight into the profile of the local sector, and make recommendations about its needs, issues and key challenges over the next 5 years, supported by a robust evidence base, to inform the design, direction, timeframe and costs of future interventions to promote the sector's growth.

---

[7] Defined as having: fewer than 250 full time equivalent employees, an annual turnover not exceeding €50m (£35m) and/or an annual balance sheet total not exceeding €43m (£30m).
[8] In terms of business start-ups (Global Entrepreneurship Monitor Report, 2017).
[9] NISRA (2018) 'Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR)'. Figures as at 31st January 2018.

1.3 Statement of Requirements

A comprehensive research study on the engineering sector in the Mid Ulster area is required. The Council has split the work into four key stages as follows:

Stage 1: Desk Research	Undertake an in-depth review of all relevant desk top information relating to the engineering sector, both on a local (Mid Ulster District Council area), regional and national basis, identifying key trends and issues facing the sector to contextualise the local sector's issues.
Stage 2: Production of sectoral database and key sectoral statistics	1) To compile a database of all currently trading engineering businesses in the Mid Ulster area. The Consultancy team will be expected to use a range of sources to identify and make contact with all engineering businesses, including accessing all relevant desktop and online sources such as Mid Ulster District Council's Online Business Directory, yell.com, Engineering Training Council NI (ETCNI), local Enterprise Agencies, Federation of Small Businesses NI, social media channels etc., as a minimum. The database must be provided in excel format, following Council's template, comprising the following fields: • Business Name; • Name of key contact (owner/director); • Business Address; • Postcode; • Telephone Number; • Email Address; • Website (if available); • Sub-sectoral classification (i.e. electrical, mechanical, civil etc); • No. of employees (within SME bands 0-5, 6-10, 11-49, 50–249 and 500+); • Breakdown of nationality of employees (indigenous NI and GB, Republic of Ireland EU and non-EU); • Employee Age Profile; • Employee Gender Profile; • Sources of recruitment (other employers, same/different sector, economically inactive, school leavers); and • Key customers, industries and countries responsible for sales turnover to ascertain any potential for overreliance. 2) In addition to providing the completed database, the following data must be sourced on the sector: • Sub-sectoral Structural profile; • Employment/Occupational Structure; • A breakdown of the sector's workforce; • Wage levels across the sector, its sub sector and occupational structures, alongside comparison with the sub regional Private-Sector Median (PSM) and regional PSM; • Travel to work distance of employees, overall and, across the occupational structure to profile the mobility of the sector; and • Recruitment methods used by employers.

Stage 3: Consultations and Survey	Undertake consultations and surveys, to include: • One-to-one in-depth face to face interviews with senior personnel in a minimum of 15 engineering businesses, representative of the profile of Mid Ulster's sector and geographical spread to explore, in detail, the key issues facing the businesses, the challenges, barriers and opportunities they currently face and anticipate over the next 5 years. • A focus group meeting with the South West College's 'Get Engineering' group of local engineering businesses. • Completion of a minimum of 50 telephone surveys with businesses from the Mid Ulster District Council area. • Consultations with key stakeholders, to include, the following: - Council's Economic Development Officers; - South West College (InnoTech Team and Head of Training); - Invest NI (Regional Office and Sectoral Team Lead); and - Engineering Training Council (NI).
Stage 4: Report on Sector, Analysis, Key Issues, Recommendations Actions	The Report should comprise the following sections as an outline structure: • Executive Summary highlighting the key issues and recommendations emerging. • Economic Sectoral Profile & Analysis – presentation of key sectoral data (in the form of tables, accompanied by an interpretative narrative) outlining the findings of the database research, consultation process and surveys, with statistics and performance benchmarked against regional sectoral data. • Details of proposed support package /proposition for future actions, and a 'sales proposition for growing the Mid Ulster sector' providing a robust evidence-based rationale for the priority listing of each Action. • Action Plan – this should comprehensively outline a 'road map for growth' and; detailing: - The potential interventions required to support the sector over the next 5 years, in order of priority, aligning with or highlighting any areas of commonality or diversion from the regional sectoral trend, - The evidence to support the need/action proposed - How each action should be progressed / key steps to be taken - Who should be responsible for each aspect of delivery - The duration of the proposed action/ intervention - Full indicative costs against each action and measure and potential funding sources; and - Delivery timeframes.

1.4 Scope of Report and Methodology

1.4.1 Defining the Sector

The boundaries of what constitutes engineering are often blurred. Therefore, determining a clear definition of the engineering sector can be difficult, with different organisations historically taking different approaches. Also, the terms 'engineering' and 'manufacturing' are analogous, with various reports using the terminologies interchangeably[10]. This being the case, it is accepted that there is not a universally agreed definition of the engineering sector in the UK[11].

In defining the engineering sector for the purposes of this study, the Consultancy Team, in agreement with the Council and Invest NI, has primarily utilised sectoral data based upon the UK Standard Industrial Classification of Economic Activities 2007 (SIC 2007)[12], as per the Office of National Statistics (ONS). This was then supplemented by the Consultancy Team's review of publicly available information and research reports (e.g. those prepared by ONS, Engineering UK[13], MATRIX[14], the Agri-Food Strategy Board[15] etc.) and consultation with key stakeholders (e.g. Invest NI, South West College and Manufacturing NI).

Appendix I provides full details on how the sector has been defined for the purposes of this report. The Consultancy Team, in conjunction with the Council and other stakeholders (e.g. Invest NI, South West College, Manufacturing NI etc.), considers that this approach is robust and is, at the time of writing, based upon best available evidence.

Using this agreed definition and data from the IDBR[16], it is estimated that there are 4,715 businesses across Northern Ireland operating the engineering sector, of which 653 (14%) are located in the Mid Ulster area. Further details are included in Section 2.2 and Appendix II.

1.4.2 Methodology

In developing the Engineering Sector study, the Consultancy Team undertook a variety of activities, including:

Compilation of a Database	• Compilation of a comprehensive database of engineering businesses in the Mid Ulster area that were, at the time of writing, trading (N=a minimum of 532). • Data/information was collated from the following sources: - The Council's online business directory of engineering businesses (3 versions were provided, each of which included details of additional engineering businesses that were identified by Council officers that were not on the business directory). - Databases (x2) from Invest NI.

[10] E.g. 'Analysis of the Engineering Sector in Northern Ireland' (Department for the Economy, September 2012) & 'Advanced Engineering (Transport) Horizon Panel Report - Winning Ways To Engineer Our Future' (MATRIX, October 2008).
[11] Source: 'The state of engineering' Annex document (Engineering UK, 2017) & 'Analysis of the Engineering Sector in Northern Ireland' (Department for the Economy, September 2012).
[12] Which is a system used by ONS for categorising and defining a business' economic activities. SIC 2007 is divided into 21 sections, each denoted by a single letter from A to U. The letters of the sections can be uniquely defined by the next breakdown, the divisions (denoted by two digits). The divisions are then broken down into groups (three digits), then into classes (four digits) and, in several cases, again into subclasses (five digits). A business' classification under this system is often referred to as its 'SIC code'.
[13] Which is a not-for-profit organisation that works in partnership with the engineering community to *"promote the vital role of engineers and engineering and to inspire the next generation"*.
[14] The Northern Ireland Science Industry Panel, which is a business led expert panel advising on the commercial exploitation of R&D, science & technology.
[15] Established in May 2012 to develop a strategic action plan to help accelerate the growth of the agri-food industry.
[16] NISRA (2018) 'Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR)'. Figures as at 31st January 2018.

	- Databases (x4) from South West College. - Databases (x2) from Manufacturing NI. - Desktop and online resources such as internet searches (e.g. companies house, company check, Cylex, Endole Suite, DueDil and NI business info and yell.com websites), social media channels etc. • The database, prepared in Microsoft Excel format (and included as Appendix III), includes the following information, where available, for all 532 businesses[17]: - Business Name; - Name of key contact (owner/director); - Business Address; - Postcode; - Telephone Number; - Email Address; - Website; and - Primary and 'other' SIC codes. • In addition, the database also includes the following information (where available) for the 85 businesses that took part in the primary research activities (further details below): - Business headquarters; - Key geographical markets and sectors (in terms of sales/turnover); - Proportion of sales by largest customer; - Number of employees by: age[18]; gender; part/full-time; country of origin; shift/non-shift workers[19]; location travelled from; previous employment status[20]; type of role[21]; qualification held; and travel to work time. ***Technical note:*** Whilst the IDBR[22] estimates that there are 653 businesses located in the Mid Ulster area that are operating in the engineering sector (as per the agreed definition of the sector), in agreement with the Council, there were a number of businesses that were not included in the database for the following reasons: • The business is dissolved/no longer operating or no longer located in the Council area; • The business advised, during consultation, that they did not classify themselves as operating in the sector (e.g. one business cited that it operated in the food & agri-food sector rather than the engineering sector); or • Whilst a business name was identified, no further information (e.g. address, telephone number, email address, key contact etc.) was available in the public domain. In addition, a number of business that fall outside agreed definition of the sector (per their allocated SIC code) advised the Council that they would classify themselves as operating in the engineering sector. At the request of the Council, these businesses have been included in the database.

[17] Please note, the Consultancy Team was unable to identify a key contact and/or a telephone number and/or an email address and/or a website for a number of businesses.
[18] As per ONS Labour Market Statistics Age Groupings.
[19] A shift worker is defined as any worker whose work schedule is part of shift work, with shift work defined as *"any method of organising work in shifts whereby workers succeed each other at the same workstation s according to a certain pattern, including a rotating pattern, and which be continuous or discontinuous, entailing the need for workers to work at different times over a given period of days or weeks".* Statutory Instruments 1998 No. 1833 'Terms and Conditions of Employment: The Working Time Regulations 1998' (UK Government Employment Legislation).
[20] E.g. Employed by another manufacturing & engineering business in the MUDC area; Employed by another manufacturing & engineering business outside the MUDC area; Employed by a business in a different sector; Student at school; Student in further or higher education; Unemployed; or Economically inactive (excluding students).
[21] Standard Occupational Classification 2010 (as per ONS Labour Market Statistics) based on the OECD International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO).
[22] NISRA (2018) 'Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR)'. Figures as at 31st January 2018.

Desk Research	• An in-depth review of existing research, on a local (Mid Ulster District Council area), regional and national basis, to examine the key trends and issues facing the sector. • An in-depth review of a range of recently published data and metrics relating to the sector, including its performance in comparison to the rest of Northern Ireland.
Consultation and Engagement	• In-depth face-to-face consultations (N=15) with the owners or HR Managers of engineering businesses located within the Council area. • In-depth telephone consultations (N= 61) with a range of engineering businesses located within the Council area. • Online survey (N=9) with engineering businesses operating within the Council area. Please note, a detailed methodology relating to the Consultancy Team's engagement with businesses is included in Appendix IV. • In-depth consultations with key stakeholders such as: - Invest NI (N=3); - Manufacturing NI (N=1); - South West College (N=5); - Northern Regional College (N=1); and - Local Enterprise Agencies (N=1). • Focus group (N=11) with South West College's 'Get Engineering' group[23].

[23] 'Get Engineering' is an initiative supported by a number of local engineering firms to educate and inform students on the range of opportunities available in the fields of engineering and construction.

2. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ENGINEERING SECTOR

2.1 Introduction

This section provides an overview of the engineering sector and of the key challenges and priorities facing the sector. It also outlines the Consultancy Team's understanding of the economy of the Mid Ulster area and in particular, it provides key sectoral statistics relating to the engineering sector.

2.2 Overview of the Engineering Sector

The engineering sector plays a vital role in the UK's economic and societal well-being, providing quality employment on a large scale, along with developing and implementing some of the key solutions to major global challenges. The UK engineering base has a world-leading position in a range of the knowledge-intensive industrial sub-sectors, responding to global challenges and supporting the scientific and technological research and innovation that underpin them.

Whilst the UK has seen its productivity levels[24] decline below that of its competitor nations, research[25] indicates that the engineering sector will be a crucial sector in raising the UK's productivity levels. For example, it is estimated that:

- The engineering sector generated a quarter (25%) of the UK's total Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2015 (£420.5 billion).
- The sector generated a further £1.45 Gross Value Added (GVA) for every £1 GVA created directly in engineering industries.
- For every additional person employed through engineering activity, a further 1.74 jobs are created in the supply chain.
- Just over a quarter (26.9% or 687,575) of the 2.55 million registered enterprises in the UK in 2016 were in the engineering sector, representing a 5.6% growth in terms of the number of enterprises over the previous year.
- The sector employs a significant proportion of the overall UK workforce. For instance, in 2016 just under a fifth (18.9% or 5.66 million) of people in the UK workforce were working in an engineering enterprise.
- The engineering workforce is getting older, but not significantly faster than in the UK economy overall. However, the proportion of young workers (especially those under 25 years old) has been decreasing over the last ten years.
- While women make up 46% of the UK workforce as a whole, engineering continues to be male-dominated e.g. women make up only 1 in 8 of those in engineering occupations and less than 1 in 10 of those in an engineering role within an engineering company.

Northern Ireland has a rich and often underestimated engineering and industrial history. Whilst the number of people employed in the engineering sector has reduced significantly over the last few decades (primarily as a result of cheaper international labour costs), the fundamental skills and expertise base - which created the sector in the first instance - remains strong, with small and large companies producing increasingly more complex and higher value-added products.

The sector has a decisive role in the performance of the Northern Ireland economy. It provides highly skilled and well-paid jobs, drives innovation, R&D and productivity, as well as providing external balance to the economy. Research[26] suggests that:

- In 2015, the sector directly provided 85,200 jobs and made a GVA contribution of £4.7 billion to GDP (measured in 2012 prices). This was equivalent to more than 10% of all jobs and 14% of the total economic output in the region. Manufacturing is the third largest employer and the second largest sector in terms of economic output.
- In 2015, the sector sustained 214,000 jobs, equating to a quarter of all jobs in the Northern Ireland economy. For every manufacturing job in Northern Ireland, another 1.5 jobs were supported elsewhere in the economy.

---

[24] Productivity is a key factor in the standard of living in a national economy, with higher levels meaning improved economic growth and a more prosperous society, with associated increases in funding for public services.
[25] Source: 'The state of engineering' (Engineering UK, 2018).
[26] 'Northern Ireland's Manufacturing: The Engine of Prosperity' (Oxford Economics on behalf Manufacturing NI, 2016).

- Productivity in Northern Ireland's manufacturing sector, at £55,700 per job in 2015, was 38% higher than the total economy average. This difference was even more pronounced for advanced manufacturing, which is, on average, 27% more productive than the more traditional part of the industry.
- The sector supports jobs and economic growth across in both rural and urban areas of Northern Ireland. **In the Mid Ulster area, manufacturing is the largest employer and accounts for more than a quarter of the economic output.**
- The contribution that the sector makes extends significantly beyond the jobs, economic activity and wages directly associated with the sector. There is an additional indirect impact which encapsulates the activity and employment supported in the supply chain as a result of the manufacturing sector's procurement of goods and services from other parts of the Northern Ireland economy.

Furthermore, in assessing the role of the sector, it is important to go beyond its direct share of GVA and employment. Research illustrates a more complex picture, emphasising that manufacturing and engineering are, and must continue to be, an essential part of the Northern Ireland economy, with many diverse benefits, including[27]:

- Exports are an important source of income for a small open economy, and the manufacturing sector accounts for almost two-thirds of all of Northern Ireland's export sales. In 2014, the value of manufactured exports was £6 billion.
- In 2014, the sector invested £254m in R&D, which accounted for over 60% of total business investment in Northern Ireland. This contributed towards supporting the development of quality products and processes to keep the sector competitive.
- The sector also attracts a large amount of foreign direct investment (FDI). For example, between 2010 and 2014 the sector attracted just under £900 million in FDI.

The Mid Ulster area has been at the forefront of industrial and entrepreneurial development. The reputation of the area in the fields of manufacturing and engineering is well known, and where other regions have seen manufacturing and engineering decline, the area has worked hard to retain and attract such industries into the area and has been successful in this endeavour.

The economic performance of the engineering sector in the Mid Ulster area has been driven by a set of complementary strengths, which, in combination, delineate its unique position in the Northern Ireland economy[28]. For example:

- Mid Ulster (incorporating the former council areas of Cookstown, Dungannon and South Tyrone and Magherafelt) possesses the second largest business base outside of Belfast[29].
- Strategically located, the Mid Ulster area has a widely acknowledged strong, diverse and dynamic business base, together with an educated and entrepreneurial workforce.
- It has the 2nd lowest claimant count in the region at 1.3%[30].
- The Gross Value Added (GVA) is £2.075 billon, the 4th highest in the region in 2014, producing 7.3% of the region's total economic output.
- The area population of 145,000 is the fastest growing new Council area.
- Workforce - 91,711 of working age (aged 16-64).
- 700,000 people are within a one-hour commute of the district boundaries.
- There is **a minimum of 532 engineering businesses are located in the Mid Ulster area** - the area has a higher proportion of engineering businesses when compared to Northern Ireland as a whole. This reflects the relative importance of the sector to the Mid Ulster economy.
- **Over a fifth (21%) of the employee jobs (10,740 employee jobs) in the Council area are within the engineering sector** (compared to 9% of all employee jobs at a Northern Ireland level). Again, this reflects the importance of the sector to the Mid Ulster area in terms of employment. The sector is highly productive, representing 17% of Northern Ireland's manufacturing GVA (in 2015).
- Over four-fifths (83%, N=10,740) of the employee jobs within the engineering sector in the Mid Ulster area are held by males (which is broadly comparable with the Northern Ireland figures for the sector).

[27] 'Northern Ireland's Manufacturing: The Engine of Prosperity' (Oxford Economics on behalf Manufacturing NI, 2016).
[28] Further specific details are included in Appendix II.
[29] Circa 8,505 businesses, which represents 12% (N=71,615) of the regional total.
[30] NISRA (2017) 'Northern Ireland Labour Market Report March 2017'.

<u>The engineering sector is of profound importance to the area's economy</u> – especially in key specialisms such as the manufacture of mining and quarrying machinery, production of general and special purpose machinery etc., which have linkages and supply chain associations with the construction and food & agri-food sectors. For instance, 40% of world's mobile crushing and screening equipment is made in Northern Ireland, with many of the businesses in the Mid Ulster area contributing towards this level of activity.

Despite the above, it is widely recognised and accepted that Northern Ireland and the Mid Ulster area cannot compete with emerging economies in this sector on the basis of cost and that globalisation and technological advancements, amongst other things, have created significant challenges for businesses operating in the sector. The future, therefore, rests in an ability to build a knowledge-based economy, placing skills, creativity, expertise and innovation at its heart[31].

2.3 Challenges and Priorities facing the Sector

The future of the engineering sector in Europe and worldwide has had much attention, with many of the known challenges and priorities facing the sector being equally relevant in a Northern Ireland and a Mid Ulster area context. Whilst research indicates that the engineering sector will grow faster in Northern Ireland than in any other region in the UK over the next 10 years, it also faces substantial challenges. The key challenges and priorities facing the sector within the Mid Ulster area are summarised in the following subsections.

2.3.1 Uncertainty relating to the UK's decision to leave the EU

Following the UK's decision to leave the EU in June 2016 (i.e. Brexit), the Mid Ulster area is at the beginning of a period of significant uncertainty, during which businesses and households are likely to find it more difficult to plan for the longer term. Brexit will impact businesses in the Mid Ulster area directly if restrictions are placed on their ability to access EU27 Nationals as employees. The Government has, at the time of writing, signalled its intention to take the UK out of the single market and the EU Customs Union alongside establishing a new immigration system. What this means, right now, is that the legal status of EU nationals and their ability to live and work in the UK is in doubt. Clearly, the outcomes of future negotiations will be vital in determining the level of free movement that is afforded to EU27 Nationals in the UK and vice versa. This is important as workers from the EU fill vital roles in the engineering sector in the Mid Ulster area, which is vital to the area's economic growth and productivity. Overall, EU27 Nationals comprise a large proportion of the total migrant population living in the Mid Ulster area.

Although it is hard to predict the shape of the eventual settlement, Brexit has the potential to present particular challenges for the engineering sector in the Mid Ulster area. These include:

Brexit - Potential Challenges
• Businesses may postpone investment and expenditure, which in turn will slow the growth in employment and output. Local stakeholders have limited scope to reduce this uncertainty, but they can take steps to reduce uncertainty in other areas such as skills training. • Unless the UK can secure access with limited tariffs or barriers to export markets in the EU and globally, there will be consequences for many exporting engineering businesses in the Mid Ulster area. Reduced access to the EU Single Market is likely to affect many of the key sectors in the Mid Ulster area, including the engineering sector. If the UK leaves the Customs Union, engineering businesses of all sizes face new costs in re-organising supply chains and managing movement across customs frontiers. A weaker sterling may increase the competitiveness of some businesses, but at the same time it will raise costs for major importers and reduce purchasing power for consumers. • The Government has sought to curb lower-skilled migration from outside the EU through changes to the points-based visa system and the closure of several unskilled visa routes. EU migrants, particularly from countries that acceded after 2004, therefore make up the bulk of incoming lower-skilled workers.

[31] 'Advanced Engineering (Transport) Horizon Panel Report - Winning Ways to Engineer Our Future' (MATRIX, October 2008).

Brexit - Potential Challenges
Depending upon the settlement on free movement of people, restrictions on migration are likely to hit many of the largest engineering businesses in the Mid Ulster area. Indeed, the withdrawal of mid and lower-skilled labour (in particular) may exacerbate vacancy rates in the Mid Ulster area in lower-paid job roles, given the relatively low overall rates of unemployment. Mid-skilled and lower-skilled migrants fill a range of roles in the Mid Ulster labour market, including the engineering sector where, in principle, enough Northern Ireland workers could be trained, but where in practice it appears difficult to match local supply with demand.
• Businesses across all sectors are reporting that, a small, but growing, number of long-established migrant employees are now leaving Northern Ireland. Crucially, and for the first time, those leaving may not be replaced by new arrivals. This net loss of available skills is having a knock on negative effect on many sectors, with many raising concerns about growing labour shortages. This net loss of available workers and skills is having a knock on negative effect on the engineering sector, with many businesses raising concerns about growing labour shortages. In addition, several engineering businesses are reporting that their workforce is now working longer hours to offset the labour shortages. Businesses fear the impact of difficult working conditions will force even more staff to resign.
• Lower-skilled immigration may be the target of new restrictions following exit from the EU. Given this, a challenge for the Mid Ulster area may be to train the low-income local population to fill roles previously filled by migrants, while continuing to secure recruitment in those areas where immigration will remain a key component of the labour force.

2.3.2 Global Risks

The outlook for the global economy is uncertain. Across the world, the trend towards increased flows of trade, money and people is looking less certain. The era of 'easy growth' fuelled by credit and demographics is probably over, with global economic growth set to slow by almost half, from 3.6% to 2.1%, in the next 50 years[32]. Recently, global trade growth has slowed, alongside a slowdown in leading emerging market economies (such as Brazil, Russia, China and South Africa) and subdued demand across the world. In developed economies, productivity growth has been decelerating for decades[33].

Alongside widespread opposition to free trade deals, such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership and Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, the World Trade Organisation estimates that protectionist trade measures among the G20 are multiplying at their fastest rate since 2008[34]. National governments are experimenting with alternative economic strategies in response to these challenges.

Strained by growing inequality, the historic global economic consensus is being tested, particularly around migration and security. Global flows of people are facing new restrictions, as developed economies seek to control the scale of immigration in response to the concerns of those left behind by globalisation. In addition, forced migration from refugee crises across the world has altered these patterns substantially. Further, the recent terrorist attacks in Great Britain and other European cities mean that security risks remain front of mind.

The world will also see the continuing rise of disruptive innovation e.g. the further reach of the mobile internet, the cloud and the internet of things and the growth of advanced robotics, hydraulic fracturing, autonomous vehicles and 3D printing. Patterns of work will change dramatically too, with the rise of flexible work enabled by 'gig economy'[35] players such as Deliveroo. Economic growth driven by innovation and technology is here to stay, and regions which are well equipped to adjust to new ways of working will prosper more than others[36].

[32] McKinsey Global Institute, Turbulence Ahead, 2016.
[33] OECD, The Productivity-Inclusiveness Nexus, 2015.
[34] World Trade Organization, Report on G20 trade measures, June 2016.
[35] A labour market characterised by the prevalence of short-term contracts or freelance work as opposed to permanent jobs.
[36] McKinsey Global Institute, Disruptive technologies: Advances that will transform life, business, and the global economy, May 2013.

The future performance of the engineering sector is particularly vulnerable to global economic shocks that impact global demand and growth. The nature of the competition faced by Mid Ulster's engineering businesses is also changing. Businesses in emerging economies initially captured market share on a cost basis, but they are now rapidly moving up the value chain in terms of producing higher value activities and industries. This intensification of competition in the global market means the sector in the Mid Ulster area must compete on both a cost and quality basis in order to remain competitive on an international scale.

The extent to which policymakers, at every level of government, seek to foster the opportunity that manufacturing and engineering still bring to the Northern Ireland economy, will be decisive in determining the sector's long-term investment outlook and its prospects for future growth of the sector.

2.3.3 Skills/Qualification related Issues

There are substantial skills shortages throughout the UK, which are expected to be exacerbated by the growth of new industries, some of which scarcely yet exist, emerging from new technologies and knowledge.

In 2015, the Employer Skills Survey, conducted by the UK Commission for Employment and Skills (UKCES), reported 209,000 vacancies which were 'hard to fill' due to applicants lacking requisite skills, and around 1.4 million employees lacking some skills to be fully proficient in their current role. The most common technical skills gaps among applicants included specialised skills, knowledge to perform the role and problem-solving skills. The most common people and personal skills gaps included customer-handling skills and time management.

Accessing appropriate talent and skills is not just an issue for businesses in the Mid Ulster area. It is one of the top three issues for 'ScaleUp' businesses throughout the UK[37], with 82% of scaleup leaders stating that they would be able to grow their company more easily if applicants had the skills needed to meet customer demand.

The ScaleUp survey found that business leaders consider the need to attract staff to join at entry-level positions and therefore to develop talent at the school and graduate level (82%) to be more important than being able to hire people from overseas who had scaled a company before (65%) or to attract large company executives to join the company (56%). The greatest talent 'pinch' was felt among companies with more than 20 employees but less than 250.

More specifically, the skills gaps that scaleups identify for their particular businesses are varied: business skills (34%), management skills (30%), technical skills (29%) and social skills (28%). Notably, only 12% of scaleups surveyed nominated finance skills as one of their top three gap areas.

More than 78% of scaleups reported apprenticeships[38] to be beneficial in developing skills and talent in the business. Notably, scaleup leaders indicated that more work could be done in improving the availability and accessibility of these schemes as a viable career path for students. There was also a desire expressed to ensure that intended levies[39] on these do not impact their ease of use in scaling businesses.

[37] ScaleUp Survey 2016.
[38] In Northern Ireland, an apprenticeship is a full-time paid job (a minimum of 21 contracted hours per week), available to those aged 16 or over (terms and conditions apply if an individual is 25 years old and over e.g. there are only some apprenticeships available in specific sectors). It incorporates on and off the job training, usually on a day-release basis with a training provider. Apprentices work towards achieving vocational qualifications and essential skills qualifications (reading, writing, maths and computers), leading to a nationally recognised certificate.
[39] From April 2017, employers with a pay bill of more than £3 million pay a levy to fund apprenticeships ('the apprenticeship levy'). The Levy is charged at a rate of 0.5% of an employer's pay bill, whilst each employer receives an allowance of £15,000 to offset against their Levy payment.

Scaleup leaders believe it is critically important for the UK to remain a country open to others and able to easily recruit overseas talent. This is particularly salient given the current political and economic climate following the UK's vote to leave the EU.
The main concerns arising from scaleup business leaders centre around:

- Making it easier to hire the right people with the requisite talent and skills by having more flexible and cost-effective recruitment processes;
- Maintaining the ability to attract and retain talent from abroad – ensuring that despite the Brexit vote, it is easier to obtain overseas skilled labour; and
- Making sure that foreign students that are trained here have more ready access to job opportunities.

These views were strongly held by scaleup leaders regardless of sector or location.

At a local level, a sample of Northern Ireland businesses indicated that the key skills lacking amongst applicants included a combination of technical and practical skills and people skills such as (ordered from most to least commonly cited)[40]:

Technical and Practical Skills	• Specialist skills needed for the role; • Knowledge of how the organisation works; • Knowledge of the organisation's products and services; • Solving complex problems; • Complex numerical skills; • Basic numerical skills; and • Adapting to new equipment.
People Skills	• Ability to manage and prioritise own tasks; • Customer handling skills; • Managing or motivating other staff; • Sales skills; • Team working; • Persuading or influencing others; and • Managing their own feelings or those of others.

In recent years, the engineering sector has become increasingly engaged and focused in high value-added areas, such as innovation, design and development. This has had a fundamental impact on the sector and its various sub-sectors, with many businesses now requiring increasing numbers of individuals with higher level skills. Key skills-related characteristics of the sector include:

- In terms of the skills profile, the sector relies on a strong foundation in the basic numeracy and literacy, management and STEM skills. However, the sector also needs more high-level and technical skills e.g. interpersonal/communication skills, problem-solving and commercial acumen etc.
- The increasing use of design packages and bespoke software in the manufacturing and engineering process is also requiring greater 'IT literacy' and skills in utilising specific computer-aided design (CAD)/computer-aided manufacturing (CAM) and computer numerical control (CNC) machining software. 'Smart factories' of the future will require workers with the relevant production and IT 'know-how'. The general shift to shorter, more tailored production runs, driven by both customer demand and the availability of more flexible production technology, is also increasing demand for design skills.
- New and emerging technologies will require a workforce with advanced skills to engineer in both the virtual and the physical worlds. Roles in supporting areas (e.g. cyber-security) will become increasingly important as manufacturing and engineering become ever more 'digitised'.
- Within the engineering sector as a whole, there is a marked difference between the Advanced Manufacturing, Materials and Engineering (AMME) subsector[41] and other subsectors, particularly in the distribution of skills levels amongst the workforce.
- In the absence of disruptive innovations and exogenous shocks, it appears that the engineering sector might continue to provide employment opportunities across all skill levels, although the AMME subsector is

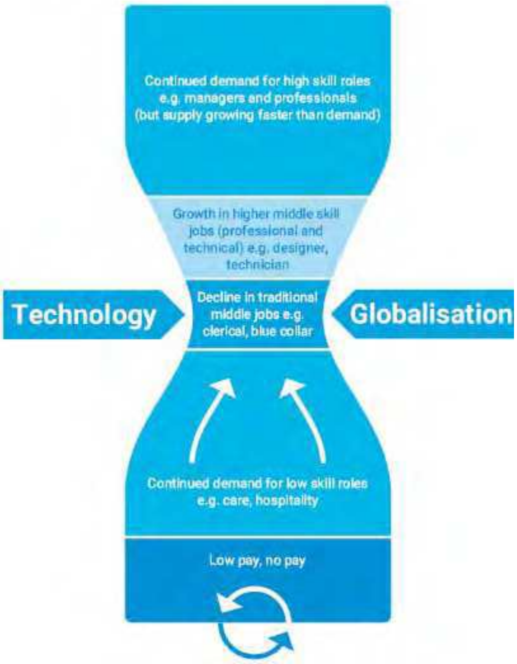
[40] UK Commission for Employment and Skills (UKCES) (2016) 'Employer Skills Survey'.
[41] Defined in Appendix I.

likely to have a growing need at skill level 4+. The skills system, therefore, needs to serve this plurality of skills needs.

- Whilst engineering businesses anticipate an increasing need for people with higher level skills, they have a decreasing confidence in their ability to recruit these in sufficient numbers. Potential restrictions on the free movement of labour, due to Brexit, further highlight skills shortage issues. Retention of employees is becoming a higher priority for employers as the workforce becomes more highly trained and skilled.
- Many engineering businesses also find it hard to balance the demands of short-term business pressures with planning longer term investment in skills.

Across the UK and other developed nations, there is an increasing move towards an 'hourglass' economy (depicted below), with rising demand for both high and low skilled labour. It is clear that the engineering sector is no exception to this trend. Moreover, there is considerable demand for engineering skills outside of industries traditionally deemed to be engineering. Given the engineering talent currently coming out of the educational pipeline, it is estimated that there is **an acute shortfall of engineering skills** – and that this will continue without concerted action.

Figure 2.1: The 'Hourglass' Economy[42]



Strategies to increase the employability of graduates are now embedded across Further and Higher Education providers, but there are some concerns that, although STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) graduates are in high demand, not all have a sufficiently rounded set of both technical and transferable skills, at the right levels, to satisfy the demands of current employers. Research suggests that work experience has become an essential asset for graduates[43].

In the face of technological advancements and a changing political and economic landscape, developing the pipeline to address the skills needs of the engineering sector remains a key challenge.

In response, calls for alternative, more flexible training models, alongside access to industry-focussed training, have been recently proposed[44]. The premise being that for businesses to do it themselves would be fragmented and resource intensive, but 'Centres of Excellence' across Northern Ireland to, for

[42] Source: 'The state of engineering' Annex document (Engineering UK, 2017).
[43] Source: 'The state of engineering' Annex document (Engineering UK, 2017).
[44] The Advanced Manufacturing, Materials & Engineering Report (MATRIX, November 2016).

example, accommodate school leavers to address multi-sectoral needs (e.g. suggested clusters include ‘sheet metal fabricators’) could potentially be an option to explore.

Furthermore, in recognition of the importance of the sector, and in an effort to address the needs of engineering businesses in the Mid Ulster area, South West College was recently designated[45] as the ‘Engineering & Advanced Manufacturing Hub’ within the Northern Ireland Further Education sector. In essence, the College now leads on the development of all Engineering & Advanced Manufacturing training within the Further Education sector.

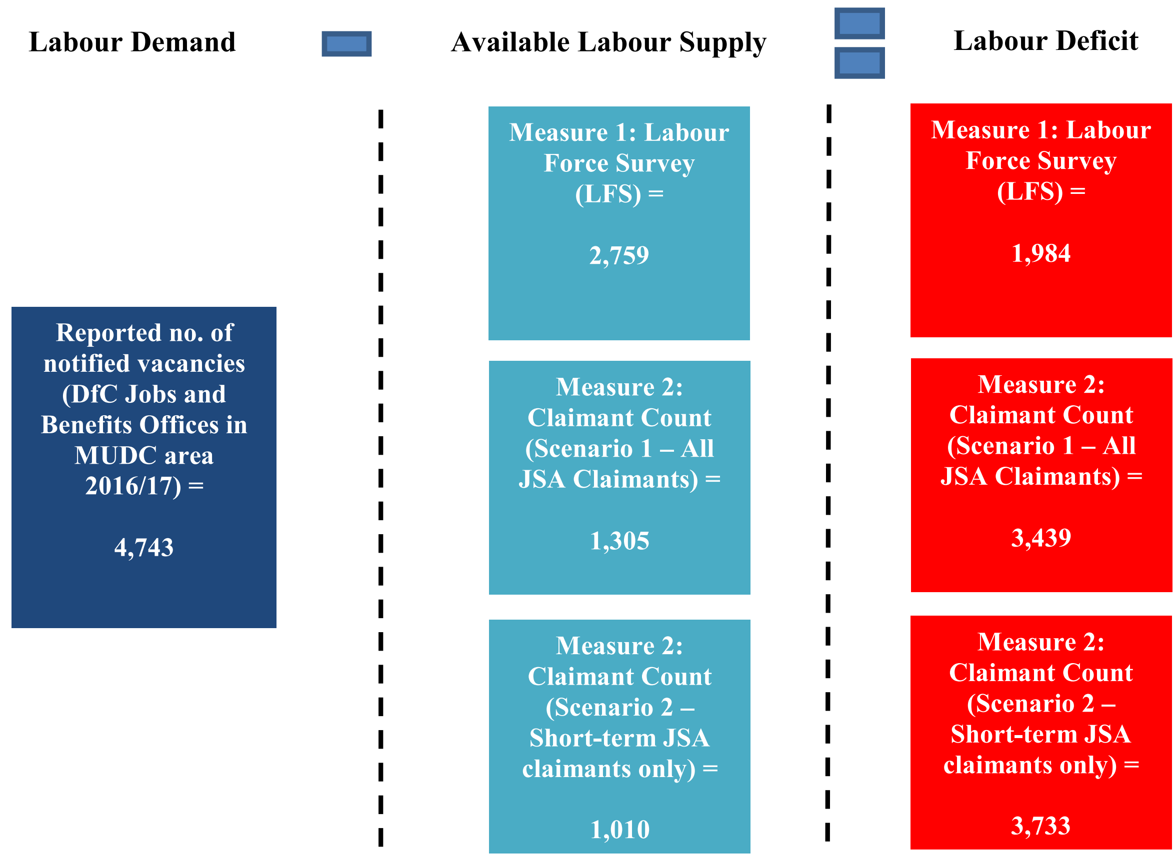
> The aim of the Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing Hub is to provide excellence in the development and delivery of engineering curriculum, skills support and innovation.
>
> The Hub will facilitate the delivery of high quality and consistent engineering curriculum and employer engagement across Northern Ireland and will build on existing capability and working relationships within the Colleges. Importantly, the Hub will not sit in isolation and will include links and integration with employers and engineering and advanced manufacturing initiatives across Northern Ireland, the UK and beyond.

2.3.4 *Staff Recruitment/Retention related Issues*

The importance of ready access to a highly qualified, skilled and motivated workforce cannot be over-stated. At a UK level, it is estimated that there is robust demand for labour but there is insufficient supply in many engineering sub-sectors. For example, the period April to June 2017 experienced the highest vacancy ratio in the engineering workforce since 2001, with 2.6 job vacancies for every 100 filled jobs[46].

Notwithstanding the aforementioned skills/qualification related issues, the Consultancy Team has estimated that there is, at the time of writing, a **deficit of available labour (across all sectors) within the Mid Ulster area**. This is depicted in the diagram below (further details are included in Appendix II):

Figure 2.2: Estimated Labour Deficit in the Mid Ulster area



[45] Following a competition exercise initiated by the Department for the Economy in June 2017.
[46] Source: ‘The state of engineering’ Annex document (Engineering UK, 2017).

Key points to note include:

- Depending on which measure is used (i.e. the LFS or claimant count data), it is estimated that the pool of available labour within the Mid Ulster area ranges from 1,010 to 2,759 individuals.
- However, given that there are, as a minimum, 4,743 job vacancies to be filled, there is a resultant **deficit of available labour within the Mid Ulster area,** estimated to range from 1,984 (if the LFS measure of unemployed is adopted) to 3,733 (if only short-term claimants of JSA are considered) individuals.
- Given that the measure of labour demand is solely those vacant positions that employers notify to Department for Communities (DfC)[47], there is potential that the actual 'unmet demand' for labour within the Mid Ulster area is in excess of the 4,743 stated above. Such a scenario would **exacerbate this calculated labour deficit**.
- Conserve to the above point, as per Appendix II, there is potential for a proportion of those who are classified as economically inactive to be encouraged to move into the active labour market. Such a scenario would potentially increase the labour supply in the Mid Ulster area and contribute towards reducing the labour deficit.
- The key finding seems to be that <u>**engineering businesses (like other sectors) in the Mid Ulster area are likely to be experiencing issues accessing prospective employees**</u>, given this deficit in the local labour market. Therefore, in the absence of significant net inflows of human resources into the area, any initiatives/interventions taken forward as part of this research study should, in the first instance, seek to attract external talent and residents to the Mid Ulster area.

2.3.5 Technological Changes/Advancements

The economy is changing. That is nothing new. New technologies replace the old, new occupations and jobs are created and others disappear.

Historical perspectives provide some comfort in relation to technological progress (such as automation) and its impact on society. Research[48] suggests that, for example, automation has, over recent years, increased productivity, which reduced average prices, making goods and services more affordable and freeing up cash for other purchases, thereby promoting consumption. Demand has increased for these products and individuals' quality of life and average income subsequently increased due to automation. Automation has been good for society in general, but at a micro level there are losers and government, through policy and decision-making, need to consider the best options.

Research[49] has estimated that 35% of all jobs within the UK are highly susceptible to automation within the next 10-15 years and that lower-paid jobs in industries that are often dependent on labour from outside the UK are the most likely to be affected. There are also suggestions[50] that demand for jobs becomes more 'U-shaped' with automation, for example:

- There is demand for lower skill occupations that cannot be automated e.g. service industries such as barbers, beauticians etc.;
- Mid-level skills, such as machine operatives etc., are more easily automated and demand is relatively lower;
- Highly skilled occupations that require strategy, thought leadership, conversational skills and persuasion are not easily automated and demand is relatively higher.

Whilst jobs may be at risk due to technological progress (such as automation), others will be created, potentially in occupations created by automation that do not yet exist.

[47] According to NISRA, it does not represent the total 'unmet demand' for staff by employers in Northern Ireland.
[48] Source: 2017 Knowledge Economy Report (Connect at Catalyst Inc., January 2018).
[49] Deloitte and Reform (2017) 'Citizens, Government and Business: The State of the State 2017-18'.
[50] Source: 2017 Knowledge Economy Report (Connect at Catalyst Inc., January 2018).

Since mass manufacturing and engineering began, many changes have been made in the way products are designed, engineered and manufactured. It has always been that a new technology offers both a remedy and a threat to manufacturing and engineering businesses. For example, the introduction of robotics within assembly lines creates a competitive advantage for those that invest and grasp the opportunity, but it is a competitive threat to those that remain reliant on manual labour.

An inability to access labour and skills has prompted some engineering businesses to, wherever possible, consider investing in automation. However, this option requires significant time and substantial capital expenditure. Given the current uncertainty around Brexit, the business case for technology investment does not stack up for many businesses. For example, it would seem irrational for an indigenous large business to invest more in automation in a local plant when potentially hefty tariffs may be imposed on their EU exports and, in addition, their domestic sales may not compete against products from low wage economies, where production standards are lower. Decisions to invest in automation, therefore, involve much more than mere feasibility.

Technological changes/advancements will play a central role in driving change in manufacturing and engineering. For example, they have the potential to enable:

- Mass personalisation of low-cost products, on demand;
- A much more distributed local and global production base, with manufacturing and engineering done much closer to the customer and greater diversity in factories of the future;
- 'Digitised' value chains, with digital connections between customers, manufacturers/engineers and suppliers increasing the speed and efficiency of manufacturing, and enhancing opportunities for international collaboration;
- Greater freedom of design;
- Delivery of innovative new products;
- Higher performance and more flexible manufacturing systems, delivering better quality and cost performance; and
- Better customisation of products and services ('customerisation').

Additionally, the importance of advanced materials in the manufacturing and engineering sector will continue to be a significant factor on competitiveness. Generally, advanced materials can aid improvements in productivity, quality and cost and in many cases these materials create opportunities for new product functionality and characteristics. For example, the use of composite materials (over traditional materials) within aircraft engineering and manufacture radically enhanced strength to weight ratios, along with the possibility of noise reduction.

Engineering businesses who learn how to make their products with less energy, water and raw materials than their competitors will be more resilient during likely periods of disruption. The market for technologies and knowledge that enable resource-efficient production is reportedly growing quickly[51] and the emergence of technologies/materials that will help businesses use less resource to deliver value (e.g. lightweight materials and products) are likely to become more widely available over the next two decades.

The new manufacturing and engineering environment will demand an extremely adaptive workforce, with fewer operatives and higher skilled people who will be constantly learning through academic/industry switchovers[52].

Planning for the future is key. It looks like society is on the cusp of another technological disruption, where big data, blockchain, artificial intelligence etc. change how individuals live their lives. The world is changing, and the engineering sector in the Mid Ulster area has no control over the pace of change.

[51] The Advanced Manufacturing, Materials & Engineering Report (MATRIX, November 2016).
[52] The Advanced Manufacturing, Materials & Engineering Report (MATRIX, November 2016).

This report considers how stakeholders in the Mid Ulster area need to think, act and educate now for the economy of the future.

2.3.6 *Rising Operating costs*

Like the skills/qualification related issues, rising operating costs for businesses is not unique to the engineering sector in the Mid Ulster area. Engineering businesses across Northern Ireland face several competitiveness challenges, such as higher transport and energy costs, which are inherent to its geographic position on the periphery of both the UK and Europe.

However, when taken together, cost increases associated with energy (electricity, gas and water), rent and rates, labour, raw materials (e.g. steel, zinc etc.), corporation tax, exchange rate fluctuations, logistics/transportation etc. present significant challenges to the engineering sector. There is a general acceptance that many of these cost increases fall outside the control of businesses and the Government within Northern Ireland.

Specific points to note include:

Energy (electricity, gas and water) costs	• While energy costs represent a significant outlay for most businesses, energy intensive industries such as manufacturing and engineering are particularly susceptible to cost increases. • Energy costs are highly dependent on global oil and gas prices, which can be very volatile. Furthermore, gas prices in Northern Ireland have been higher than the UK as a whole due to a lack of competition and the fact that the gas supply largely comes from Great Britain. • In general, energy costs in Northern Ireland (vis-à-vis other parts of GB) are much more erratic and prone to sharp fluctuations. For example, non-domestic electricity unit rates in Northern Ireland are one of the most expensive in Europe. • Research[53] indicates that large unit cost differentials with the Republic of Ireland are considered to be a specific threat to the competitiveness of engineering businesses in Northern Ireland.
Logistics/ Transportation costs	• Given Northern Ireland's geographic location, logistics/transportation costs, for both raw materials and finished products, are a significant outlay for many engineering businesses. • In the domestic market, Northern Ireland's engineering businesses (vis-à-vis Great Britain based businesses) are faced with additional costs, which may be exacerbated if their supply chain and final market is based in Great Britain. • This, therefore, has the potential to impact on the competitiveness of Northern Ireland businesses.
Business rates	• Business rates are a form of tax on a commercial property that are not linked to, nor are they informed by, the value of the goods or services produced by a business. • Research[54] suggests that business rates in Northern Ireland are the lowest in the UK. In addition, premises occupied and used for manufacturing/engineering purposes may qualify for industrial de-rating, which involves a business only paying 30% of the established business rate. This further reduces the overall costs associated with business rates. • However, there remains uncertainty as to whether 'industrial de-rating' will remain in place in Northern Ireland moving forward. If it was to be abolished, there would likely be increased costs for a business, potentially impacting on their competitiveness.
Raw materials costs	• Certain sub-sectors within the engineering sector (e.g. 'manufacture of basic metals' and 'manufacture of fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment') are highly dependent on the cost of raw materials such as steel, zinc, timber, aluminium etc. Volatility in the price of these raw materials can impact on a business' performance and competitiveness.

[53] 'Northern Ireland's Manufacturing: The Engine of Prosperity' (Oxford Economics on behalf Manufacturing NI, 2016).
[54] 'Northern Ireland's Manufacturing: The Engine of Prosperity' (Oxford Economics on behalf Manufacturing NI, 2016).

3. SECTOR PROFILE

3.1 Introduction

This section of the report provides a detailed overview of the engineering sector in the Mid Ulster District Council area. Data presented in the following sub-sections has been drawn from:

- In-depth face-to-face consultations with senior personnel in 15 businesses;
- In-depth telephone consultations with 61 businesses; and
- Findings from an online survey, of which there were 9 respondents.

Full details on the methodology employed and further comprehensive analysis is included in Appendix IV.

3.2 Business Location

The 532 engineering businesses operating in the Mid Ulster District Council area, along with the 85 businesses that participated in the research, are profiled below by geographic area, using the legacy Council areas of Cookstown, Magherafelt and Dungannon[55]. The table illustrates that over half (55%, N=532 and 52%, N=85) of the businesses were located in the Dungannon area, whilst nearly a third (28%, N=532 and 32%, N=85) were located in the Magherafelt area.

Table 3.1: Profile by Business Location

Location	Total businesses in the MUDC area		Research Sample[56]	
	No.	%	No.	%
Dungannon	291	55%	44	52%
Magherafelt	148	28%	27	32%
Cookstown	93	17%	14	16%
Total	**532**	**100%**	**85**	**100%**

3.3 Businesses by Sub-Sector

The 532 engineering businesses operating in the Mid Ulster District Council area, along with the 115[57] businesses that participated in this research, were disaggregated by SIC 2007 Division Codes (as per the agreed definition of the sector for the purposes of this study outlined in Appendix I). Whilst full details are included in Appendix IV, key points to note include:

- A fifth (20%, N=451[58]) of the businesses in the sector fall within the **'Manufacture of fabricated metal products, expect machinery and equipment' sub-sector**, of which two-thirds (66%, N=88) fall within the following two divisions:
    - Manufacture of metal structures and parts of structures (39%, N=88); and
    - Manufacture of other fabricated metal products (27%, N=88).

[55] On 1st April 2015, as part of Local Government Reform, Cookstown District Council, Magherafelt District Council and Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council merged to form the new Mid Ulster District Council.
[56] Please note, all the businesses consulted with are headquartered in the Mid Ulster Council area.
[57] Please note, during the primary research, an additional 30 businesses who were contacted (but who did not want to participate in the survey) were willing to provide the Consultancy Team with their SIC 2007 Division Code and the total number of employees within their business. Therefore, this question is based on 115 business respondents, rather than 85.
[58] Please note, the Consultancy Team were unable to identify SIC 2007 Division Codes for 81 businesses.

- A similar proportion (17%, N=451) of the businesses fall within the **'Manufacture of machinery and equipment'** sub-sector, of which nearly two-fifths (58%, N=75) fall within the following three divisions:

  - Manufacture of 'other' special-purpose machinery (31%, N=75);
  - Manufacture of equipment for concrete crushing and screening roadworks (15%, N=75); and
  - Manufacture of lifting and handling equipment (12%, N=75).

- Further analysis indicates that nearly two-thirds (63%, N=163) of the businesses that fall within these two sub-sectors[59] are located within the Dungannon area. This supports the Council's assertion that sub-sectors of the engineering sector generally cluster together in certain localities within the Mid Ulster area.

3.4 Size of Business

The profile of participant businesses by employment size is illustrated below. In total, nearly all (95%, N=115)[60] of the businesses within the sector are categorised as small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) i.e. fewer than 250 employees. This is broadly comparable to the Council area as a whole, whereby almost all (99%, N=8,505) of the businesses registered are categorised as SMEs[61].

Table 3.2: Participant Profile by Business Size

Business size	**Research Sample**	
	No.	**%**
Micro (9 or fewer employees)	75	65%
Small (10-49 employees)	20	17%
Medium (50-249 employees)	15	13%
Large (250+ employees)	5	5%
Total	**115**	**100%**

3.5 Business Operations

Whilst full details are included in Appendix IV, key points to note in relation to businesses operations include:

- Nearly all (99%, N=85) of the business respondents indicated that their business operated at least 5 days per week, typically Monday to Friday. Over a third (35%, N=85) of the businesses respondents typically operated more than 5 days per week, with these businesses suggesting that, depending on the needs of their customers/clients, they typically operate on a Saturday or Sunday (for a half day) in order to meet increases in demand.
- Over a third (36%, N=85) of the business respondents suggested that they typically operate 13+ hours per day. Discussion with smaller businesses indicates they typically work into the evenings (from 8am to 9pm) to meet the needs of their customers/clients.

[59] 'Manufacture of fabricated metal products, expect machinery and equipment' (29%, N=163) and 'Manufacture of machinery and equipment' (34%, N=163).
[60] Please note, during the primary research, an additional 30 businesses who were contacted (but who did not want to participate in the survey) were willing to provide the Consultancy Team with the total number of employees within their business. Therefore, this question is based on 115 business respondents, rather than 85.
[61] NISRA (2018) 'Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR)'. Figures as at 31st January 2018.

3.6 Employment and Employee Profile

3.6.1 Current Employment Position

In total, the 85[62] businesses that participated in the research stated that, as of 2018, they had 4,240 employees based in Northern Ireland, of which 3,901 (92%) were based within the Council area. The 85 respondents indicated that the 3,901 Mid Ulster area employees equate to 3,737 FTE (full-time equivalent) positions, indicating that most of the jobs referred to in this research are full-time positions.

Table 3.3: Numbers of Employees by location	
	Numbers of employees (2018) (N=85)
In Northern Ireland	4,240
In the MUDC area	**3,901**
Of those:	
No. of FTEs	3,737[63]
No. Agency/Contract Workers	228

A comparison of the 3,901 Mid Ulster area employees is presented below, along with the estimated number of employee jobs in the Council area overall and within the engineering sector[64]. The analysis indicates that the engineering sector represents over a fifth (21%, N=50156) of the MUDC employee jobs.

Table 3.4: Number of employee jobs						
MUDC Employee Jobs - Total		**MUDC Employee Jobs - Engineering Sector only**		**MUDC Employee Jobs - Research Sample**	**% of MUDC Employee Jobs - Engineering Sector**	**Confidence interval level**
No.	**%**	**No.**	**%**			
50,156	100%	10,740	21%	3,901	36%	+/- 1.25%

The also analysis indicates that the businesses that participated in the research account for over a third (36%) of the employee jobs within the engineering sector in the Mid Ulster area. Given the population (N=10,740) and sample size (N=3,901), the confidence interval (based on a 95% confidence level) is +/-1.25%.

3.6.2 Current Employment by Gender, Standard Occupation Classification and Salary

Whilst full details are included in Appendix IV, key points to note in relation to the gender, jobs roles[65] and salary of employees in the engineering sector in the Mid Ulster area include:

- Across the business respondents, over four-fifths (87%, N=3,059[66]) of all employees in the sector were male. This compares with an overall working-age male population in the MUDC area of 51%[67]. The clear gender imbalance perhaps points to some potential solutions to address some of the issues faced by engineering businesses in the area.

[62] Please note, whilst the Consultancy Team obtained details on the total number of employees within 115 businesses (as per Section 3.4), further details on the breakdown of that employment was only available for the 85 businesses that participated in the research.
[63] Please note, 2 businesses (with a total of 91 MUDC employees) did not provide a breakdown of the number of staff which are full-time or part-time.
[64] Source: NISRA Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) 2015. Please note, the sample sizes in the 2016 BRES were too small to enable sectoral analysis.
[65] Standard Occupational Classification 2010 (as per ONS Labour Market Statistics) based on the OECD International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO).
[66]Please note, 10 respondents (with a total of 842 employees) could not provide a breakdown of their staff by gender.
[67] Northern Ireland Mid Year Population Estimates for Northern Ireland (2016).

- The gender imbalance is more pronounced in some job roles in the engineering sector than others. For example:

  - ‘Skilled trade’ workers (e.g. Welders, Electricians, IT Engineers etc.) are over-represented by 46% towards males. It is noted that nearly two-fifths (39%, N=3,381[68]) of all workers were reported as being in this category.
  - ‘Process, Plant & Machine Operatives’ workers are over-represented by 40% towards males. It is noted that a third (33%, N=3,381) of all workers were reported as being in this category.
  - ‘Caring, Leisure & Other Service’ and ‘Admin/ Secretarial’ workers are over-represented by females (51% and 13% respectively).

- On average, over three-quarters (78%, N=3,059) of the employees within the engineering sector receive salaries above the Northern Ireland ‘Manufacturing’ sector median[69], which equates to £21,180 per annum[70]. Nearly all (90%+) of the employees in the following roles received salaries above the Northern Ireland ‘Manufacturing’ sector median:

  - **Managers, Directors and Senior Officials** (e.g. Production/ Financial / Marketing Managers etc.)
  - **Associate Professional/ Technician** (e.g. Production or Accounting Technicians, Sales/Marketing Executives etc.)
  - **Professional Services** (e.g. Engineers, IT Professionals, Legal, Accountants, Quality Control etc.); and
  - **Skilled Trade** (e.g. Welders, Electricians, IT Engineers etc.).

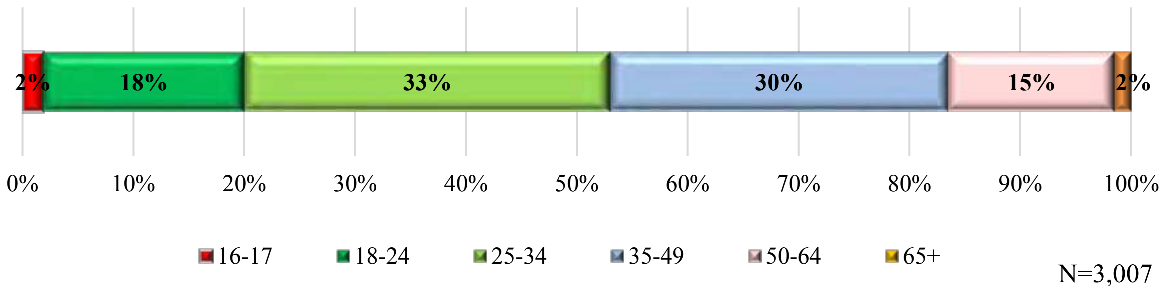
- Of note, discussion with businesses indicates that employee salaries in the sector have increased significantly of recent years, particularly amongst those employed in various ‘skilled trade’ roles e.g. welders. It was cited that a highly competitive and small local labour market has created an *“employee market”*, which has necessitated salary increases in order to retain existing, or to attract new, staff.

3.6.3 *Profile of Staff by Age Group*[71]

The chart below illustrates that the engineering sector in the Mid Ulster area has a particularly strong representation amongst young people (aged 18-34 years old) when compared with the overall profile in the Mid Ulster area (51%, N=3,007[72] versus 35%, N=96,660 respectively). Whilst this is encouraging in many respects, it may also signal a key factor in the recruitment issues facing those same businesses. That is, they may well have maximised much of the available opportunity to recruit from that pool of individuals.

[68] Please note, 1 business (with a total of 520 employees) was unable to provide a breakdown of the gender split of their workforce or the number of employees above the private sector median.
[69] The NI ‘Manufacturing’ sector median includes all basic pay relating to the pay period, before deductions for PAYE, National Insurance, pension schemes and voluntary deductions. It includes paid leave, maternity pay and sick pay, but excludes bonuses or incentive pay, any overtime pay, travel and subsistence expenses etc.)
[70] Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (2017) by industry, Table 5, Tab 3, Rows 349-461. Further details are included in Appendix II.
[71] As per ONS Labour Market Statistics Age Groupings.
[72] Please note, 5 businesses (with a total of 894 employees) could not provide a breakdown of staff by age group.

Figure 3.1: Profile of Staff by Age Group (N=3,007)

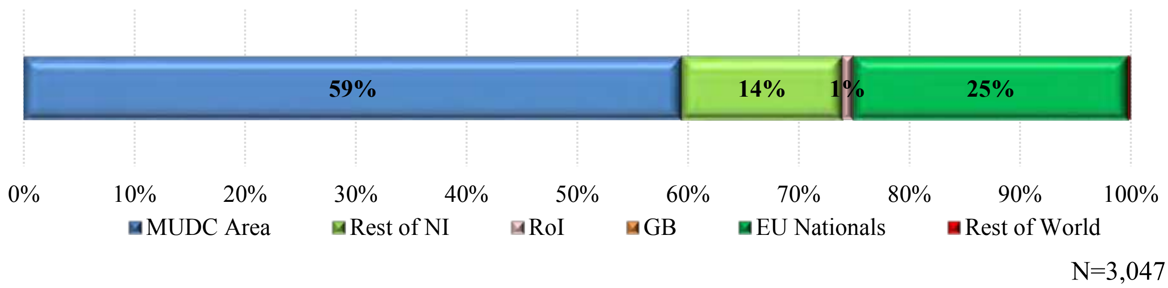


3.6.4 *Origin of Workforce*

The analysis below illustrates that the business respondents draw heavily upon the Council area's local population for their workforce, with respondents suggesting that over half (59%, N=3,047[73]) of their workforce originally came from the Council area.

Given that a quarter (25%, N=3,047) of the workforce within the sector originally came from elsewhere in the EU (other than the UK or the Republic of Ireland), businesses indicated that the uncertainty associated with the UK's decision to leave the EU (i.e. Brexit) may have a significant impact on their business operations, whereby restrictions may be placed on businesses ability to access EU27 Nationals as employees. For example, during consultation, one business cited that the proportion of its workforce that were EU nationals decreased from 80% to 54% in recent times due to the uncertainty associated with Brexit.

Figure 3.2: Profile of MUDC Staff by original geographic origin (N=3,047)

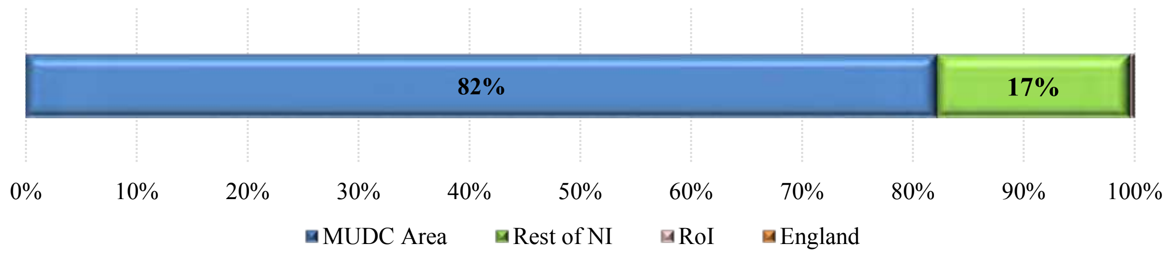


3.6.5 *Profile of Staff by Travel to Work*

The chart below illustrates that over four-fifths (82%, N=3,047[74]) of the business respondents' employees typically travel to work from within the Mid Ulster area. During consultation, several business respondents cited that prospective employees are typically unwilling to commute far to get to work. For example, one respondent cited that they had previously offered employment to individuals located/residing in the greater Belfast area. However, their offers were subsequently declined, primarily due to the daily commute to work that would be required.

[73] Please note, 4 businesses (with a total of 854 employees) did not provide a response to this question.
[74] Please note, 4 businesses (with a total of 854 employees) did not provide a response to this question.

Figure 3.3: Profile of where MUDC staff typically travel to work from (N=3,047)



N=3,047

Key points to note in relation to the average travel to work times (in minutes) for business respondents' employees (which were grouped by: Managers, Directors, Senior Officials and Professional Services Workers[75]; and Process, Plant and Machine Operatives, Skilled Trade Workers etc[76].) include[77]:

- Nearly half (46%, N=714) of those employees in jobs roles categorised as Managers, Directors, Senior Officials and Professional Services Workers typically travel more than 30 minutes to work. Discussion with businesses indicates that, in the main, these employees receive higher salaries, which is evident by the fact that nearly all (90%+) of these employees (with the exception of those in roles categorised as 'Admin/Secretarial') receive salaries above the Northern Ireland 'Manufacturing' sector median (of £21,180 per annum).
- Conversely, nearly all 93% (N=1,799) of those employees in jobs roles categorised as Process, Plant and Machine Operatives, Skilled Trade Workers typically travel less than 30 minutes to work, whilst nearly three quarters (73%, N=1,799) typically travel less than 20 minutes to work. Larger proportions (25%+) of these employees (with the exception of those in roles categorised as 'Skilled Trade Workers' e.g. welders) receive salaries below the Northern Ireland 'Manufacturing' sector median.
- These findings suggest that, on average, higher salaries seem to be acting as an incentive for employees to travel further for work.

3.6.6 *Profile of Staff by level of qualification*

Those business that participated in the research were asked to provide details on the qualification levels of their existing employees, which were then aligned with the Qualifications Frameworks and the main stages of education/employment, as set out in Appendix IV.

Key points to note in relation to the qualification levels of employees in the engineering sector in the Mid Ulster area include:

- Nearly two-thirds (61%, N=2,650) of the business respondents' employees have obtained qualifications up to, and including, Level 3. During consultation, businesses suggested that these employees are typically in roles (e.g. admin/secretarial roles, sales and customer service assistants etc.) that require more **employability skills** (e.g. general skills attributes such as good work ethic, flexibility etc. and/or people and personal skills such as ability to manage own time and prioritise tasks, team working etc.) rather than specific **professional or technical qualifications**.
- Less than a quarter (23%, N=2,650) of the business respondents' employees have obtained qualifications up to, and including, Level 6 i.e. a minimum of a Bachelor's Degree or equivalent. During consultation, businesses suggested that these employees are typically in roles such as Managers, Accountants, IT Professionals, Marketing Executives etc., which generally command, as previously highlighted, salaries above the NI 'Manufacturing' median salary.

[75] Please note, this takes into account the following SOC job role categories: 'Managers, Directors and Senior Officials', 'Other Professional Services workers', 'associate professional and technical workers' and 'administrative and secretarial workers'.
[76] Please note, this takes into account the following SOC job role categories: 'Skilled trader workers', 'Caring, Leisure and Other Service Workers', 'Sales and Customer Service Workers', 'Process, Plant and Machine Operatives' and 'Elementary Workers'.
[77] Please note, 6 businesses representing 1,388 MUDC jobs did not provide an answer to this question.

3.6.7 Profile of Staff by Shift versus Non-Shift Workers[78]

The analysis indicates that few (12%, N=3,290[79]) of the business respondents' employees are classified as shift workers. During consultation, businesses suggested that their shift workers are involved in different aspects of production (e.g. machine operatives) that operate throughout the day and week. However, unlike sectors such as the retail and hospitality sectors, and to a lesser extent, the food and agri-food sector, shift workers are not that widespread.

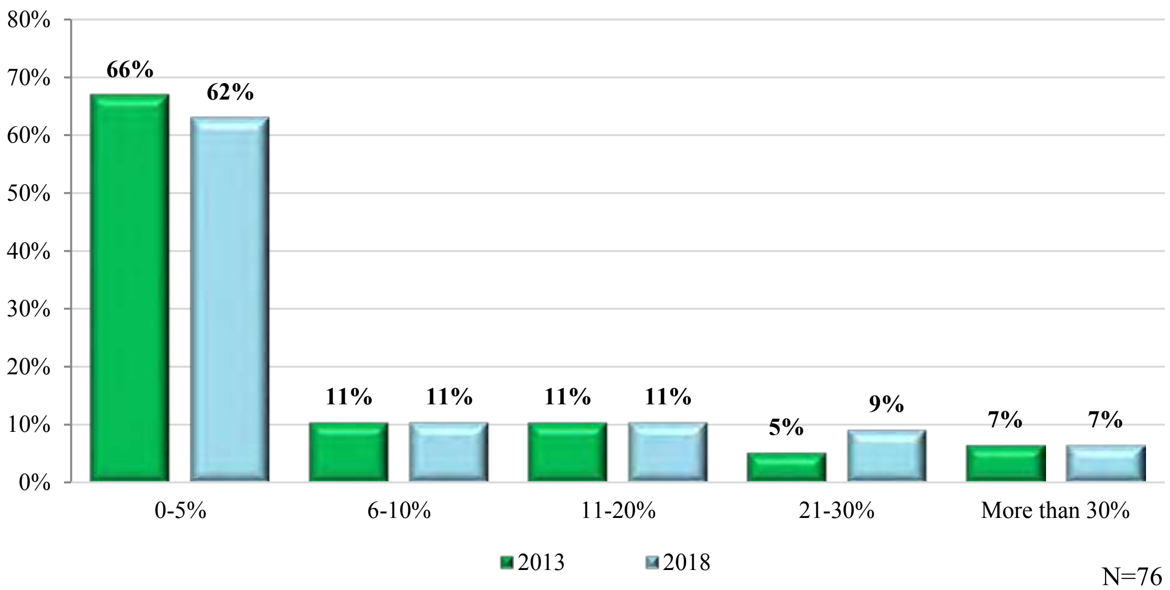
3.6.8 Annual Rate of Staff Turnover

Whilst it is positive that nearly three-quarters (73%, N=76[80]) of the business respondents indicated that their annual rate of staff turnover[81] was, as of 2018, 10% or less, this represents a marginal decrease (of 4 percentage points) in the number of businesses that reported the same levels in 2013.

Furthermore, as is illustrated in the graph overleaf, nearly a fifth (16%, N=76) of the business respondents indicated that their staff turnover was, as of 2018, greater than 20%. Of note, this represents a marginal increase (of 4 percentage points) in the number of businesses that reported the same levels in 2013. These respondents indicated that a number of interrelated issues have contributed to this position:

- A small local labour pool; resulting in
- Strong wage competition;
- Individuals being asked to operate in roles within which they are not proficient and being required to work regular overtime; and
- Low staff morale.

Figure 3.4: Annual rate of staff turnover (N=76)



N=76

[78] A shift worker is defined as any worker whose work schedule is part of shift work, with shift work defined as *"any method of organising work in shifts whereby workers succeed each other at the same workstation s according to a certain pattern, including a rotating pattern, and which be continuous or discontinuous, entailing the need for workers to work at different times over a given period of days or weeks"*. Statutory Instruments 1998 No. 1833 'Terms and Conditions of Employment: The Working Time Regulations 1998' (UK Government Employment Legislation).

[79] Please note, 3 businesses (with a total of 611 employees) did not provide a response to this question.

[80] Please note, 7 businesses where not trading in 2013 and 2 businesses were unable to provide a staff turnover figure for 2013.

[81] i.e. the percentage of staff who leave each year as a proportion of the total employees.

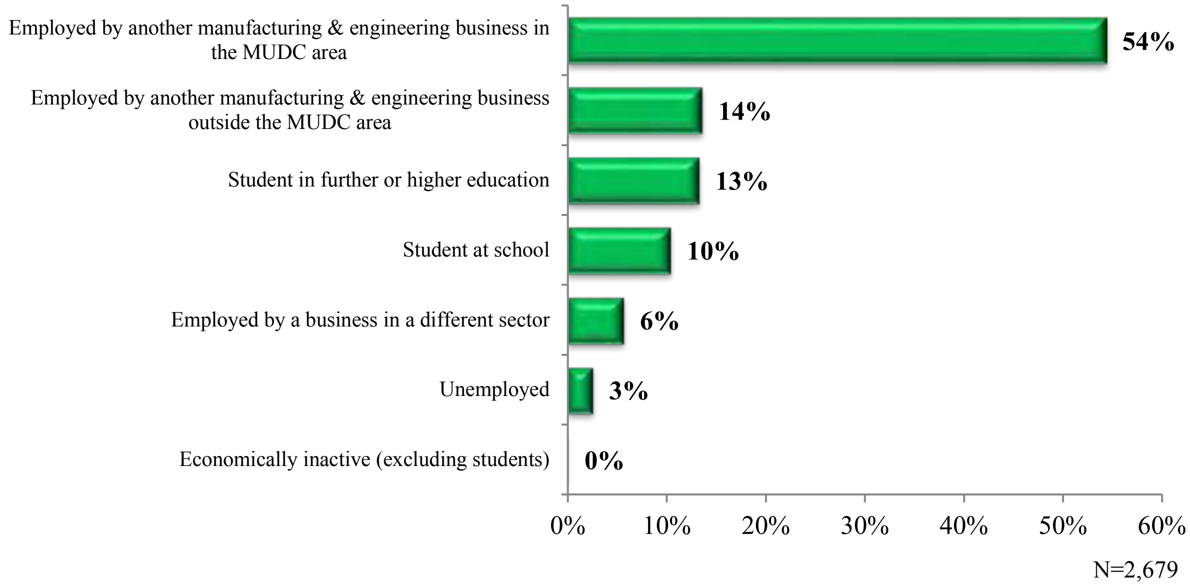
3.6.9 Employment status of staff prior to joining the business

Those business that participated in the research were asked to provide details on the employment status of their employees immediately prior to joining the business.

Over half (54%, N=2,679[82]) of the business respondents' employees were previously employed by another manufacturing and engineering business in the Mid Ulster area prior to joining their business. During consultation, businesses again cited that the small and competitive local labour market resulted in businesses recruiting staff directly from other businesses operating in the engineering sector in the area.

There were very few employees that were either economically inactive (0%, N=2,679) or unemployed (3%, N=2,679) immediately prior to joining the business that participated in this research. This provides some indication that there is potential to support, where possible, more individuals to move from economic inactivity and unemployment into employment in the sector within the Council area.

Figure 3.5: Employment status of staff prior to joining the business (N=2,679)



3.6.10 Businesses Recruitment methods

The analysis indicates that nearly half (47%, N=83[83]) of the business respondents typically use local newspapers (e.g. Mail Ulster Mail, Dungannon Herald, Tyrone Times, Tyrone courier etc.) when advertising for positions/vacancies, whilst over two-fifths (41%, N=83) use social media channels such as LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook etc.

Of note, few businesses use regional newspapers e.g. Belfast Telegraph, Irish News, Newsletter etc. (13%, N=83) and/or online portal such as nijobs.com, jobcentreonline etc. (25%, N=83) as methods/channels when seeking to advertise for positions/vacancies. Given that the local labour market is considered to be small and competitive, this perhaps indicates that businesses should be seeking to draw upon a wider pool of talent. As such, any initiatives/interventions taken forward as part of this Action Plan should, in the first instance, seek to attract external talent and residents to the Mid Ulster area.

---

[82] Please note, 3 businesses (with a total of 611 employees) did not provide a response to this question. Also, a number of businesses were unable to provide details on the employment status of some of their staff (equating to a total of 611 employees) prior to joining the business.
[83] Please note, two businesses that completed an online survey did not provide a response to this question.

The analysis also indicates that the larger businesses within the engineering sector tend to use recruitment agencies, but only when seeking to fill senior job roles (such as a production manager, accountant, IT professional etc.). In all other cases, the substantial recruitment fees sought by these agencies generally deters businesses from using them.

3.7 Summary Conclusions

The previous analysis shows that:

- Nearly two-fifths (37%) of the businesses in the engineering sector fall within the 'Manufacture of fabricated metal products, expect machinery and equipment' and 'Manufacture of machinery and equipment' sub-sectors.
- There is a notable clustering of engineering businesses in the Dungannon area, particularly amongst those businesses that fall within the two main sub-sectors.
- Nearly all the businesses within the sector are categorised as SMEs, which is broadly reflective of the Council area as a whole.
- In total, the businesses that participated in the research stated that, as of 2018, they had 4,240 employees based in Northern Ireland, of which 3,901 (92%) were based within the Council area.
- Across the businesses, over four-fifths (87%) of all employees in the sector were male. This compares with an overall working-age male population in the Council area of 51%. The gender imbalance is more pronounced in some job roles in the engineering sector than others e.g. 'Skilled trade' workers such as Welders, Electricians, IT Engineers etc. and 'Process, Plant & Machine Operatives' workers.
- Whilst the overall workforce in the Council area receives salaries that are lower than their counterparts working in other Council areas across Northern Ireland (per Appendix II), on average, over three-quarters (78%) of the employees within the engineering sector receive salaries above the Northern Ireland 'Manufacturing' sector median, which equates to £21,180 per annum.
- Employee salaries in the sector have increased significantly of recent years, particularly amongst those employed in various 'skilled trade' roles e.g. welders. A highly competitive and small local labour market has created an *"employee market"*, which has necessitated salary increases in order to retain existing, or to attract new, staff.
- The engineering sector in the Mid Ulster area has a particularly strong representation amongst young people (aged 18-34 years old) when compared with the overall profile in the Mid Ulster area.
- Whilst engineering businesses draw heavily upon the Council area's local population for their workforce, a quarter (25%) of the workforce within the sector originally came from elsewhere in the EU (other than the UK or the Republic of Ireland). The uncertainty associated with the UK's decision to leave the EU (i.e. Brexit) may have a significant impact on business' operations, whereby restrictions may be placed on businesses ability to access EU27 Nationals as employees.
- Over four-fifths (82%) of the business respondents' employees typically travel to work from within the Mid Ulster area. On average, higher salaries seem to be acting as an incentive for employees to travel further for work.
- Nearly a fifth (16%) of the businesses indicated that their staff turnover was, as of 2018, greater than 20%. A number of interrelated issues have reportedly contributed to this position:

  - A small local labour pool; resulting in
  - Strong wage competition;
  - Individuals being asked to operate in roles within which they are not proficient and being required to work regular overtime; and
  - Low staff morale.

4. PROSPECTS FOR GROWTH AND SUPPORT REQUIRED

4.1 Introduction

This section provides details of business respondents' views on:

- Their prospects for growth, in terms of turnover/sales and employment;
- The specific issues/barriers that are inhibiting the growth of the sector and their business;
- The types of support that they require to assist their future growth; and
- Collaborative/partnership activities that they have been, or might be, involved in.

Please note, full analysis is included in Appendix IV.

4.2 Prospects for Growth

4.2.1 Introduction

To gain an understanding of the prospects for growth of the engineering sector in the Mid Ulster area, those businesses that participated in the primary research were asked a series of questions relating to:

- The annual turnover/sales of their Mid Ulster Council based business in 2013, 2018 and what the business anticipates it to be in 5 years' time (by 2023), by market[84] and by sector;
- The number of employees in their Mid Ulster Council based business in 2013, 2018 and what they anticipate the number to be in 5 years' time (by 2023); and
- Their current business operations (i.e. days per week and hours per day the business is operating) and whether these will change over the next 5 years.

4.2.2 Anticipated Sales/Turnover Growth

Turnover/Sales - Overall

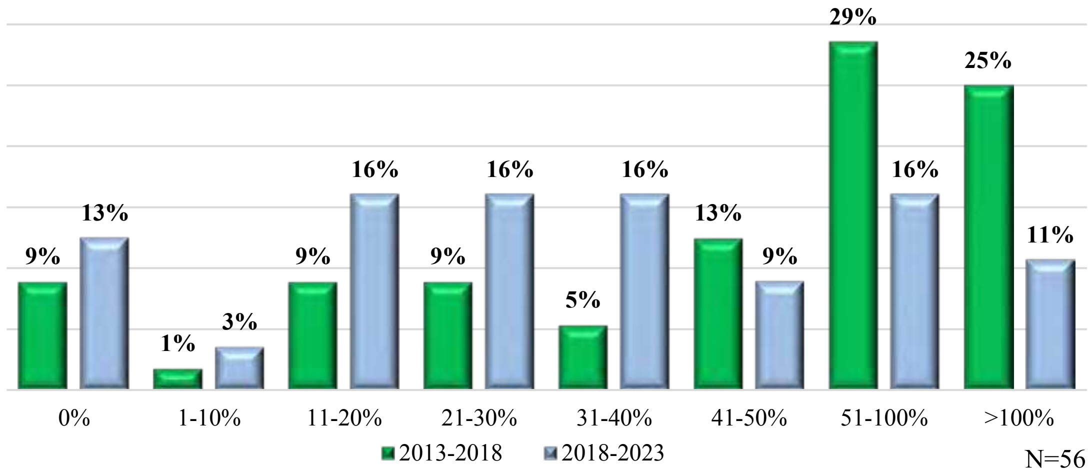
Positively, nearly all (91%, N=56[85]) of the business respondents indicated that their turnover/sales had increased between 2013 to 2018. Of note, over half (54%, N=56) indicated that their turnover had grown by at least 50% during the last five-years, of which, nearly half (47%, N=30) demonstrated turnover/sales of over 100% i.e. more than double their turnover/sales figures.

Over four fifths (87%, N=56) of the business respondents anticipate that their turnover/sales will increase between 2018 to 2023, which represents a marginal decrease (of 4 percentage points) amongst those businesses that anticipate some level of growth in their turnover/sales over the five-year period.

Further analysis indicates that the rate of turnover/sales growth amongst businesses for the 2018-2023 period is anticipated to be slower than the actual rate demonstrated during the preceding five-year period (i.e. 2013-2018). For example, over a quarter (27%, N=56) of the business respondents indicated that they anticipate their turnover to grow by at least 50% during the next five-years, which represents a significant decrease (of 27 percentage points) amongst those businesses that demonstrated the same levels of turnover/sales over the preceding five-year period. Furthermore, a smaller proportion (11%, N=56) anticipate that they will achieve turnover/sales growth of over 100%. Again, this represents a decrease (of 14 percentage points) amongst those businesses that demonstrated the same levels of turnover/sales over the preceding five-year period.

[84] MUDC area; Rest of NI; RoI; GB (England, Scotland and Wales); EU; and Rest of World.
[85] Please note, 9 businesses were unable to forecast 2023 turnover figures, 8 businesses were not trading in 2013, 9 businesses would not disclose their turnover and 3 businesses were unable to provide 2013 turnover figures.

Figure 4.1: Business turnover/sales growth (N=56)



In summary, whilst businesses' turnover/sales within the engineering sector in the Mid Ulster area is anticipated to grow over the 2018-2023 period, the analysis indicates that the levels of overall growth are anticipated to be slower than the previous five-year period i.e. 2013-2018.

Turnover/Sales – by Geographical Market

Notwithstanding that the levels of overall growth in the engineering sector in the Mid Ulster area are anticipated to be slower in 2018-2023 (vis-à-vis 2013-2018 levels), key points to note in relation to the geographical markets which businesses sell their products/services into include:

- In 2018, less than a quarter (23%, N=64[86]) of the business respondents reported having sales in EU markets. However, despite the uncertainty associated with the UK's decision to leave the EU i.e. Brexit, over a third (34%, N=64) anticipate having some level of sales in EU markets in 2023. This represents a decrease (of 11 percentage points) amongst those businesses that had no sales (0%) in EU markets in 2018.
- The businesses that participated in this research indicated that they will, as of 2023, be marginally more reliant on the GB (England, Scotland and Wales) and, to a lesser extent, the Republic of Ireland markets for their sales/turnover. For instance, over half (58%, N=64) anticipate having some levels of sales in GB markets in 2023. This represents a decrease (of 10 percentage points) amongst those businesses that had no sales (0%) in GB markets in 2018.

Turnover/Sales – by Sector

Key points to note in relation to the sectors which businesses sell their products/services into include:

- In 2018, nearly a third (32%, N=65[87]) of the business respondents reported that 75%+ of their sales were within the engineering sector. Moving forward, the businesses anticipate that they will be marginally (3 percentage points) more reliant on the sector for their sales, with over a third (35%, N=65[88]) of them anticipating that, by 2023, 75%+ of their sales will be within the sector.

[86] Please note, 13 businesses could not forecast 2023 turnover/sales and 8 businesses would not disclose their 2018 or 2023 turnover/sales.
[87] Please note, 12 businesses were unable to forecast 2023 turnover/sales and 8 businesses would not disclose their 2018/2023 turnover/sales.
[88] Please note, 12 businesses were unable to forecast 2023 turnover/sales and 8 businesses would not disclose their 2018/2023 turnover/sales.

- Further analysis suggests that the larger/more influential engineering businesses within the area are key customers for some of the smaller businesses in the sector. Discussion with these smaller businesses indicates that they may be overexposed to a single industry/sector i.e. the engineering sector.
- Over a quarter (28%, N=75[89]) of the businesses indicated that at least 50% of their sales are (as of 2018) represented by their single largest customer. A business serving a small number of larger customers has a higher customer concentration than a business where a large number of smaller-volume customers account for the majority of its business. Businesses with high customer concentration may expose them to the following risks:

  - Fluctuations in the macro/micro economy;
  - Pressure from their business' and/or their customer's competition;
  - Downward pricing pressure from the customer, which may result in decreased profits and cash flow;
  - When prospective buyers, lenders or investors assess a business' value or performance, high customer concentration can be viewed negatively. Overdependence on too few customers can lower the value of a business.

- The analysis suggests that some businesses within the engineering sector in the Mid Ulster area could potentially take steps to diversify and spread risk across more customers and possibly more business segments or sectors/industries.

4.2.3 Anticipated Employment Growth

The 85 business respondents were asked to quantify their business' employment growth. A small number of the respondents did not feel sufficiently informed to answer this question[90]. However, 69 of the 85 businesses indicated the following:

- In total, during the 5 years to 2018, employment within their business had increased by 46% (from 1,944 employees in their Mid Ulster Council based business in 2013 to 2,836 employees at present). This equates to a compound annual growth rate of 7.85%.
- In the context of their businesses' recent performance and current or anticipated changes in the marketplace, those same 69 businesses projected that their Mid Ulster Council based business' employment would likely increase by 19% (539 jobs) over the 5 years to 2023 (or a compound annual growth rate of 3.54%).
- **In summary, whilst businesses' employment within the engineering sector in the Mid Ulster area is anticipated to grow over the 2018-2023 period (at a compound rate of 3.54%), the analysis indicates that the levels of overall growth are anticipated to be slower than the previous five-year period i.e. 2013-2018 (at a compound rate of 7.85%).**
- Further discussion with these businesses indicates that, in the main, they considered recruitment/retention related issues are having an impact upon their business' growth and performance.
- A further point to note is that some businesses (N=11) employ, and anticipate continuing to employ, agency workers to make up a small proportion of their workforce. Indeed, during consultation, one business suggested that it currently has 15 agency staff within its workforce and, due to the recruitment/retention related issues that its faces, it anticipates continuing to have the same number of agency workers within its business in 2023.

[89] Please note, 7 businesses did not know the answer to this question, 2 businesses would not disclose this information and 1 business is to be confirmed and therefore has been excluded.
[90] Please note, 10 businesses were unable to forecast/recall their employment for 2023/2013 and 6 businesses were not trading in 2013.

Table 4.1: Employment growth					
	2013 (actuals)	**2018 (actuals)**	**% change from 2013 to 2018**	**2023 (projected)**	**% change from 2018 to 2023**
Within Northern Ireland	2,024	2,952	**46%**	3,540	**20%**
Within the Mid Ulster area	1,944	2,836	**46%**	3,375	**19%**
No. Agency/Contract Workers (N=11)	25	33	**32%**	34	**3%**

In addition, if the estimated 539 new jobs anticipated to be created over the 5 years to 2023 is 'grossed up' to the entire business population (i.e. by a factor of circa 3[91]), this equates to the potential creation of approximately 1,497 new jobs by 2023 within the engineering sector in the Mid Ulster area.

The Consultancy Team recognises that the projected employment figures provided by businesses are subject to 'respondents' effect'. That is, business respondent may have exaggerated (in an upwards direction) their projected employment growth. That being the case, for prudence the Consultancy Team, in agreement with the Council, applied a 50% optimism bias sensitivity to the potential employment creation reported by businesses. Under this sensitivity, this equates to the potential creation of approximately **749 new jobs by 2023 within the engineering sector in the Mid Ulster area**.

However, such a position will be significantly constrained given the previously identified estimated labour deficit in the Council area, which ranges from 1,984 persons (if the Labour Force Survey measure of unemployed is adopted) to 3,733 (if only short-term claimants of Job Seekers Allowance benefits are considered).

4.2.4 *Future Business Operations*

Nearly a fifth (18%, N=85) of the business respondents anticipate that their business operations will change over the next five years. For example:

- Nearly all (93%, N=15) of the respondents suggested that the would likely increase their business operations (e.g. introduce new/additional shifts etc.) to fulfil customer/client commitments and meet deadlines.
- Only one (7%, N=15) respondent indicated that their business operations will decrease over the next five years. It was suggested that this will be largely due to the introduction of automation within the business, which may subsequently reduce shifts and their overall reliance on labour.

[91] Given that, on average, the businesses that participated in the research account for a nearly two-fifths (36%) of the employee jobs within the engineering sector in the Mid Ulster area.

4.3 Issues inhibiting Growth

Business respondents suggested that the **top 4 factors inhibiting both the growth of the sector and their business** were:

1. **Skills/qualification** related issues - 88% and 73% respectively, N=82[92];
2. **Staff recruitment/retention** issues - 84% and 67% respectively, N=82;
3. **Uncertainty relating to the UK's decision to leave the EU i.e. Brexit** - 77% and 67% respectively, N=82; and
4. **Rising operating costs** - 67% and 66% respectively, N=82.

These findings corroborate recent research undertake by Manufacturing NI and Confederation of British Industry (CBI), which identified, amongst other things, issues such as Brexit, skills, increasing operating costs (including costs associated with energy, raw materials, logistics/transports etc.), technological changes/advancements (including automation) are impacting upon the engineering sector across Northern Ireland.

Table 4.2: Factors inhibiting the sector and/or businesses[93][94]

Issue/Barrier	Inhibiting the growth of the sector			Inhibiting the growth of the business		
	No.	%	Rank	No.	%	Rank
Skills/qualifications related issues	72	88%	**1**	60	73%	**1**
Staff recruitment/retention issues	69	84%	**2**	55	67%	**2**
Uncertainty relating to UK's decision to leave the EU (i.e. Brexit)	63	77%	**3**	55	67%	**3**
Rising Operating Costs	55	67%	**4**	54	66%	**4**
Negative/adverse perceptions of the Engineering sector	45	55%	**5**	41	50%	**6**
Site/premises constraints	39	48%	**6**	44	54%	**5**
Public transport linkages/network and road infrastructure related issues	27	33%	**7**	29	35%	**7**
Competition in domestic (UK) markets	14	17%	**8**	18	22%	**8**
Competition in export (non-UK) markets	7	9%	**9**	9	11%	**11**
Negative/adverse perceptions of the MUDC area	6	7%	**10**	6	7%	**13**
Technological changes/advancements	5	6%	**11**	10	12%	**10**
Lack to support to promote R&D&I	5	6%	**12**	6	7%	**12**
Finance - Lack of available finance	4	5%	**13**	15	18%	**9**
Lack of export (non-UK) demand	2	2%	**14**	2	2%	**15**
Lack of domestic (UK) demand	2	2%	**15**	1	1%	**16**
Other (see footnotes)	1[95]	1%	**16**	3[96]	4%	**14**
N=	**82**	**-**	**-**	**82**	**-**	**-**

[92] Please note, 3 businesses that completed an online survey did not provide a response to this question.
[93] Please note, businesses were able to provide multiple responses to this question. Therefore, the number of responses will not sum to 82.
[94] Please note, businesses were able to provide a response on the issues that are inhibiting the growth of the sector and/or their business. Therefore, the number of responds (N) to the questions in the following sub-sections will not align with those presented in this table.
[95] Other includes: Expensive housing/accommodation within the MUDC.
[96] Other includes: Expensive housing within the MUDC, internal constraints (capacity and capability of the owner to grow the business further) and operational issues (lead times on getting components is long making it hard to meet orders).

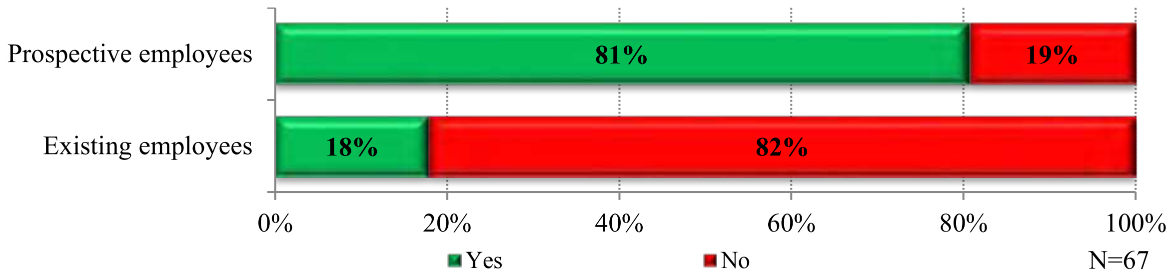
The following subsections provide in-depth analysis on each of the aforementioned issues/barriers that are inhibiting the growth of the engineering sector and/or individual businesses[97]. Please note, further details are included in Appendix IV.

4.3.1 *Skills/Qualification Related Issues*

For those businesses that cited skills/qualification related issues were inhibiting the growth of the sector and/or their business:

- Nearly all (81%, N=67) of the respondents suggested that, during recent times (i.e. the last 5 years, since 2013), they had faced such issues with **prospective employees**; whilst
- Under a fifth (18%, N=67) faced similar skills/qualification related issues with **existing employees**.

Figure 4.2: Skills/qualification related issues with existing and/or prospective employees



The business respondents were then asked to identify and rank the types of skills/qualification related issues that their business had faced. The analysis indicates that, in order of priority, prospective and existing employees both lack employability skills such as:

1. **Technical/practical skills** (e.g. specialist skills or knowledge, numerical/ statistical skills, IT skills, communicating in a foreign language etc.).
2. **General skills and Attributes** (e.g. good work ethic, flexibility, basic literacy, numeracy or communication skills etc.).

Further analysis indicates:

- Over four-fifths (80%, N=54) of the business respondents expressed their view that prospective employees **lack technical/practical skills**. For example, it was suggested that prospective employees lack the requisite skills to undertake certain welding processes (e.g. MIG (Metal Inert Gas), TIG (Tungsten Inert Gas) and aluminium welding) and/or to read/interpret technical drawings.

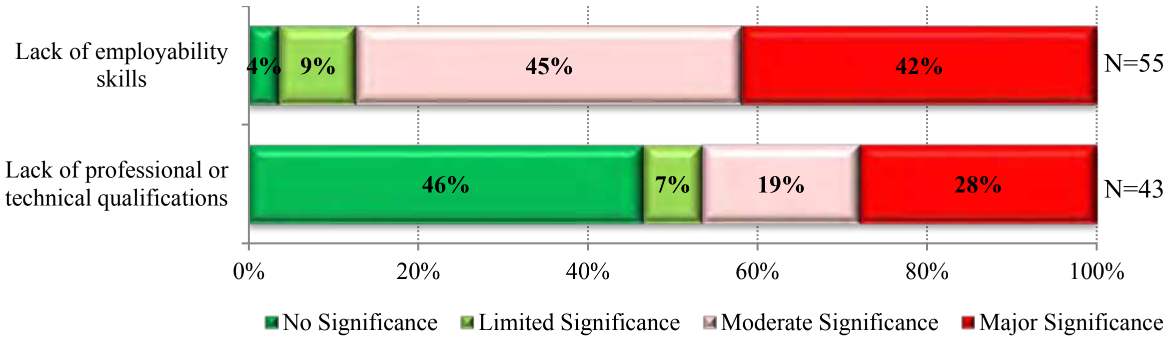
- Two-thirds of the business respondents suggested that both prospective (65%, N=54) and existing (67%, N=12) employees **lack general skills and attributes.** Of note, during consultation, it was cited that younger individuals (16-24 year olds) tend to lack a strong work ethic and/or to demonstrate sufficient flexibility in their approach to work. During consultation, representations from the two FE Colleges indicated that apprenticeships and work experience can be essential assets for individuals, as they provide opportunities for students to learn about the sector or type of work and determine whether it is the right field for them. They also play a useful part in strengthening students' employment readiness.

[97] Please note, the online survey respondents were not asked to provide in-depth responses on each of the issues/barriers that are inhibiting the growth of the engineering sector and/or individual businesses. That is, the maximum number of respondents (N) to the following questions will be 76.

Businesses were then asked to provide their views on how significant these skills/qualification related issues were for their business. Key points to note:

- Nearly all (87%, N=55) of the business respondents indicated that various **employability skills** were of 'major' (42%) or 'moderate' (45%) significance to their business.
- Interestingly, over half (53%, N=43) of the business respondents indicated that a lack of **professional or technical qualifications** (e.g. essential skills, GCSE, A Levels, degrees, technical/vocational qualifications etc.) were of 'no' (46%) or 'limited' (7%) significance to their business.

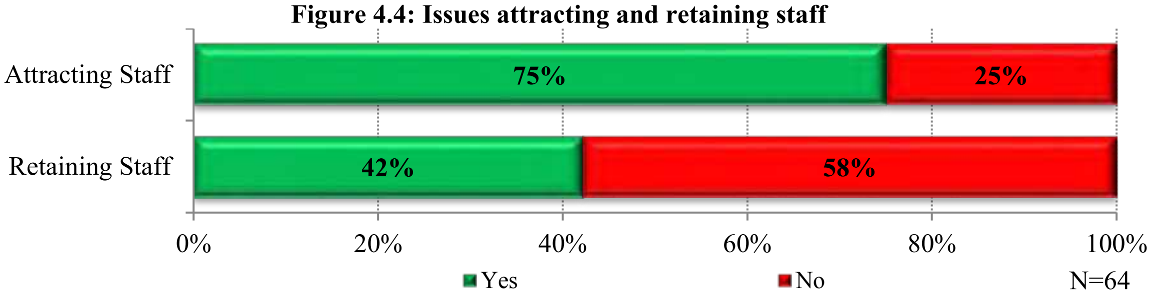
Figure 4.3: Significance of skills/qualification related issues for the business



4.3.2 *Staff Recruitment/Retention Issues*

Three-quarters (75%, N=64) of the business respondents suggested that they had faced challenges in attracting appropriately skilled staff during recent times (e.g. in the last 5 years, since 2013). Compounding this issue was the fact that over two-fifths (42%, N=64) of the business respondents suggested that they also experienced issues retaining appropriately skilled staff.

Figure 4.4: Issues attracting and retaining staff



Businesses suggested that they faced issues associated with attracting and retaining staff in the following roles and specialisms:

Hard to fill vacancies included:	• Welders[98] • Hydraulic fitters • Automotive engineers/electricians • Design engineers • Electricians	• IT staff with skills such as robotics and programming • Skilled joiners with Computer-aided design (CAD) expertise • Mechanical engineers

[98] Welders with experience in MIG (Metal Inert Gas), TIG (Tungsten Inert Gas) and aluminium welding, which are all types of welding processes.

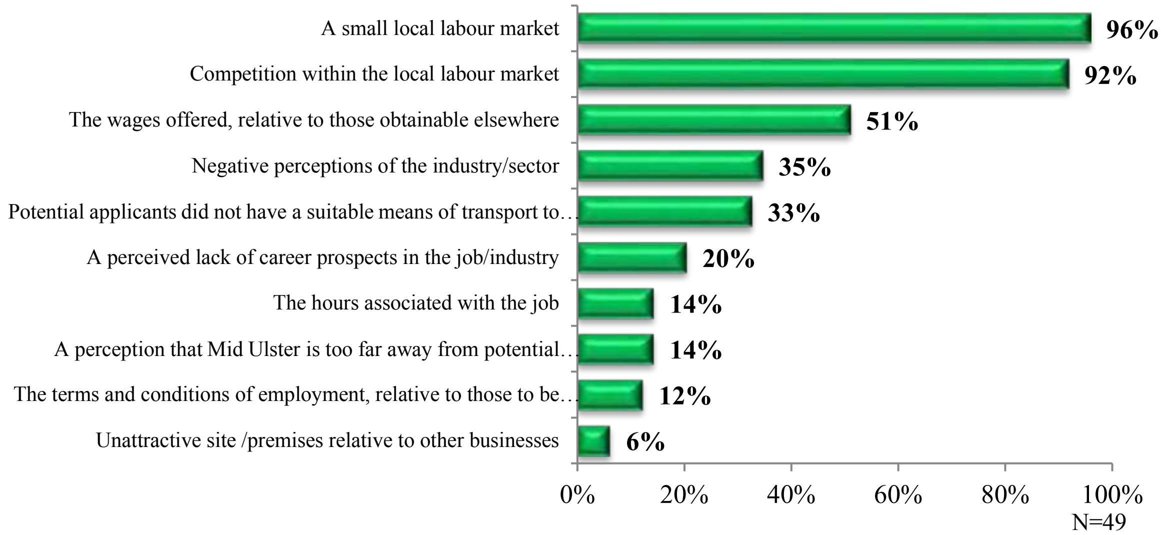
Reasons for Recruitment and Retention Related Issues

Business respondents stated that the key reasons for their recruitment and retention related issues were largely due to:

- **The small local labour market within the Mid Ulster District Council area** (96%, N=49); and
- **Competition within the local labour market** (92%, N=49).

The situation for these business respondents is compounded by wider macro factors such as relatively high rates of economic activity and employment levels and corresponding low levels of unemployment within the Council area vis-à-vis the Northern Ireland averages. For instance, the unemployment rate, as per the Job Seeker Allowance claimant rate, was, as of July 2017, 1.5% of the working age population versus an average rate of 2.6% for Northern Ireland. At that time, the claimant rate was the second lowest out of all 11 Districts within Northern Ireland.

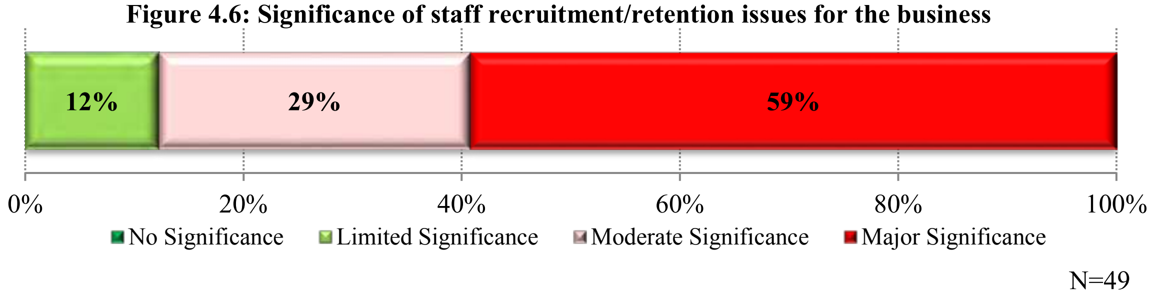
Figure 4.5: Rationale for issues attracting and/or retaining staff[99]



Significance of Issues on Businesses

Nearly all (88%, N=49) of the business respondents that reported they had faced staff recruitment/retention issues suggested these issues were of 'major' (59%) or 'moderate' (29%) significance to their business.

Figure 4.6: Significance of staff recruitment/retention issues for the business



[99] Please note, respondents were able to provide multiple responses where applicable.

Impact of Recruitment and Retention Related Issues

All of the business respondents (100%, N=49) that reported they had faced staff recruitment/retention issues suggested these issues were having a range of impacts on their respective businesses. For example:

- Four-fifths (80%, N=49) of the business respondents cited that the issues had **increased the workload for other staff** (e.g. additional shifts, additional responsibilities and duties that are not part of their job description etc.);
- Nearly three-quarters (73%, N=49) cited that the issues created **long-standing vacancies** (e.g. one business cited that it had a job vacancy for an electrician role that was advertised for circa two years), whilst a similar proportion (71%, N=49) suggested that they have been **unable to grow their operations**; and
- Almost three-fifths (57%, N=49) suggested that the issues had **increased operating costs** for their business (e.g. paying overtime to service contracts, recruitment fees etc.). For example, one business cited that it had incurred costs of circa £200,000 relating to overtime payments in one year. Unsurprisingly, it was suggested that this could not be sustained by the business.

Steps taken to address the Recruitment and Retention Related Issues

Business respondents indicated that they have undertaken (and propose to undertake) a variety of steps in order to overcome the recruitment/retention related issues that they are facing. For example:

- Nearly three-quarters (73%, N=49) of the business respondents cited that they have started **advertising or are advertising more widely** (e.g. regional newspapers in addition to local newspapers, social media such as Facebook, online forums etc.) and will continue to do so in the future (67%, N=49).
- Nearly two-thirds (63%, N=49) of the business respondents suggested that they have **approached colleges/universities directly** in order to try and encourage individuals to apply to their company and will continue to do so in the future (67%, N=49).
- Nearly two-thirds (61%, N=49) of the business respondents have **increased salaries to make the job more attractive.** For instance, during consultation, one business suggested that it has had several employees threaten to leave to go to another engineering business for an increased salary. Therefore, to ensure that these employees did not leave the business, they were provided with a salary increase.
- Interestingly, nearly a quarter (22%, N=49) of the business respondents indicated that they intend to **invest in their physical site/premises** in the future. This represents a marginal uplift (of 8 percentage points) on the number of businesses that are currently undertaking this type of activity (14%, N=49). There was a general consensus amongst businesses that this type of activity is required to increase a business' attractiveness to both its existing and prospective employees. For instance, during consultation, one business suggested that it is undertaking refurbishment works at its premises (to include several 'break out' areas, a canteen, a staff gym etc.) to provide a better working environment for its employees.

4.3.3 Uncertainty relating to the UK's decision to leave the EU (i.e. Brexit)

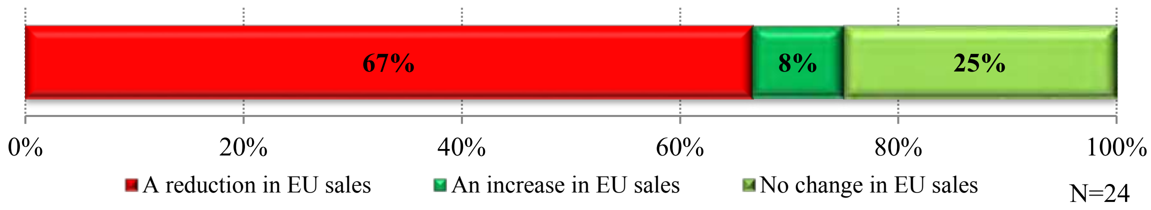
Potential Implications of Brexit on EU Trade

For those businesses that cited the uncertainty associated with Brexit was preventing the sector and/or their business from growing (and were able to answer this question[100]), over two-thirds (67%, N=24)

[100] 26 businesses cited that they did not know whether Brexit would have an impact (either positive or negative) on their business' sales in the EU market.

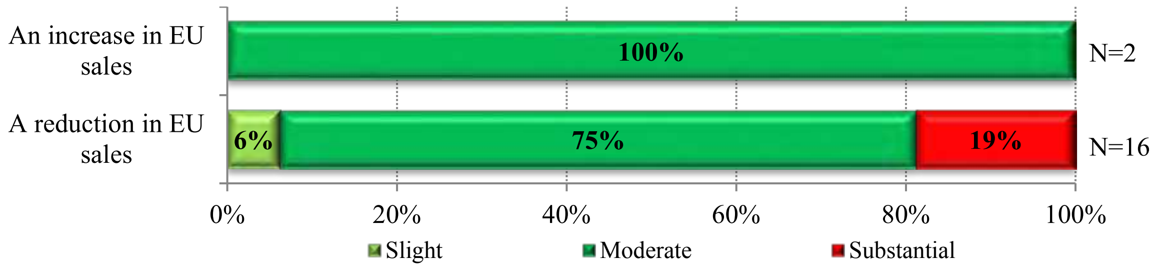
anticipate that Brexit will cause a reduction in their EU sales. Very few businesses (8%, N=24) envisage that there will be an increase in their EU trade as a result of Brexit.

Figure 4.7: Anticipated Impact on EU sales as a result of Brexit[101]



Nearly all (94%, N=16) of those businesses that anticipate a reduction in their EU sales as a result of the Brexit decision consider that the impact will be either a 'moderate' (75%) or 'substantial' (19%) reduction in their business' sales in the EU market.

Figure 4.8: Extent of Anticipated Impact on EU sales



During consultation, business respondents highlighted that:

- The potential introduction of tariffs on any products that are exported to EU countries may impact on a business' competitiveness. For example, a potential tariff would increase costs (above and beyond the already increasing operating costs such as, for example, steel, electricity, raw materials etc.), which would likely be passed onto the customer/consumer (i.e. increased customer/consumer prices), consequently leaving a business less competitive.
- The prospect of a 'hard' border on the island of Ireland would lead to, amongst other things, an additional administrative burden on businesses. It was suggested that this would likely act as a disincentive for (particularly smaller) businesses entering, and/or continuing to sell into, the EU market.

Contingency Planning

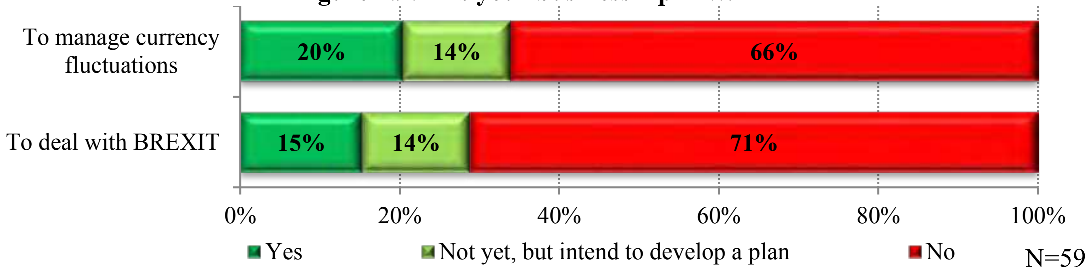
Less than a fifth (15%, N=59) of the respondents have a plan in place to deal with Brexit, whilst slightly more (20%, N=59) have one to manage currency fluctuations. Further analysis indicates that those businesses with plans in place tend to be some of the larger businesses in the sector who have been 'scenario planning' over recent times i.e. looking at various scenarios and the potential risks (and associated mitigation strategies) that may arise associated with each.

However, over two-thirds of the respondents do not have, and have no intentions at present to have, a plan in place to deal with Brexit (71%, N=59) or the management of currency fluctuations (66%, N=59). During consultation, these businesses cited that, whilst the uncertainty associated with Brexit is a real concern, there are practical difficulties in developing any form of plan, as there are a wide range of permutations and implications, the outworking of which are largely unknown at present and difficult to predict. Also, further analysis indicates that those businesses with no plan in place to manage currency

[101] Please note, this question was not applicable to 9 businesses as they did not export into EU markets.

fluctuations tend to be only selling their products/services within the Mid Ulster area and/or in the rest of Northern Ireland.

Figure 4.9: Has your business a plan…



Current EU Related Activity – Potential Brexit Impacts

As indicators of the extent of the respondents' current involvement with the EU, it is noted that:

- Nearly all (86%, N=59) consider that there will be an impact upon their business' logistics (including the movement of goods and people) after the implementation of Brexit e.g. if stricter border controls are introduced;
- A similar proportion (83%, N=59) consider that the price they can charge for their products or services is likely to change when sold in the EU market after the implementation of Brexit;
- Over four-fifths (81%, N=59) source products or services from the EU. During consultation, business respondents suggested that Brexit may make it harder and/or more expensive for a business to source products/services from EU countries;
- Over three-quarters (76%, N=59) consider that their products or services are likely to attract an export tariff or specific tax when sold in the EU market after the implementation of Brexit;
- Nearly two-thirds (64%, N=59) of the respondents indicate that their products or services adhere to common EU standards;
- Under two-fifths (39%, N=59) consider that their business may need to hold a specific regulatory license to sell its products or services in the EU after the implementation of Brexit; and
- A quarter (25, N=59) currently source labour from the EU market.

Table 4.3: Indicators of Potential Brexit Impacts (N=59)

	Yes	No	Not Sure
They consider there will be an impact upon business logistics (including the movement of goods and people) after the implementation of Brexit e.g. if stricter border controls are introduced	86%	3%	10%
They consider the price they can charge for their products or services is likely to change when sold in the EU after the implementation of Brexit	83%	5%	12%
They source products or services from the EU	81%	19%	0%
They consider their products or services are likely to attract an export tariff or specific tax when sold in the EU after the implementation of Brexit	76%	7%	17%
Their products or services adhere to common EU standards	64%	17%	19%
They hold a specific regulatory license to sell its products or services in the EU	39%	37%	24%
They source labour from the EU	25%	75%	0%

Potential Implications of Brexit on Recruitment Methods

Amongst the few businesses (8%, N=59) that suggested Brexit will have an impact on their business' method of recruitment, it was suggested that Manufacturing NI, in conjunction with several local engineering businesses, is attempting to lobby the UK Government in relation to the ability of businesses to recruit non-EU nationals, in the event that there are restrictions placed on the free movement of EU nationals. This may have implications for the types of recruitment methods/channels that businesses utilise moving forward.

4.3.4 Rising Operating Costs

For those businesses that cited that operating costs were preventing the sector and/or their business from growing, the following is noted[102]:

- Over half (58%, N=52) of the business respondents indicated that the **increasing cost of steel** was inhibiting the growth of their business, whilst over a quarter (29%, N=52) suggested that **rising electricity costs** were having a similar effect. Indeed, over a fifth (23%, N=52) of the business respondents cited that **rising electricity costs** was the main factor that was inhibiting the growth of the engineering sector as a whole.
- Nearly a quarter (23%, N=52) of the business respondents suggested that **rising labour costs** (e.g. increasing wages/salaries, overtime payments etc.) were inhibiting the growth of their business. For example, during consultation businesses cited that, due to the small and highly competitive labour market, businesses felt the need to increase salaries in order to attract/retain employees. Similarly, as previously highlighted, recruitment/retention related issues have resulted in businesses making (sometimes significant) additional overtime payments.
- Nearly a fifth (17%, N=52) of the business respondents cited that **rates increases** and **increases in fuel costs (e.g. diesel)** are inhibiting the growth of their business.

4.3.5 Negative/Adverse Perception of the Sector

For those businesses that cited that a negative/adverse perception of engineering sector was inhibiting the growth of the sector and/or their business:

- Over three-quarter (78%, N=46) of the respondents either 'disagreed' (62%) or 'strongly disagreed' (16%) that the sector was an attractive job opportunity/career for **females**. For example, during consultation businesses suggested that the sector is dominated by males, which, in some instances, discourages females from considering it as a viable job opportunity/career.

- Over half (51%, N=41) of the respondents either 'disagreed' (44%) or 'strongly disagreed' (7%) that the sector was an attractive job opportunity/career for **young people.** For example, during consultation businesses suggested that there is a misconception amongst young people that the sector is a *"cold and dirty industry"* for people to work in and that there are limited prospects for progression. Also, it was suggested that schools appear to be encouraging students to remain in the education system and to progress to the Further/Higher education sectors, rather than making them aware of the opportunities available in the engineering sector and/or channelling them into employment.

These findings perhaps point to some potential solutions to address some of the issues faced by engineering businesses in the area. For example, the benefits and opportunities available to individuals could be showcased, **particularly amongst females and young people**, and there could be a more a coordinated approach to debunking misperceptions or promoting the positive aspects of working in the sector.

In terms of suggested ways to enhance the attractiveness of the sector, the analysis indicates that:

- Four-fifths (80%, N=5) of the business respondents suggested that there are ways in which the attractiveness of the engineering sector could be enhanced amongst **individuals from outside the Mid Ulster area**. During consultation, these businesses suggested that this should involve a range of stakeholders such as, for example, businesses, sectoral bodies (such as Manufacturing NI), the

[102] Please note, businesses were able to provide multiple responses to this question.

Council, the Further Education Colleges, Invest NI etc. working together to raise the profile of the sector and the range of opportunities available. For example, this may involve businesses facilitating 'open days' or 'site visits' to raise awareness of the industry.

- Nearly three-quarters (71%, N=35) of the business respondents suggested that there are ways in which the attractiveness of the engineering sector could be enhanced amongst **young people**. These businesses suggested that more collaborative awareness raising and promotion, particularly within schools (and where possible involving parents), could be undertaken by businesses in an effort to, *inter alia*, redress the negative perceptions of the sector. For example, the 'tasty careers' initiative[103] for the food & agri-food sector could be expanded and, where possible, replicated for the engineering sector.

- Nearly two-fifths (38%, N=21) of the business respondents suggested that there are ways in which the attractiveness of the engineering sector could be enhanced amongst **females**. During consultation, these businesses suggested that new and/or existing initiatives could be supported to promote and redress the gender imbalance towards males in engineering sector. For example, Manufacturing NI is involved in developing promotional profile articles in regional newspapers (e.g. Belfast Telegraph) of 'successful women in work in the manufacturing industry', whilst the 'School Employer Connection Project' in Derry~Londonderry seeks to support females to move into the engineer sector. Similar initiatives, such as 'Mis-STEM', are supported by South West College. These types of activity could be promoted/supported further.

4.3.6 Site/Premises Constraints

For those businesses that indicated that site/premises constraints were inhibiting the growth of the sector and/or their business:

- Two-fifths (40%, N=43) suggested that issues associated with **utilities (e.g. water, electricity, broadband etc.)** at their business' existing site/premises was of 'moderate' (21%) or 'major' (19%) significance to their business. For example, during consultation businesses suggested that, in the main, poor broadband connectivity in the Mid Ulster area was the key issue, closely followed by limited electricity capacity at their site/premises.

- Over a third (35%, N=43) suggested a **lack of space/capacity to grow into at their business' existing site/premises** was of 'moderate' (26%) or 'major' (9%) significance to their business. These businesses outlined their additional spatial requirements, ranging from 1-2 acres sites (typically for developing office space and expanding their current workshop for the smaller businesses) to 6-8 acres sites (for larger businesses to build factories to grow their operations).

- Nearly a third (30%, N=43) suggested a **lack of suitable alternative sites/premises** was of 'moderate' (21%) or 'major' (9%) significance to their business.

Business were then asked for their views on acquiring/developing new sites/premises. Key points to note include:

- Half (50%, N=40) of the respondents either 'disagreed' (45%) or 'strongly disagreed' (5%) that there are sufficient opportunities for businesses **acquire new sites/premises in the Mid Ulster area**. For example, during consultation businesses suggested that there are too many planning restrictions on industrial development within the Mid Ulster area.
- Two-fifths (40%, N=43) of the respondents either 'disagreed' (33%) or 'disagreed strongly' (7%) that there are sufficient opportunities for businesses to **develop their existing site/premises.** During

[103] Which is an initiative designed to raise the profile of, and provide information on, the food & agri-food sector in Northern Ireland. The initiative provides a dedicated website (which has, *inter alia*, details of job vacancies, job descriptions, training opportunities, an 'interactive careers map' etc.), promotional booklets and Tasty Careers Ambassadors who undertaken school visits to promote careers in the sector.

consultation, these businesses suggested that it was a problematic and a lengthy exercise to obtain planning permission for site/premises development, which was cited as being a *"frustrating process"* for businesses.

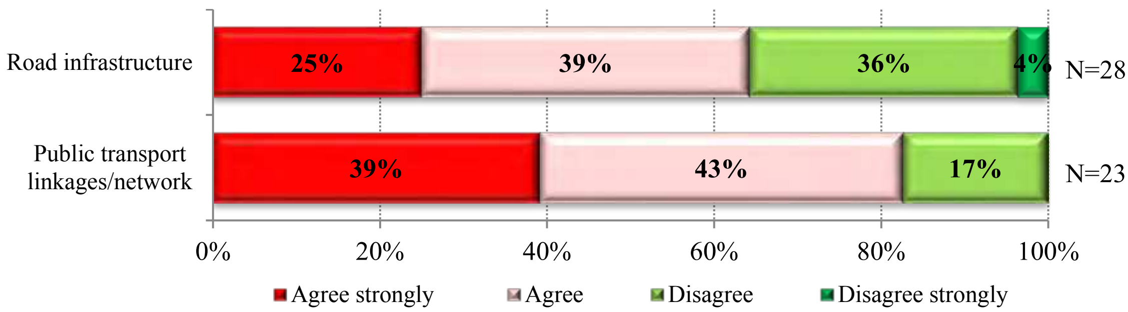
4.3.7 Public Transport Linkages/Network and Road Infrastructure Related Issues

For those businesses that indicated that public transport linkages/network and road infrastructure related issues were inhibiting the growth of the sector and/or their business (and were able to answer this question[104]):

- Over four-fifths (82%, N=23) of the respondents either 'agreed' (43%) or 'strongly agreed' (39%) that the **existing public transport linkages/network are inhibiting the growth of their business**. During consultation, these businesses suggested that the lack of sufficient public transport (to the right areas at various times of the day) were impacting upon existing employees' ability to get to and from work, whilst also acting as a barrier for prospective employees.

- Nearly two-thirds (64%, N=28) of business respondents either 'agreed' (39%) or 'strongly agreed' (25%) the **existing road infrastructure in the Mid Ulster area was inhibiting the growth of their business**. For example, during consultation these businesses suggested that there are insufficient linkage roads between key settlements and areas (particularly around the Cookstown area), whilst many of the existing roads needs repaired (e.g. many have potholes which can be hazardous for drivers). This was a view shared by key stakeholders such as members of the 'Get Engineering Group', Manufacturing NI etc.

Figure 4.10: Extent to which businesses agree that the road infrastructure and public transport linkages/network are inhibiting the sector and/or their business



In terms of suggested ways to improve connectivity, the analysis indicates that:

- Over three-quarters (78%, N=18) of the business respondents suggested that there is more could be done to the existing road infrastructure to improve connectivity to, and within, the Mid Ulster area. During consultation, these businesses suggested that there is potential for the Council, and other key stakeholders such as Manufacturing NI, Invest NI etc., to lobby government to undertake further major infrastructure works in the Mid Ulster area, such as, for example, the bypasses at Toome (ongoing), Magherafelt (complete) and Cookstown (proposed).

- Over half (58%, N=19) of the business respondents suggested that more could be done to the existing public transport linkages/network to improve connectivity to, and within, the Mid Ulster area. During consultation, these businesses suggested that there is potential for businesses (potentially those in close proximity to each other working collaboratively) to explore and organise a specific private bus hire company to transport employees to and from work. This was a view shared by key stakeholders such as Manufacturing NI.

[104] 5 businesses cited that they did not know to what extent to which public transport linkages/network are inhibiting the sector and/or their business.

4.3.8 *Negative/Adverse Perception of the Mid Ulster Area*

For those businesses that cited that a negative/adverse perception of the Mid Ulster area was inhibiting the growth of the sector and/or their business (and were able to answer this question[105]):

- Nearly all (83%, N=6) of the respondents 'disagreed' that the Mid Ulster area was an attractive location to live and work for **individuals from outside the Mid Ulster area,** whilst half (50%, N=6) 'disagreed' that it was an attractive location for **individuals from outside Northern Ireland**.

- During consultation, these businesses suggested that houses prices were expensive, vis-à-vis other parts of Northern Ireland (with the exception of the Greater Belfast area), which acts as a barrier for people considering a move to the area. In addition, some businesses were of the view that the weekend and evening economy of the area could be improved, to provide more social and recreational activities for individuals to utilise/participate in.

In terms of suggested ways to enhance the attractiveness of the Mid Ulster area, the analysis indicates that:

- Nearly two-thirds (67%, N=3) of the business respondents suggested that there are ways in which the attractiveness of the Mid Ulster area could be enhanced amongst **individuals from outside Northern Ireland**.

- During consultation, these businesses suggested that the Council (along with other relevant stakeholders) should seek to strengthen the weekend and evening economy of the area, to provide more social and recreational activities for individuals to utilise/participate in. For example, the Council, in conjunction with the Department for Communities[106], should seek to undertake public realm/environmental improvement works in public areas to improve the physical aesthetics of town and villages.

- In addition, there was a general consensus amongst businesses (and stakeholders such as South West College) that the Council, in conjunction with key relevant stakeholders, should seek to improve the market proposition for the Mid Ulster area. One aspect of this could be the development of a cohesive and strong marketing/promotional campaign for the Mid Ulster area, with the aim of making it more attractive for individuals to relocate to for work.

4.3.9 *Technological Changes/Advancements Related Issues*

For those businesses that cited that technological changes/advancement related issues were inhibiting the growth of the sector and/or their business (and were able to answer this question[107]):

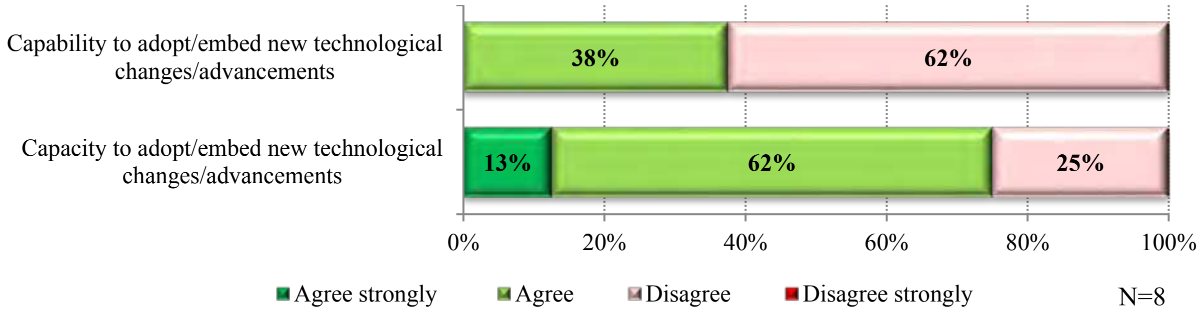
- Nearly two thirds (62%, N=8) of the respondents 'disagreed' that their business has the **capability (in terms of skills)** within its existing operations to adopt or embed new technological changes/advancements. These businesses suggested that their existing staff would extensive upskilling and training on any such new technologies, potentially from those companies that they purchase the equipment/technology from. Also, given the current uncertainty around Brexit, the business case for technology investment does not stack up for many businesses.

- A quarter (25%, N=8) of the respondents 'disagreed' that their business has the **capacity (e.g. finance and/or skills)** within its existing operations to adopt or embed new technological changes/advancements. During consultation, these businesses suggested that, in many instances,

[105] 1 business cited that they did not know if the Mid Ulster area is an attractive location to live and work for young people.
[106] Which, in conjunction with local authorities throughout Northern Ireland, implements/delivers public realm/environmental improvement schemes in public areas such as town and city centres throughout Northern Ireland.
[107] Please note, 1 business respondent did not provide a response to this question.

adopting and/or embedding new technological changes/advancement can involve substantial capital expenditure and for many, a lack of available finance inhibits such activity. Despite this, during consultation, representatives from Invest NI, South West College and Manufacturing NI expressed their views that the engineering sector in Northern Ireland is, on average, over reliant on its workforce rather than utilising new technologies such as automation.

Figure 4.11: Extent to which businesses agree they have the capacity and capability to adopt or embed new technological changes/advancements.



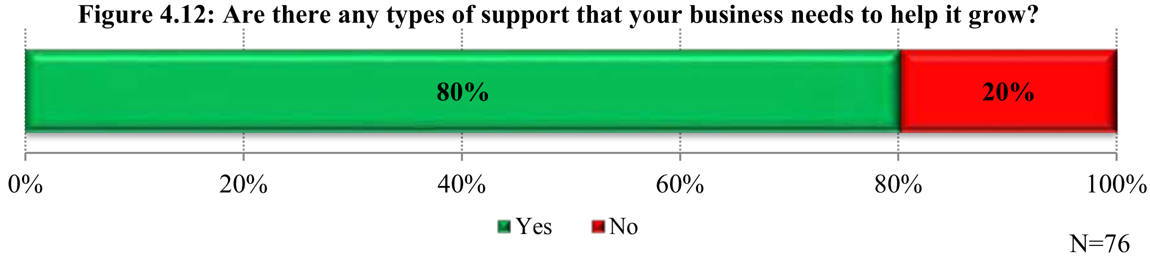
Businesses were then asked if there were any new technologies (e.g. robotics and automation) and/or materials (e.g. new materials such as graphene, carbon nanotubes, diamond-like carbon, composites (ceramic, metallic and organic) etc.) that are currently being used in Northern Ireland and/or elsewhere that their business would be keen to adopt in order to support its growth. During consultation, businesses cited the following:

- **Welding robotics** (N=4) – Robotic welding is the process of using a programmable machine to automate the welding process;
- **Spraying robotics** (N=1) – Spraying robotics is the process of using a programmable machine to spray parts with a substance (e.g. paint or a sealant);
- **Robotic arm** (N=1) – A robotic arm is a mechanical arm that can be programmed to perform a number of tasks (e.g. part rotation and placement), which can improve the speed and efficiency of the production process; and
- **Business Information Modelling (BIM)** (N=1) - BIM is a process involving the generation and management of digital representations of physical and functional characteristics of places similar to that of a CAD system. Whilst a computer-aided design (CAD) drawing may hold basic information such as measurements, BIM holds additional information such as the energy efficiency of the drawing.

4.4 Support required to facilitate Growth

The chart below illustrates that four-fifths (80%, N=76) of the business respondents indicated that they require support in order to assist its business to grow.

Figure 4.12: Are there any types of support that your business needs to help it grow?



Specific support businesses required

The specific types of support that businesses require include[108]:

- **Support to help recruit staff (62%, N=61)** – This is unsurprising given the reported recruitment/retention related issues faced by businesses in recent times. During consultation, businesses suggested that the benefits and opportunities available to individuals could be showcased, particularly amongst females and young people, and there could be a more coordinated approach to debunking misperceptions or promoting the positive aspects of working in the sector. For example, it was suggested that the following types of activities would potentially increase the pool of available labour for businesses to draw upon:

  - Stakeholders such as businesses, sectoral bodies (such as Manufacturing NI), the Council, the Further Education Colleges, Invest NI etc. could work together to raise the profile of the sector and the range of opportunities available. For example, this may involve businesses facilitating 'open days' or 'site visits' to raise awareness of the industry.

  - More collaborative awareness raising and promotion could be undertaken by businesses, particularly within schools (and where possible involving parents), in an effort to, *inter alia*, redress the negative perceptions of the sector and to promote the breadth of opportunities that are available. This view was shared by several stakeholders such as Invest NI, the two FE Colleges, the local enterprise agencies and Manufacturing NI. For example, the 'tasty careers' initiative[109] for the food & agri-food sector could be expanded and, where possible, replicated for the engineering sector.

  - New and/or existing initiatives could be supported to promote and redress the gender imbalance towards males in engineering sector. For example, Manufacturing NI is involved in developing promotional profile articles in regional newspapers (e.g. Belfast Telegraph) of 'successful women in work in the manufacturing industry'. This type of activity could be promoted/supported further.

- **Advice and guidance as to how to address issues arising as a result of Brexit (43%, N=61) –** During consultation, businesses suggested that workshops and/or seminars (facilitated by either the Council and/or Invest NI) would be helpful and that any such events could focus on providing advice and knowledge on:

  - The potential implications of tariffs being imposed on goods and services being imported to the EU;
  - The potential implications of a 'hard' border on engineering businesses operating in the Mid Ulster area;
  - Advice on how to manage to grow and/or maintain sales in the EU; and
  - Ways to manage currency fluctuations.

[108] Please note, businesses were able to provide multiple responses to this question.

[109] Which is an initiative designed to raise the profile of, and provide information on, the food & agri-food sector in Northern Ireland. The initiative provides a dedicated website (which has, *inter alia*, details of job vacancies, job descriptions, training opportunities, an 'interactive careers map' etc.), promotional booklets and Tasty Careers Ambassadors who undertaken school visits to promote careers in the sector.

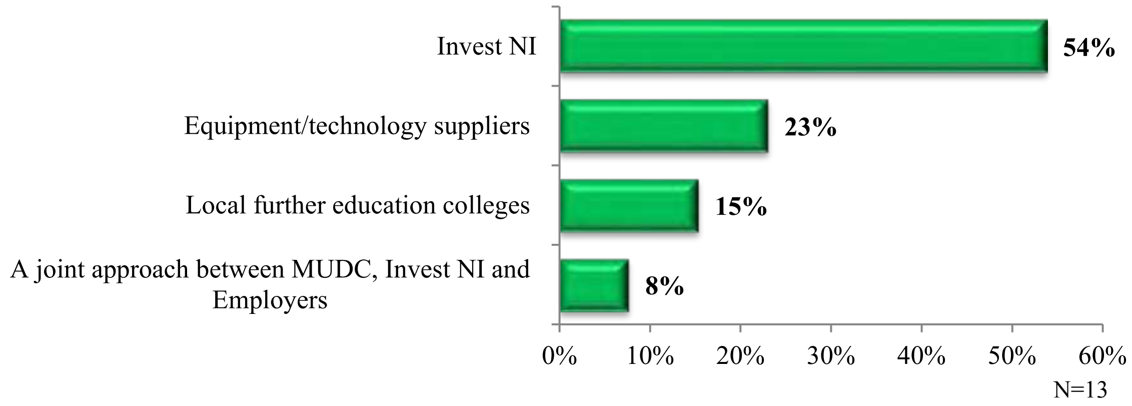
- **Support to help improve the skills of their workforce (41%, N=61) –** Businesses suggested that they would benefit from further support (e.g. from the FE Colleges) to upskill and/or reskill their employees in:

> - Technical engineering applications such as:
>   - Press break machines (which are typically used for bending sheet and plate material);
>   - Computer Numerical Control (CNC) routing machine (typically used to create parts of tools by utilising computers to precisely machine materials into desired forms); and
>   - Solidworks (a solid modelling computer-aided design (CAD) and computer-aided engineering (CAE) computer program).
> - Various types of welding (e.g. MIG, TIG and Aluminium).
> - Reading Technical Drawings.

- **Support to help develop sales (20%+, N=61) in Northern Ireland, Great Britain, Republic of Ireland and/or outside the British Isles markets –** During consultation, businesses suggested that they would benefit from any type of support that would develop their sales. For example, trade missions were cited as being important opportunities to identify new markets and/or be introduced to potential new clients/customers.

- **Support with, or training in, new technologies (e.g. robotics and automation) (21%, N=61) –** For those businesses that this question was applicable to, over half (54%, N=13) of the respondents indicated that they would welcome support/training from Invest NI on, amongst other things, how best to adopt/embed new technologies into their business. As illustrated in the chart below, nearly a quarter (23%, N=13) of the businesses suggested that, in their opinion, equipment/technology suppliers would be best suited to provide any support/training that it required relating to new technologies that it may embed/adopt.

Figure 4.13: Who would businesses like to see provide support and training for new technologies (e.g. robotics and automation)



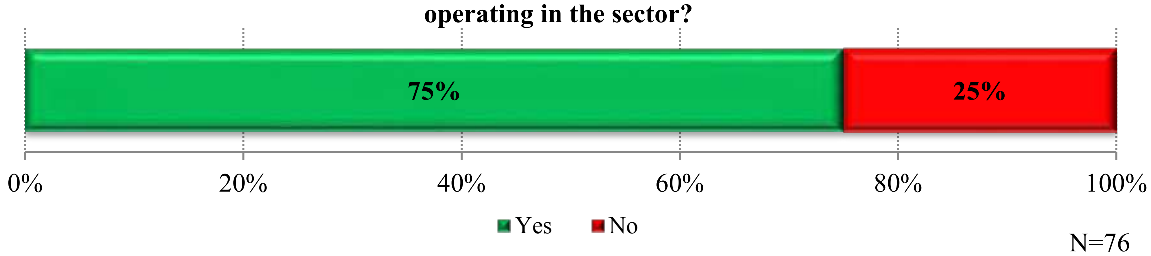
> *"Our first port of call for support with new technologies would be Invest NI."*
>
> *"We previously purchased a laser cutting machine and received training on this from the individual we purchased it from. We found this was best as they were familiar with all aspects of the product. So, I think in future if we were to introduce any other automation we would definitely turn to the equipment supplier to provide us with the support needed."*
>
> *"SWC in Dungannon seems to be very knowledgeable and enthusiastic about new technologies and robotics, so I think it would be good to receive advice and support from them."*
>
> *"Magherafelt college was meant to do a course in robotics but this never happened. I think it would be good if the college did provide support in this area."*
>
> **Business Respondents**

Appropriateness of current support offerings

A quarter (25%, N=76) of the business respondents indicated that the current programmes of support available from Government (including support available through organisations such as the Council, Invest NI etc.) are not sufficient to support the growth of businesses operating within the engineering sector. During consultation, these businesses suggested that:

- There may be opportunities for stakeholders such as the Council and Invest NI to better promote, market and raise awareness of the various programmes that are available to engineering businesses located within the Mid Ulster area.
- There may be opportunities for stakeholders to better align existing programmes, or develop new programmes, to help address those needs faced by businesses that are not eligible for Invest NI assistance/support.

Figure 4.14: Is the current support from the Government sufficient to support the growth of businesses operating in the sector?



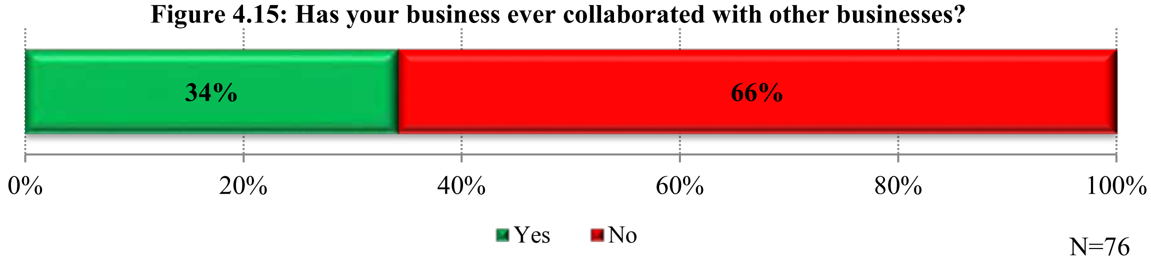
N=76

4.5 Collaborative/Partnership Activities

The chart below illustrates that just over a third (34%, N=76) of the business respondents suggested that they had previously collaborated with other businesses. These businesses further suggested that:

- They collaborated with other businesses (mainly from the Mid Ulster area) in relation to:
  - Developing new products/services (69%, N=26); and (to a lesser extent)
  - Sharing skills, knowledge, facilities/equipment that were not available at that time within their own business (42%, N=26).
- Undertook collaborative research, development and/or design activities with other businesses within Northern Ireland and/or with Universities/Colleges e.g. one business is reportedly working with the Athlone Institute of Technology to research a new material for its product (31%, N=26).

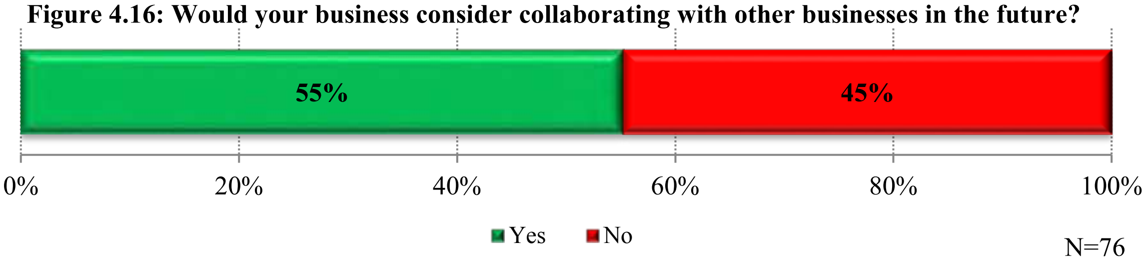
Figure 4.15: Has your business ever collaborated with other businesses?



N=76

The chart below illustrates that over half (55%, N=76) of the business respondents suggested that they would consider collaborating with other businesses in the future.

Figure 4.16: Would your business consider collaborating with other businesses in the future?



The main types of projects that these businesses would consider collaborating on with other businesses in the future include:

- Nearly half (43%, N=42) of the business respondents indicated a willingness to become **members of industry forms/groups** to, amongst other things, take forward actions arising from this study. It was suggested that Mid Ulster District Council is well placed to coordinate and drive this such a forum/group in order to discuss, potentially address, the issues facing the engineering sector. It was further suggested that there is an opportunity to build on the existing work undertaken by the South West College's 'Get Engineering' group of local engineering businesses.

- A fifth (40%, N=42) of the respondents indicated a willingness to **collaborate with FE Colleges and/or Universities (rather than other businesses) to develop new products/services**. During consultation, these businesses suggested that any such activity would only be of interest to them if their competitors would have no access to, or information on, the new products/services being developed.

- A similar proportion (40%, N=42) of the respondents indicated a willingness to **collaborate with other businesses on joint marketing/promotional campaigns.** It was suggested that such collaborative awareness raising and promotion undertaken by businesses, particularly within schools (and where possible involving parents), could, *inter alia*, redress the negative perceptions of the sector and promote the breadth of opportunities that are available.

- A similar proportion (40%, N=42) of the respondents indicated a willingness to **collaborate with other businesses to influence Government policy.** For example, it was suggested that Manufacturing NI, in conjunction with several local engineering businesses, are attempting to lobby the UK Government in relation to the ability of businesses to recruit non-EU nationals, in the event that there are restrictions placed on the free movement of EU nationals.

- Just under a fifth (38%, N=42) of the respondents indicated a willingness to **collaborate with other businesses to share facilities** that are not available within their own business. For example, during consultation, a number of businesses suggested that shared business or 'incubation' spaces (which would include specialist engineering equipment/facilities such as CAD, CNC routing machines etc.) would be beneficial in supporting (particularly smaller) businesses to grow. This view was shared by several stakeholders, such as the Council and South West College, who suggested this type of provision could assist businesses to develop new products.

4.6 Summary Conclusions

The previous analysis shows that:

- Whilst businesses' turnover/sales within the engineering sector in the Mid Ulster area is anticipated to grow over the 2018-2023 period, the levels of overall growth are anticipated to be slower than the previous five-year period i.e. 2013-2018.
- Businesses will, as of 2023, be marginally more reliant on the GB (England, Scotland and Wales) and, to a lesser extent, the Republic of Ireland markets for their sales/turnover.
- Businesses anticipate that they will continue to be reliant on the engineering sector for the majority of their sales. For example, by 2023, over a third (35%) of businesses anticipate that 75%+ of their sales will be within the engineering sector, which represents a marginal (3 percentage points) increase on their 2018 position.
- Over a quarter (28%) of the businesses indicated that at least 50% of their sales are (as of 2018) represented by their single largest customer, which may expose them to risks such as: pressure from their business' and/or their customer's competition; downward pricing pressure from the customer, which may result in decreased profits and cash flow; and an overdependence on too few customers can lower the value of a business.
- In terms of employment growth, it is the estimated that, **by 2023, approximately 749 new jobs within the engineering sector in the Mid Ulster area could potentially be created**.
- However, there are a number of identified issues that are inhibiting the future growth of the sector and of individual businesses. These are (in rank order):

1. Skills/qualifications related issues;
2. Staff recruitment/retention issues;
3. Uncertainty relating to UK's decision to leave the EU (i.e. Brexit);
4. Rising Operating Costs;
5. Negative/adverse perceptions of the sector;
6. Site/premises constraints;
7. Public transport linkages/network and road infrastructure related issues;
8. Competition in domestic (UK) markets;
9. Competition in export (non-UK) markets;
10. Negative/adverse perceptions of the MUDC area; and
11. Technological changes/advancements related issues.

- There are opportunities for Government (including support available through organisations such as the Council, Invest NI etc.) to provide specific support to businesses in order to assist the sector to grow.

5. CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Overarching Conclusions

The engineering sector in the Mid Ulster area plays a vital role in the economic and societal well-being of the area, providing quality employment on a large scale, along with developing and implementing some of the key solutions to major global challenges. The reputation of the area in the fields of manufacturing and engineering is well known, and where other regions have seen decline in the sector, the area has worked hard to retain and attract such industries into the area and has been successful in this endeavour.

The economic performance of the engineering sector in the Mid Ulster area has been driven by a set of complementary strengths, which, in combination, delineate its unique position in the Northern Ireland economy. For example:

- Mid Ulster (incorporating the former council areas of Cookstown, Dungannon and South Tyrone and Magherafelt) possesses the second largest business base outside of Belfast[110].
- Strategically located, the Mid Ulster area has a widely acknowledged strong, diverse and dynamic business base, together with an educated and entrepreneurial workforce.
- It has the 2nd lowest claimant count in the region at 1.3%[111].
- The Gross Value Added (GVA) is £2.075 billon, the 4th highest in the region in 2014, producing 7.3% of the region's total economic output.
- The area population of 145,000 is the fastest growing new Council area.
- Workforce - 91,711 of working age (aged 16-64).
- 700,000 people are within a one-hour commute of the district boundaries.
- There is **a minimum of 532 engineering businesses are located in the Mid Ulster area** - the area has a higher proportion of engineering businesses when compared to Northern Ireland as a whole. This reflects the relative importance of the sector to the Mid Ulster economy.
- The engineering sector supports jobs and economic growth across in both rural and urban areas. **In the Mid Ulster area, the sector is the largest employer and accounts for more than a quarter of the economic output.**
- **Over a fifth (21%) of the employee jobs (10,740 employee jobs) in the Council area are within the engineering sector** (compared to 9% of all employee jobs at a Northern Ireland level). Again, this reflects the importance of the sector to the Mid Ulster area in terms of employment. The sector is highly productive, representing 17% of Northern Ireland's manufacturing GVA (in 2015).
- Over four-fifths (83%, N=10,740) of the employee jobs within the engineering sector in the Mid Ulster area are held by males (which is broadly comparable with the Northern Ireland figures for the sector).

The engineering sector is of profound importance to the area's economy – especially in key specialisms such as the manufacture of mining and quarrying machinery, production of general and special purpose machinery etc., which have linkages and supply chain associations with the construction and food & agri-food sectors. For instance, 40% of world's mobile crushing and screening equipment is made in Northern Ireland, with many of the businesses in the Mid Ulster area contributing towards this level of activity.

The future of the engineering sector in Europe and worldwide has had much attention, with many of the known challenges and priorities facing the sector being equally relevant in a Mid Ulster area context.

The considerable and growing issue of businesses within the engineering sector in the Mid Ulster area accessing prospective employees (or the 'lack of people') with the requisite skills, as reflected in Sections 2-4 of this report, will inevitably not be a surprise to businesses in the area. However, this issue, coupled with the wide range of other identified issues, should serve as a clear signal to policymakers that urgent attention is required to ensure that the growth of local engineering businesses is not curtailed.

[110] Circa 8,505 businesses, which represents 12% (N=71,615) of the regional total.
[111] NISRA (2017) 'Northern Ireland Labour Market Report March 2017'.

This is not to say that local businesses, with support from key stakeholders, do not have a role to play. They are faced with several options in terms of increasing the pool of prospective employees, such as: seeking to attract external talent to the Mid Ulster area; increasing levels of investment in labour saving technology (such as automation); and/or encouraging more local people back into the labour market (e.g. possibly through higher wages).

Beyond these options, there is also a need to actively promote the development of productive, inclusive and engaging workplaces that get the best out of people, but also a need to take a much more strategic view of recruitment, skills and the systems and mechanisms through which they are developed and sustained. In a period of considerable uncertainty, just focusing on the supply is not enough if businesses are to meet the huge challenges of rapid technological change, an ageing workforce, and changing cultures and expectations amongst the younger workforce. For example, businesses need to think more broadly about their own investment in developing talent and skills and how the growth of different employment models, flexi-working, contract and portfolio working may require a significant change to the ways they attract, invest in and develop people and skills in the future. The HR function within a business has a vital role to play in helping organisations to take a more strategic view of the kind of workforce they will need for the future and how they set about engaging with prospective future employers in a timely and strategic manner.

Businesses also need to think more about enhancing their business' attractiveness to both its existing and prospective employees. This may include, for example, refurbishment works at their premises to provide better working environments, as well enhancing their branding/promotional materials, creating/updating their business' website etc.

There is, however, a solid foundation for the future growth of the sector. It is encouraging to note that the sector is generally optimistic about their business prospects over the next 5 years, both in terms of turnover/sales and employment.

To support this growth, and in recognition of the importance of the sector in the Mid Ulster area, South West College was recently designated as the 'Engineering & Advanced Manufacturing Hub' within the Northern Ireland Further Education sector. In essence, the College now leads on the development of all Engineering & Advanced Manufacturing training within the Further Education sector.

The aim of the Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing Hub is to provide excellence in the development and delivery of engineering curriculum, skills support and innovation.

The Hub will facilitate the delivery of high quality and consistent engineering curriculum and employer engagement across Northern Ireland and will build on existing capability and working relationships within the Colleges. Importantly, the Hub will not sit in isolation and will include links and integration with employers and engineering and advanced manufacturing initiatives across Northern Ireland, the UK and beyond.

However, there are a number of other areas where the Council and other key stakeholders should seek to develop the infrastructure and eco-system to ensure that engineering businesses can fulfil their full potential in the future.

In conclusion, **there is a unique opportunity for growing the local, and wider, engineering sector and employment creation**. The opportunity, therefore, is clear – despite the identified issues there is potential to create approximately an additional 749 new jobs by 2023 if the Action Plan that has been developed (see Section 6) is appropriately resourced, financed and implemented.

6. ACTION PLAN

6.1 Introduction

This section sets out a ‘road map for growth’ for the engineering sector in the Mid Ulster area and the priorities for action that will be required to deliver it. It aims to be realistic about the challenges that the engineering sector in the Mid Ulster area faces and its baseline position. Each of the Actions presented, and the means by which they are anticipated to be created, have been agreed with the Council.

The priorities range from those which could straightforwardly be described as corrections for market failures (e.g. in the provision of training), through broader advocacy relating to existing areas of public policy (e.g. immigration), to priorities that address the governance issues that need to be resolved to support the sector’s development.

While some of the suggested actions are challenging, the Consultancy Team has sought to ground them in what is achievable, whilst recognising that it does not have all the answers to some very intractable questions. Instead, the Consultancy Team suggests that it is better to focus on making significant progress in a limited number of areas, by building on what the engineering sector in the Mid Ulster area already has and recognising that meaningful change will be gradual and requires stability and consistency.

6.2 The Goal

The continued growth and success of the engineering sector in the Mid Ulster area cannot be taken for granted, perhaps in particular following the UK’s vote to leave the EU in June 2016. Both Northern Ireland and the Mid Ulster area is at the beginning of a period of significant uncertainty, which has the potential to deter investment and reduce growth.

Other sectors face similar challenges. Some have similar strengths. Many have similar ambitions. However, the sector in the Mid Ulster area uniquely combines a realistic aspiration to further enhance its reputation, especially in key specialisms such as the manufacture of mining and quarrying machinery, production of general and special purpose machinery etc., at the same time as maintaining its position as a key contributor to the overall sector and economy in Northern Ireland. However, to pursue these aspirations while managing the implications of the vote to leave the EU, and within constrained public finance, it is recognised that one of the main drivers of strong economic growth will be the availability of a suitably skilled workforce.

Whilst the concept is simple, the context is highly complex, with some elements devolved whilst others remain under the purview of central Government. Against that backdrop, stakeholders must establish how best to focus resources and efforts in order to support the sector in the Mid Ulster area moving forward. The Action Plan aims to draw together those numerous interrelated strands of activity to bring cohesion, and to set out a direction of travel for the coming years.

Importantly, the ‘road map for growth’ must become shared, to which all relevant stakeholders can commit and work towards together. Achieving the goals that have been set out will require focused implementation and a coordinated approach amongst a range of public and private sector stakeholders. No single body has all the levers that the sector will require to drive success and different priorities can have different leaders. However, Mid Ulster District Council, through its Economic Development and Community Plans, is well placed to coordinate and drive this agenda as a whole by building partnerships across government, business and wider society.

6.3 What will this Action Plan Support?

Given the specific focus of this action plan, the ultimate measure of its success will be supporting business growth, job creation and increased productivity. The Consultancy Team's consultations with businesses based in the engineering sector in the Mid Ulster area indicates that if this is achieved it could support the creation of an additional 749 new jobs in the area by 2023.

6.4 The Action Plan

Similar to the Council's Economic Plan, the Strategic Priorities, Actions and Activities set out overleaf will require the development of strong partnerships and joint ventures, including strong leadership amongst businesses, using a multi-agency approach to maximise resources in order for them to be fully delivered. Central to this will be the Council who will act as a key enabler in the region, adopting a direct lobbying approach to become a leading strategic influencer in the area.

It is hoped this action plan will command broad support and serve as a 'sales proposition' for growing the engineering sector in the Mid Ulster in the long term, across economic and political cycles.

The following subsection provides details on each Strategic Priority of the Action Plan (or 'road map for growth'), including the rationale for each action and the specific activities that fall under each. For each activity, a lead body/organisation has been identified, along with associated timeframes for delivery i.e. short (year 1), medium (year 2-3) or long-term (year 5+).

Strategic Priority	Action	Rationale	Activities	Lead	Timeframe
1. ATTRACT **We want to attract external talent and residents to the Mid Ulster area**	**A. Improve market proposition for the Mid Ulster area**	Increase supply of labour and compete for talent from other areas	1. Develop a cohesive and strong marketing/promotional campaign for the Mid Ulster area. This should: • Identify key messages to be used consistently across organisations and existing communication mediums/platforms. • Promote the area's engineering sector. • Identify, in conjunction with key stakeholders (e.g. the Home Office), if there are areas of NI, GB, the EU or the rest of world where employment and lifestyle opportunities within the Mid Ulster area could be actively targeted and promoted, thereby addressing labour shortages in the engineering sector in the Mid Ulster area.	Council with relevant responsible departments/ stakeholders	Short term
	B. Enhance the image of the engineering sector	Increase volume and diversity	2. Explore opportunities to initiate the development and implementation of promotional campaigns across the Mid Ulster area and NI for the Engineering Sector. This should involve the development of a 'skills brand and toolkit' for the sector to include key messages that businesses can use as part of their own promotional campaigns.	Council with relevant responsible departments/ stakeholders	Medium term
			3. Develop new, and support existing, initiatives to promote and redress the gender imbalance towards males in the engineering sector. For example, Manufacturing NI is involved in developing promotional profile articles in regional newspapers (e.g. Belfast Telegraph) of 'successful women in work in the manufacturing industry', whilst the 'School Employer Connection Project' in Derry~Londonderry seeks to support females to move into the engineer sector.	Council with relevant responsible departments/ stakeholders	Short term
	C. Improve connectivity to, and within, the Mid Ulster area	Make the Mid Ulster area a preferred place to live and work – supports Actions A and B	4. Explore possible enhancements to the existing public transport linkages/networks and road infrastructure e.g. additional park and ride facilities, private bus transportation, proposals relating to the A29 road etc.	Council with relevant responsible departments/ stakeholders	Medium term
			5. Explore possible enhancements to the existing broadband network in the Mid Ulster area, both in terms of provision and connectivity.	Council with relevant responsible departments/ stakeholders	Medium term
	D. Support new job creation	Supports achievement of outcomes	6. Support the creation of approximately 749 additional jobs in the engineering sector in the Mid Ulster Council area (from a baseline position of 10,740 within the sector[112]).	Council with relevant responsible departments/ stakeholders	Long term

[112] Source: NISRA Business Register and Employment Survey 2015. Please note, the sample sizes in the 2016 BRES were too small to enable sectoral analysis.

Strategic Priority	Action	Rationale	Activities	Lead	Timeframe
2. DEVELOP **We want to develop the skills businesses need to address gaps**	**E. Increase quality and quantity of apprenticeships**	Grow local talent	7. Promote and raise awareness of initiatives such as the Government's 'Connect to Success NI', which is a free online portal (for employers and prospective employees) that exclusively advertises apprenticeships and school work experience opportunities.	Council with relevant responsible departments/ stakeholders	Short term
			8. Support a 10% increase in the number of individuals within the Mid Ulster area participating on Apprenticeships (within the Apprenticeships NI Framework) in manufacturing & engineering related disciplines/courses, from a baseline position of 338 (as of July 2017).	Council with relevant responsible departments/ stakeholders	Long term
	F. Support use of shared facilities amongst businesses	Support smaller businesses to access specialist equipment/facilities	9. Explore the potential to support (smaller) businesses to collaborate with other businesses to share facilities that are not available within their own business e.g. shared business or 'incubation' spaces to include specialist engineering equipment/facilities such as, for example, CAD, CNC routing machines etc.	Council with relevant responsible departments/ stakeholders	Short term
3. ENGAGE **We want to improve how businesses engage with key stakeholders**	**G. Improve engagement with prospective employees**	Increase supply of labour to increase volume and diversity	10. Establish an additional sectoral sub-group of the Mid Ulster Skills Forum[113], which should focus on, and have a remit for, the development of the engineering sector (this could potentially be one of a series of sub-groups). This group should, amongst other things, identify future support interventions required to address the needs of the engineering sector and, where appropriate, instigate sector specific collaborative opportunities beyond the Mid Ulster area e.g. to pursue, in conjunction with other Council areas, the development of a Manufacturing Strategy for NI.	Council with relevant responsible departments/ stakeholders	Short term
			11. Replicate the 'tasty careers' initiative (instigated within the food & agri-food sector) for the engineering sector.	Council with relevant responsible departments/ stakeholders	Short term
			12. Expand on existing, or establish new, social media channels (on twitter e.g. @midulsterjobs) for businesses to, through a centralised search point, advertise existing posts/vacancies, work placements and apprenticeship opportunities.	Council with relevant responsible departments/ stakeholders	Short term

[113] Which was established to address the key labour market challenges in the Mid Ulster area. It is intended that the Forum will introduce stronger collaboration and more effective partnership working with private sector representatives, which will result in an increase in employer needs being met and facilitate access to employment within the area. The Forum includes representation from local businesses, colleges, universities, local enterprise agencies, key sectoral business organisations, government departments and their agencies and the Council.

Strategic Priority	Action	Rationale	Activities	Lead	Timeframe
3. ENGAGE **We want to improve how businesses engage with key stakeholders**	**H. Improve engagement with education providers**	Perception and inspiration – there are opportunities to inspire the future workforce	13. Consider strategies to better coordinate education providers and businesses. For example, this may include expanding existing school/college partnerships with businesses or re-establishing former initiatives such as the Business Education Partnerships (previously funded through DfE and DE).	Council with relevant responsible departments/ stakeholders	Short term
			14. Through existing or new school/college partnerships with businesses, develop a structured approach (to include sectoral communication plans) which should serve to formalise the practicalities of businesses engaging with education providers e.g. when businesses engage, how often, who they engage with, through what means etc. This approach should be 'tiered' and adapted as students' progress through the education system e.g. different types of information/engagement for different age groups.	Council with relevant responsible departments/ stakeholders	Medium term
			15. Through existing or new school/college partnerships with businesses, agree on practical methods for businesses to engage, in a joined-up manner, with careers teachers, students and parents (as they are the key 'influencer' in students' future careers options). For example: • More widespread use of social media channels e.g. case study materials/profiles identifying the type of roles, skills required, opportunities available etc. • Facilitated site visits, open nights or insight/exploration days for students and parents, preferably outside of school hours (where possible). • Career fairs/days e.g. 'Mid Ulster Jobs Fair' - facilitated in non-school environments e.g. Council (local civic centres) or business premises (this might include businesses organising transport to and from the schools). • Bursaries or sponsorships. • Guest speakers or sector 'Ambassadors' e.g. local business leaders under 35 years old who provide a 'view from the younger generation'. • Work experience gained through business placements and/or internships – these can provide opportunities for students to learn about the sector or type of work and determine whether it is the right field for them. They also play a useful part in strengthening students' employment readiness.	Council with relevant responsible departments/ stakeholders	Medium term
	I. Improve engagement with existing Government strategies and initiatives	Lack of awareness of what initiatives are available to businesses	16. Promote and raise awareness of the various programmes/initiatives that are available to engineering businesses located in the Mid Ulster area.	Council with relevant responsible departments/ stakeholders	Short term

Strategic Priority	Action	Rationale	Activities	Lead	Timeframe
4. RETAIN / SUSTAIN **We want to 'future proof' skills and capability**	**J. Develop pipeline of new initiatives/incentives**	Support businesses sustain skills and capability	17. Explore the potential for additional support to be provided for older apprentices (i.e. those over 25 years old) and those categorised as economically inactive in the marketplace.	Council with relevant responsible departments/ stakeholders	Short term
			18. Explore, in conjunction with SWC and other stakeholders, the potential for additional support to be provided towards the development of an advanced Manufacturing & Engineering Innovation Centre/Facility in the Mid Ulster area.	Skills Forum with relevant key responsible departments & stakeholders	Medium term
		Support businesses address uncertainty related to Brexit	19. Explore the potential for additional advice and guidance to be provided to businesses on how to address issues arising as a result of Brexit e.g. workshops and/or seminars should be facilitated to provide advice and knowledge on issues such as: • The potential implications of tariffs being imposed on goods and services being imported to the EU; • The potential implications of a 'hard' border on engineering businesses operating in the Mid Ulster area; • Advice on how to manage to grow and/or maintain sales in the EU; and • Ways to manage currency fluctuations.	Council with relevant responsible departments/ stakeholders	Short term
	K. Support technological change and automation	Finding the right balance of technology and human capital will enable both businesses and people to succeed	20. Raise awareness of existing, and/or develop new, initiatives to support businesses to implement technological change and/or automation to redress the existing and potential future labour shortages.	Council with relevant responsible departments/ stakeholders	Medium term
			21. Raise awareness of existing, and/or develop new, initiatives to support businesses to invest in training, reskilling and education for those displaced by automation and embrace new working models. Whilst future labour demand could be in occupations created by automation that do not yet exist, there is a need to think, act and educate now for the benefit of the economy in the future[114].	Council with relevant responsible departments/ stakeholders	Medium term
	L. Reduce annual rate of staff turnover amongst businesses	Enhance business performance/ competitiveness	22. Support 80%+ of business respondents indicating that their annual rate of staff turnover is, as of 2023, 10% or less (from a baseline position of 73%, N=76[115]).	Council with relevant responsible departments/ stakeholders	Long term
5. SUCCESS **We want to implement the Action Plan and measure success in tangible metrics**	**M. Seek resources and finance for Strategy and Action Plan implementation**	Supports the implementation of Action Plan and the achievement of associated outcomes	23. Discuss and agree with key stakeholders/partners the resources and finance required to implement and fulfil the Action Plan for the sector.	Council with relevant responsible departments/ stakeholders	Short term

[114] Source: 2017 Knowledge Economy Report (Connect at Catalyst Inc., January 2018).
[115] Source: Survey Findings, as per Appendix IV (Cogent Management Consulting, May 2018).

Appendix I – Definition of the Sector

In defining the engineering sector, the Consultancy Team, in agreement with the Council and Invest NI, has primarily utilised sectoral data based upon the UK Standard Industrial Classification of Economic Activities 2007 (SIC 2007)[116], as per the Office of National Statistics (ONS). This was then supplemented by the Consultancy Team's review of publicly available information and research reports (e.g. those prepared by ONS, Engineering UK[117], MATRIX[118], the Agri-Food Strategy Board[119] etc.) and consultation with key stakeholders (e.g. Invest NI, South West College and Manufacturing NI).

The following table provides the basis upon which the sector has been defined for the purposes of this report:

[116] Which is a system used by ONS for categorising and defining a business' economic activities. SIC 2007 is divided into 21 sections, each denoted by a single letter from A to U. The letters of the sections can be uniquely defined by the next breakdown, the divisions (denoted by two digits). The divisions are then broken down into groups (three digits), then into classes (four digits) and, in several cases, again into subclasses (five digits). A business' classification under this system is often referred to as its 'SIC code'.
[117] Which is a not-for-profit organisation that works in partnership with the engineering community to *"promote the vital role of engineers and engineering and to inspire the next generation"*.
[118] The Northern Ireland Science Industry Panel, which is a business led expert panel advising on the commercial exploitation of R&D, science & technology.
[119] Established in May 2012 to develop a strategic action plan to help accelerate the growth of the agri-food industry.

Definition of the Engineering Sector	
Definition (as per SIC 2007)	**Rationale and supporting research**
• Section C ‘Manufacturing’ – all codes within Divisions 12-33. • Section M ‘Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities’ code 71.12 ‘engineering activities and related technical consultancy’.	For the purposes of this study, the Engineering sector is considered to comprise those businesses that fall within the following: 1. The **Advanced Manufacturing, Materials and Engineering (AMME) sector**, as defined by MATRIX[120]. During consultation, a representative from the Department for the Economy (who was involved in the development of the AMME report) indicated that this included businesses that fall within divisions relating to the manufacture of: 20 - Chemicals and chemical products 22 - Rubber and plastic products 23 - Other non-metallic mineral products 25 - Fabricated metal products 26 - Computer; electronic and optical products 27 - Electrical equipment 28 - Machinery and equipment 29 - Motor vehicles; trailers and semi-trailers 30 - Other transport equipment 32 - ‘Other’ manufacturing[121] 2. The **broader manufacturing sector -** This includes the remaining divisions (outside the AMME sector) that fall within Section C ‘Manufacturing’, including businesses that fall within divisions relating to the manufacture of: 12 - Tobacco products[122] 13 - Textiles 14 - Wearing apparel 15 - Leather and related products 16 - Wood and products of wood and cork 17 - Paper and paper products 18 - Printing and reproduction of recorded media 19 - Coke and refined petroleum products 21 - Basic pharmaceutical products 24 - Basic metals 31 - Furniture 33 - Repair and installation of machinery and equipment Please note, businesses that fall within divisions relating to the manufacture of food products (10) and beverages (11) for local, national and global consumers have been excluded from the engineering sector for the purposes of this study. These businesses are, as defined by the Agri-food Strategy Board[123] and Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)[124], considered to fall within the Food & Agri-food sector. 3. The Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities (Section M), and more specifically those that undertake engineering activities and related technical consultancy (SIC code 71.12), as defined by Manufacturing NI[125]. Please note, based upon discussion with Manufacturing NI and the Council, the Consultancy Team has, for prudence, excluded those businesses that fall under ‘architectural activities’ (SIC code 71.11) and ‘technical testing and analysis’ (SIC code 71.2).

[120] The Advanced Manufacturing, Materials & Engineering Report (MATRIX, November 2016).
[121] Please note, MATRIX may also include businesses that fall within divisions 13-18, if a business uses advanced manufacturing processes or incorporates advanced materials into their product(s). This is determined on a case-by-case basis.
[122] Whilst some sources of information include the manufacturing of tobacco within the food & drink sector (e.g. Centre for Industry and Management (2010) ‘Value of Food and Drink Manufacturing to the UK’), for comparability of data within an NI context, the manufacturing of tobacco products has been included within the broader manufacturing sector (as per the definition of the food & agri-food sector, as defined by the Agri-food Strategy Board and Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)).
[123] ‘Going for Growth: A Strategic Action Plan in Support of the Northern Ireland Food Industry’ (Agri-Food Strategy Board, 2013).
[124] ‘Northern Ireland Agri-Food Sector Key Statistics, June 2017’ - Footnote 7, Page 5. (DAERA, 2017).
[125] ‘Northern Ireland’s Manufacturing: The Engine of Prosperity’ (Oxford Economics on behalf Manufacturing NI, 2016).

For the purposes of this report, 'other' sectors (outside the engineering sector) include the following:

- Food & agri-food[126];
- Construction[127;]
- Retail[128];
- IT[129];
- Hospitality[130]; and
- Broader industry sectors, such as:

  - Administrative & Support Service Activities
  - Arts, Entertainment and Recreation
  - Education
  - Programming, publishing and broadcasting
  - Public Administration and Defence
  - Compulsory Social Security
  - Real Estate Activities Mining and Quarrying
  - Electricity, Gas, Steam and Air Conditioning Supply
  - Financial and Insurance Activities
  - Human Health and Social Work Activities
  - Transportation and Storage
  - Water Supply
  - Sewerage, Waste Management and Remediation Activities
  - Other Service Activities
  - Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities[131]

Whilst the approach adopted to define the sector (as set out above) provides a useful (and internationally recognised) starting-point for segmenting businesses on a sectoral basis, the Consultancy Team notes there is an element of subjectivity in such an approach. For example:

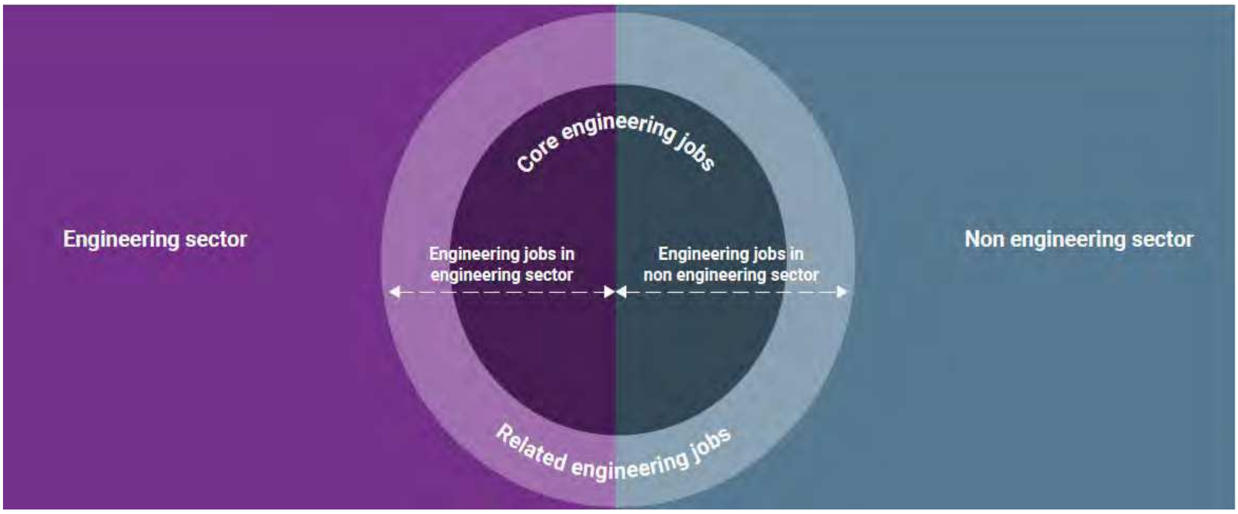
- Depending on the specific nature of a business' activities and/or the range of functions it may have (particularly amongst larger businesses), a business may 'cross-cut' a number of sectors and individual SIC sectoral groups (or SIC codes). By way of illustration, a concrete manufacturer, which supports the construction industry, may potentially operate in both the manufacturing and construction industries, or predominantly operate in either one of these. Therefore, the SIC code allocated to the business may not fully represent the sectoral contribution of this business to the economy.

- There are likely to be engineering jobs that are in engineering companies, but also engineering jobs that are in non-engineering companies and non-engineering jobs that are in engineering companies (as depicted overleaf). By way of illustration, Engineering UK categorises:

  - **Core engineering jobs** as those that require the consistent application of engineering knowledge and skills to execute them effectively e.g. civil, mechanical, electrical, electronics, design and development and production and process engineers. The 'core' definition also includes those who require consistent use of engineering competences e.g. a draughtsperson or a welder.
  - **Related engineering jobs** as those that require a mixed application of engineering knowledge and skill alongside other skill sets, which are often of greater importance to executing the role effectively. An architect is an example of a related engineering occupation.

---

[126] As defined by the Agri-food Strategy Board and Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), this includes Section A 'Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing' – all codes within Divisions 1-3 and Section C 'Manufacturing' – all codes within Divisions 10 & 11.
[127] As defined by ONS, this includes Section F 'Construction' codes – all codes within Divisions 41-43.
[128] As defined by 'The Retail Industry: Statistics and Policy' (House of Commons Library, 2017), this includes Section G 'Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles' – all codes within Divisions 45-47.
[129] As defined by MATRIX ('Digital ICT Report 2016' – page 7 Matrix, 2016) this includes Section J 'Information and Communication' – all codes within Divisions 61-63.
[130] As defined by British Hospitality Association, this includes Section I 'Accommodation and Food Service Activities' – all codes within Divisions 55 & 56; Section N 'Administrative and Support Service Activities' – codes 78.1 'Activities of employment placement agencies', 78.2 'Temporary employment agency activities' and 82.3 'Organisation of conventions and trade shows'; and Section R 'Arts, Entertainment and Recreation' - codes 91.0 'Creative, arts and entertainment activities' and 932 'Amusement and recreation activities'.
[131] Excluding those previously categorised as part of the engineering sector for the purposes of this report.



Source: 'The state of engineering' (Engineering UK, 2018).

Notwithstanding the above, the Consultancy Team, in conjunction with the Council and other stakeholders (e.g. Invest NI, South West College, Manufacturing NI etc.), considers that the above approach is robust and is, at the time of writing, based upon best available evidence.

CIVIL ENGINEERING

COALISLAND PUBLIC REALM ECONOMIC APPRAISAL

Version 04 – 10th August 2018

WDR & RT TAGGART

Architects
Civil Engineers
Structural Engineers
Environmental Engineers
Landscape Architects
Town Planning Consultants
Health & Safety Consultants
Project Managers

HEAD OFFICE
Laganwood House
Newforge Lane
Malone Road
BELFAST
BT9 5NX
t: 028 9066 2121
e: mail@wdr-rt-taggart.com
w: www.wdr-rt-taggart.com

Comhairle Ceantair Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster District Council

DfC
Department for Communities
www.communities-ni.gov.uk

TITLE	**ECONOMIC APPRAISAL**
PROJECT	17058 – COALISLAND PUBLIC REALM
CLIENT	MID ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL
DATE	10th AUGUST 2018
STATUS	DRAFT
VERSION	04
AUTHOR	M PATTON

WDR & RT TAGGART

DOCUMENT CONTROL

REVISION	DESCRIPTION	STATUS	DATE	BY	CHECKED	APPROVED
00	FIRST ISSUE	DRAFT	15/01/18	JVC/MP	MP	TS
01	SECOND ISSUE	DRAFT	14/05/18	MP	MP	TS
02	THIRD ISSUE	DRAFT	11/06/18	MP	MP	TS
03	FOURTH ISSUE	DRAFT	02/07/18	MP	MP	TS
04	FIFTH ISSUE	DRAFT	10/08/18	MP	MP	TS

CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1. Introduction

WDR & RT Taggarts has been commissioned by Mid Ulster District Council in conjunction with the Department for Communities (DfC) to conduct an economic appraisal of proposed public realm works in Coalisland Town Centre.

1.2. Background to the Project

Mid Ulster District Council appointed AECOM to undertake a town centre framework document for Coalisland in 2016. The document highlighted the potential benefits that a public realm Scheme would bring to the town.

Coalisland is the fourth largest settlement in the Mid Ulster District Council area with a population of approximately 8,664.

Coalisland is an industrial and local service centre, although many of its higher order services continue to be provided by Dungannon. The town provides a convenient and compact centre with a range of local retail outlets complemented by restaurants, cafes, bars and services.

1.3. Outline of the Proposed Scheme

The proposed public realm project involves creating a high quality physical environment on the following streets:

- The Square
- Main Street
- Lineside
- Platters Hill
- Dungannon Road
- Stewartstown Road
- Barrack Street
- Birney Square
- Barrack Square
- Station Road
- Washingbay Road
- Seagrave Terrace

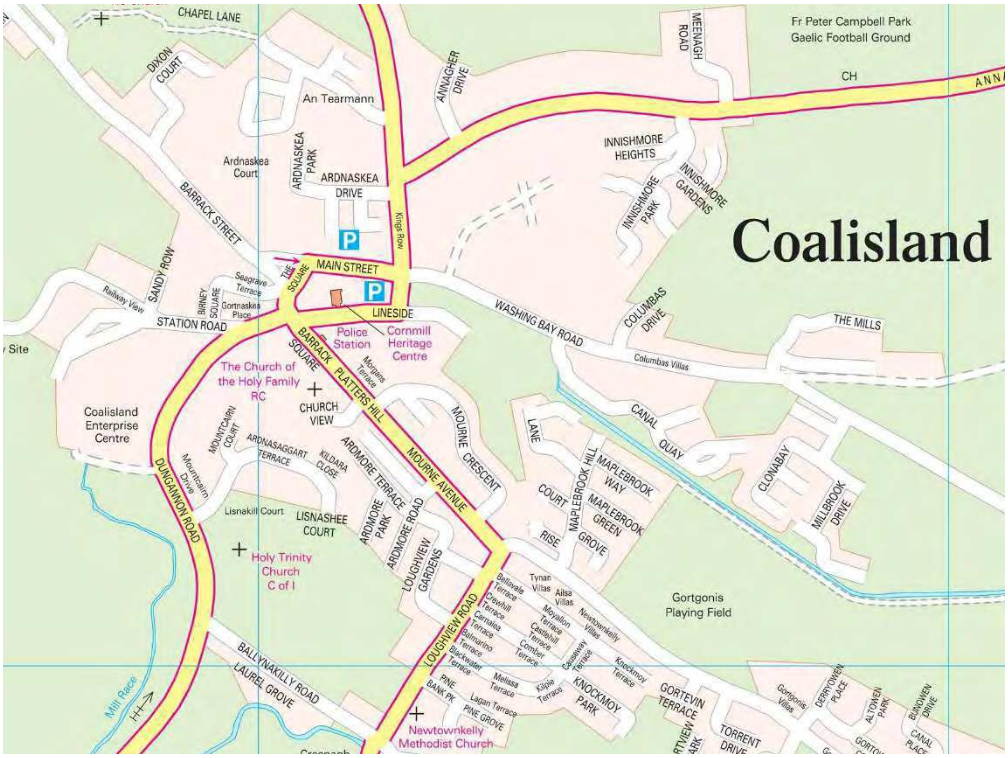


Figure 1: Coalisland Street Map
Contains public sector information licensed under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0

The proposed public realm works will include paving, kerbing, resurfacing, drainage, signage, planting, street furniture, lighting and provision for festive lighting infrastructure.

1.4. Structure of the Appraisal

This economic appraisal is based upon the approach outlined in 'Appraisal and Evaluation in Central Government - 2003', Her Majesty's Treasury latest guidance (the 'Green Book') and the 'Northern Ireland Guide to Expenditure Appraisal and Evaluation (NIGEAE)'.

Our approach to the ten phases of the economic appraisal is as follows:

Table 1: Ten Phases of an Economic Appraisal

Phase	Description	Purpose
Phase I	Strategic Context	To set the objectives of the project within the context of relevant strategies.
Phase II	Identification of Need	To establish the need and demand for the project based on primary research, e.g. consultations with stakeholders
Phase III	Objectives and Constraints	To highlight performance indicators for the project, thereby aiding post project evaluation.
Phase IV	Identification of Options	To identify a long list of options considering variations in scale on the proposed project and after careful consideration of the key issues, to select a shortlist of options for full appraisal.
Phase V	Monetary Costs and Benefits	To identify associated costs and revenues for each project option and rank all options according to their net present value.
Phase VI	Risk Appraisal and Adjustment for Optimism Bias	To identify and quantify effect of main project risks and assess how they can be managed /reduced. Adjust project cost/timing for Optimism Bias.
Phase VII	Assessment of Non-Monetary Costs and Benefits	To assess all those non-quantifiable factors that are pertinent to the project and rank all options according to their weighted score.
Phase VIII	Quantitative Analysis NPV/C's	NPV/C's are calculated for each option, including effects of sensitivity and probability analysis.
Phase IX	Selection of Preferred Option and Summary	To conclude on the findings from all previous phases and identify a preferred option considering the viability, additionality, cost effectiveness and economic impact of the project.
Phase X	Assessment of Project Financing, Marketing, Procurement, Monitoring and Post Project Evaluation	To illustrate and comment on proposed management and financing structure and set parameters for ongoing monitoring and evaluation, assess viability and marketing arrangements.

2. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

2.1. Introduction

In order to carry out an appraisal of the proposed project, it is necessary to take account of the particular objectives and aims of the key interest groups in order to identify the appropriateness of the proposed project. The strategic context for the appraisal will compare an overview of the organisations and funding strategies and the degree of strategic fit of the proposed works.

Northern Ireland Executive Programme for Government (Consultation Document) 2016-2021

The Programme for Government is the highest level strategic document of the Executive and sets out the priorities that it will pursue, and the most significant actions it will take to address them. The Programme for Government prioritises creating a place where people want to live and work, to visit and invest (Outcome 12). The proposed investment in public realm works seeks to regenerate the 'run-down' physical infrastructure of the town centre and create a safe, high quality environment for all.

It is envisaged that by improving the physical infrastructure of the town, it will attract more people, which will increase spending. Therefore, sustaining business activity, and encourage businesses to invest money, to build or to trade there, which improves the economy, creates jobs and reduces social and economic inequalities. It therefore is consistent with the NI Executives Programme for Government.

Northern Ireland Executive Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland 2011-21

This document is focused on prioritising infrastructure programmes that will deliver the best return in the period ahead, and in part seeks to tackle regional disadvantage through the regeneration of towns and cities. Public realm schemes are highlighted as one of the mechanisms to stimulate investment and economic activity. This scheme is therefore compatible the rational of this document.

Mid Ulster District Council Economic Development Plan 2015-2020

The Council have outlined four priorities to drive growth and regeneration. Theme 3, Town and Village Regeneration, promotes the towns and villages of Mid Ulster as places to shop, visit, invest and live. The proposed investment seeks to regenerate the town centre and create a safe and friendly environment for all sections of the community and thus is consistent with this vision.

Mid Ulster District Council Disability Action Plan 2015-2020

This document sets outs the Council commitment, in carrying out its function, to have due regard to the need to encourage participation by disabled people in public life. A site walkover of the town with representatives from the Disability Action Forum highlighted significant infrastructure issues which are likely to deter people with mobility issues from visiting the town centre, therefore restricting people from being able to shop locally or take part in some community events.

The proposed scheme aims to improve accessibility within Coalisland town centre by the provision of additional crossing points, footpath widening and improving the footpath surfacing. Therefore enabling disabled people to fully participate in the community.

Mid Ulster District Council, Our Community Plan - 10 year plan for Mid Ulster (2017)

The Council have outlined five priorities as part of their 10 year plan for Mid Ulster. Theme 1, Economic Growth, highlights how the Council's previous and current work on multi-focused town centre regeneration and village renewal schemes should be continued and include concerted efforts to address dereliction. The proposed development is in line with the Council's objectives for town centre regeneration and the reduction of derelict properties.

Theme 2, Infrastructure, highlights how the Council aims to manage and maintain the local roads network to facilitate the safe and convenient movement of people and goods. The proposed development to Coalisland aims to reduce congestion and improve pedestrian access and movement throughout the town centre.

Theme 5, Vibrant and Safe Communities, outlines the Council’s aspiration to reduce anti-social behaviour by “designing out crime” to help develop safer spaces and places. The proposed development shall provide new lighting and mitigate dark spaces within town centre area which should help to reduce anti-social behaviour.

Department for Communities Business Plan (Draft) 2017/2018

The Department’s main function relevant to this project is bringing divided communities together by creating communities which are sustainable, welcoming and accessible to live, work and relax in peace. Target R1.1 aims to deliver programmes to help close the gap between the quality of life for people in the most deprived neighbourhoods and the rest of society. Target R4.7 aims to deliver a programme of regeneration activities geared to improve the environment in towns and cities across Northern Ireland. The proposed project will impact both at an aesthetic and operational level by improving the appearance of the town centre, improving parking arrangements as well as facilitating the traffic flow, thus the regeneration of the town will aim to have a positive impact on the economic health of the area.

Department for Communities (previously DSD) Urban Regeneration and Community Development Policy Framework (2013)

This policy framework sets out the department's policy objectives for urban regeneration and community development. In the context of this investment, “Policy Objective 2 – To strengthen the competitiveness of our towns and cities” with key actions in the delivery of this objective “regeneration and public realm improvements” and “improve the quality of urban design, distinctiveness and townscape quality” and “Policy Objective 3 – To improve linkages between areas of need and areas of opportunity” with key actions in the delivery of this objective to “develop an …. accessible and inclusive public realm”. The proposed works will aim to revitalise the town centre and therefore is consistent these aspirations.

Section 75 of The Northern Ireland Act 1998

The Council is fully committed to complying with Section 75 obligations of the Northern Ireland Act, which deals with the promotion of equality of opportunity and good relations. The proposed public realm works seek to improve accessibility within the town, therefore creating a safe, high quality environment for all.

3. IDENTIFICATION OF NEED

3.1. Introduction

This section of the report assesses the need for the implementation of the proposed public realm works, which could improve traffic/pedestrian flows, enhance the aesthetics of the town, support other developments and contribute to regenerating the town centre.

Specifically the assessment of need considers:

- Need for Government Intervention;
- Physical Need;
- Baseline Information;
- Additionality;
- Displacement;
- Duplication; and
- Conclusion

3.2. Need for Government Intervention;

Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017 (NIMDM 2017)
(NIMDM 2017) is the official measure of spatial deprivation in Northern Ireland. The main output geography for the NIMDM 2017 is the Super Output Area (SOA). SOAs are equivalent to Electoral Wards and sub-divisions of Electoral Wards in the majority of cases. In total Northern Ireland is made up of 890 SOAs with an average population of 2,100 people.

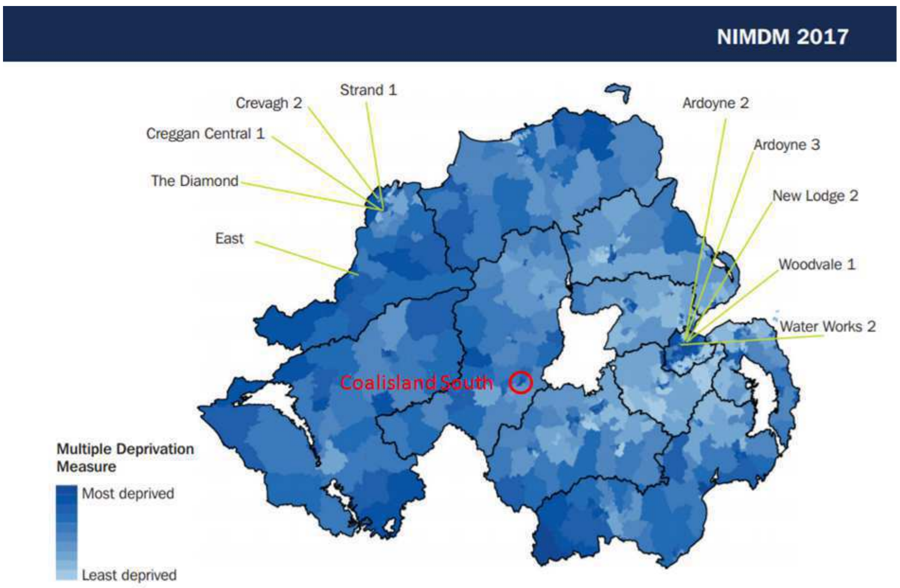


Figure 2: Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017 ranks for SOAs
(from "Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017")

Each SOA were assessed under the seven domains of deprivation. The indicators in each domain were analysed to produce a domain specific deprivation ranking of the 890 SOAs in Northern Ireland, from 1 (most deprived) to 890 (least deprived). The ranks of the 7 domains were weighted and combined, to provide a ranking of multiple deprivation (MDM) for the 890 SOAs.

There are three wards for Coalisland, Coalisland North, Coalisland South, and Coalisland West and Newmills. Coalisland South. The table below shows a comparison of the three Coalisand Wards, and their Ward ranking. Coalisland South Ward is ranked particularly poorly in terms of income and employment deprivation, as well as health and disability deprivation.

	Coalisland North	**Coalisland South**	**Coalisland West and Newmills**
Multiple Deprivation Measure	329	92	360
Income Deprivation	431	76	437
Employment Deprivation	233	96	309
Health Deprivation and Disability Deprivation	191	82	297
Education Skills and Training	325	199	235
Access to Services	356	447	262
Living Environment	788	595	698
Crime and Disorder	513	197	529

Figure 3: Deprivation rankings for Coalisland SOAs

(from "Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017")

Figure 4 shows that Coalisland Wards consistent rank in the top ten most deprived SOAs for Mid Ulster for a majority of the domains of deprivation. With Coalisland South ranking as the most deprived for Employment, Health and Disability and Multiple Deprivation.

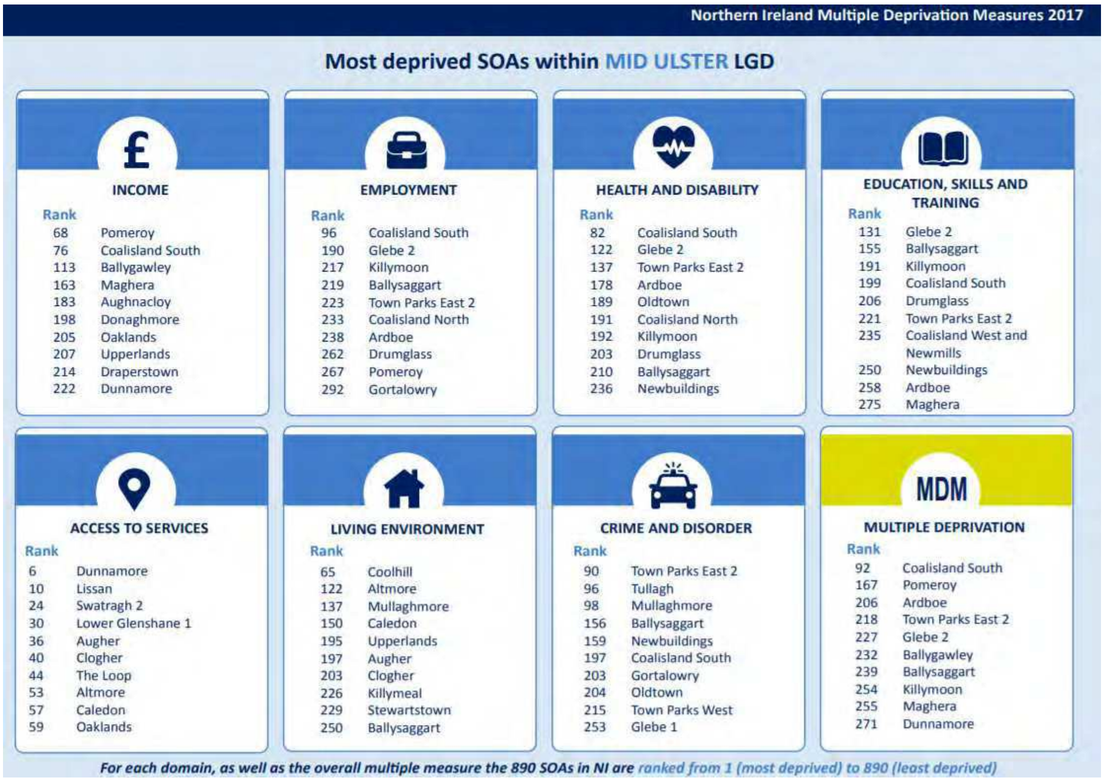


Figure 4: Summary of Top 10 Most Deprived SOAs within Mid Ulster

(from "Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017")

Department for Communities - Neighbourhood Renewal Programme

In June 2003 “People and Place - a strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal’ identified the most deprived 10% of wards across Northern Ireland, and led to 36 areas being chosen to receive support. The Neighbourhood Renewal Programme aims to reduce the social and economic inequalities which characterise the most deprived areas. Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships have been key to creating local plans to improve everyday life for people in those areas. Coalisland is one of two Neighbourhood Renewal areas in Mid Ulster.

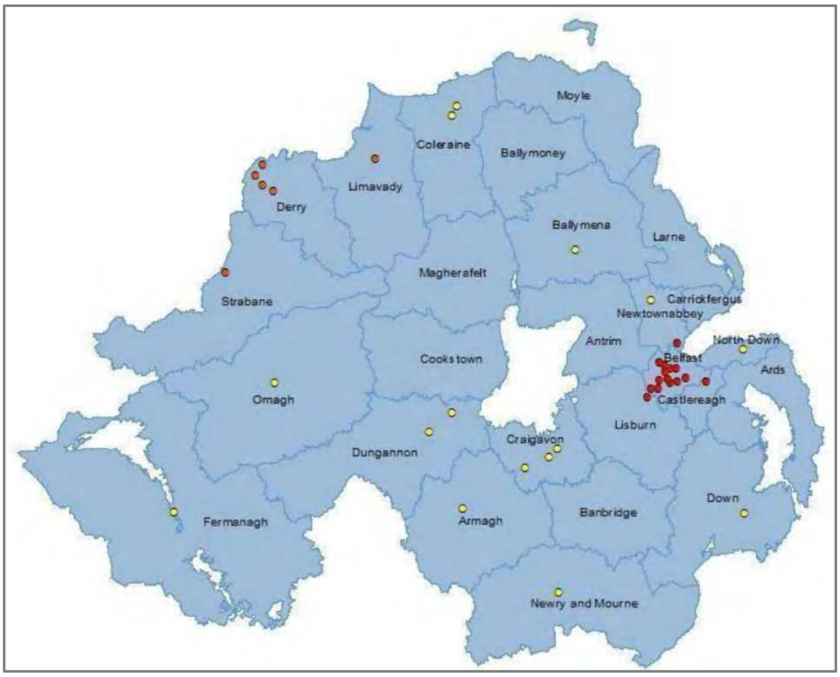


Figure 5: Northern Ireland Neighborhood Renewal Areas

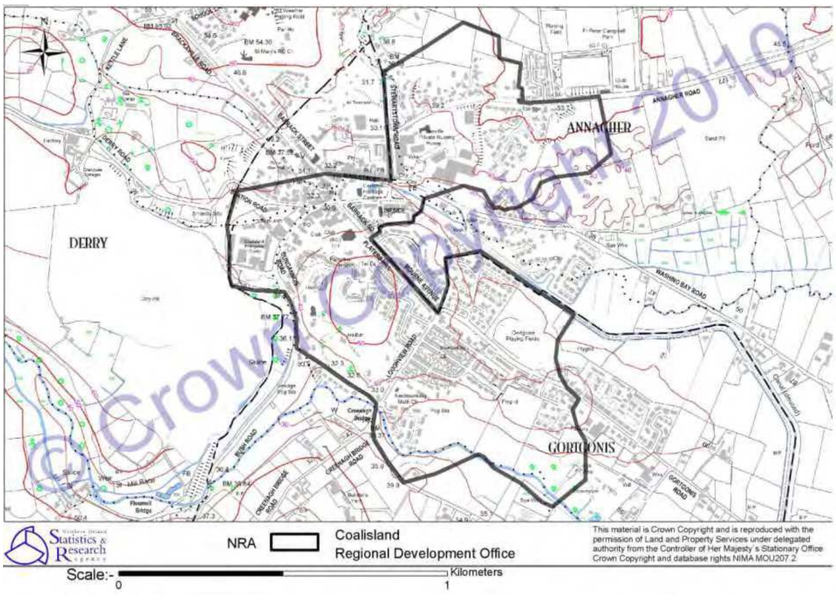


Figure 6: Coalisland NRA (Neighborhood Renewal Area)

Taking forward the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme in Coalisland, Coalisland & Dungannon Partnership was set up in 2012 to oversee the development and delivery of the local Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plan. The Partnership currently comprises 55 members which include representatives from local communities, voluntary organisations, elected representatives, private sector and local statutory organisations including NIHE, PSNI, SH&SCT, DfI Roads. The Neighbourhood Partnership has been established as a vehicle for local planning and implementation. The Action Plan addresses the four strategic objectives of the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme; Community Renewal, Economic Renewal, Social Renewal and Physical Renewal.

Department for Communities – Vital and Viable

The Department for Communities aim is to create high quality public spaces and footpaths to encourage better access for all people including those with mobility or sensory issues. This will create spaces where people from all communities can meet, relax and enjoy the surroundings. “Vital and Viable” is the Department's good practice guide for breathing new life into cities and towns in Northern Ireland.

“Vital and Viable” encourages greater use of city and town centres by attracting more people back to work, socialise and shop in them. This also involves preserving and enhancing their role as safe shared spaces for all and as neutral venues for a wide range of activities.

The document outlines 4 Key priorities for regeneration in order to facilitate the successful regeneration of cities and towns:

1. Sustainability - … social inclusivity, environmental impact and economic health must be taken into account….;
2. Design – “High quality building design….linked with the provision of public realm to an equivalent standard…coupled with sensitive design, can create a real sense of place”
3. Retailing – “The challenge … is to project a unique identity and preserve the local retail offering in a way which is easily accessible.
4. Variety – “Leisure, entertainment, sporting and recreational pursuits …evening and night time economies are now an integral element contributing to the vibrancy of towns and can work supportively with town centre living.”

Mid Ulster District Council - Coalisland Town Centre Development Framework

Mid Ulster District Council in conjunction with the Department for Communities (DfC) appointed URS (now trading as AECOM) to update the previous Coalisland Town Centre Development Framework. The document, published September 2016, engaged with a wide range of stakeholders and sets out short, medium and long-term proposals and actions for the coming 15 years.

The report highlighted the fact that traffic flows and congestion are a particular problem in Coalisland. In addition it states that Coalisland has assets that could be developed to support greater tourism and recreation capacity, however, development and investment is required. Both shopper surveys and business surveys revealed that the respondents rated the quality of the centre as it exists as average/poor. Generally, traffic congestion, physical appearance and the design of the town centre were highlighted as areas for improvement.

The report recommends rationalise existing on-street parking and provision of additional off street parking to improve movement around the town centre as well as improving accessibility for customers and create a less car dominated environment.

Improvements to the physical environment of the Town Centre, by making the Town Centre more attractive as a place to visit and spend time in would enhance the town's attractiveness.

Public Realm Public Consultation (Sept 2017 - May 2018)

September – November 2017

The initial proposals developed by Mid Ulster District Council were put on public display in the Cornmill Heritage Centre and Western House in Coalisland. A Consultation Questionnaire formed part of the public consultation process. This was distributed to all residents and business within the scope of the works and was available at the two display locations. Design proposals and options for the scheme were also made available on the Mid Ulster District Council website, together with a downloadable Consultation Questionnaire. A summary of the feedback received is outlined in Section 3.5 of this Report. A majority of the responses received were in favour of implementing parking restrictions within the town centre, however the need for alternative replacement off-street parking was stipulated.

May 2018

Two more additional information sessions where held at the start and end of May 2018. The aim of the additional meetings were to provide an update on how the project was progressing, and provide responses to any queries raised during the initial consultation sessions. This included visual output from the traffic model, proposed pedestrian crossing point positions, potential additional off-street parking locations and 3D visualisations of the scheme.

3.3. Physical Need

Physical Condition Survey

A photographic survey of the physical condition of the existing streetscape was undertaken on the 2nd November 2017. The character and appearance of the current streetscape is diminished for a number of reasons;

- The existing paving materials and street furniture are dated. The mixture of block paving and asphalt surfacing, along with areas of poor reinstatement, create a disjointed appearance.
- The footpaths are narrow in places with very few pedestrian crossings provided, which impacts pedestrian movement and presents a safety issue given the high volume of traffic in the town including heavy goods vehicles,
- There is currently no parking restrictions enforced within the town, with cars parking haphazardly leading to traffic congestion and restricting traffic flows.

Main St - Derelict site is visually unappealing and creates a visual barrier between the Main St and the main town centre car park at the Cornmill.

Main St - Narrow footpath which limits pedestrian movement

Main St - Section of footpath missing, kerb lines to not line up, causing ambiguity between carriageway and footpath

Main St - Pedestrian crossing with no complimentary dropped kerb on opposite side of the road which presents a safety issue

Main St - Mixture of dated paving materials and damaged kerbs creating an unappealing aesthetic.

The Square - Footpath narrows at corner which limits pedestrian movements, difficult for wheelchair users/buggies to negotiate

The Square towards Main St - There is currently no formal footpath provide in front of Donnelly McAleer Pharmacy. Asphalt surfacing is aesthetically poor with several areas of reinstatement visible.

The Square - Section of footpath missing, asphalt surfacing is aesthetically poor with several areas of reinstatement visible.

Access to Cornmill car park from The Square - No formal footpath provided to separate pedestrians from vehicular traffic

Barrack St - Vehicles parking on footpath reduces width from pedestrains

Dungannon Rd/The Square - highlights the present condition of the pavement including colour, vegetation group, and dips in the surface

Lineside - Poor aesthetic nature and quality of asphalt pavement

Derelict Site between Main St and Cornmill Car Park

Derelict Site between Main St and Cornmill Car Park

Unrestricted parking creating narrow carriageway and leading to congestion

Unrestricted parking creating narrow carriageway and leading to congestion

Recent Improvements

Mid Ulster District Council in conjunction with the Department for Communities undertook improvement works to the Cornmill car park in March 2016. The works included the provision of 15 additional parking spaces, the creation of 5 disabled parking spaces, new footpath, street furniture, lighting and the creation of a new pedestrian access between the car park and Main St beside Donnelly McAleer Pharmacy.

The Department for Infrastructure - Roads have recently provided two new controlled pedestrian crossings in Coalisland town centre; one is located at the Cornmill on Lineside and the other at Coalisland Credit Union on The Square.

Scope of Works

The proposed public realm scheme will include the follow streets:

- The Square
- Main Street
- Lineside Road
- Platters Hill
- Dungannon Road,
- Stewartstown Road,
- Washingbay Road
- Birney Square
- Barrack Street,
- Barrack Square
- Station Road,
- Seagrave Terrace

A site walkover was undertaken by the Integrated Consultancy Team, MUDC, & DfC on the 12th April 2017 to agree the scope of the scheme. It was agreed that the scheme would extend to all retail and commercial properties on the above streets which are located within the Coalisland Town Centre Boundary. See extent of Town Centre Boundary below. By focusing on improving the core retail and commercial areas, it is envisaged that this will increase footfall and attract shoppers and businesses to the town centre.

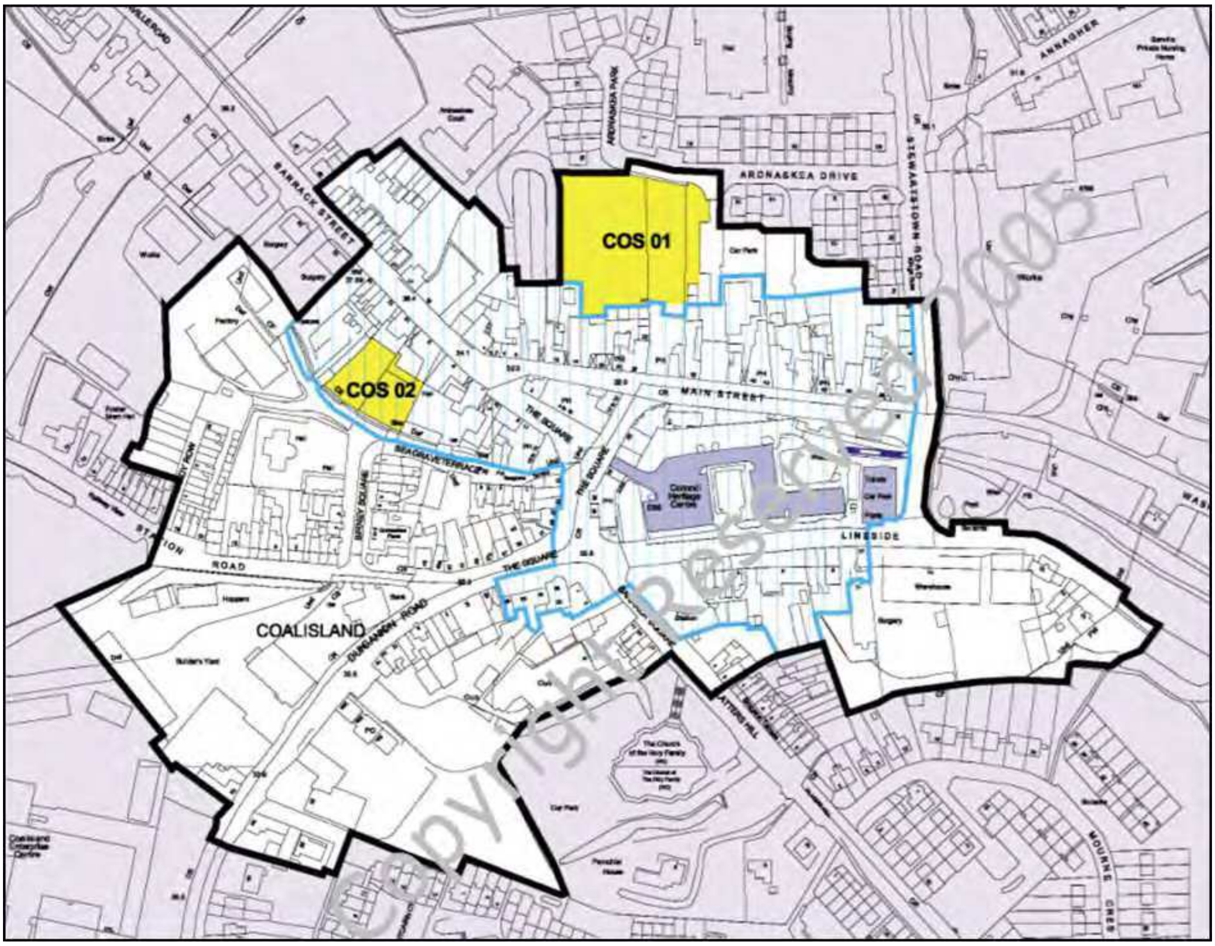


Figure 7: Coalisland Town Centre
Extract from Dungannon and South Tyrone Area Plan 2010 - Adopted Plan, Map No. 62b

The proposed public realm works will include paving, kerbing, resurfacing, drainage, signage, planting, street furniture, lighting and festive lighting infrastructure. The potential inclusion of additional off-street car parking has also been considered as part of the scheme.

Proposed Development of Land in Private Ownership

There are a number of privately owned parcels of land which are proposed to be incorporated within the scope of the public realm scheme. These include areas on Lineside, The Square, Station Rd and Dungannon Rd. These areas are generally comprised of parking areas between the back of the public footpath and businesses. Should these areas not be incorporated in scheme, it is envisaged they would detract from the appearance of the new Public Realm.

Photograph Showing Privately Owned Parking Area at 6-9 Lineside

Department for Infrastructure - Roads

The project team have consulted with the Department for Infrastructure - Roads (DfI Roads) throughout this initial concept design stage. Representatives from DfI Roads have been in attendance to monthly board meetings, where they have provided input to the proposals as the designs have been developed. The project team have also held one-to-one meetings with DfI Roads regarding their traffic model requirements, street lighting specifications and undertaken a site walkover to identify all adopted and non-adopted areas within the scope of the scheme.

Consultation with Utility Providers

The project team has undertaken extensive consultations with Utility Providers to date. Initially, all Utility Providers were contacted by email/letter to requested record information of any plant/infrastructure within the scope of the public realm scheme. Each Utility Provider which has existing plant within the scheme area was invited to a one-on-one meeting, to outline the proposed public realm scheme and identify any planned upgrade works to be undertaken by the Utility Provider. Utility Providers were requested to programme any planned upgraded works prior to the public realm scheme commencing. Generally, Utility Providers have been very proactive in this respect, with some works having already been complete.

The project team were also aware that SGN plan to install gas pipelines throughout Coalisland as part of the Gas to the West scheme. Therefore, the project team have met with an SGN representative and have obtained an agreement from SGN to bring forward their planned works in Coalisland to June 2018 to ensure their work is complete prior to the public realm scheme.

Table 2 : Summary of Utility Provider Information

Utility Provider	Contact Details	Record Information	Future Planned Works
NIE	Nigel Watkin/ Francis McKillion	Record maps received	Currently no upgrade works envisaged.
NIW	David Clydesdale / Marie McCartney	Record maps received	NIW have undertaken upgrade works throughout the town centre. Some additional works to Main St and the Cornnmill car park are scheduled for Sept 2018.
BT	Fergal Smith	Record maps received	No planned upgrade works.
Firmus Gas	Damian Caddell	None present	No
Phoenix Gas	Beatrice Mahoney	None present	No
SGN	Mark Davidson	None present	Yes - SGN to lay main in town centre prior to public realm. Duct locations for future connections identified and to be laid as part of public realm scheme.
Virgin Media	Virgin Media	None present	No
DfI - Roads Street Lighting	Eddie Lynn/ John Ross	Record maps received	Upgrade works as part of PR scheme
DfI - Rivers	Anne Mc Guigan	Record maps received	No
Premier Transmission	Regan Smyth	None present	No
GTT(Hibernia Atlantic)	Owen Maguire	None present	No
MUDC - Cornmill Lighting	MUDC	Record maps received	Upgrade works as part of PR scheme

3.4. Baseline Information

The Baseline Information data originates in the Coalisland Town Centre Development Framework published in September 2016 and stakeholder engagement meetings and public consultation sessions undertaken by WDR & RT Taggart between September 2017 & May 2018.

A further baseline survey is scheduled to be undertaken in September 2018, approximately six months before commencement of the works. The survey will record the public perception of the town prior to the development. This data will be used for comparison at Post Project Evaluation stage to assess the project objectives. A draft Shopper Questionnaire is provided in Appendix H.

Coalisland Town Centre Development Framework

In September 2016, Mid Ulster District Council commissioned AECOM to complete a Framework document for Coalisland. The development of this document required fulsome engagement with a wide range of stakeholders using both desk and field research. A range of short, medium and long-term proposals and actions had been proposed and has provided a strategic focus for regeneration activities and initiatives within Coalisland town centre.

This document has been the baseline to effectively evaluate the need for a public realm scheme within Coalisland town centre, with the commitment by Mid Ulster District Council to conduct pre construction and post construction surveys with shoppers and businesses. These survey will be conducted up to 6 months prior to contractor, as per ASU Guidelines.

As part of Coalisland Framework a retail capacity study and town centre health check had been carried out by Roderick MacLean Associates in conjunction with AECOM in Spring 2014.

The culmination of that process is set out in an updated framework document and outlines a range of proposals and actions set out below.

Objectives

As stated in the Framework document "The framework must aim to meet the following objectives agreed by the Department for Communities (DfC) and the Council"

- Be sustainable;
- Have high amenity value;
- Be accessible;
- Offers appropriate attractions;
- Promotes civic pride;
- Demonstrates clear leadership and ownership;
- Provides for a peaceful future; and
- Contributes to a flourishing regionourishing region

The document sets out a clear vision and Action Plan under three thematic headings:-

1. Connecting Coalisland;
2. Creating a high quality town centre environment;
3. Improving the Coalisland experience.

One of the key priority projects identified within the Plan is a Public Realm Scheme for the town centre.

Surveys Undertaken to Establish Baseline Data

Historical Background Desk Study

A desk study of the historical background of the town was undertaken. The opening of the Tyrone Canal in 1744, in combination with the mining of the abundant coal in the area are the underlying reasons for the town's growth and development. Today, Coalisland provides a convenient and compact centre with a range of local retail outlets complemented by restaurants, cafes, bars and services.

Planning context

A desk study of the planning context was undertaken. Coalisland Development Framework sits within the context of the Dungannon and South Tyrone Area Plan 2010. A large proportion of Coalisland Town Centre falls into a designated Area of Townscape Character (ATC). The ATC acknowledges the unique arrangement of the narrow irregular streets. The Dungannon and South Tyrone Area Plan 2010 also strategically highlights existing car parking around the Cornmill Heritage Centre which is to be retained throughout any future Town Centre development. The Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) for Northern Ireland has now been adopted and in particular for Coalisland, PPS5 'Retailing and Town Centres'. One of the objectives within the SPPS is a '**town centre first approach**' which should be at the forefront of new opportunities for Coalisland.

Socio-economic profile

A desktop survey of the NISRA data for the relevant output areas for Coalisland was carried out. The Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM) 2017 provides information on seven types of deprivation and an overall measure of multiple deprivation for small areas. The most deprived Ward is ranked 1, the least deprived Ward has a rank of 890. The deprivation rankings for the Coalisland Wards are given in Section 3.2 **Figure 3**. The following key points can be highlighted:

- Access to private transport is significantly lower in the Coalisland South;
- Coalisland South Ward which is ranked as the most deprived area in Mid Ulster; and
- Coalisland South Ward is ranked particularly poorly in terms of income and employment deprivation, as well as health and disability deprivation.

In June 2003, Government launched Neighbourhood Renewal - People and Place. Neighbourhoods in the most deprived 10% of wards across Northern Ireland were identified using the Noble Multiple Deprivation Measure. Coalisland is identified as one of these areas. The Neighbourhood Renewal Programme aims to reduce the social and economic inequalities which characterise the most deprived areas. It does so by making a long term commitment to work in partnership with communities to identify and prioritise needs. Coalisland & Dungannon Partnership was set up in 2012 to oversee the development and delivery of the local Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plan. The Partnership currently comprises 55 members which include representatives from local communities, voluntary organisations, elected representatives, private sector and a range of statutory organisations. The Action Plan addresses the four strategic objectives of the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme; Community Renewal, Economic Renewal, Social Renewal and Physical Renewal.

Townscape character appraisal
Information gathering workshops and surveys with local businesses and shoppers were undertaken. The results with respect to the Public Realm Works were as follows:

- The town centre is busy and vibrant, with the main shopping area concentrated around Main Street, the Square and, to a lesser extent, Lineside;
- The principal access problem is congestion in the town centre, especially in the vicinity of the Square, where there are a series of mini roundabouts and give way junctions compacted into a small area;
- The road layout, combined with school buses and a relatively high density of heavy goods vehicles creates significant congestion; and
- Poor road layout is exacerbated by lack of any control of on-street parking, with abandonment of cars in awkward locations.

Tourism appraisal
Information gathering workshops and surveys with local businesses and shoppers were undertaken. The results with respect to the Public Realm Works were as follows:

- development and investment is required to support greater tourism and recreation capacity;
- protection of the Canal route for heritage and tourism purposes is a key priority;

Retail assessments
In Spring 2014, A retail capacity study and town centre health check was carried. Below is a brief summary of the findings:

Catchment Area
There was increase of 16% in the catchment population over the past ten years;

Land uses and retailing offer
- retailing is a key component of land uses in Coalisland Town Centre, but services represent a greater proportion of the total usage;
- there is a high level of expenditure leakage from Coalisland to larger centres such as Belfast and Sprucefield;
- main opportunities are to increase the number and quality of independent specialist retailers';
- vacancy rate of 13.1%, which suggests an over-supply; and
- improvements to the physical environment of the Town Centre is essential to support retail.

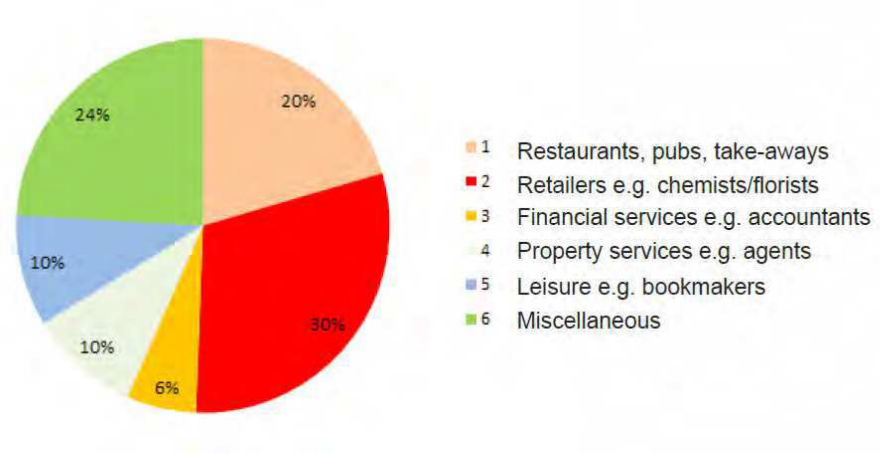


Figure 8: Coalisland Distribution of Non-Retail Service Units by Type
(from Coalisland Town Centre Development Framework 2016)

Shopper Survey

The shopper survey revealed that people visit the town centre for various activities. These results are summarised in the chart below

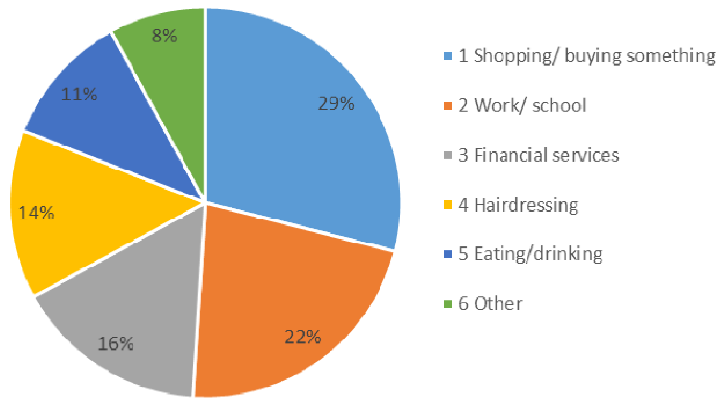


Figure 9: Coalisland Shopper Survey - Activities
(data from Coalisland Town Centre Development Framework 2016)

Perception

The respondents were asked to rank the quality of the centre as it exists. The findings indicate an overall rating of average/poor. The results reveal that the level of dereliction, the condition of buildings and antisocial behaviour get the lowest ratings, followed by facilities for visitors and marketing of Coalisland.

The majority of respondents all strongly agreed on the following:

- the physical appearance of the Town Centre could be improved;
- the design of the centre could be improved;
- the area has a negative image;
- they felt safe;
- there are anti-social problems in the centre; and
- the respondents would most likely use the centre as a consequences of the changes that could be made by the project.

Business survey analysis

A business consultation exercise resulted in an excellent response with approximately 80 completed questionnaires received.

Car parking and Customer Parking

A quarter of respondents state that staff car parking is having a major impact on their business. There is a possibility that staff are parking on spaces which could be utilised by customers. Opinion was divided on customer parking, with 44% believed that customer parking was a high-serious issue whereas 44% also believed that it had minimal-low impact. The report recommended rationalising existing on street parking and provide off street solutions to improve movement around the town.

Traffic Congestion

Nearly 40% of respondents state that congestion is having a high-severe impact on their business operations.

Physical appearance

40% of respondents perceived that the quality of the surrounding areas was having a high-serious impact on their business. 30% stated that this was having a minimal-low impact. The disparity between responses could be explained by recent environmental improvements to some areas where others have lagged behind e.g recent improvement to Cornmill carpark.

Strengths and Weaknesses

Strengths customer care
businesses look after the area outside their property
transport links
choices of places to eat

Weaknesses derelict buildings
lack of evening economy
access for the disabled

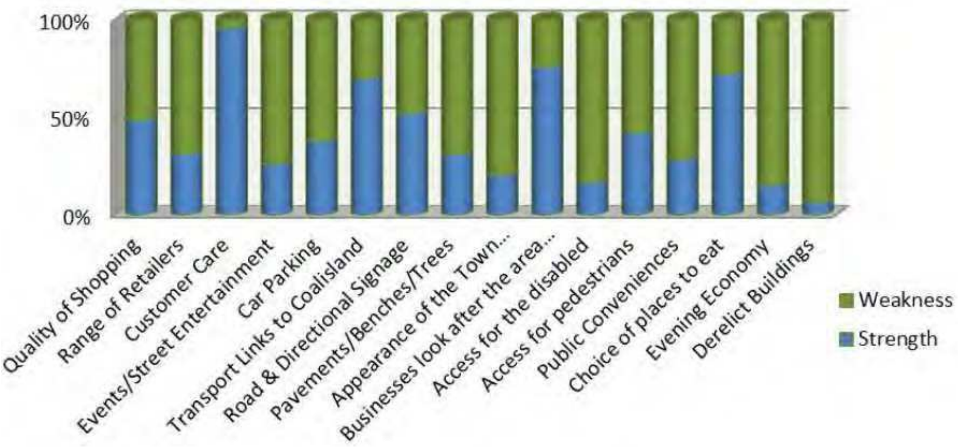


Figure 10: Strengths and Weaknesses
(from Coalisland Town Centre Development Framework 2016)

Public realm options

62% of business respondent preferred Option A ("improving the visual quality of the town centre with minimal changes to traffic circulation and car parking")

Traffic Management Proposals
5 proposals were presented to participants. No single proposal was disliked by more than 20% of respondents.

Below is a summary of the survey results, with 52% wanting traffic circulation to be a priority.

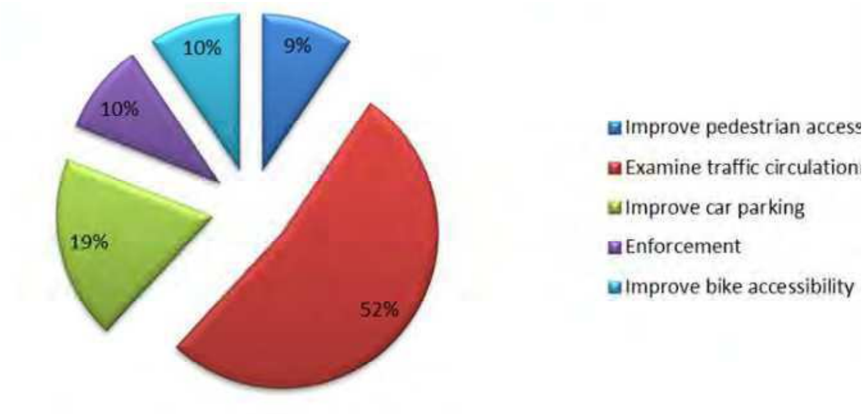


Figure 11: How can the management of traffic be improved in the long term?
(from Coalisland Town Centre Development Framework 2016)

This highlights the demand from retailers for investment in infrastructure, and improving the town's image.

Pedestrian flow analysis
A footfall survey analysis of Coalisland was carried out at three fixed times of the day, both on weekdays and weekends, in order to determine the changing footfall patterns in various parts of the Town Centre. The area around O'Neill's Public House generated the consistently high levels of footfall on both weekdays and weekends. The former PSNI Barracks, has similar high levels. (The area at PSNI on Lineside has the bus stop for the main B520 road).

The highest levels of footfall were recorded on Saturday at 12pm, at O'Neill's and on the Dungannon Road towards Supervalu. (See Figure 14). During the week, the highest levels of footfall were also observed at 12pm, particularly at Lineside towards the Heritage Centre (see Figure 13). Similarly high levels were observed at the Main Street junction near to Schiedel factory at 4pm, which may be accounted for as employees leaving work (see Figure 12).

Figure 4: Footfall heat map - data collected on a given Tuesday at 4pm
(from Coalisland Town Centre Development Framework 2016)

Figure 5: Footfall heat map - data collected on a given Friday at 12 noon
(from Coalisland Town Centre Development Framework 2016)

Figure 14: Footfall heat map - data collected on a given Saturday at 12 noon
(from Coalisland Town Centre Development Framework 2016)

Consultation

Information gathering workshops with local businesses and also with shoppers and design workshops were held with the Steering Group to discuss and agree on the vision and regeneration objectives for the Development Framework. This has informed the previous section. A public consultation was then run for a 6 week period. Relevant points raised through the public consultation exercise are incorporated into the SWOT analysis and the final proposals. The outcome of this exercise also resulted in Option A being selected as the preferred option.

Strengths	Weaknesses
• The historic layout of the town creates a unique character e.g. Cornmill and the former Canal Basin	• Traffic flow and circulation around the town centre
• A variety of local independent traders operating within a compact town centre	• Accessibility and parking within the town centre
• Coalisland and the surrounding areas are a major employment hub in the manufacturing and industrial sectors	• Townscape and public realm has become tired and needs to be revitalised
• Local theatre attracts people who would not normally come to Coalisland	• Lack of high quality open spaces where activities and special events could be held for the entire town

Opportunities	Threats
• To redevelop vacant and under used sites	• Increased competition from Dungannon and other centres such as Cookstown and Magherafelt
• Potential to create a vibrant heart to the town centre	• Poor accessibility and parking may act as a deterrent for shoppers, visitors and potential investors
• To exploit some of the existing surrounding assets such as the clay pits, canal corridor	• Pressure applied to local traders from large supermarkets
• Marketing and promotion of the town to increase the attraction of tourists	• Large vacant sites and vandalism could combine to create a negative perception of the town

Figure 15: SWOT Analysis
(from Coalisland Town Centre Development Framework 2016)

3.5. Public consultation process - WDR & RT Taggart - Sept 2017 - May 2018

September 2017 - November 2017

A 12 week Pre-Application Community Consultation was held from September to December 2017. Consultation was undertaken in the form of public meetings, public exhibitions, drop in sessions, press notices and door to door visits with businesses. A site walkover was also undertaken with representatives from various local disability groups.

Feedback questionnaires were made available to businesses and members of the public.

A summary of the responses received is outlined below:

	Yes	No	No Response
Question 1 Do you agree with the proposed public realm improvements to Coalisland as outlined on the Draft Proposal Boards?	55%	30%	15%
Question 2 Do you think the proposal will create a safe, high quality, pedestrian friendly environment?	55%	27%	18%

	Yes	No	No Response
Question 3 Do you believe that the high quality materials proposed for this scheme will complement the industrial heritage of the town?	64%	16%	20%
Question 4 Are you in favour of the following proposals			
i. One-way traffic on Main Street	61%	27%	12%
i. One-way traffic on The Square	34%	41%	25%
ii. Bus Layby on Lineside	73%	16%	11%
iii. Right hand turn lane on Barrack Square	64%	11%	25%
iv. Entrance only vehicular access to Cornmill car park from The Square	52%	27%	21%
Question 5 Would you be in favour of implementing parking restrictions in key locations?	80%	5%	15%

The consultation process, site walkover with disability groups and the Non-motorised Use Audit have all raised issues with the lack of car parking control measures within the town. This results in car parking on the footpath and obstructing pedestrian routes, reducing sight lines and causing motorists to drive around vehicles and on to the opposite side of the road. Feedback from the public consultation process has indicated that a significant majority (80% of all responses received) are in favour of implementing parking restriction enforcement at key locations within the town, however with a caveat that additional new off-street parking was provide to service vehicles which are being displaced from on-street parking. This issue was also raised during public meetings and meetings with elected representatives. A significant majority were also in favour of implementing one way traffic on Main St and introducing a bus lay-by on Lineside.

May 2018

Two more additional information sessions where held at the start and end of May 2018. The aim of the additional meetings were to provide an update on how the project was progressing, and provide responses to any queries raised during the initial consultation sessions. This included visual output from the traffic model, potential additional off-street parking locations and 3D visualisations of the scheme.

Mid Ulster District Council are receptive to all queries and/or concerns raised by stakeholders, and strive to address the issues raised where possible. Mid Ulster District Council are committed to providing a scheme which will benefit the whole community by providing a safe accessible environment to help encourage more visitors and shoppers into the town centre.

3.6. Non-motorised User Audit

A Non-motorised User Audit (NMU Audit) was undertaken by Kevin McShane Ltd in December 2017. The purpose a NMU Audit is to facilitate the inclusion of all walking, cycling & horse-riding modes in the highway scheme design process from the earliest stage, enabling the design team to identify opportunities for improved facilities throughout the design process. A summary of the problems identified in the report is outlined below:

- There are various junctions around the square in Coalisland which do not have tactile paving or dropped kerbs. With no tactile paving or dropped kerbs present, the pedestrian facilities are not at a standard appropriate for the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA). Thus, impeding the use of these routes for people who are visually impaired, mobility impaired or those with prams.
- There are only two pedestrian controlled crossings currently located in the town. However, the majority of people within Coalisland cross the road to get to their destination. The pedestrians commonly walk across over the two mini roundabouts located at the square in order to reach Main Street.
- Motorised traffic danger may be a concern due to the various directions pedestrians currently have to take to get to where they want to go around the square of the town. These desire lines are unpredictable and not expected by all motorists especially those just travelling through the town, making traffic danger higher than one where pedestrian paths ae common and well facilitated. Vehicles park where they please around the west side of the square as no Controlled Parking Zone measures are in place. This results in cars parking on the roadway at the roundabouts, meaning sightlines are reduced and cars are having to drive around vehicles and onto the opposite side of the road. This may increase the risk of vehicle collisions.
- The width of footpaths for pedestrian routes is not acceptable in parts and non-existent in others with no footpath present outside Donnelly McAleer Pharmacy and a very narrow footpath down the street towards Barrack Square.
- Pedestrian routes are obstructed regularly with HGVs observed parking and unloading on the footpath across from the Central Bar blocking the access to the Car park and the footway around the square.
- There are no dedicated cycle tracks around the town due to the low level of cyclist. However, it is important to allow for cycle facilities to be provided in the future.
- A number of the footpath links around the town end abruptly or are blocked due to pedestrian guardrails causing pedestrians to either walk on the public road or turn around and return towards the town until they can cross the road safely. Vehicles Park along the area with no footpath previously detailed causing pedestrians to navigate around the vehicles or go on the public road if using a child’s buggy.

- The proposed facilities need to be able to accommodate the turning radius for cycles, pushchairs, and wheelchair users so they can safely navigate around the town and ensure the accessibility for all non-motorised users around the town.
- Hazards appear around the existing town in the form of low kerbs in various places, which would make it difficult for visually impaired users to detect the change between the footpath and carriageway with either a guide dog or a cane.
- Steep cross falls are present at certain points on the existing footpaths increasing the risk of falls and trips to users.
- A number of shop fronts have stepped access to them along the Dungannon Road whilst the credit union access has a steep ramped access up to it. These features are deterrents for wheelchair users, child buggies and the visually impaired.
- Cycle parking is only provided at the library meaning cyclists who wish to go to certain parts of the town always have to park at the cycle bay and continue their journey on foot. More cycle parking in various parts of the square would provide cyclists with more variety and better locations to park their bicycle safely and securely.
- Yellow reflective strips are present on the bollards located near the main street mini roundabout to the east of the town. These strips can cause glare to the visually impaired and potentially cause them to navigate off the footpath and into the public road by mistake.
- The existing pedestrian crossing located along the Dungannon Road is close to the mini roundabout at the square where there is risk of a collision due to vehicles having to stop suddenly once coming off the roundabout.

3.7. Site Walkover with Disability Groups

A site walkover was undertaken with Ursula Marshall - Mid Ulster Disability Forum, Jackie Cotton - RNIB, Mark Farquhar - Shopmobility Mid Ulster, along with representatives from Mid Ulster District Council and WDR & RT Taggart on 16th November 2017. During the site walkover, a number of issues where identified which may hinder the movement of disabled people throughout the town centre. These issues have been summarised below:

- Lack of adequate pedestrian crossing points,
- Narrow sections of footpath,
- Low kerbs - difficult for guide dog or cane to detect change between carraigeway and footpath,
- Vehicles parking on footpath which reduces usable footpath width,
- No on-street disabled parking bays,

- Street furniture reducing usable footpath width,
- Steep crossfall of footpath at some locations,
- Stepped access to some buildings, therefore inaccessible to wheelchair users.

The Mid Ulster Disability Forum also complete a Pre-works Survey to rate the current condition of the public realm. The group rated a majority of the public realm as “Poor”. The group also noted that parking on footpaths as a major issue when they undertook their walkover as it forces wheelchair users onto the road. The survey and a letter of support for the public realm scheme from the Mid Ulster Disability Forum is provided in Appendix E.

3.8. VISSIM Traffic Modelling Report (2018)

A VISSUM Traffic Model was undertaken by Atkins to assess impact on traffic flow for all three proposed layouts. The Traffic Model report concluded that Proposal 2 , which introduces a one-way system on Main St and The Square, introduces a large amount of delay through the network and results in long queues along Main St, particularly during the Saturday peak period. The report outlines that Proposal 1, which introduces a one-way system on Main St, and Option 3, which maintains a two-way system on Main St, both perform well compared to the base model. The report concludes that both Proposal 1 & 3 can both be recommended as viable options based on traffic performance.

3.9. Traffic Management and Parking Enforcement

Previous attempts by DfI Roads to improve traffic management and parking enforcement within the town have been unsuccessful. This is partly due to current road layout which does not provide space to provide formalised parking bays and there is a lack of road markings and signage. Additionally, previous attempts to deploy parking attendants in the town have been ineffective.

This has resulted in no parking tickets being issued in the town for several years. It has been reported by local representatives (see attached correspondence in Appendix G) that there is an inequality in the enforcement of parking regulations, describing Coalisland as a "free for all".

DfI Roads have confirmed that they propose to introduce parking restriction legislation to the town following completion of the public realm scheme. It is also their intention, once all relevant signage and legislation is in place, for uniformed traffic attendants to be deployed to Coalisland to carry out enforcement of all parking restrictions. Letter from DfI Roads is provided in Appendix F.

3.10. Town Centre Database

The Town Centre Database aims to provide a clear, consistent set of statistics relating to the 41 urban towns and cities in Northern Ireland. It is provided by the Department for Communities and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency. A summary from the Town Centre Database for Coalisland for Non-domestic Property Vacancy Rates, Road Traffic Collisions and Crime are provide below.

Crime

Crime Type	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Anti-social behavior	69	55	49	48	47	90
Bicycle theft	-	-	-	-	-	-
Burglary	4	6	-	3	2	9
Criminal damage and arson	10	27	13	10	17	21
Drugs	9	9	1	3	4	3
Other crime	3	3	5	3	5	5
Other theft	8	6	4	7	1	6
Possession of weapons	-	1	-	1	-	-
Public disorder and weapons	-	-	-	-	1	2
Public order	1	-	-	-	-	-
Robbery	2	1	-	-	1	4
Shoplifting	8	4	4	3	1	5
Theft from the person	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vehicle crime	-	4	3	1	3	1
Violent crime	-	-	-	-	8	36
Violence and sexual offences	30	27	28	37	25	-
Total Crime	**144**	**143**	**107**	**116**	**115**	**182**

Road Traffic Collisions

Year	Number of Collisions	Number of Casualties	Killed	Seriously Injured	Slightly Injured
2016	8	12	0	2	10
2015	2	2	0	0	2
2014	3	5	0	1	4
2013	0	0	0	0	0
2012	2	3	0	0	3

Non-domestic Property Vacancy Rates

Date	No. of Properties	No. of Vacant Properties	% of Vacant Properties
30th April 2014	134	40	29.9%
30th April 2015	136	42	30.9%
31st December 2015	136	41	30.1%
30th April 2016	136	41	30.1%
31th October 2016	132	38	28.8%
7th May 2017	134	37	27.6%
31st October 2017	134	36	26.9%
30th April 2018	138	41	29.7%

3.11. Lessons Learnt from Previous Public Realm Schemes

A summary of lessons learnt during similar public realm schemes is outlined below:

Works Information/ Scope of Service	Detailed traffic management requirements outlined at tender stage; i.e. phasing of road closures, removal of barriers at weekend etc.
Utilities	Good communication with utility providers required. Upgrade works to be undertaken prior to public realm to avoid conflicting traffic management. GPR survey to be undertaken to minimise issues caused by unforeseen shallow services.
Stakeholder Engagement and consultation	Robust communication is essential with business community, Translink and other key services during delivery e.g. schools, churches etc. The contractor's Site Liaison Officer and Town Centre team plays an important role informing businesses on a one to one basis. Useful that communication involves council and contractor when speaking with business community to avoid miss understanding.

Design of Scheme	Warning signage/traffic management controls to be provided when altering road layout. i.e. footpath build-outs. If planting trees, need to be mindful of services under ground. Obtain sign-off for signage and road markings from DfI Roads prior to tender stage.
Phasing of Works	Important to balance number of streets being worked on and time of year based on the nature of businesses trading and services on street e.g. work at schools can be completed during holiday period.

3.12. Additionality

A project should not receive assistance if the project objectives would be achieved without public expenditure. In general, assisted projects should receive only the minimum assistance required to bring them about, with any excess over the amount referred to as 'dead-weight'.

Additionality is not solely a matter of a project being pursued or not but often partial in the sense that without assistance:

- The project may have been carried out in another location of some lower priority;
- The same project may be carried out later;
- A different project may be carried out or the same project on a smaller scale or to a lower standard of quality; and
- The project could receive funding from other Government departments.

On the basis of the needs assessment, the proposed level of expenditure is acknowledged as the minimum level of expenditure required to meet the identified needs, and therefore additionality is not an issue.

3.13. Displacement

Displacement is the degree to which an activity promoted by government policy is offset by reductions in activity elsewhere.

Dungannon Town is the closest centre of population and is to the south west of Coalisland. It is a primary commercial centre serving the Mid Ulster District Council Area. It has a developed town centre with a significant concentration of retail, service and other business uses, and has recently undergone the second phase of public realm works. It is improbable that any of the public realm works undertaken in Coalisland would have a detrimental effect of Dungannon. Moreover, the overall enhancements to Coalisland town centre, making it a more welcoming place within the county of Tyrone, can generally be seen to be making the whole area more attractive to visitors.

Displacement is not an issue for the environmental improvements outlined in this report.

3.14. Duplication

There are no other known Public Realm Initiatives planned for Coalisland and its environs at the time this report was authored.

3.15. Other Capital Projects

There are several other major capital project which are currently under development in Coalisland, outlined below:

Gortgonisis Development

Mid Ulster District Council are planning to develop a new £5M leisure and recreation centre in Coalisland, including a 3G football pitch and play areas. Adjacent to the Leisure Centre there is also plans for a Gaelscoil.

Lake Torrent Racetrack Development

Construction has commenced on the development a International Motorsports Centre and racetrack on a 163 acres site at the former clay pits located on the outskirts Coalisland. It is envisaged that the venue could host regional, national and international competitions, aiming ultimately to host events like the World Super Bike Championships and British Touring Car Championship, attracting up to 30,000 spectators to the town.

Former Police Station Development

The former police station, located on the corner of Lineside and Platters Hill, has recently been redeveloped to provide 18 new apartments.

It is expected that these project will attracting more people to Coalisland, increasing the need to improve the current town vehicular and pedestrian infrastructure.

3.16. Conclusions

From the evidence outlined above, it is this author's view that there is a compelling argument for undertaking improvements to the public realm in Coalisland. This conclusion is based on:

- The need for government intervention (Section 3.2). As described, Coalisland is a deprived area and designated Neighbourhood Renewal Area that government and other agencies have committed to improving through policy documents.
- The physical need is evident from the information provided. The condition of the town's paving street furniture are dated and unappealing. Traffic flow and parking is causing congestion. This creates an unwelcoming and unattractive town centre.

- Coalisland contains a number of key sites identified in the SWOT analysis where opportunities exist for new development and refurbishment. The Development Framework identified development of these areas “provides the opportunity to enhance the quality of the built form and provide a future benchmark”. The proposed scheme has the potential to act as a catalyst in this regard; and
- The wider community interests represented on the Partnership are 100% supportive of the need to carry out improvements to the town

Improvements to the public realm will undoubtedly improve the physical appearance of Coalisland so that it is a more attractive place to live, work and visit.

The need for a public realm scheme for Coalisland town centre had been clearly identified within the Coalisland Framework completed in 2016. This document had been produced following a robust consultation process conducted with Coalisland businesses, elected members, the community and other users of the town centre. This document also took account of the Coalisland Traders Association who have been raising concerns about issues with traffic management and pedestrians safety, to both council and DfC (TNI) on a regular bases.

Mid Ulster District Council has been progressing this Public Realm project in line with identified needs and has been undertaking significant consultations to address all concerns raised. Consultations have taken place with traders, residents, disability representatives, statutory authorities including TNI, PSNI, FANI etc. to ensure maximum compliance with, and agreement to the scheme. There will be further consultations in line with the Planning process. At all stages of the consultation process, all businesses trading within the town centre had been invited to all public meetings and been given the opportunity to share ideas/concerns on the proposed scheme.

Although some concerns were raised in relation to the suggested one-way system in Main Street, there were relatively few supporting this position as most agreed with the need to formalise parking and ensure that roads and footpaths were brought up to the appropriate standard. The traders also recognise that the town looks and feels “tired” and they understand importance of this investment in the town, recognising that it could be the catalyst for further investment and an increased confidence in the town centre. A total of 6 meetings have been held with businesses regarding the project with one to one conservations being held with businesses to explain the proposal with the opportunity to raise concerns. TNI believes that the scheme as proposed represents the best solution for the area given the footprint of buildings, roads etc.

MUDC is committed to the delivery of this project for all users living, work, shopping etc. within the town centre and DfI (TNI) has commenced the legislative process regarding the introduction of a one-way system on Main Street with stage 1 now complete. This process included a 22 days objections period to whom only one objection had been received.

To manage this project MUDC has a Project Board (with appropriate technical and other expertise) in line with the requirements of DfC and DoF (CPD). This Board oversees all elements of the project, proactively and urgently dealing the day to day issues and concerns raised by stakeholders and this will continue throughout the implementation phase of this project.

4. OBJECTIVES AND CONSTRAINTS

4.1. Project Aim

The aim of the project is to reinvigorate Coalisland town centre and surrounding streets, creating an outstanding, quality public realm.

4.2. General Project Objectives

The objectives provide a basis for identifying options as well as providing the basis on which short-listed options are to be evaluated.

The general objectives are:

- Create a safe, high quality pedestrian-friendly environment;
- Be accessible to pedestrians and vehicles;
- Improve traffic flow and parking management;
- Enhance aesthetics;
- Revitalise and reinvigorate the town to help encourage more visitors and shoppers into the town centre;
- Promotion of business development;
- Continues to be a neutral space.

4.3. SMART Objectives

The project objectives should, as far as possible, be delivered in SMART terms. That is, be specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time constrained.

The SMART objectives are:

- To improve civic pride and public perception of the town by environmentally improving the following streets;
  - The Square
  - Main Street
  - Lineside Road
  - Dungannon Road,
  - Stewartstown Road,
  - Washingbay Road
  - Barrack Street,
  - Barrack Square
  - Station Road,

  By 2022, to increase the business and public perception of the town by 10% from the baseline rating. It is proposed to undertake the baseline survey in September 2018, six months prior to commencement of works.
- The Current town centre has been reviewed by representatives from the Mid Ulster Disability Forum who rate the town's current streetscape as Poor to Fair. A copy of the feedback is included in Appendix E. By 2022, it is proposed that Coalisland will be a more accessible place for people with disabilities and mobility issues including the elderly. This will make the town centre a more inviting environment which is compliant with Section 75 Act.

- By 2022, it is proposed that Coalisland town centre Public Realm area will be more compliant with DMRB and DfI Standards as assessed through Road Safety Audit Reports and Road Traffic Collision figures. The Town Centre Database, as outlined in Section 3.10, indicates a steady rise in road traffic collisions between 2012-2016. By 2022, it is proposed to have at least halt the rise in the number of incidences of road traffic collisions.
- By 2022 it is proposed to improve traffic management and enforcement within the town. Currently, Dfi Roads have been unable to enforce parking restrictions within the town due to the lack of formalised parking bays, road markings and signage. Additionally, previous attempts to deploy parking attendants in the town have been ineffective. DfI Roads have confirmed that they propose to introduce parking restriction legislation to the town following completion of the public realm scheme. It is also their intention, once all relevant signage and legislation is in place, for uniformed traffic attendants to be deployed to Coalisland to carry out enforcement of all parking restrictions. Letter of support from DfI Roads is provided in Appendix F.
- Formation of a Coalisland Town Centre Forum to improve inclusivity, engagement and community influence in decision making. This shall be in line with the Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership's strategic objective for Community Renewal.
- To be sustainable and maintain a town centre which has economic vigour supported by the private sector. The Town Centre Database outlined in Section 3.10 indicate a recent rise in Non-domestic Property Vacancy Rates. By 2022, it is proposed to have at least contained the current number of vacant properties within the town centre.
- To provide a safe and welcoming environment. In 2017, 48% of crime recorded in Coalisland related to anti-social behaviour, (refer to the Town Centre Database in section 3.10). By 2022, the public realm will improve the lighting and mitigate dark spaces within the town centre with the objective of reducing anti-social behaviour crime by approximately 5%.

The benefit of the scheme is to make the town more pedestrian friendly by introducing additional crossing points. Traffic management would be improved, and traffic congestion reduced by the implementation of parking restrictions, and the provision of a new bus lay-by. Priority has been given to promoting a high quality environment and accessibility for pedestrians, vehicles and buses.

4.4. Project Constraints

The following project constraints have been identified for this project;

Table 3: Project Constraints

Constraint Title	Description
Utility Infrastructure Improvements	The project team is aware that Utility Providers may have an adverse impact on the works. The team has contacted and met as appropriate with providers as described in Section 3.3
Timescales	The project will be delivered to an agreed programme.
Cost	The project is subject to funding being secured.
Statutory Requirements	Project must meet all regulatory requirements
Procurement	Procurement and contract strategies must adhere to NI Public Procurement Policy
Public Events	Public events and activities must be accommodated at all times throughout the duration of this project.
Phasing of the Works	The phasing of the work must been agreed with the Employer, traders, stakeholders and end users to ensure that disruption is minimised to an acceptable level and that the town will be 'open for business' at all times during the construction phase.
Practicality versus Aesthetics	Whilst a number of materials may be assessed, there is a need to strike a balance between an aesthetically pleasing scheme and a scheme with longer economic life and durability.

5. IDENTIFICATION OF OPTIONS

5.1. Introduction

Based on the assessment of need and consultation with stakeholders, we have listed below a range of options which potentially satisfy the needs and objectives of the project.

5.2. Potential Options

A long list of possible options considering variations in the proposed project is provided below. Option descriptions, key issues to consider ad whether the option has been selected for full appraisal are also identified.

5.2.1. Option 1 – Status Quo / Do Minimum

The Status Quo option (maintain the current status) is the baseline against which all other options are compared. In this case a Do Minimum option is used whereby routine maintenance would be carried out by statutory authorities but no capital works would be undertaken.

5.2.2. "Do Something" Options

All options refer to investment in the public realm to the following streets:

- The Square
- Main Street
- Lineside Road
- Dungannon Road
- Stewartstown Road
- Barrack Street
- Barrack Square
- Station Road
- Washingbay Road
- Platters Hill
- Birney Square
- Seagrave Terrace

The proposed options differentiate in terms of layout, new car parking provision and proposed materials. The proposed layout drawings are provided in Appendix A.

Table 4: Summary of "Do Something Options"

Ref	Proposal	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5	Option 6	Option 7	Option 8	Option 9	Option 10	Option 11	Option 12	Option 13	Option 14	Option 15	Option 16	Option 17	Option 18	Option 19	Option 20	Option 21	Option 22	Option 23	Option 24	Option 25
A	Proposed Layout 1 (One-way system on Main St)	✓			✓	✓				✓			✓	✓				✓			✓	✓			
B	Proposed Layout 2 (One-way system on Main St and The Square)		✓				✓	✓			✓				✓	✓			✓				✓	✓	
C	Proposed Layout 3 (Two-way system on Main St)			✓					✓			✓					✓			✓					✓
D	Car Park A Barrack Street				✓		✓						✓		✓						✓		✓		
E	Car Park B Washingbay Road					✓		✓						✓		✓						✓		✓	
F	Car Park C Cornmill Car Park								✓								✓								✓
G	Upgrade Birney St and Seagrave Terr				✓		✓						✓		✓						✓		✓		
H	Signalise Junction Main St and Stewartstown Rd					✓		✓						✓		✓						✓		✓	
I	Natural Stone Paving (Yorkstone)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓																
J	Natural Stone Paving (Yorkstone) to Core Retail Only. Concrete Setts to Remaining Areas									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓								
K	Concrete Setts to all Areas																	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Definition of Materials

Yorkstone

Yorkstone is a variety of sandstone which is sourced from Yorkshire. This paving would be in the form of large flagstones. This material will complement the stone and brickwork of adjoining buildings. Natural stone paving has a longer life span than the alternative clay or concrete paviours. This material has previously been used in Magherafelt and Comber Public Realm Schemes.

Concrete Setts

Concrete paving setts are a cheaper and lower quality alternative to natural stone paving. However, it is not as durable or as aesthetically pleasing as natural stone.

Street Furniture

Proposed new street furniture will be selected to reflect the industrial heritage of the town. Durable materials will be used to avoid damage by vandals. New street light with white LED will be used to improve lighting quality. Semi-mature trees will be provided at selected locations to soften the appearance of town.

5.2.3. Option 2: Proposed Layout 1 with Natural Stone Paving

Option 2 comprises of the following proposals:

- Proposed one-way traffic flow on Main Street;
- Removal of vacant building at No. 18 Main Street;
- New angled parking on Main Street;
- New landscaped area and public events space;
- New bus layby on Lineside;
- Undergrounding overhead BT cables;
- Right-hand turning lane from Barrack Square to Lineside;
- Formalised parking bays, disabled bays and loading bays;
- New natural stone paving to all public footpaths;
- New exposed aggregate paving to privately owned areas.

5.2.4. Option 3: Proposed Layout 2 with Natural Stone Paving

Option 3 is similar to Option 2, however this proposal also indicates a one-way system on The Square. Natural stone paving is also proposed on all public footpaths within the scheme, with exposed aggregate paving to privately owned areas.

5.2.5. Option 4: Proposed Layout 3 with Natural Stone Paving

Option 4 is comprised of the following proposals:

- Existing two-way system maintained on Main Street and The Square;
- Removal of existing vacant building at No. 18 Main Street;
- New public events space;

- New bus layby on Lineside;
- Undergrounding overhead BT cables;
- New natural stone paving to all public footpaths;
- New exposed aggregate paving to privately owned areas.

5.2.6. Option 5: Proposed Layout 1 with Natural Stone Paving and Additional Car Park A

This option is similar to Option 2 outlined in Section 5.2.3, however this option also includes additional car parking provision at Barrack Street. Car Park A will also be accessed from Birney Square and Seagrave Terrace, therefore providing a pedestrian link to the centre of the town. As this proposal will significantly increase the pedestrian and vehicular users of Birney Square and Seagrave Terrace, upgrade works will also be required to the footpaths, carriageway and street lighting on both streets.

5.2.7. Option 6: Proposed Layout 1 with Natural Stone Paving and Additional Car Park B

This option is similar to Option 2 outlined in Section 5.2.3, however this option includes additional car parking provision at Washingbay Road. This option will significantly increase the number of pedestrians crossing the Stewartstown Road to access Main Street. Public Consultation has raised safety concerns regarding the current pedestrian arrangements at this location. Therefore, in order to proceed with this option the pedestrian crossing facilities will need to be improved.

5.2.8. Option 7: Proposed Layout 2 with Natural Stone Paving and Additional Car Park A

This option is similar to Option 3 outline in section 5.2.4 however this option also includes additional car parking provision at Barrack Street. Car Park A will also be accessed from Birney Square and Seagrave Terrace, therefore providing a pedestrian link to the centre of the town. As this proposal will significantly increase the pedestrian and vehicular users of Birney Square and Seagrave Terrace, upgrade works will also be required to the footpaths, carriageway and street lighting on both streets.

5.2.9. Option 8: Proposed Layout 2 with Natural Stone Paving and Additional Car Park B

This option is similar to Option 3 outline in section 5.2.4, however this option includes additional car parking provision at Washingbay Road. This option will significantly increase the number of pedestrians crossing the Stewartstown Road to access Main Street. Public Consultation has raised safety concerns regarding the current pedestrian arrangements at this location. Therefore, in order to proceed with this option the pedestrian crossing facilities will need to be improved.

5.2.10. Option 9: Proposed Layout 3 with Natural Stone Paving and Additional Car Park C

This option is similar to Option 4 outline in section 5.2.5, however this option also includes an extension to the existing Cornmill Car Park.

5.2.11. Option 10: Proposed Layout 1 with Natural Stone Paving to Core Retail Area Only

This Option is similar to Option 2 outlined in Section 5.2.3, however natural stone paving will be provided to the core retail area of the town only. The remaining sections of the scheme will be paved in concrete setts.

5.2.12. Option 11: Proposed Layout 2 with Natural Stone Paving to Core Retail Area Only

This Option is similar to Option 3 outlined in Section 5.2.4, however natural stone paving will be provided to the core retail area of the town only. The remaining sections of the scheme will be paved in concrete setts.

5.2.13. Option 12: Proposed Layout 3 with Natural Stone Paving to Core Retail Area Only

This Option is similar to Option 4 outlined in Section 5.2.5, however natural stone paving will be provided to the core retail area of the town only. The remaining sections of the scheme will be paved in concrete setts.

5.2.14. Option 13: Proposed Layout 1 with Natural Stone Paving to Core Retail Area Only and Additional Car Park A

This Option is similar to Option 5 outlined in Section 5.2.6, however natural stone paving will be provided to the core retail area of the town only. The remaining sections of the scheme will be paved in concrete setts.

5.2.15. Option 14: Proposed Layout 1 with Natural Stone Paving to Core Retail Area Only and Additional Car Park B

This Option is similar to Option 6 outlined in Section 5.2.7, however natural stone paving will be provided to the core retail area of the town only. The remaining sections of the scheme will be paved in concrete setts.

5.2.16. Option 15: Proposed Layout 2 with Natural Stone Paving to Core Retail Area Only and Additional Car Park A

This Option is similar to Option 7 outlined in Section 5.2.8, however natural stone paving will be provided to the core retail area of the town only. The remaining sections of the scheme will be paved in concrete setts.

5.2.17. Option 16: Proposed Layout 2 with Natural Stone Paving to Core Retail Area Only and Additional Car Park B

This Option is similar to Option 8 outlined in Section 5.2.9, however natural stone paving will be provided to the core retail area of the town only. The remaining sections of the scheme will be paved in concrete setts.

5.2.18. Option 17: Proposed Layout 3 with Natural Stone Paving to Core Retail Area Only and Additional Car Park C

This Option is similar to Option 9 outlined in Section 5.2.10, however natural stone paving will be provided to the core retail area of the town only. The remaining sections of the scheme will be paved in concrete setts.

5.2.19. Option 18: Proposed Layout 1 with Concrete Setts

This Option is similar to Option 2 outlined in Section 5.2.3, however concrete paving will be provided to all public footpaths.

5.2.20. Option 19: Proposed Layout 2 with Concrete Setts

This Option is similar to Option 3 outlined in Section 5.2.4, however concrete paving will be provided to all public footpaths.

5.2.21. Option 20: Proposed Layout 3 with Concrete Setts

This Option is similar to Option 4 outlined in Section 5.2.5, however concrete paving will be provided to all public footpaths.

5.2.22. Option 21: Proposed Layout 1 with Concrete Setts and Additional Car Park A

This Option is similar to Option 5 outlined in Section 5.2.6, however concrete paving will be provided to all public footpaths.

5.2.23. Option 22: Proposed Layout 1 with Concrete Setts and Additional Car Park B

This Option is similar to Option 6 outlined in Section 5.2.7, however concrete paving will be provided to all public footpaths.

5.2.24. Option 23: Proposed Layout 2 with Concrete Setts and Additional Car Park A

This Option is similar to Option 7 outlined in Section 5.2.8, however concrete paving will be provided to all public footpaths.

5.2.25. Option 24: Proposed Layout 2 with Concrete Setts and Additional Car Park B

This Option is similar to Option 8 outlined in Section 5.2.9, however concrete paving will be provided to all public footpaths.

5.2.26. Option 25: Proposed Layout 3 with Concrete Setts and Additional Car Park C

This Option is similar to Option 9 outlined in Section 5.2.10, however concrete paving will be provided to all public footpaths.

5.3. Option Analysis

Option 1 – 'Status Quo' has to be brought forward for assessment in line with HM Treasury Guidelines to provide a baseline against which the other options may be evaluated.

Feedback from the pubic consultation undertaken between September and December 2017 indicated that there is very little support for the proposal to implement a one-way traffic system on The Square, as indicated on Proposed Layout 2. On this basis, Options 3, 7, 8, 11, 15 and 16 are eliminated.

A majority of the responses to the public consultation agreed that high quality natural stone materials complement the heritage of the town. Natural stone materials are also extreme durable, with a much longer life span than concrete setts which are liable to discolour over time. On this basis, Options 18-25 have been eliminated.

5.4. Conclusion

As a result of the appraisal process, the following options are brought forward for further assessment.

Option No.	Description	Status
1	Status Quo	Brought Forward
2	Proposed Layout 1 with Natural Stone Paving	Brought Forward
3	Proposed Layout 2 with Natural Stone Paving	Eliminated
4	Proposed Layout 3 with Natural Stone Paving	Brought Forward
5	Proposed Layout 1 with Natural Stone Paving and Additional Car Park A	Brought Forward
6	Proposed Layout 1 with Natural Stone Paving and Additional Car Park B	Brought Forward
7	Proposed Layout 2 with Natural Stone Paving and Additional Car Park A	Eliminated
8	Proposed Layout 2 with Natural Stone Paving and Additional Car Park B	Eliminated
9	Proposed Layout 3 with Natural Stone Paving and Additional Car Park C	Brought Forward
10	Proposed Layout 1 with Natural Stone Paving to Core Retail Area Only	Brought Forward
11	Proposed Layout 2 with Natural Stone Paving to Core Retail Area Only	Eliminated
12	Proposed Layout 3 with Natural Stone Paving to Core Retail Area Only	Brought Forward
13	Proposed Layout 1 with Natural Stone Paving to Core Retail Area Only and Additional Car Park A	Brought Forward
14	Proposed Layout 1 with Natural Stone Paving to Core Retail Area Only and Additional Car Park B	Brought Forward
15	Proposed Layout 2 with Natural Stone Paving to Core Retail Area Only and Additional Car Park A	Eliminated
16	Proposed Layout 2 with Natural Stone Paving to Core Retail Area Only and Additional Car Park B	Eliminated
17	Proposed Layout 3 with Natural Stone Paving to Core Retail Area Only and Additional Car Park C	Brought Forward
18	Proposed Layout 1 with Concrete Setts	Eliminated
19	Proposed Layout 2 with Natural Stone Paving to Core Retail Area Only	Eliminated
20	Proposed Layout 3 with Concrete Setts	Eliminated
21	Proposed Layout 1 with Concrete Setts and Additional Car Park A	Eliminated
22	Proposed Layout 1 with Concrete Setts and Additional Car Park B	Eliminated
23	Proposed Layout 2 with Concrete Setts and Additional Car Park A	Eliminated
24	Proposed Layout 2 with Concrete Setts and Additional Car Park B	Eliminated
25	Proposed Layout 3 with Concrete Setts and Additional Car Park C	Eliminated

6. MONETARY ASSESSMENT

6.1. Costs

6.1.1. Capital Expenditure

The estimated costs for the proposed works have been prepared using unit rate information from similar public realm schemes. Where unit rates were not available the costs were developed from manufacturers / suppliers quotations, first principle calculations, and price database information including CESSM4 and SPON'S Civil Engineering and Highway Works Price Book. An estimated cost for the proposed options is shown in Table 5 and a detailed cost breakdown is provided in Appendix B.

The following assumptions were made in the estimation of the capital costs:

- Estimated costs are based on the plans provided in Appendix B;
- Professional fees are assumed to be 12% of total construction;
- VAT is assumed to be recoverable in full by the Client;

The capital expenditure costs incorporate:

- Purchase of third party land;
- Demolitions and Earthworks;
- Roads and paving;
- Drainage / services;
- Street lighting;
- Amenity lighting;
- Landscaping;
- Provisional sums (diversion of services)

Table 5 – Capital Expenditure Summary

Proposal	Cost	Option 2	Option 4	Option 5	Option 6	Option 9	Option 10	Option 12	Option 13	Option 14	Option 17
Proposed Layout 1 Natural Stone Paving	£2,344,575	£2,344,575		£2,344,575	£2,344,575						
Proposed Layout 3 Natural Stone Paving	£2,221,804		£2,221,804			£2,221,804					
Proposed Layout 1 Concrete Setts	£2,198,836						£2,198,836		£2,198,836	£2,198,836	
Proposed Layout 3 Concrete Setts	£1,994,253							£1,994,253			£1,994,253
Car Park A Barrack St	£555,966			£555,966					£555,966		
Car Park B Washingbay Rd	£313,426				£313,426					£313,426	
Car Park C Cornmill Car Park	£99,041					£99,041					£99,041
Upgrade Birney St and Seagrove Terrace	£194,332			£194,332					£194,332		
Total Capital Costs		**£2,344,575**	**£2,221,804**	**£3,094,873**	**£2,658,001**	**£2,320,845**	**£2,198,836**	**£1,994,253**	**£2,949,134**	**£2,512,262**	**£2,093,293**
Professional Fees (12%)		£281,349	£266,616	£371,385	£318,960	£278,501	£263,860	£239,310	£353,896	£301,471	£251,195
TOTAL		**£2,625,924**	**£2,488,420**	**£3,466,258**	**£2,976,961**	**£2,599,346**	**£2,462,696**	**£2,233,563**	**£3,303,030**	**£2,813,734**	**£2,344,489**

6.1.2. Recurrent Costs

Economic costs comprise recurrent ancillary maintenance costs. This cost includes ancillary costs of street cleaning and general cleanliness etc. The estimated cost for all 'Do Something' options, are based on Mid Ulster District Council's current cost of approximately £54,000 per annum as outlined below.

Maintenance Cost	£
Manual Street Cleansing inc. emptying bins etc.	£30,000
Mechanical Street Cleansing	£12,000
Collection & disposal of SC residues	£12,000
Total	£54,000

6.1.3. Replacement Costs

Concrete sett paving has a life span of 10-20 years due to the low durability of the material. Therefore, therefore it is assumed that these materials should be replaced after 20 year. A detailed cost breakdown for replacing the concrete sett material is provided in Appendix B.

6.2. Economic Benefits

A broad assumption is that improvements to the public realm would improve the physical aesthetics of an area, which in turn will make Coalisland a more enjoyable place for people to visit, shop, work or live. This will help to create a more pleasant environment for the community and increase footfall and spending.

Therefore, sustaining business activity, and encourage businesses to invest money, to build or to trade there, which improves the economy, creates jobs and reduces the number of vacant or derelict properties in the town centre. Over the medium to long-term could result in multiplier effects such as on rateable values of properties, increases in rental values and increases in retail sales.

7. RISK APPRAISAL AND ADJUSTMENT FOR OPTIMISM BIAS

7.1. Introduction

Risks associated with any project are a combination of project specific risks and those on a wider macro-economic scale. Project specific risks are those that directly affect the project and which the project promoters should have a high level of knowledge and associated level of control over (eg recurrent/running costs). Wider macro-economic/local risks are those that are beyond the control of project promoters yet can significantly influence the success of the project (eg economic climate). The following risks (including Optimism Bias) have been identified and outlined below as to their possible effect on the various options.

7.2. Optimism Bias

In accordance with the NIGEAE, an allowance for Optimism Bias has been applied to estimate project costs (construction, operation and maintenance costs). Optimism Bias is an adjustment factor developed by HM Treasury to redress the tendency of project appraisers to be overly optimistic in the estimation of costs. The Optimism Bias for the project has been calculated in accordance with the "Supplementary Green Book Guidance, Optimism Bias" by HM Treasury.

The proposed public realm scheme is considered a Standard Civil Engineering Project type as it uses standard construction practices and does not require a high degree of complexity or difficulty.

7.2.1. Capital Expenditure Optimism Bias

The upper bound capital expenditure Optimism Bias for a Standard Civil Engineering Project is 44%. The Upper Bound Value for Optimism Bias can be reduced according to the extent to which the contributory factors have been managed. The extent to which these contributory factors are mitigated can be reflected as a migration factor. The mitigation factor has a value between 0.0 and 1.0, where 0.0 means that contributory factors are not mitigated at all, and 1.0 means that all contributory factors in a particular area are fully mitigated.

Table 6 details the contributory factors and the mitigation factors to be considered when calculating the reduction in Optimism Bias.

Table 6: Optimism Bias Calculation

Contributory Factors		% Contribution to Optimism Bias	Mitigation Factor	Project Bias
Procurement	Late Contractor Involvement in Design	3	0.9	2.7
	Dispute and Claims Occurred	21	0.75	15.75
Project Specific	Environmental Impact	22	0.9	19.8
	Other	18	0.75	13.5
Client Specific	Inadequacy of Business Case	10	0.75	7.5
	Poor Project Intelligence	7	0.75	5.25
Environment	Public Relations	9	0.65	5.85
	Site Characteristics	3	0.2	0.6
External Influences	Economic	7	0.4	2.8
Total		**100**		**73.75**

Late Contractor Involvement
This project is a Standard Civil Engineering Project. Only contractors that have successfully delivered schemes of this size and scope will be considered. The tender documents will outline the project specification and constraints. This project will be a construction only project for a contractor and as such they will have a limited design input. Therefore there is little risk to the project from late contractor involvement that could result in construction problems affecting the design.

Dispute and Claims
Dispute and claims can arise from changes to the project scope during the duration of the scheme. The project requirements, specification and constraints shall be further defined at detailed design stage. The project will be administered under an NEC contract with defined dispute claims procedures.

Environmental Impact
The project is considered an environmental improvement scheme, which will improve the area to make it more attractive, safer and cleaner. Although during construction phase there will be a net impact on the environment, the longer term risk is minimal.

Other
The project is considered to be fairly straightforward, therefore a mitigation factor of 0.75 is applied.

Inadequacy of Business Case
HM Treasury best practice is being used to prepare and develop the business case.

Poor Project Intelligence
Mid Ulster District Council and the design team have both undertaken projects of a similar size and nature. Consultation has been undertaken with local elected representatives, traders, statutory authorities, service providers, disability groups and the public to identify local issues to be addressed as part of the scheme.

Public Relations
Significant public consultation has been undertaken to date, including;

- Public Information Sessions (held in October 2017 & May 2018),
- Meeting with Elected Representatives,
- Site walkover with Mid Ulster Disability Action Forum,
- Meeting with Coalisland Neighbour Renewal,
- One-to-one visits with businesses.

Members of the public where given the opportunity to submit their response to the proposal using feedback questionnaires. Responses indicate a majority in support of the proposals. Ongoing consultation is required with the public and traders to agree phasing of works during construction stage.

Site Characteristics
Due to the nature of the scheme, the site will remain open to vehicular and pedestrian traffic throughout the project which will present difficulties during construction. Although significant investigations have been undertaken to confirm the location of all existing services, including service enquiries, topographical surveys and a Ground Probing Radar survey, the risk of unknown services remains high. Further site investigation in the form of slip trenches, to be undertaken at detailed design stage, will reduce this risk.

Economic
Current political and economic uncertainties may delay approval of funding for the scheme.

The resultant capital expenditure optimism bias is calculated as follows:

(100 - 73.75) x 44% = 11.55%

The capital costs of the project cost of the scheme, taking into account optimism bias and monetary costs of the risk management, are shown on Table 7.

Table 7: Total Optimised Cost Calculations

Cost Breakdown	Option 2	Option 4	Option 5	Option 6	Option 9	Option 10	Option 12	Option 13	Option 14	Option 17
Capital Costs	£2,344,575	£2,221,804	£3,094,873	£2,658,001	£2,320,845	£2,198,836	£1,994,253	£2,949,134	£2,512,262	£2,093,293
Optimism Bias (11.55%)	£270,798	£256,618	£357,458	£306,999	£268,058	£253,966	£230,336	£340,625	£290,166	£241,775
Total	£2,615,373	£2,478,422	£3,452,331	£2,965,000	£2,588,903	£2,452,802	£2,224,589	£3,289,759	£2,802,428	£2,335,069
Professional Fees (12% of Capital Cost)	£281,349	£266,616	£371,385	£318,960	£278,501	£263,860	£239,310	£353,896	£301,471	£251,195
Total Optimised Cost	£2,896,722	£2,745,039	£3,823,715	£3,283,960	£2,867,404	£2,716,662	£2,463,899	£3,643,655	£3,103,900	£2,586,264

Total Optimised Cost Calculations - Replacement of Concrete Sett Paving

Cost Breakdown	Layout 1	Layout 2
Capital Costs	£219,373.70	£219,732.86
Optimism Bias (11.55%)	£25,337.66	£25,379.15
Total	£244,711.36	£245,112.01
Professional Fees (12% of Capital Cost)	£26,324.84	£26,367.94
Total Optimised Cost	£271,036.21	£271,479.95

7.2.2. Works Duration Optimism Bias

The same principles are applied for estimating the length of time it will take to complete the works. The estimated works duration for Standard Civil Engineering Projects has an upper bound bias of 20%.

The table below details the contributory factors and mitigation factors to be considered when calculating the reduction in optimism bias.

Table 8: Works Duration Optimism Bias

Contributory Factors		Percentage Contribution to Optimism Bias	Mitigation Factor	Project Bias
Procurement	Poor contractor capabilities	16	0.9	14.4
Project Specific	Environmental impacts	46	0.9	41.4
Client Specific	Inadequacy of business case	8	0.75	6
	Funding availability	6	0.2	1.2
	Poor project intelligence	14	0.75	10.5
Environment	Site characteristics	10	0.2	2
	Total	**100**		**75.5%**

The adjusted works duration for the proposed scheme is therefore:

(100 – 75.5) x 20% = 4.9%

The estimated construction works duration is 10 months, therefore:-

10 months + (10 months x 4.9%) = 10.5 months

7.3. Other Potential Risks

The NIGAE acknowledges “no matter how robust the assumptions about risk factors, there will still generally be risks to consider, and there will be uncertainty over the range of possible outcomes”. Therefore, the need exists to identify and analyse the key areas of risk surrounding the proposed development, and show how each risk factor compares under each option.

A summary of all potential risks including causes, consequences, who is responsible for the risk, mitigation factors and level of risk for each option is provided in Appendix C.

8. NON-MONETARY ASSESSMENT

8.1. Introduction

For schemes of this nature, it is not possible to measure all costs and benefits in monetary terms. There are non-monetary impacts such as environmental, social or health effects that cannot be valued cost effectively. These non-monetary costs and benefits should not be discounted as being any less important than the monetary values, as in many cases they are crucial to the decision making process.

A weighted scoring assessment shall be undertaken to provide a quantitative assessment of all the non-monetary costs and benefits of each short-listed option.

8.2. Weighted Scoring Approach

The weighted scoring approach involves assigning numerical weights to pre-defined “benefit criteria”, chosen to correspond to the needs and objectives outlined in Section 4. Each benefit criterion is weighted to give a total weight of 100, with the most important receiving the greatest weighting. Each option is then scored out of 10 against each benefit criterion and this score is then multiplied by the allocated weighting to produce a “weighted score”. The total weighted score for each option is compared to give a qualitative ranking.

The benefit criteria chosen and the associated weighting given to each are set out as follows:

Ref	Criteria	Weighting
A	Ability to enhance aesthetics/environment	30
B	Ability to improve traffic/parking management	25
C	Ability to improve pedestrian movement and accessibility	25
D	Ability to attract visitors and increase private business development	15
E	Consistency with Section 75 Equality Legislation	5
	Total	**100**

8.2.1. Ability to Enhance Aesthetics/Environment

The “Status Quo” option scores low for this criteria as it does not improve the appearance of the town. All the “Do Something” options should benefit from the improvement in streetscape. The more expensive natural stone materials shall score highest under this criterion, as they provide a high quality finish with a longer design life.

Options which include Proposed Layout 1 will score higher than options which include Proposed Layout 3 as Layout 1 has a landscaped area between Main Street and Cornmill car park and a larger event space.

8.2.2. Ability to Improve Traffic/Parking Management

On-street Parking

Unstructured parking and traffic congestion has been highlighted as a significant issue for the town. The lack of parking control measures result in vehicles obstructing pedestrian and vehicle routes. However, many traders have advised that they rely heavily on passing trade. Therefore a maximum number of parking spaces must be maintained. The Proposed Layout 1 which incorporates a one-way system on Main Street with angled parking provides the most on street car parking spaces, therefore this will score higher than Proposed Layout 3.

Off-street Parking

The community had rejected previous attempts by Dfi Roads (Roads Service) to introduce parking enforcement in the town centre. However, responses to the public realm consultation indicate that there is an acceptance the some parking restrictions would be beneficial as long as additional alterative off-street parking is provided. Therefore any Option which contains additional off-street parking will support DfI Roads in progressing parking enforcement.

8.2.3. Ability to Improve Pedestrian Movement and Accessibility

The Non-motorised User Audit outlined a number of problems regarding the movements of pedestrians in the town centre. This included a lack of formal crossing points, narrow footpaths, footpaths ending abruptly, vehicles obstructing footpaths, low kerbs and steep cross falls. Refer to Section 3.6 for further details.

A site walkover was also conducted with representatives from various local disability groups. Many of the issues raised in the Non-motorised User Audit which also identified during the walkover. Refer to Section 3.7 for further details.

All “Do Something” options will score highly as they all provide improvement to pedestrian movement as they will be constructed in accordance with all current design guides where possible. The Proposed Layout 1 will have wider footpaths and one-way traffic on Main St, therefore improving pedestrian movements. Therefore, Proposed Layout 1 Options will score higher than Proposed Layout 3 Options.

8.2.4. Ability to attract visitors and increase private business development

It is difficult to quantify the additional private sector investment directly attributable to the “Do Something” options. However, the improved traffic flows and additional car parking should improve access to businesses and encourage visitors to stay longer. Therefore, “Do Something” options score higher (on a sliding scale reflecting number of additional car parking spaces and quality of material used) than Option 1.

8.2.5. Consistency with Section 75 Equality Legislation

All “Do Something” options will be in line with the current equality, environmental and disability guidelines. Therefore they will score slightly higher than the existing “Status Quo” option.

8.2.6. Summary of Weighted Scoring Assessment

The following table reflects the scores of the options against all non-monetary costs and benefit criteria.

Table 9: Non-monetary Weighted Scoring Assessment

Criteria	Weight	Option 1		Option 2		Option 4		Option 5		Option 6		Option 9		Option 10		Option 12		Option 13		Option 14		Option 17	
		S	**WS**	**S**	**WS**	**S**	**WS**	**S**	**WS**	**S**	**WS**	**S**	**WS**	**S**	**WS**	**S**	**WS**	**S**	**WS**	**S**	**WS**	**S**	**WS**
A	30	0	0	8	240	7	210	8	240	8	240	7	210	5	150	4	120	5	150	5	150	4	120
B	25	2	50	5	125	4	100	8	200	7	175	5	125	5	125	4	100	8	200	7	175	5	125
C	25	2	50	6	150	4	100	7	175	8	200	7	175	6	150	4	100	7	175	8	200	7	175
D	15	1	15	4	60	3	45	8	120	9	135	6	90	3	45	2	30	8	120	7	105	5	75
E	5	2	10	5	25	5	25	5	25	5	25	5	25	5	25	5	25	5	25	5	25	5	25
Total		**125**		**600**		**480**		**760**		**775**		**625**		**495**		**375**		**670**		**655**		**520**	

8.3. Conclusion

The proposed options are ranked as follows:

Table 10: Summary of Non-Monetary Assessment

Option	Weighted Score	Rank
Option 1	125	11
Option 2	600	6
Option 4	480	9
Option 5	760	2
Option 6	775	1
Option 9	625	5
Option 10	495	8
Option 12	375	10
Option 13	670	3
Option 14	655	4
Option 17	520	7

Option 6 is the preferred option non-monetary.

9. QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS – NET PRESENT VALUE / NET PRESENT COST

This section assesses the performance of each option on a quantitative basis. The Net Present Value/Cost calculations (NPV/NPC) have been undertaken over a 25 year period. In line with appraisal guidance, a discount factor of 3.5% has been used in the calculations. The calculations are based on capital-adjusted costs including all ancillary costs and optimism bias.

The high quality natural stone materials are assumed to have a life span greater than 30 years. The low specification materials (concrete setts and asphalt surfacing) would have a life expectancy of not more than 20 years. Therefore NPC calculations shall include replacement costs. NPV spreadsheets are provided in Appendix D.

Table 11: Summary of the NPC of each option

Option	Net Present Cost (NPC)	Rank
Option 1	£944,002	1
Option 2	£3,791,745	7
Option 4	£3,642,626	4
Option 5	£4,703,066	11
Option 6	£4,172,436	9
Option 9	£3,762,923	6
Option 10	£3,750,943	5
Option 12	£3,502,677	2
Option 13	£4,662,263	10
Option 14	£4,127,027	8
Option 17	£3,622,973	3

9.1. Sensitivity Analysis

The treatment of any potential uncertainty is generally best dealt with using sensitivity analysis, which involves varying the value/number of key project indicators, which are likely to be subject to the greatest degree of uncertainty, i.e. capital costs.

In order to determine the impact of potential increases in the total cost of the development project due to uncertainties, NPC calculations should be performed using the optimism bias costs calculated above and subject to the following sensitivities:

- 20% increase in capital cost (Sensitivity A)
- 10% increase in maintenance cost (Sensitivity B)

Table 12: Sensitivity Analysis Summary Table

Option	Sensitivity A NPC	Sensitivity A Rank	Sensitivity B NPV	Sensitivity B Rank
Option 1	£944,002	1	£1,038,402	1
Option 2	£4,361,294	7	£3,886,146	7
Option 4	£4,182,351	4	£3,737,026	4
Option 5	£5,454,878	11	£4,797,466	11
Option 6	£4,818,123	9	£4,266,836	9
Option 9	£4,326,707	6	£3,857,323	6
Option 10	£4,312,332	5	£3,848,344	5
Option 12	£4,014,412	2	£3,597,077	2
Option 13	£5,405,915	10	£4,756,663	10
Option 14	£4,769,159	8	£4,226,033	8
Option 17	£4,158,768	3	£3,717,373	3

Sensitivity analysis does not affect the results as all options are increased in proportion. Therefore the NPV ranking remains constant.

10. SELECTION OF PREFERRED OPTION SUMMARY

10.1. Summary of Monetary and Non-Monetary Assessment

The results of the economic appraisal have been summarised and ranked in the table below:

Table 13: Summary of Monetary and Non-Monetary Assessment

Option	Initial Cost Estimate	Optimised Capital Costs	NPC	Rank	NMS	Rank
Option 1	-	-	£944,002	1	125	11
Option 2	£2,625,924	£2,896,722	£3,791,745	7	600	6
Option 4	£2,488,420	£2,745,039	£3,642,626	4	480	9
Option 5	£3,466,258	£3,823,715	£4,703,066	11	760	2
Option 6	£2,976,961	£3,283,960	£4,172,436	9	775	1
Option 9	£2,599,346	£2,867,404	£3,762,923	6	625	5
Option 10	£2,462,696	£2,716,662	£3,750,943	5	495	8
Option 12	£2,233,563	£2,463,899	£3,502,677	2	375	10
Option 13	£3,303,030	£3,643,655	£4,662,263	10	670	3
Option 14	£2,813,734	£3,103,900	£4,127,027	8	655	4
Option 17	£2,344,489	£2,586,264	£3,622,973	3	520	7

10.2. Preferred Option

Generally options which include Proposed Layout 1 score higher in the non-monetary assessment than Proposed Layout 3 as it provides additional on-street parking on Main St, improved footpath widths and a large landscaped area/event space. Options which include additional off-street parking are preferred over options without as this will have a significant influence on the success of implementing of parking management and therefore improving the traffic flow through the town. Car Park B is more cost effective to develop compared to Car Park A as Car Park B is situated on a difficult sloping site and requires upgrade works to Birney Sq and Seagrave Terrace. Based on the findings outlined above and considering the viability, additionality cost effectiveness and economic impact of the project Option 6 is the preferred option.

10.2.1. Option 6 comprises:

- Proposed one-way traffic on main street.
- Removal of vacant derelict building at No. 18 Main Street
- New angled parking on Main Street
- New landscaped area and event space

- New bus layby on Lineside
- Undergrounding overhead BT cables
- Right hand turning lane from Barrack Square to Lineside
- Formalised parking bays, disabled bays and loading bays
- New natural stone paving and granite kerbs to all public footpaths
- New exposed aggregate paving to privately owned areas
- Additional car parking at Washing Bay Road (Car Park Option B)
- WIFI/Sound System

10.2.2. Option 6 will provide natural stone paving and granite kerbs to the following streets:

- The Square
- Main Street
- Lineside
- Dungannon Road
- Stewartstown Road
- Barrack Street
- Barrack Square
- Station Road
- Washingbay Road

The inherent quality of the materials will remain over time (in excess of 50 years) whilst the initial improvement of the pedestrian environment will act as a vital catalyst in the social, cultural and economic revitalisation of the town.

Option 6 will provide the additional benefit of increased off-street parking at Washing Bay Road (Car Park B). Following consultation with Council Representatives this car park option has been identified as a more viable option than the Barrack Street Option (Car Park A). Car Park B will also be easier to construct than Car Park A and therefore offers greater value for money.

10.2.3. Central Procurement Directorate's, Grants Cost Management have reviewed the Economic Appraisal for the Coalisland Public Realm Scheme and have provide a cost comment. The report discusses the various options considered in the Economic Appraisal and provides a detailed assessment of the estimated costs associated with ‘construction’ in preferred Option 6. Refer to Appendix I for details.

10.3. Project Additionality

On the basis of the needs assessment, the proposed level of expenditure is acknowledged as the minimum level of expenditure required to meet the identified needs, and therefore additionality is not an issue.

10.4. Cost Effectiveness

It is important that public expenditure on projects should be cost effective in achieving policy objectives. The most basic condition for cost effectiveness is that the activity supported should actually occur. Without public funding, this project will not take place. The cost effectiveness indicators for the project are set out as follows:

Indicator	Cost/ Indicator	Cost per indicator
Optimised Cost per scheme resident[1]	£3,283,960 / 5,682	£578
Optimised Cost per Mid Ulster District Council resident	£3,283,960 / 138,590	£23.70
NPC per head of NI Population	£4,172,436/ 1,810,863	£2.30
Optimised Cost per area for **Coalisland Public Realm**	£3,283,960 / 9,064	£362
Cost per area environmentally improved in the **Ravenhill Arterial Route Scheme**	£808,248/ 3,962	£204
Cost per area environmentally improved in the **Newcastle** EIS	£3,773,023 / 17,500 m2	£216
Cost per area environmentally improved in the **Omagh** EIS	£1,613,191 / 6,112 m2	£264
Cost per area environmentally improved in the **Ballynahinch scheme**	£1,946,687/6,341m2	£307
Cost per area environmentally improved in the **Downpatrick** EIS	£2,950,200 / 9,000 m2	£328
Cost per area environmentally improved in the **Clifton Gateway Scheme**	£4,642,767 /14,045m2	£331
Cost per area environmentally improved in the **Carrickfergus** EIS	£2,210,970 / 6,500 m2	£340
Cost per area environmentally improved in the **Station Square, Portrush scheme**	£2,286,930/5,618 m2	£407
Cost per area environmentally improved in the **Lower Chichester Street, Belfast** EIS	£1,157,000 / 2,702 m2	£428
Cost per area environmentally improved in the **Newry Linkages scheme**	£2,467,397 / 4,850 m2	£509

It should be noted that there are a number of methodological difficulties in comparing the cost effectiveness of different public realm schemes. Some examples of difficulties include:

1. There is no consistent definition of the total area used in the calculation so different people use different areas/ bases for different schemes and therefore arrive at different answers.

2. The type of paving is not the only variable that affects the cost. The extent and specification of street furniture, street lighting, public artwork, tree planting, re-use

[1] Based on the resident population of the Coalisland which has a population of 5,682 according to the 2011 Census.

of existing kerbs etc. can all greatly influence (and distort) the final square metre rate. These can vary significantly between different schemes.

3. The final cost per square metre rate can be distorted where there is (a) significant road reconstruction/surfacing (b) extensive drainage works (c) undergrounding of overhead services. Again such items can vary significantly between different schemes.

With these limitations in mind, the table above highlights that at £362 per square metre redeveloped, the Coalisland Public Realm is comparable with a range of other public realm / environmental improvement schemes that have been implemented in recent years.

Whilst a number of schemes (Newcastle, Omagh, Ravenhill, Ballynahinch, Downpatrick etc) have been implemented at a lower cost per square metre, the other schemes considered were either equal or more costly than the cost per square metre proposed for the Coalisland Public Realm. This highlights that the proposed project is within the range of cost effectiveness for other schemes.

10.5. Viability

This project is a non-revenue generating project, with no annual income stream to place against recurrent costs, therefore viability is not considered further.

10.6. Overall Conclusion and Recommendations

In summary, the preferred option for the improvements to the public realm is Option 6. The estimated optimised capital cost of these works is £3,283,961 (excluding VAT).

In addition we would further recommend Mid Ulster District Council consider the following:

- The Council secure funding for the project.
- The Council look to secure the site of the derelict building at No. 18 Main Street.
- The Council look to secure the site for the proposed Car Park B on Washingbay Road.
- That the implementation and roll out of the works be agreed with all stakeholders, in particular as to how it should be phased to minimise disruption to traffic and businesses.
- A maintenance/cleaning schedule (agreed by the Project Steering Group) is in place before the completion of the project.
- That agreement be reached with Dfi Roads regarding the proposal to implement one-way traffic flow on Main Street and that the legislation process for this amendment is commenced along with the legislation process for proposed parking enforcements.
- That all work is consistent with the latest Disability Discrimination legislation.
- That planning permission is confirmed.

- Traffic signage is prominently displayed on completion indicating new road layout and parking availability.

11. PROJECT FINANCE, MANAGEMENT, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

11.1. Project Financing and Funding

Total Optimised Capital Costs are £3,283,961. The breakdown of costs for Preferred Option 6 is shown below:

Description	Cost
Site Clearance/Groundwork	£238,544
Surfacing	£1,031,333
Street Furniture	£584,114
Utilities/Services	£210,000
Total Construction Costs	**£2,063,991**
Preliminaries (10%)	£206,399
Surveys	£48,000
Design Development	£19,611
Purchase of Land	£320,000
Grand Total	**£2,658,001**
Optimum Bias (11.55%)	£306,999
Professional Fees (12%)	£318,960
Total Optimised Costs	**£3,283,960**

It is proposed that this project will be funded as follows:

Contributor	Proposed Contribution	Percentage
Department for Communities (DfC)	£2,955,564	90%
Mid Ulster District Council	£328,396	10%
DfI Roads	TBC	TBC
Total	**£3,283,960**	**100%**

Mid Ulster District Council have committed funds up to 10% of the current estimated project cost for Preferred Option 6.

The Council are actively pursuing with DfI Roads the possibility of contributing to the scheme. It should be noted that these costs are subject to change, depending on the final implementation timetable signed off by funders.

Mid Ulster District Council have current spent the following costs on the Project to date:

Description	Cost (ex. VAT)
Professional Fees	£54,550
Topographical Survey	£2,450.00
GPR Survey	£10,250.00
Traffic Survey	£1,750.00
Car Park Survey	£545.00
Footfall Survey	£995.00
Non-motorised Users Audit	£995.00
Traffic Model	£16,840.00
Archaeological Survey	£795.00
Total	**£89,170.00**

11.2. Project Management

The Coalisland Public Realm scheme shall be managed under a Project Board structure, led by Mid Ulster District Council, to secure regeneration of the town and its wider environs. The Project Board comprises of:

- Mid Ulster District Council;
- Department for Communities (DfC);
- Central Procurement Directorate (CPD);
- DfI Roads;
- Project Design (including WDR & RT Taggart).

This is considered to be a strong and experienced management team who have significant experience in large capital projects of that proposed.

Mid Ulster District Council shall also establish a Coalisland Town Centre Forum, a group of local stakeholders, including traders and community leaders and representatives from statutory authorities. It is envisaged that the role of the Coalisland Town Centre Forum will continue after the implementation of the Public Realm Scheme, with the group continuing to drive forward development of Coalisland town centre.

Benefits Realisation Plan

The management and planning of policies, programmes and projects should include specific provision for benefits management and realisation. The table below illustrates the benefits realisation plan for the proposed project.

Benefit	Benefit Indicator	Target	Type	Specific Data Requirements	Responsibility
Improve civic pride and public perception	Business and public perception of the town	Increase by 10% from the baseline rating	Qualitative	Survey	Mid Ulster District Council
Improve accessibility	Improved Streetscape	Increase the rating of the streetscape from the current Poor/Fair	Qualitative	Questionnaire by Mid Ulster Disability Forum	Mid Ulster District Council
Improve traffic safety	Number of Road Traffic Collisions	Halt the rise in the number of incidences of road traffic collisions	Quantitative	NISRA - Town Centre Database - Road Traffic Collisions	Mid Ulster District Council
Improve traffic management and enforcement	Appropriate signage, road markings, uniformed traffic attendants	Introduce parking restriction legislation. Enforcement of parking restrictions.	Quantitative	Reduction in illegal parking	DfI Roads
Improve inclusivity, engagement and community influence in decision making	Formation of a Coalisland Town Centre Forum	Formation of a Coalisland Town Centre Forum	Qualitative	None	Mid Ulster District Council
Be sustainable and maintain a town centre which has economic vigour supported by the private sector	Current number of vacant properties within the town centre	Same or improved levels of business occupancy	Quantitative	NISRA - Town Centre Database - Non-domestic Property Vacancy Rates	Mid Ulster District Council
Reduce anti-social behaviour crime	Crime Rates	5% reduction in anti-social behaviour crime	Quantitative	NISRA - Town Centre Database - Crime Rates	Mid Ulster District Council

It will be mainly the responsibility of Mid Ulster District Council to measure the impact of the expected benefits in the town, with the exception of improving traffic management and enforcement - which will be the responsibility of Dfi Roads.

In order to measure the potential impact of the scheme, it is suggested that on an annual basis the Council undertake secondary research to review the economic impact on businesses, number of accidents/claims, incidences of anti-social behaviour and other SMART objectives. In addition, the Council should survey local public, private, community and voluntary sectors representative on an annual basis to gauge their views in terms of measuring the impact of the proposed scheme.

11.3. Project Monitoring

Monitoring of the project is fundamental to the appraisal process as it allows actual process to be compared with what was originally planned. Monitoring is essentially a management function designed to check if a project is implemented on time and within budget.

Mid Ulster District Council will have overall responsibility for the monitoring and evaluation of the works to the public realm.

Monitoring of the project should take place on a monthly basis until each of the proposed individual phases has been completed. Specific monitoring indicators are:

- Works duration;
- Construction quality;
- Cost of construction; and
- Continued by-in from stakeholders, etc.

Monitoring information should be disseminated during monthly meetings of the Management Team (and before if an issue arises). It is the responsibility of the Management Team to ensure that prior to commencement of the scheme, the information required for regular monitoring and control is agreed and appropriate systems put in place to enable such information to be collected.

11.4. Project Evaluation

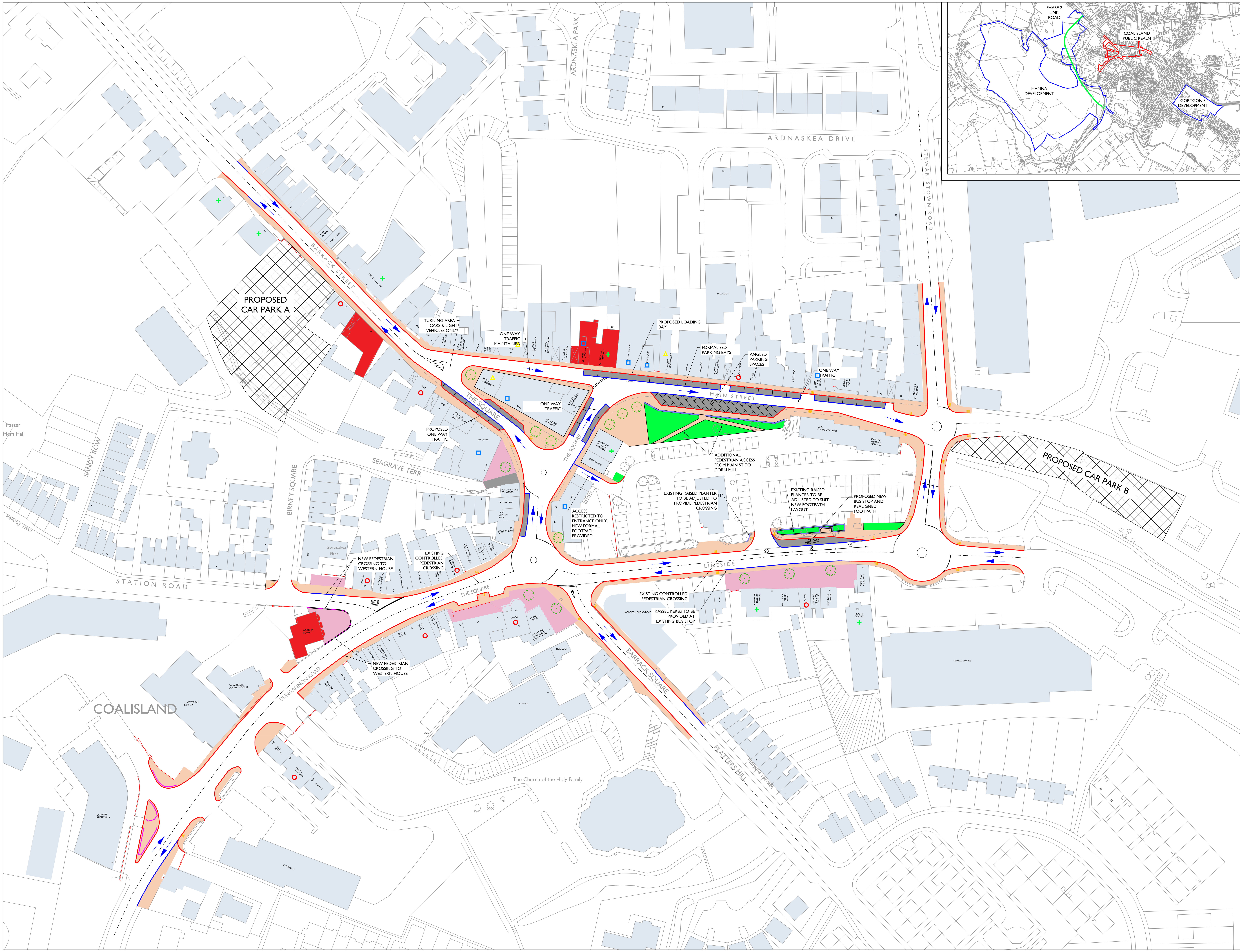
Post project evaluations should seek to address whether the original project objectives have been achieved and should make recommendations for the future, thus improving on project appraisal design, management and implementation.

This appraisal has been prepared with specific requirements for subsequent ex-post evaluation in mind. The general and SMART objectives, description of options and key assumptions made are described in sufficient detail to support project evaluation.

Mid Ulster District Council shall undertake a Post Project Evaluation 12 months post project completion.

APPENDIX A - DRAWINGS


NOTES
1. ALL DIMENSIONS IN METERS UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED.
2. THIS DRAWING TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH ALL OTHER DRAWINGS PERTAINING TO THE WORKS.
3. ALL WORKS SHALL COMPLY WITH THE DESIGN MANUAL FOR ROADS AND BRIDGES VOLUME 1: SPECIFICATION FOR HIGHWAY WORKS.
4. ALL NATURAL STONE PAVEMENTS SHALL BE CONSTRUCTED IN STRICT ACCORDANCE WITH THE RELEVANT SECTION OF BS7533 AND THE SPECIFICATION FOR HIGHWAY WORKS.
LEGEND
PRIMARY PAVING
SECONDARY PAVING
ASPHALT SURFACING WITH GRANITE CHIPPINGS
LANDSCAPED AREA
ROAD KERB
DROPPED KERB
FEATURE RAILING
RETAINING WALL
TACTILE PAVING
PROPOSED SEMI-MATURE TREES
PHARMACY/MEDICAL CENTRE/SURGERY
PUB/OFF-LICENCE
BOOKMAKERS
TAKEAWAY
LISTED BUILDING
PHASE 2 LINK ROAD
COALISLAND PUBLIC REALM
MANNA DEVELOPMENT
GORTGONIS DEVELOPMENT
ARDNASKEA PARK
ARDNASKEA DRIVE
STEWARTSTOWN ROAD
BARRACK STREET
MAIN STREET
THE SQUARE
SEAGRAVE TERR
BIRNEY SQUARE
SANDY ROW
STATION ROAD
LINESIDE
DUNGANNON ROAD
BARRACK SQUARE
PLATTERS HILL
The Church of the Holy Family
Foster Mem Hall
Railway View
WIDENED FOOTPATH AT RAMPS
ONE WAY TRAFFIC MAINTAINED
PROPOSED LOADING BAY
FORMALISED PARKING BAYS
ANGLED PARKING SPACES
ONE WAY TRAFFIC
REDUCE BUILD-OUT
FORMALISED PARKING BAYS
ONE WAY TRAFFIC
TWO WAY TRAFFIC MAINTAINED
WIDEN FOOTPATH AT PINCH POINT
ADDITIONAL PEDESTRIAN ACCESS FROM MAIN ST TO CORN MILL
EXISTING RAISED PLANTER TO BE ADJUSTED TO SUIT NEW FOOTPATH LAYOUT
PROPOSED NEW BUS STOP AND REALIGNED FOOTPATH
NEW PEDESTRIAN REFUGE ISLAND
ACCESS RESTRICTED TO ENTRANCE ONLY. NEW FORMAL FOOTPATH PROVIDED
EXISTING RAISED PLANTER TO BE ADJUSTED TO PROVIDE PEDESTRIAN CROSSING
EXISTING CONTROLLED PEDESTRIAN CROSSING
NEW PEDESTRIAN CROSSING TO WESTERN HOUSE
EXISTING CONTROLLED PEDESTRIAN CROSSING
NEW PEDESTRIAN REFUGE ISLAND
PROPOSED NEW RIGHT HAND TURNING LANE
3.56
4.00
20
18
15
G | GENERAL UPDATE | MP 30.04.18 | TS 30.04.18
F | CAR PARK A BOUNDARY AMENDED | JVC 12.02.18 | MP 12.02.18
E | NEW CAR PARK A & B ADDED, NEW CONTROLLED PEDESTRIAN CROSSING ON STEWARTSTOWN RD | MP 06.12.17 | TS 06.12.17
D | KEY PLAN AND BUSINESS SYMBOLS ADDED | MP 15.11.17 | TS 15.11.17
C | GENERAL UPDATE | MP 27.09.17 | TS 27.09.17
B | PARKING IN THE SQUARE AMENDED, GENERAL UPDATE | MP 13.09.17 | TS 13.09.17
A | STATION ROAD BOUNDARY AMENDED | MP 02.08.17 | TS 02.08.17
AMENDMENT DETAILS | BY DATE | CHKD DATE
WDR & RT TAGGART
CLIENT
MID ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL
CONTRACT
COALISLAND PUBLIC REALM SCHEME
DRAWING
PROPOSAL 1
SCALE 1:500 AT A0
DRAWN MP
DATE AUG 2017
CHECKED
DATE
DRG No. 17058C-201 G
Architects
Civil Engineers
Structural Engineers
Landscape Architects
Town Planning Consultants
Planning Supervisors
Project Managers
Laganwood House
Newforge Lane
Malone Road
Belfast BT9 5NX
Tel 028 9066 2121
Fax 028 9066 3162



NOTES

1. ALL DIMENSIONS IN METERS UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED.
2. THIS DRAWING TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH ALL OTHER DRAWINGS PERTAINING TO THE WORKS.
3. ALL WORKS SHALL COMPLY WITH THE DESIGN MANUAL FOR ROADS AND BRIDGES VOLUME 1: SPECIFICATION FOR HIGHWAY WORKS.
4. ALL NATURAL STONE PAVEMENTS SHALL BE CONSTRUCTED IN STRICT ACCORDANCE WITH THE RELEVANT SECTION OF BS7533 AND THE SPECIFICATION FOR HIGHWAY WORKS.

LEGEND

- PRIMARY PAVING
- SECONDARY PAVING
- ASPHALT SURFACING WITH GRANITE CHIPPINGS
- LANDSCAPED AREA
- ROAD KERB
- DROPPED KERB
- FEATURE RAILING
- RETAINING WALL
- TACTILE PAVING
- PROPOSED SEMI-MATURE TREES
- PHARMACY/MEDICAL CENTRE/SURGERY
- PUB/OFF-LICENCE
- BOOKMAKERS
- TAKEAWAY
- LISTED BUILDING

AM. SUFFIX	AMENDMENT DETAILS	BY DATE	CHKD DATE
E	CAR PARK A BOUNDARY AMENDED	JVC 12.02.18	MP 12.02.18
D	NEW CAR PARK A & B ADDED	MP 06.12.17	TS 06.12.17
C	KEY PLAN AND BUSINESS SYMBOLS ADDED	MP 15.11.17	TS 15.11.17
B	GENERAL UPDATE	MP 27.09.17	TS 27.09.17
A	STATION ROAD BOUNDARY AMENDED	MP 02.08.17	TS 02.08.17

WDR & RT **TAGGART**

CLIENT
MID ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL

CONTRACT
COALISLAND PUBLIC REALM SCHEME

DRAWING
PROPOSAL 2

SCALE 1:500 AT A0

DRAWN MP DATE AUG 2017

CHECKED DATE

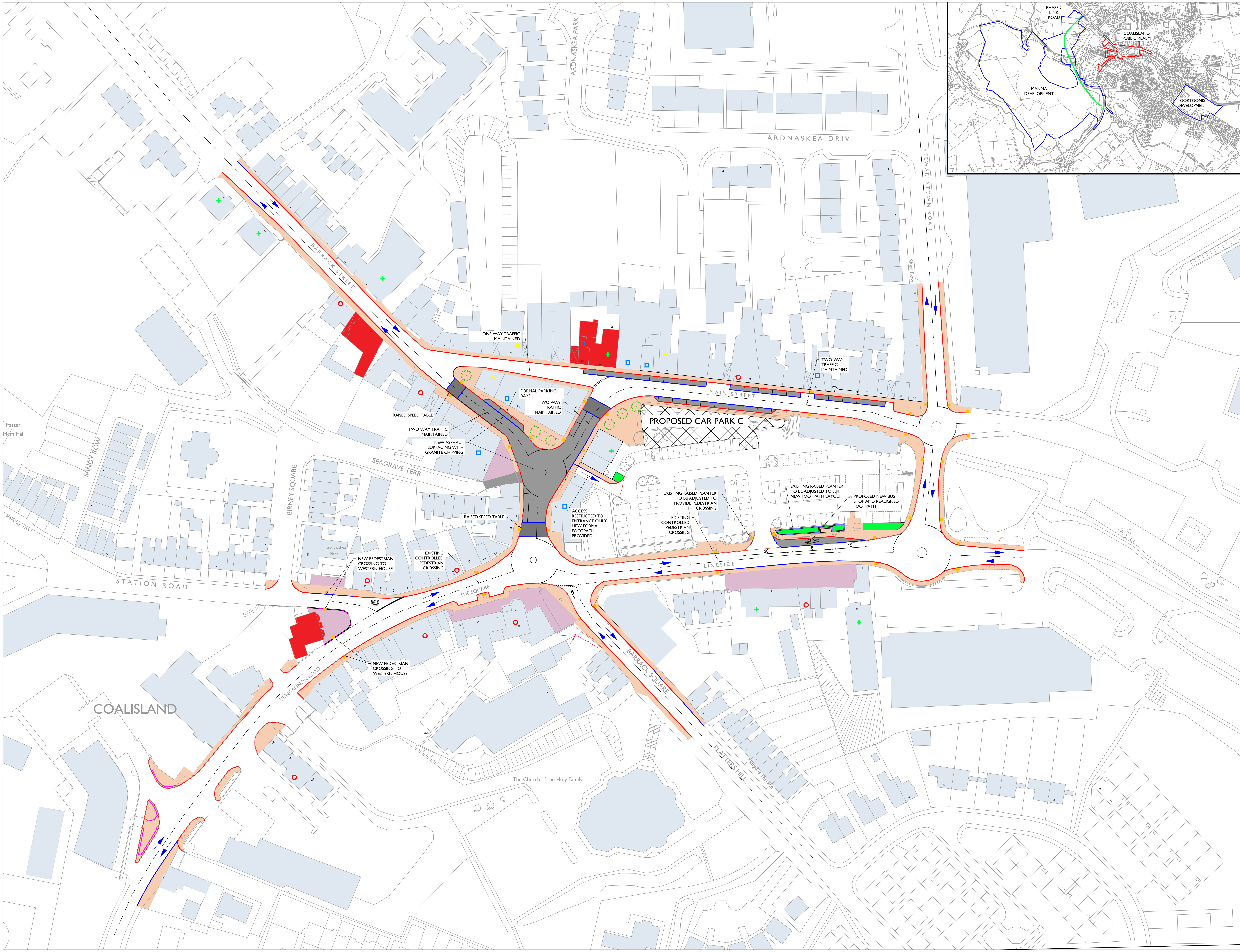
DRG No. 17058C-202 E

Architects
Civil Engineers
Structural Engineers
Landscape Architects
Town Planning Consultants
Planning Supervisors
Project Managers

Laganwood House
Newforge Lane
Malone Road
Belfast BT9 5NX

Tel 028 9066 2121
Fax 028 9066 3162

email mail@wdr-rt-taggart.com



NOTES

1. ALL DIMENSIONS IN METERS UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED.
2. THIS DRAWING TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH ALL OTHER DRAWINGS PERTAINING TO THE WORKS.
3. ALL WORKS SHALL COMPLY WITH THE DESIGN MANUAL FOR ROADS AND BRIDGES VOLUME 1: SPECIFICATION FOR HIGHWAY WORKS.
4. ALL NATURAL STONE PAVEMENTS SHALL BE CONSTRUCTED IN STRICT ACCORDANCE WITH THE RELEVANT SECTION OF BS7533 AND THE SPECIFICATION FOR HIGHWAY WORKS.

LEGEND

- PRIMARY PAVING
- SECONDARY PAVING
- ASPHALT SURFACING WITH GRANITE CHIPPINGS
- LANDSCAPED AREA
- ROAD KERB
- DROPPED KERB
- FEATURE RAILING
- RETAINING WALL
- TACTILE PAVING
- PROPOSED SEMI-MATURE TREES
- PHARMACY/MEDICAL CENTRE/SURGERY
- PUB/OFF-LICENCE
- BOOKMAKERS
- TAKEAWAY
- LISTED BUILDING

AM. SUFFIX	AMENDMENT DETAILS	BY DATE	CHKD DATE
C	GENERAL UPDATE	MP 04.01.18	TS 04.01.18
B	NEW CAR PARK A & B ADDED	MP 06.12.17	TS 06.12.17
A	STATION ROAD BOUNDARY AMENDED	MP 02.08.17	TS 02.08.17

WDR & RT **TAGGART**

CLIENT
MID ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL

CONTRACT
COALISLAND PUBLIC REALM SCHEME

DRAWING
PROPOSAL 3

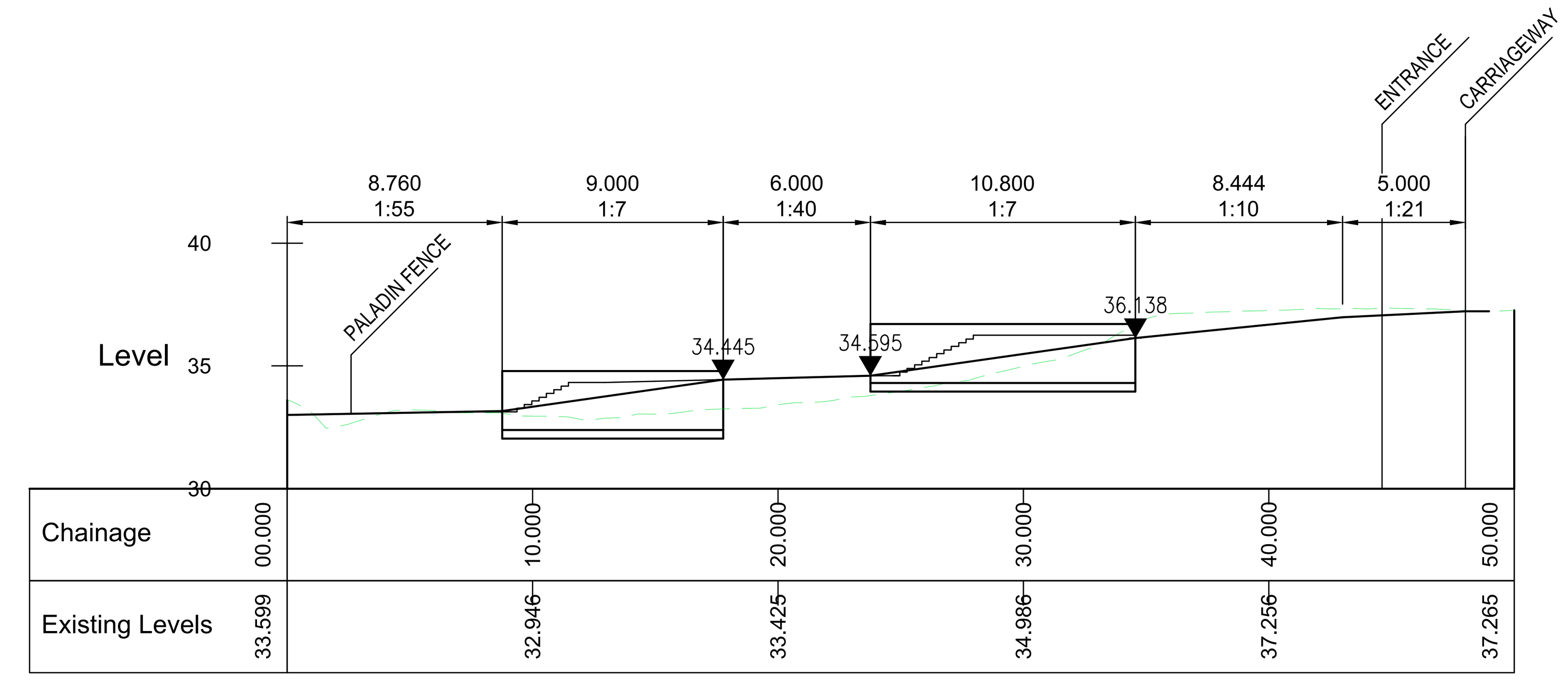
SCALE 1:500 AT A0
DRAWN MP DATE AUG 2017
CHECKED DATE
DRG No. 17058C-203 C

Architects
Civil Engineers
Structural Engineers
Landscape Architects
Town Planning Consultants
Planning Supervisors
Project Managers

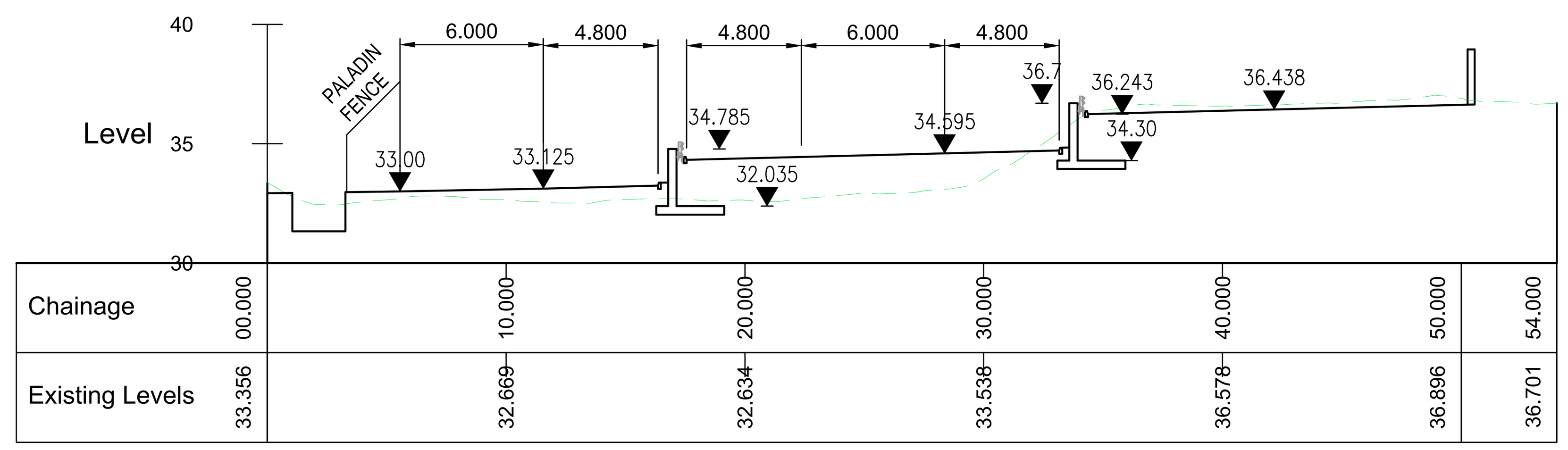
Laganwood House
Newforge Lane
Malone Road
Belfast BT9 5NX

Tel 028 9066 2121
Fax 028 9066 3162
email mail@wdr-rt-taggart.com

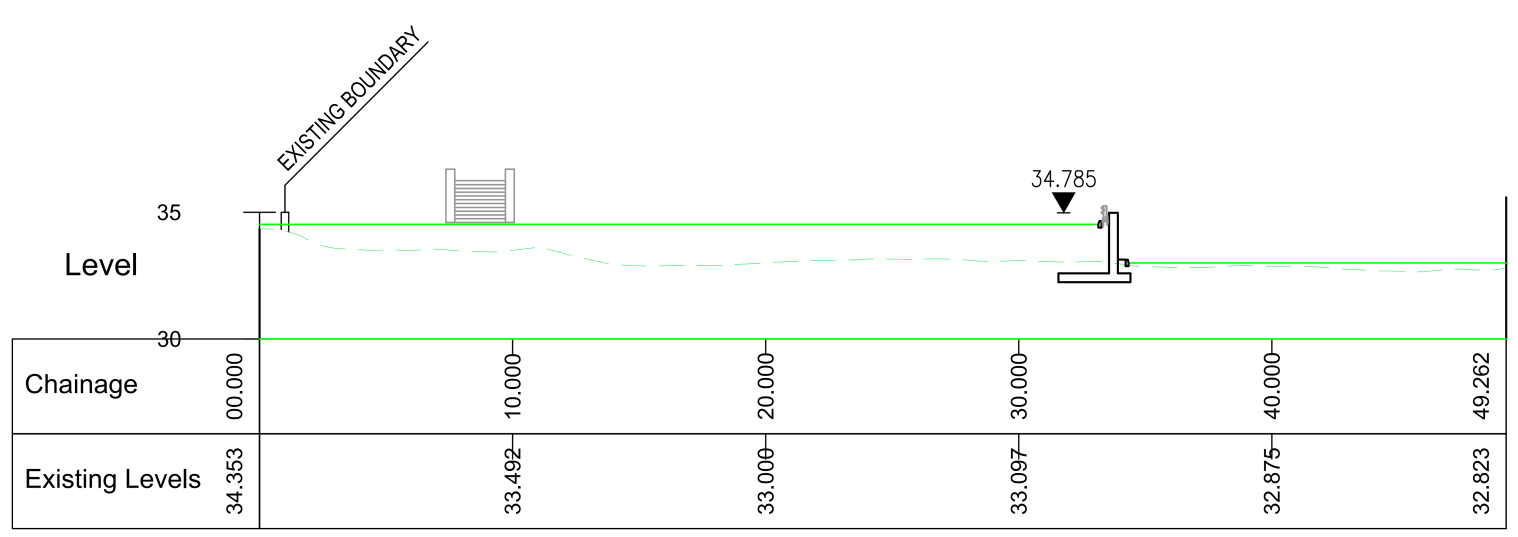
PLAN ON AREA 3 AND 8
SCALE 1:250



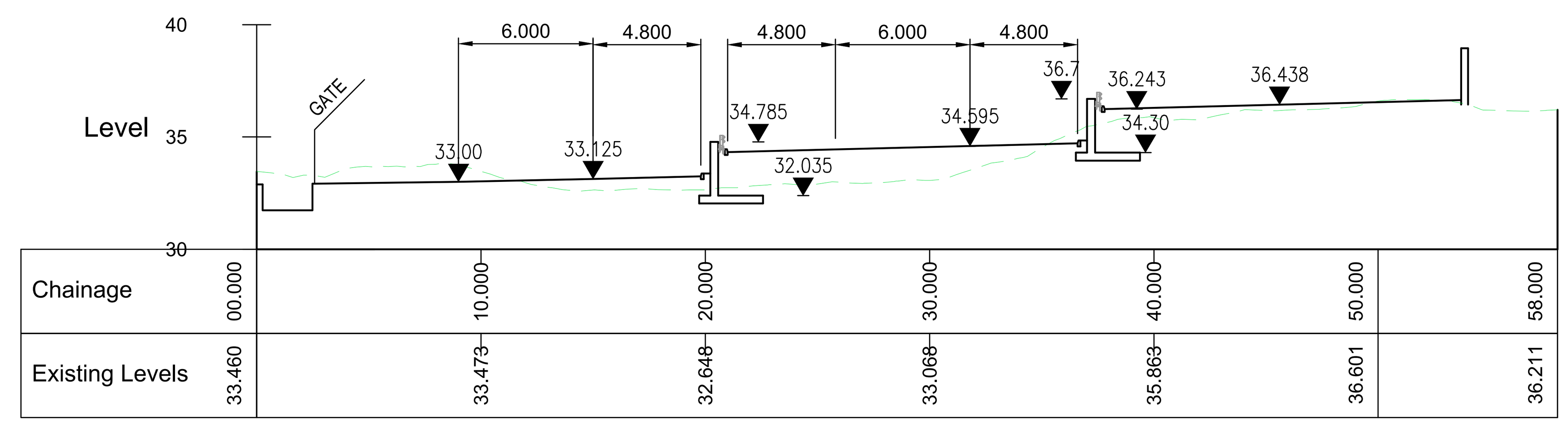
SECTION A-A AREA 3 (WALL AND STEPS BEHIND SECTION)
SCALE: H 1:250,V 1:250. DATUM: 30.000



SECTION B-B AREA 3
SCALE: H 1:250,V 1:250. DATUM: 30.000



SECTION D-D AREA 3 AND 8
SCALE: H 1:250,V 1:250. DATUM: 30.000



SECTIONC-C AREA 3
SCALE: H 1:250,V 1:250. DATUM: 30.000

NOTES - GENERAL

1. DO NOT SCALE OFF DRAWING.
2. ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN MILLIMETRES U.N.O.
3. ALL LEVELS ARE IN METRES.
4. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR CHECKING ALL DIMENSIONS AND LEVELS ON SITE.
5. THIS DRAWING IS TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH RELEVANT CONSULTANT DRAWINGS, SCHEDULES AND SPECIFICATIONS.
6. ALL MATERIALS AND WORKMANSHIP TO COMPLY WITH APPROPRIATE EUROCODES AND CONTRACT SPECIFICATION.

LEGEND

- SITE BOUNDARY
- NEW ASPHALT SURFACING CAR PARK
- NEW ASPHALT SURFACING ACCESS ROAD
- ASPHALT RESURFACING
- NEW ASPHALT FOOTPATH
- NEW PRECAST CONCRETE ROAD KERB
- NEW PIN KERB
- EXISTING KERB TO BE REMOVED
- NEW TACTILE PAVING
- NEW ROAD MARKINGS
- NEW LANDSCAPED AREA
- NEW PALADIN FENCE
- BOLLARD
- ARMCO BARRIER
- NEW DROP KERB
- CULVERT
- NEW GATE

AM. SUFFIX	AMENDMENT DETAILS	BY DATE	CHKD DATE
A	SIGHT-LINE ADDED	JVC 08.01.18	MP 08.01.18

WDR & RT TAGGART

CLIENT
MID ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL

CONTRACT
COALISLAND PUBLIC REALM SCHEME

DRAWING
ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSED CAR PARKING OPTIONS AREA 3 AND 8

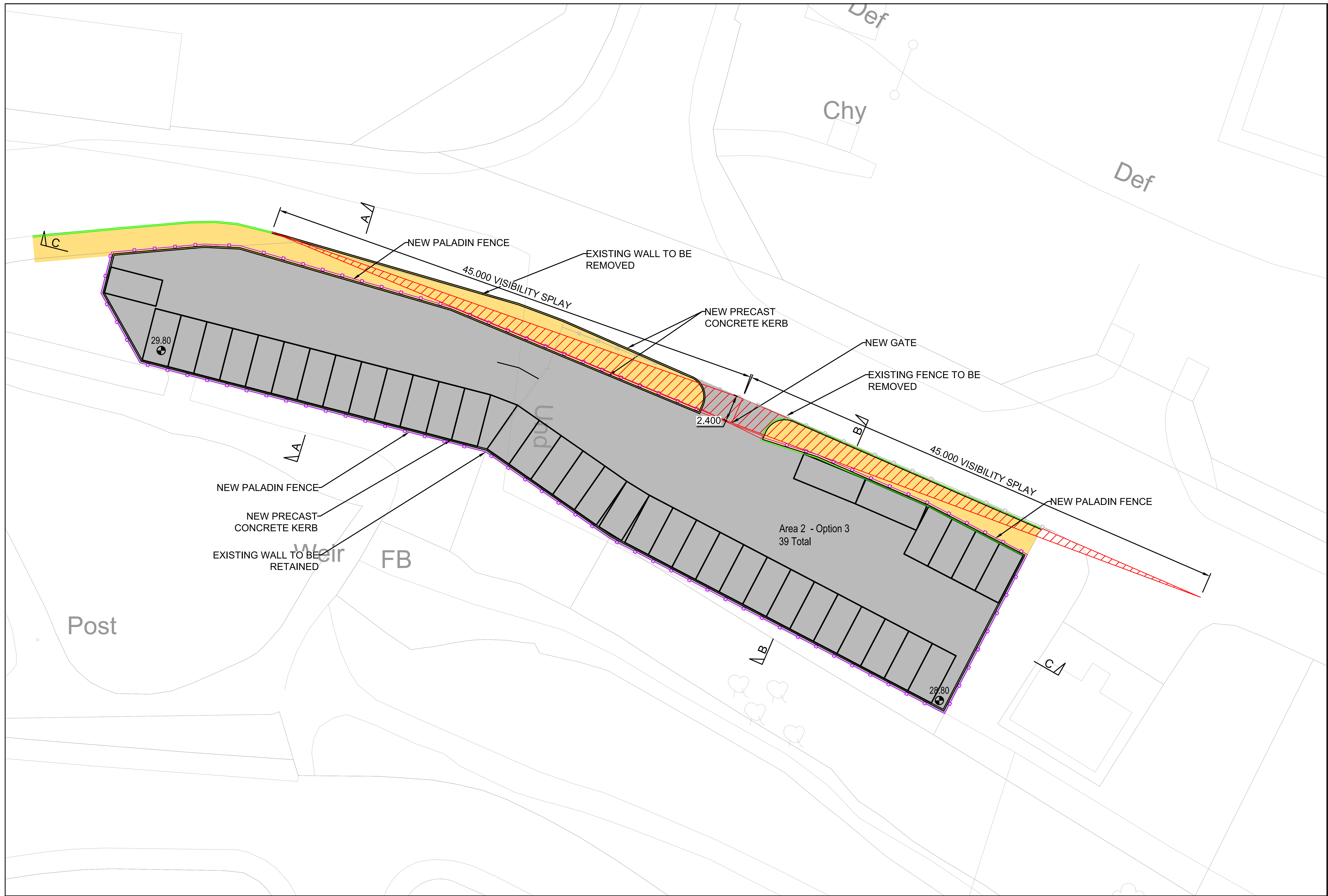
STATUS
PRELIMINARY

SCALE
AS SHOWN @ A1

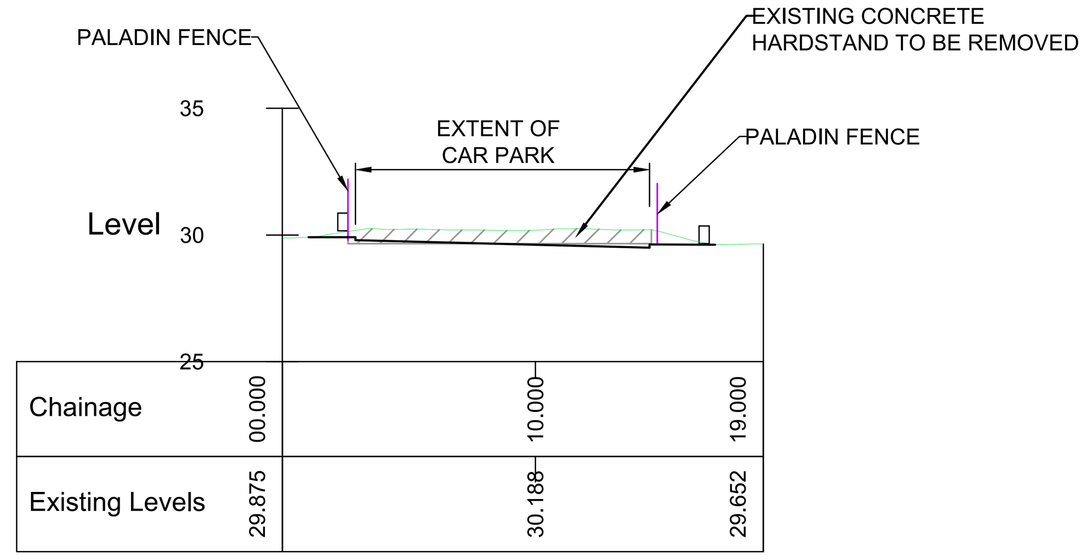
DRAWN JVC DATE NOV 2017
CHECKED MP DATE NOV 2017
DRG No. 17058C-305 REV. A

Architects
Civil Engineers
Structural Engineers
Landscape Architects
Town Planning Consultants
Planning Supervisors
Project Managers

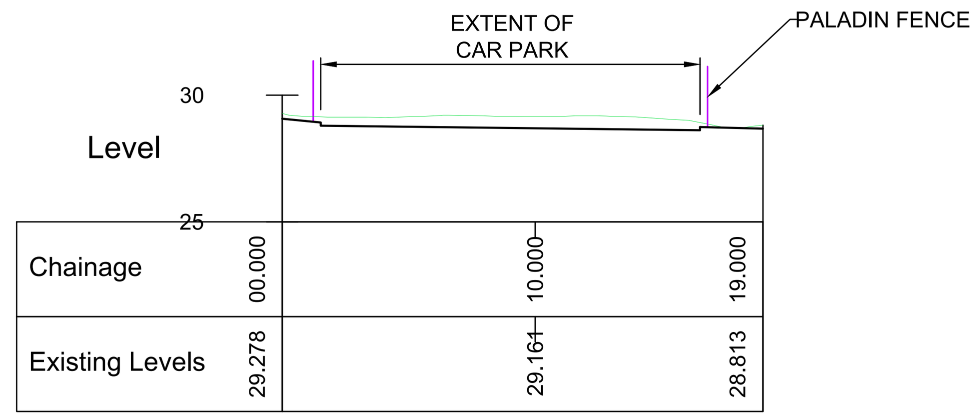
Laganwood House
Newforge Lane
Malone Road
Belfast BT9 5NX
Tel 028 9066 2121
Fax 028 9066 3162
email mail@wdr-rt-taggart.com



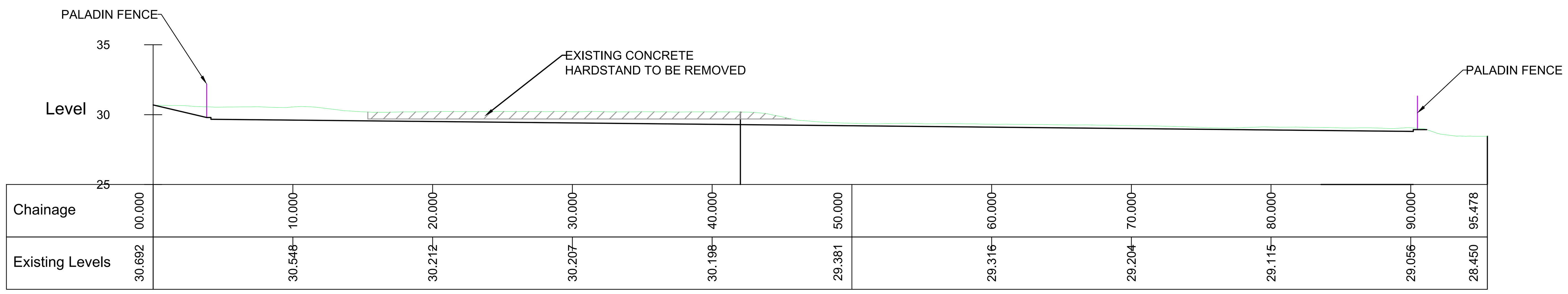
PLAN ON AREA 2
SCALE 1:250



SECTION A-A AREA 2
SCALE: H 1:250,V 1:250. DATUM: 25.000



SECTION B-B AREA 2
SCALE: H 1:250,V 1:250. DATUM: 25.000



SECTION C-C AREA 2
SCALE: H 1:250,V 1:250. DATUM: 25.000

NOTES - GENERAL

1. DO NOT SCALE OFF DRAWING.
2. ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN MILLIMETRES U.N.O.
3. ALL LEVELS ARE IN METRES.
4. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR CHECKING ALL DIMENSIONS AND LEVELS ON SITE.
5. THIS DRAWING IS TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH RELEVANT CONSULTANT DRAWINGS, SCHEDULES AND SPECIFICATIONS.
6. ALL MATERIALS AND WORKMANSHIP TO COMPLY WITH APPROPRIATE EUROCODES AND CONTRACT SPECIFICATION.

LEGEND

- SITE BOUNDARY
- NEW ASPHALT SURFACING CAR PARK
- NEW ASPHALT SURFACING ACCESS ROAD
- ASPHALT RESURFACING
- NEW ASPHALT FOOTPATH
- NEW PRECAST CONCRETE ROAD KERB
- NEW PIN KERB
- EXISTING KERB TO BE REMOVED
- NEW TACTILE PAVING
- NEW ROAD MARKINGS
- NEW LANDSCAPED AREA
- NEW PALADIN FENCE
- B_o BOLLARD
- ARMCO BARRIER
- NEW DROP KERB
- CULVERT
- NEW GATE

AM. SUFFIX	AMENDMENT DETAILS	BY DATE	CHKD DATE
A	ENTRANCE RELOCATED AND SIGHT-LINE AMENDED	JVC 08.01.18	MP 08.01.18

WDR & RT TAGGART

CLIENT: MID ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL

CONTRACT: COALISLAND PUBLIC REALM SCHEME

DRAWING: ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSED CAR PARKING OPTIONS AREA 2

STATUS: PRELIMINARY

SCALE: AS SHOWN @ A1

DRAWN: JVC DATE: NOV 2017

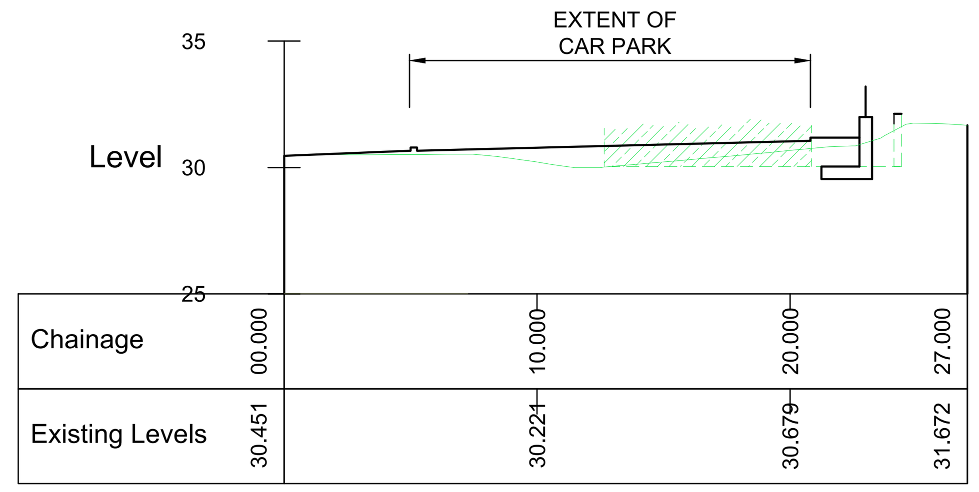
CHECKED: MP DATE: NOV 2017

DRG No. 17058C-303 REV. A

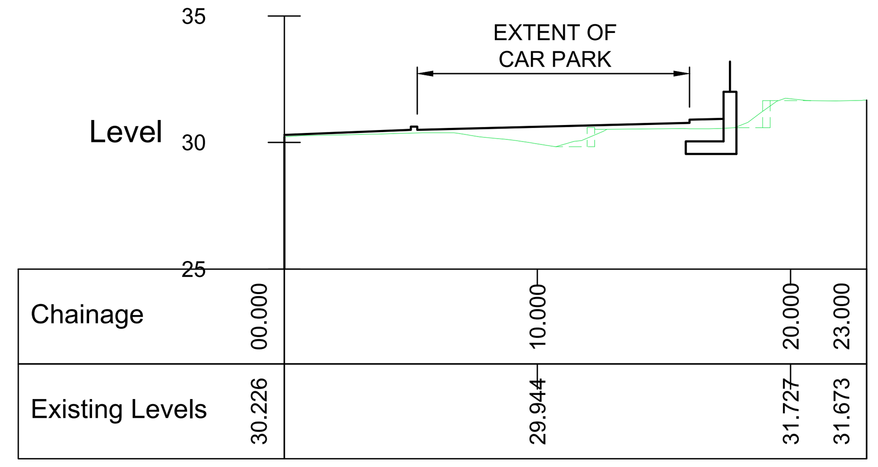
Architects
Civil Engineers
Structural Engineers
Landscape Architects
Town Planning Consultants
Planning Supervisors
Project Managers

Laganwood House
Newforge Lane
Malone Road
Belfast BT9 5NX
Tel 028 9066 2121
Fax 028 9066 3162
email mail@wdr-rt-taggart.com

PLAN ON AREA 9
SCALE 1:250



SECTION A-A AREA 9 (EXISTING PROFILE)
SCALE: H 1:250,V 1:250. DATUM: 25.000



SECTION B-B AREA 9 (EXISTING PROFILE)
SCALE: H 1:250,V 1:250. DATUM: 25.000

NOTES - GENERAL

1. DO NOT SCALE OFF DRAWING.
2. ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN MILLIMETRES U.N.O.
3. ALL LEVELS ARE IN METRES.
4. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR CHECKING ALL DIMENSIONS AND LEVELS ON SITE.
5. THIS DRAWING IS TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH RELEVANT CONSULTANT DRAWINGS, SCHEDULES AND SPECIFICATIONS.
6. ALL MATERIALS AND WORKMANSHIP TO COMPLY WITH APPROPRIATE EUROCODES AND CONTRACT SPECIFICATION.

LEGEND

- SITE BOUNDARY
- NEW ASPHALT SURFACING CAR PARK
- NEW ASPHALT SURFACING ACCESS ROAD
- ASPHALT RESURFACING
- NEW ASPHALT FOOTPATH
- NEW PRECAST CONCRETE ROAD KERB
- NEW PIN KERB
- EXISTING KERB TO BE REMOVED
- NEW TACTILE PAVING
- NEW ROAD MARKINGS
- NEW LANDSCAPED AREA
- NEW PALADIN FENCE
- BOLLARD
- ARMCO BARRIER
- NEW DROP KERB
- CULVERT
- NEW GATE
- NEW PEDESTRIAN HANDRAIL

AM. SUFFIX	AMENDMENT DETAILS	BY DATE	CHKD DATE
A	RETAINING WALL AMENDED	JVC 08.01.18	MP 08.01.18

WDR & RT **TAGGART**

CLIENT
MID ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL

CONTRACT
COALISLAND PUBLIC REALM SCHEME

DRAWING
ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSED CAR PARKING OPTIONS AREA 9

STATUS
PRELIMINARY

SCALE AS SHOWN @ A1

DRAWN JVC DATE NOV 2017

CHECKED MP DATE NOV 2017

DRG No. 17058C-304 REV. 0

Architects
Civil Engineers
Structural Engineers
Landscape Architects
Town Planning Consultants
Planning Supervisors
Project Managers

Laganwood House
Newforge Lane
Malone Road
Belfast BT9 5NX
Tel 028 9066 2121
Fax 028 9066 3162
email mail@wdr-rt-taggart.com

NOTES - GENERAL

1. DO NOT SCALE OFF DRAWING.
2. ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN MILLIMETRES U.N.O.
3. ALL LEVELS ARE IN METRES.
4. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR CHECKING ALL DIMENSIONS AND LEVELS ON SITE.
5. THIS DRAWING IS TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH RELEVANT CONSULTANT DRAWINGS, SCHEDULES AND SPECIFICATIONS.
6. ALL MATERIALS AND WORKMANSHIP TO COMPLY WITH APPROPRIATE EUROCODES AND CONTRACT SPECIFICATION.

LEGEND

- SITE BOUNDARY
- NEW ASPHALT SURFACING CAR PARK
- NEW ASPHALT SURFACING ACCESS ROAD
- ASPHALT RESURFACING
- NEW ASPHALT FOOTPATH
- NEW PRECAST CONCRETE ROAD KERB
- NEW PIN KERB
- EXISTING KERB TO BE REMOVED
- NEW TACTILE PAVING
- NEW ROAD MARKINGS
- NEW LANDSCAPED AREA
- NEW PALADIN FENCE
- BOLLARD
- ARMCO BARRIER
- NEW DROP KERB
- CULVERT
- NEW GATE

AM. SUFFIX	AMENDMENT DETAILS	BY DATE	CHKD DATE

WDR & RT TAGGART

CLIENT: MID ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL

CONTRACT: COALISLAND PUBLIC REALM SCHEME

DRAWING: ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSED CAR PARKING OPTIONS IMPROVEMENTS AT BIRNEY SQUARE AND SEAGRAVE TERR

STATUS: PRELIMINARY

SCALE: AS SHOWN @ A1

DRAWN: JVC DATE: NOV 2017

CHECKED: MP DATE: NOV 2017

DRG No. 17058C-306 REV. 0

Architects
Civil Engineers
Structural Engineers
Landscape Architects
Town Planning Consultants
Planning Supervisors
Project Managers

Laganwood House
Newforge Lane
Malone Road
Belfast BT9 5NX
Tel 028 9066 2121
Fax 028 9066 3162
email mail@wdr-rt-taggart.com

PLAN ON BIRNEY SQUARE AND SEAGROVE TERRACE

SCALE 1:250

APPENDIX B - COST ESTIMATES

COALISLAND PUBLIC REALM

Proposed Layout 1, Natural Stone Paving - Cost Estimate

Description	Unit	Quantity	Rate	Amount
Site Clearance/Groundworks				
Groundworks	7813	m^2	25.00	£195,325.00
Demolition of building	1	sum	10000.00	£10,000.00
Surfacing				
Natural Stone Paving	5287	m^2	120.00	£634,440.00
Exposed Aggregate Paving	1131	m^2	70.00	£79,170.00
New Carriageway Surfacing	900	m^2	50.00	£45,000.00
Carriageway Resurfacing	475	m^2	25.00	£11,875.00
Granite Kerb	2636.5	m	60.00	£158,190.00
Whitelining	1	sum	20000.00	£20,000.00
Landscaping	495	m^2	50.00	£24,750.00
Street Furniture				
Street Lighting	55	no.	7500.00	£412,500.00
Bins	20	no.	500.00	£10,000.00
Bollards	70	no.	250.00	£17,500.00
Seats	8	no.	2000.00	£16,000.00
Planters	8	no.	1000.00	£8,000.00
Trees	9	no.	3000.00	£27,000.00
Wall/Railing	134	m	250.00	£33,500.00
Signage	1	sum	30000.00	£30,000.00
Services				
Road Gullies	30	no.	500.00	£15,000.00
Recessed manhole covers	100	no.	400.00	£40,000.00
Future-Proof Ducting	1	sum	60000.00	£60,000.00
Undergrounding Overhead BT	1	sum	55000.00	£55,000.00
WiFi	1	sum	15000.00	£15,000.00
CCTV	1	sum	15000.00	£15,000.00
Total Construction Costs				**£1,933,250.00**
Preliminaries (10%)				£193,325.00
Cost of Surveys				£48,000.00
Purchase of Vacant Site (Estimate)				£120,000.00
Purchase of land in Cornmill car park				£50,000.00
GRAND TOTAL				**£2,344,575.00**

COALISLAND PUBLIC REALM

Proposed Layout 3, Natural Stone Paving - Cost Estimate

Description	Unit	Quantity	Rate	Amount
Site Clearance/Groundworks				
Groundworks	6472	m^2	25.00	£161,800.00
Surfacing				
Natural Stone Paving	5130	m^2	120.00	£615,600.00
Exposed Aggregate Paving	1153	m^2	70.00	£80,710.00
New Carriageway Surfacing	94	m^2	50.00	£4,700.00
Carriageway Resurfacing	1524	m^2	25.00	£38,100.00
Granite Kerb	2358	m	60.00	£141,480.00
Whitelining	1	sum	20000.00	£20,000.00
Landscaping	95	m^2	50.00	£4,750.00
Street Furniture				
Street Lighting	55	no.	7500.00	£412,500.00
Bins	20	no.	500.00	£10,000.00
Bollards	70	no.	250.00	£17,500.00
Seats	8	no.	2000.00	£16,000.00
Planters	8	no.	1000.00	£8,000.00
Trees	9	no.	3000.00	£27,000.00
Wall/Railing	134	m	250.00	£33,500.00
Signage	1	sum	30000.00	£30,000.00
Services				
Road Gullies	30	no.	500.00	£15,000.00
Recessed manhole covers	100	no.	400.00	£40,000.00
Future-Proof Ducting	1	sum	60000.00	£60,000.00
Undergrounding Overhead BT	1	sum	55000.00	£55,000.00
WiFi	1	sum	15000.00	£15,000.00
CCTV	1	sum	15000.00	£15,000.00
Total Construction Costs				**£1,821,640.00**
Preliminaries (10%)				£182,164.00
Cost of Surveys				£48,000.00
Purchase of Vacant Site (Estimate)				£120,000.00
Purchase of land in Cornmill car park				£50,000.00
GRAND TOTAL				**£2,221,804.00**

COALISLAND PUBLIC REALM

Proposed Layout 1, Natural Stone Paving & Concrete Setts - Cost Estimate

Description	Unit	Quantity	Rate	Amount
Site Clearance/Groundworks				
Groundworks	7362	m^2	25.00	£184,050.00
Demolition of building	1	sum	10000.00	£10,000.00
Surfacing				
Natural Stone Paving	3580	m^2	120.00	£429,600.00
Concrete Setts Paving	1707	m^2	70.00	£119,490.00
Exposed Aggregate Paving	1131	m^2	70.00	£79,170.00
New Carriageway Surfacing	900	m^2	50.00	£45,000.00
Carriageway Resurfacing	475	m^2	25.00	£11,875.00
Granite Kerb	1839.5	m	60.00	£110,370.00
Concrete Road Kerb	797	m	15.00	£11,955.00
Whitelining	1	sum	20000.00	£20,000.00
Landscaping	495	m^2	50.00	£24,750.00
Street Furniture				
Street Lighting	55	no.	7500.00	£412,500.00
Bins	20	no.	500.00	£10,000.00
Bollards	70	no.	250.00	£17,500.00
Seats	8	no.	2000.00	£16,000.00
Planters	8	no.	1000.00	£8,000.00
Trees	9	no.	3000.00	£27,000.00
Wall/Railing	134	m	250.00	£33,500.00
Signage	1	sum	30000.00	£30,000.00
Services				
Road Gullies	30	no.	500.00	£15,000.00
Recessed manhole covers	100	no.	400.00	£40,000.00
Future-Proof Ducting	1	sum	60000.00	£60,000.00
Undergrounding Overhead BT	1	sum	55000.00	£55,000.00
WiFi	1	sum	15000.00	£15,000.00
CCTV	1	sum	15000.00	£15,000.00
Total Construction Costs				**£1,800,760.00**
Preliminaries (10%)				£180,076.00
Cost of Surveys				£48,000.00
Purchase of Vacant Site (Estimate)				£120,000.00
Purchase of land in Cornmill car park				£50,000.00
GRAND TOTAL				**£2,198,836.00**

COALISLAND PUBLIC REALM

Proposed Layout 3, Natural Stone Paving & Concrete Setts - Cost Estimate

Description	Unit	Quantity	Rate	Amount
Site Clearance/Groundworks				
Groundworks	3052	m^2	25.00	£76,300.00
Surfacing				
Natural Stone Paving	3420	m^2	120.00	£410,400.00
Concrete Setts Paving	1710	m^2	70.00	£119,700.00
Exposed Aggregate Paving	1153	m^2	70.00	£80,710.00
New Carriageway Surfacing	94	m^2	50.00	£4,700.00
Carriageway Resurfacing	1524	m^2	25.00	£38,100.00
Granite Kerb	1561	m	60.00	£93,660.00
Concrete Road Kerb	797	m	15.00	£11,955.00
Whitelining	1	sum	20000.00	£20,000.00
Landscaping	95	m^2	50.00	£4,750.00
Street Furniture				
Street Lighting	55	no.	7500.00	£412,500.00
Bins	20	no.	500.00	£10,000.00
Bollards	70	no.	250.00	£17,500.00
Seats	8	no.	2000.00	£16,000.00
Planters	8	no.	1000.00	£8,000.00
Trees	9	no.	3000.00	£27,000.00
Wall/Railing	134	m	250.00	£33,500.00
Signage	1	sum	30000.00	£30,000.00
Services				
Road Gullies	30	no.	500.00	£15,000.00
Recessed manhole covers	100	no.	400.00	£40,000.00
Future-Proof Ducting	1	sum	60000.00	£60,000.00
Undergrounding Overhead BT	1	sum	55000.00	£55,000.00
WiFi	1	sum	15000.00	£15,000.00
CCTV	1	sum	15000.00	£15,000.00
Total Construction Costs				**£1,614,775.00**
Preliminaries (10%)				£161,477.50
Cost of Surveys				£48,000.00
Purchase of Vacant Site (Estimate)				£120,000.00
Purchase of land in Cornmill car park				£50,000.00
GRAND TOTAL				**£1,994,252.50**

COALISLAND PUBLIC REALM

Car Park A - Cost Estimate

Description	Quantity	Unit	Rate	Amount
Site Clearance/Groundworks				
Groundworks	2634	m^2	10.00	£26,343.65
Excavation to reduced levels	585	m^3	5.00	£2,923.06
Fill	639	m^3	10.00	£6,388.55
Imported fill material	54	m^3	18.00	£976.37
Demolition of wall	1	sum	2500.00	£2,500.00
Surfacing				
Car Park Asphalt	2068	m^2	25.00	£51,693.55
Public Realm Footpath	214	m^2	120.00	£25,714.56
New Carriageway Resurfacing	352	m^2	35.00	£12,331.73
Granite Kerb	124	m	60.00	£7,443.84
Precast Concrete Kerb	326	m	15.00	£4,892.28
Tactile Paving	11	m^2	50.00	£568.00
Whitelining	1	sum	3000.00	£3,000.00
Street Furniture				
Steps	2	no.	5000.00	£10,000.00
Railing	125	m	60.00	£7,515.60
Vehicular Restraint	65	m	60.00	£3,886.56
Retaining Wall	91	m	250.00	£22,855.00
Paladin Fence	156	m	80.00	£12,490.00
Gate	2	no.	5000.00	£10,000.00
Street Lighting	2	no.	7500.00	£15,000.00
Amenity Lighting	12	no.	1250.00	£15,000.00
Bins	5	no.	250.00	£1,250.00
Signage	1	sum	2000.00	£2,000.00
Services				
Drainage	1	sum	20000.00	£20,000.00
Watercourse culverting and Inlet	1	sum	20000.00	£20,000.00
Total Construction Costs				**£284,772.75**
Preliminaries (10%)				£28,477.27
Design Development (15%)				£42,715.91
Purchase of Sites (Estimate)	1	sum	200000.00	£200,000.00
GRAND TOTAL				**£555,965.94**

COALISLAND PUBLIC REALM

Car Park B - Cost Estimate

Description	Quantity	Unit	Rate	Amount
Site Clearance/Groundworks				
Groundworks	1274	m^2	10.00	£12,738.54
Excavation to reduced levels	967	m^3	5.00	£4,834.00
Demolition of existing concrete slab	418	m^2	5.00	£2,087.75
Disposal of excavated material	1092	m^3	11.50	£12,558.74
Removal of Existing Fence	1	sum	1000.00	£1,000.00
Surfacing				
Car Park Asphalt	1098	m^2	25.00	£27,455.95
Public Realm Footpath	176	m^2	120.00	£21,073.92
Granite Kerb	93	m	60.00	£5,562.00
Precast Concrete Kerb	188	m	15.00	£2,816.42
Whitelining	1	sum	1000.00	£1,000.00
Street Furniture				
Paladin Fence	189	m	80.00	£15,113.60
Gate	1	no.	5000.00	£5,000.00
Amenity Lighting	6	no.	1250.00	£7,500.00
Bins	2	no.	500.00	£1,000.00
Signage	1	sum	1000.00	£1,000.00
Services				
Drainage	1	sum	10000.00	£10,000.00
Total Construction Costs				**£130,740.91**
Preliminaries (10%)				£13,074.09
Design Development (15%)				£19,611.14
Purchase of Site (Estimate)	1	sum	150000.00	£150,000.00
GRAND TOTAL				**£313,426.14**

COALISLAND PUBLIC REALM

Car Park C - Cost Estimate

Description	Quantity	Unit	Rate	Amount
Site Clearance/Groundworks				
Groundworks	828	m^2	10.00	£8,281.30
Excavation to reduced levels	362	m^3	5.00	£1,810.95
Fill	300	m^3	10.00	£3,003.88
Disposal of excavated material	62	m^3	11.50	£710.72
Demolition of Existing Building	1	sum	10000.00	£10,000.00
Surfacing				
Car Park Asphalt	518	m^2	25.00	£12,959.33
Footpath Paving (concrete to match existing)	68	m^2	50.00	£3,424.65
Precast Concrete Kerb	180	m	15.00	£2,702.16
Whitelining	1	sum	500.00	£500.00
Landscaping	241	m^2	10.00	£2,412.64
Street Furniture				
Railing	75	m	60.00	£4,485.90
Retaining Wall	75	m	250.00	£18,691.25
Amenity Lighting	3	no.	1250.00	£3,750.00
Bins	2	no.	500.00	£1,000.00
Signage	1	sum	500.00	£500.00
Services				
Drainage	1	sum	5000.00	£5,000.00
Total Construction Costs				**£79,232.78**
Preliminaries (10%)				£7,923.28
Design Development (15%)				£11,884.92
Purchase of Site (included in public realm costs)	1	sum	0.00	£0.00
GRAND TOTAL				**£99,040.97**

COALISLAND PUBLIC REALM

Birney Sq and Seagrave Terrace - Cost Estimate

Description	Quantity	Unit	Rate	Amount
Site Clearance/Groundworks				
Groundworks	323.754	m^2	25.00	£8,093.85
Surfacing				
Public Realm Footpath	323.754	m^2	120.00	£38,850.48
Carriageway Resurfacing	816.46	m^2	25.00	£20,411.50
Granite Kerb	181.562	m	60.00	£10,893.72
Tactile Paving	4.32	m^2	50.00	£216.00
Whitelining	1	sum	2000.00	£2,000.00
Street Furniture				
Street Lighting	8	no.	7500.00	£60,000.00
Bins	6	no.	500.00	£3,000.00
Signage	1	sum	2000.00	£2,000.00
Services				
Drainage	1	sum	10000.00	£10,000.00
Total Construction Costs				**£155,465.55**
Preliminaries (10%)				£15,546.56
Design Development (15%)				£23,319.83
GRAND TOTAL				**£194,331.94**

COALISLAND PUBLIC REALM

Proposed Layout 1, Natural Stone Paving & Concrete Setts - Cost Estimate

Description	Unit	Quantity	Rate	Amount
Site Clearance/Groundworks				
Groundworks	1707	m^2	25.00	£42,675.00
Surfacing				
Concrete Setts Paving	1707	m^2	70.00	£119,490.00
Concrete Road Kerb	797	m	15.00	£11,955.00
Total Construction Costs				**£174,120.00**
Preliminaries (10%)				£17,412.00
OB Adjustment (15.99%)				£27,841.79
GRAND TOTAL				**£219,373.79**

COALISLAND PUBLIC REALM

Proposed Layout 3, Natural Stone Paving & Concrete Setts - Cost Estimate

Description	Unit	Quantity	Rate	Amount
Site Clearance/Groundworks				
Groundworks	1710	m^2	25.00	£42,750.00
Surfacing				
Concrete Setts Paving	1710	m^2	70.00	£119,700.00
Concrete Road Kerb	797	m	15.00	£11,955.00
Total Construction Costs				**£174,405.00**
Preliminaries (10%)				£17,440.50
OB Adjustment (15.99%)				£27,887.36
GRAND TOTAL				**£219,732.86**

APPENDIX C - RISK REGISTER

Risk ID	Risk	Cause	Consequence	Allocation	Mitigation / Action	Level of Risk (High, Medium or Low)										
						Option 1	Option 2	Option 4	Option 5	Option 6	Option 9	Option 10	Option 12	Option 13	Option 14	Option 17
1	Planning Approval	Approval not obtained	Delay to Scheme leading to loss of funding	ICT	ICT to initiate planning application process as early as reasonably practical. Early engagement with all Statutory Authorities	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium
2	Funding	Unsecured Funding	Scheme Postponed / Reduced Scope for Scheme	MUDC / DfC / CPD	Produce rebust Economic Appraisal	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium
3	Funders' Expenditure Profile Requiremens	Loss of Funding by not meeting required expenditure profile	Loss of funding, Costs incurred by MUDC. Reduced Scope for Scheme	MUDC / ICT	Realistic/achievable programme in place. All parties made aware of deadlines.	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium
4	Programme Constraints	Programme Constraints due to funding, traders restrictions, Translink requirements etc.	Loss of funding, Disruption to construction sequence.	MUDC / Contractor	Restrictions to construction period and working times to be agreed with MUDC / Stakeholders and included in the Works Information to ensure contractor is fully aware of all constraints	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium
5	TNI Traffic Restrictions	Traffic restrictions cause disruption to construction	Construction Delays. Disruption to construction sequence. Delayed Handover.	ICT / Contractor	Restrictions to working times to be agreed with TNI / MUDC / Traders and included in the Works Information to ensure contractor is fully aware of all constraints on working areas	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
6	Work near traffic / footpaths	Vehicles passing at speed, machinery operating close to the public	Potential for injury to Contractor's staff / members of the public	Contractor	Adequate hoarding/barriers provided to separate members of the public from the works and to protect works from traffic	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium
7	Unknown Services	Presence of shallow services requiring relocation/alterations	Construction delays. Increased construction costs.	ICT / Contractor	GPR survey in conjunction with slip trenches to be undertaken to indicate location and depths of services. Historical record drawings also obtained from service providers and provided in ITT documents. Contractor to liaise with utility providers and use approved locating instruments to determine exact locations of underground cables.	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium
8	Existing Services	Inaccuracy of information provided by Utility Provider, Emergency Work undertaken by Utility Company	Disruption to construction sequence, repair work required	MUDC / Contractor	Early liaison undertake between design team and Utility Providers to ensure they are fully aware of works. Project added to TNI's Symology notification system. Contractor to liaise with utility providers on regular basis.	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low

Risk ID	Risk	Cause	Consequence	Allocation	Mitigation / Action	Level of Risk (High, Medium or Low)										
						Option 1	Option 2	Option 4	Option 5	Option 6	Option 9	Option 10	Option 12	Option 13	Option 14	Option 17
9	Accuracy of Utility Information	Inaccuracy of information provided by Utility Provider. Clash with utilities during construction. Services requiring relocation/alterations.	Construction delays. Increased construction costs.	ICT	Utility providers record information to be cross-referenced with GPR survey. Trial Holes/slit trenches to verify information	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
10	Survey Information	Inaccuracy of survey information. Clash with utilities during construction. Services requiring relocation/alterations.	Construction delays. Increased construction costs.	ICT	Verify survey information on site, undertake trial holes to confirm services locations.	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
11	Disruption to business and end user during construction	Development will have a negative effect on traffic during construction. Disruption of trade, loss of business	Negative public opinion of project	MUDC / Contractor	Ongoing liaison and regular meetings. Access to be maintained to businesses at all times.	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium
12	Private Property Owners	Problems with landowner and/or adjacent land owners.	Delays and/or increased costs, negative public opinion of project	ICT / MUDC	Obtain agreements before IST documents are issued. Ongoing liaison. Public Liaison Officer appointed by contractor.	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium
13	Materials	Long lead in times for materials procurement	Delayed start and Construction delays.	Contractor	Allowance to be made in project programme for the procurement and delivery of materials. Contractor to procure materials, particularly items with a long lead in period such as granite kerbs, as soon as reasonably possible.	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
14	Pollution Incident	Incident during construction period	Construction delays. Increased construction costs.	Contractor	All works to be undertaking in accordance with Pollution Prevention Guidance 6 (PPG 6) - Construction and Demolition Sites	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
15	Health & Safety Incident	Traffic Collision, Incident during construction period,	Possible injury or loss of life, Construction delays.	DfI, Contractor	All personnel to be provided with appropriate and specific method statements. Contractor to provide appropriate plant/machinery and suitably trained personnel.	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium
16	Project Management	Poor project management of Scheme	Construction delays, increased costs	All	All parties to undertake their respective roles to the best of their ability.	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low

Risk ID	Risk	Cause	Consequence	Allocation	Mitigation / Action	Level of Risk (High, Medium or Low)										
						Option 1	Option 2	Option 4	Option 5	Option 6	Option 9	Option 10	Option 12	Option 13	Option 14	Option 17
17	Security	Trespass / Theft, Loss of materials or damage to works on site	Remedial Works, replacement of materials	Contractor	Contractor responsible for site security from date of site possession onwards to handover. Appropriate fencing/ hoarding to be erected around all works. All surplus material to be stored in Contractor's compound outside working hours.	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
18	Contaminated Ground	Unknown Contaminated ground encountered.	Delays due to need for treatment insitu or disposal.	ICT / MUDC	Undertake Preliminary Risk Assessment in accordance with Contamination Land Research (CLR 11)	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
19	Weather	Severe Weather Event	Construction delays. Impact on construction quality.	All	Contractor to take all necessary actions to ensure quality is maintained during weather events.	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
20	Ground Conditions	Unknown poor / unstable ground encountered.	Construction delays. Increased construction costs.	ICT / MUDC	Undertake trial holes/ site investigation	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
21	Development of third party land	Unable to reach an agreement with third party landowners regarding proposed scheme	Constuction delays, amendments to scope of scheme, disputes with landowners	ICT / MUDC	Obtain agreement with landowners prior to issuing ITT documents	Low	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
22	Trees	Location of trees, clashing with existing services	Construction delays, unable to install due to services	ICT / MUDC	GPR survey utilised to select most appropriate locations, Undertake trial holes to indentify exact location of services on site. Location of trees to be discussed with property owners.	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
23	Stakeholder and Trader Requirements	Restrictions on working areas and phasing	Disruption to construction sequence. Construction Delays.	All	Restrictions to be agreed with MUDC / Stakeholders and included in the Works Information to ensure contractor is fully aware of all requirements	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
24	Negative Press	Negative Press due to disruption, loss of trade, negative public opinion of proposed design	Negative public opinion of project	All	Hold public consultation on proposals, liaison with local represenatives regarding works	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium
25	Legislation for amendments to traffic flow	Delays in obtaining approvals, Objections to proposals, Approval not obtained	Delays to construction, amendments to scheme, increased costs	ICT / MUDC	Ensure an adequate time allowance to obtain approvals, hold public consultation on proposals	Low	High	Low	High	High	Low	High	Low	High	High	Low

Risk ID	Risk	Cause	Consequence	Allocation	Mitigation / Action	Level of Risk (High, Medium or Low)										
						Option 1	Option 2	Option 4	Option 5	Option 6	Option 9	Option 10	Option 12	Option 13	Option 14	Option 17
26	Legislation for amendments to parking restrictions	Delays in obtaining approvals, Objections to proposals, Approval not obtained	Delays to construction, amendments to scheme, increased costs	ICT / MUDC	Ensure an adequate time allowance to obtain approvals, hold public consultation on proposals	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium
27	Stakeholder Consultation	Stakeholders object to proposals, Skakeholders request changes to scheme	Delays to construction, amendments to scheme, increased costs	All	Undertake consultation with stakeholders throughout design development. Obtain general consensus for proposal prior to issuing ITT documents for IST	Low	High	Medium	High	High	Medium	High	Medium	High	High	Medium
28	Planned works by Utilities	Two contractors working in close proximity. Conflict in traffic management plans. Excavation of new public realm paving	Disruption to construction sequence. Construction Delays. Negative public opinion.	ICT / MUDC	Liaise with utility providers throughout the scheme. Arrange for planned works to be undertaken in advance of PR scheme where possible. Details of any known works to be undertaken during the PR scheme to be included in the Works Information to ensure contractor is fully aware of all constraints	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
29	Planned works by DfI - Roads to bridge on Coalisland - Dungannon Rd	Works programme clashing with public realm scheme.Traffic managment conflicting with public realm works.	Traffic Congestion. Negative public opinion.	ICT / MUDC / DfI	Liaise with DfI throughout the scheme. If works are undertaken at the same time, ensure traffic management plans do not conflict.	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium
30	Planned works by SGN to install main distribution gas main in town centre	Works programme clashing with public realm scheme.	Two contractors working in close proximity. Conflict in traffic management plans. Excavation of new public realm pavingDisruption to construction sequence. Construction Delays. Negative public opinion.	ICT / MUDC / SGN	Liaise with SGN throughout the scheme. Arrange for gas main to be installed prior to public realm scheme commensing. SGN programmed to commense works in June 2018 with 12 week deadline, therefore should be complete prior to public realm works	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
31	Vandalism	Vandalism of street furniture, planting and lighting	Detracts from the appearance, minimises the impact of the development	ICT / MUDC / PSNI	Specification of rebust vandal-proof materials. Liaise with PSNI Designing Out Crime Officer	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium
32	No Impact	The development has no impact	No increased visitor numbers or visitor/private sector spending/investment.	ICT / MUDC		High	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	Medium

Risk ID	Risk	Cause	Consequence	Allocation	Mitigation / Action	Level of Risk (High, Medium or Low)									
						Option 1	Option 2	Option 4	Option 5	Option 6	Option 9	Option 10	Option 12	Option 13	Option 14	Option 17

Risk Level	
	Low
	Medium
	High

APPENDIX D - NPV SPREADSHEETS

NPV @ 3.5% p.a.																											
APPRAISAL DATE:	Jul-18																										
OPTION NUMBER & TITLE:	Option 1 - Status Quo																										
YEAR :	Year 0	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13	Year 14	Year 15	Year 16	Year 17	Year 18	Year 19	Year 20	Year 21	Year 22	Year 23	Year 24	Year 25	TOTAL
CAPITAL COSTS (£ 000s): Add Row																											
																											0
																											0
																											0
																											0
																											0
A. Total Capital Costs (Annual)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
B. Total Capital Costs (Cumulative)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
REVENUE COSTS (£ 000s): Add Row																											
																											0
Maintenance	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	1404000
																											0
																											0
																											0
C. Total Revenue Costs (Annual)	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	1404000
D. Total Revenue Costs (Cumulative)	54000	108000	162000	216000	270000	324000	378000	432000	486000	540000	594000	648000	702000	756000	810000	864000	918000	972000	1026000	1080000	1134000	1188000	1242000	1296000	1350000	1404000	
E. Total Costs (Annual) (=A+C)	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	1404000
F. Total Costs (Cumulative) (=B+D)	54000	108000	162000	216000	270000	324000	378000	432000	486000	540000	594000	648000	702000	756000	810000	864000	918000	972000	1026000	1080000	1134000	1188000	1242000	1296000	1350000	1404000	
BENEFITS (£ 000s): Add Row																											
																											0
																											0
																											0
G. Total Benefits (Annual)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
H. Total Benefits (Cumulative)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
NET UNDISCOUNTED COST* (=E-G)	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	1404000
DISCOUNT FACTOR @ 3.5% p.a.	1.0000	0.9662	0.9335	0.9019	0.8714	0.8420	0.8135	0.7860	0.7594	0.7337	0.7089	0.6849	0.6618	0.6394	0.6178	0.5969	0.5767	0.5572	0.5384	0.5202	0.5026	0.4856	0.4692	0.4533	0.4380	0.4231	
NET PRESENT COST* (Annual)	54000	52174	50410	48705	47058	45467	43929	42444	41008	39621	38282	36987	35736	34528	33360	32232	31142	30089	29072	28088	27139	26221	25334	24477	23650	22850	944002
NET PRESENT COST* (Cumulative)	54000	106174	156583	205288	252346	297813	341742	384185	425194	464815	503097	540084	575820	610348	643708	675940	707082	737171	766243	794331	821470	847691	873025	897502	921152	944002	
TOTAL NET PRESENT COST* =	**944002**																										

* A minus sign in these rows denotes a Net Present Value rather than a Net Present Cost.

NPV @ 3.5% p.a.

APPRAISAL DATE: Jul-18

OPTION NUMBER & TITLE: Option 2 - Proposed Layout 1 with Natural Stone Paving

YEAR :	Year 0	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13	Year 14	Year 15	Year 16	Year 17	Year 18	Year 19	Year 20	Year 21	Year 22	Year 23	Year 24	Year 25	TOTAL
CAPITAL COSTS (£ 000s): Add Row																											
																											0
Construction Costs (Incl. OB adjustment)	1307687	1307687																									2615373
Professional Fees	140675	140675																									281349
																											0
																											0
A. Total Capital Costs (Annual)	1448361	1448361	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2896722
B. Total Capital Costs (Cumulative)	1448361	2896722	2896722	2896722	2896722	2896722	2896722	2896722	2896722	2896722	2896722	2896722	2896722	2896722	2896722	2896722	2896722	2896722	2896722	2896722	2896722	2896722	2896722	2896722	2896722	2896722	
REVENUE COSTS (£ 000s): Add Row																											
																											0
Maintenance	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	1404000
																											0
																											0
																											0
C. Total Revenue Costs (Annual)	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	1404000
D. Total Revenue Costs (Cumulative)	54000	108000	162000	216000	270000	324000	378000	432000	486000	540000	594000	648000	702000	756000	810000	864000	918000	972000	1026000	1080000	1134000	1188000	1242000	1296000	1350000	1404000	
E. Total Costs (Annual) (=A+C)	1502361	1502361	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	4300722
F. Total Costs (Cumulative) (=B+D)	1502361	3004722	3058722	3112722	3166722	3220722	3274722	3328722	3382722	3436722	3490722	3544722	3598722	3652722	3706722	3760722	3814722	3868722	3922722	3976722	4030722	4084722	4138722	4192722	4246722	4300722	
BENEFITS (£ 000s): Add Row																											
																											0
																											0
																											0
G. Total Benefits (Annual)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
H. Total Benefits (Cumulative)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
NET UNDISCOUNTED COST* (=E-G)	1502361	1502361	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	4300722
DISCOUNT FACTOR @ 3.5% p.a.	1.0000	0.9662	0.9335	0.9019	0.8714	0.8420	0.8135	0.7860	0.7594	0.7337	0.7089	0.6849	0.6618	0.6394	0.6178	0.5969	0.5767	0.5572	0.5384	0.5202	0.5026	0.4856	0.4692	0.4533	0.4380	0.4231	
NET PRESENT COST* (Annual)	1502361	1451557	50410	48705	47058	45467	43929	42444	41008	39621	38282	36987	35736	34528	33360	32232	31142	30089	29072	28088	27139	26221	25334	24477	23650	22850	3791745
NET PRESENT COST* (Cumulative)	1502361	2953918	3004327	3053032	3100090	3145556	3189485	3231929	3272937	3312559	3350840	3387827	3423564	3458091	3491452	3523684	3554826	3584915	3613986	3642075	3669213	3695434	3720768	3745246	3768895	3791745	
TOTAL NET PRESENT COST* =	**3791745**																										

* A minus sign in these rows denotes a Net Present Value rather than a Net Present Cost.

NPV @ 3.5% p.a.

APPRAISAL DATE: Jul-18

OPTION NUMBER & TITLE: Option 4 - Proposed Layout 3 with Natural Stone Paving

YEAR :	Year 0	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13	Year 14	Year 15	Year 16	Year 17	Year 18	Year 19	Year 20	Year 21	Year 22	Year 23	Year 24	Year 25	TOTAL
CAPITAL COSTS (£ 000s): Add Row																											
																											0
Construction Costs (Incl. OB adjustment)	1239211	1239211																									2478422
Professional Fees	133308	133308																									266616
																											0
																											0
A. Total Capital Costs (Annual)	1372519	1372519	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2745038
B. Total Capital Costs (Cumulative)	1372519	2745038	2745038	2745038	2745038	2745038	2745038	2745038	2745038	2745038	2745038	2745038	2745038	2745038	2745038	2745038	2745038	2745038	2745038	2745038	2745038	2745038	2745038	2745038	2745038	2745038	
REVENUE COSTS (£ 000s): Add Row																											
																											0
Maintenance	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	1404000
																											0
																											0
																											0
C. Total Revenue Costs (Annual)	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	1404000
D. Total Revenue Costs (Cumulative)	54000	108000	162000	216000	270000	324000	378000	432000	486000	540000	594000	648000	702000	756000	810000	864000	918000	972000	1026000	1080000	1134000	1188000	1242000	1296000	1350000	1404000	
E. Total Costs (Annual) (=A+C)	1426519	1426519	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	4149038
F. Total Costs (Cumulative) (=B+D)	1426519	2853038	2907038	2961038	3015038	3069038	3123038	3177038	3231038	3285038	3339038	3393038	3447038	3501038	3555038	3609038	3663038	3717038	3771038	3825038	3879038	3933038	3987038	4041038	4095038	4149038	
BENEFITS (£ 000s): Add Row																											
																											0
																											0
																											0
G. Total Benefits (Annual)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
H. Total Benefits (Cumulative)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
NET UNDISCOUNTED COST* (=E-G)	1426519	1426519	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	4149038
DISCOUNT FACTOR @ 3.5% p.a.	1.0000	0.9662	0.9335	0.9019	0.8714	0.8420	0.8135	0.7860	0.7594	0.7337	0.7089	0.6849	0.6618	0.6394	0.6178	0.5969	0.5767	0.5572	0.5384	0.5202	0.5026	0.4856	0.4692	0.4533	0.4380	0.4231	
NET PRESENT COST* (Annual)	1426519	1378279	50410	48705	47058	45467	43929	42444	41008	39621	38282	36987	35736	34528	33360	32232	31142	30089	29072	28088	27139	26221	25334	24477	23650	22850	3642626
NET PRESENT COST* (Cumulative)	1426519	2804798	2855208	2903913	2950971	2996437	3040366	3082810	3123818	3163439	3201721	3238708	3274444	3308972	3342332	3374565	3405707	3435796	3464867	3492956	3520094	3546315	3571649	3596126	3619776	3642626	
TOTAL NET PRESENT COST* =	**3642626**																										

* A minus sign in these rows denotes a Net Present Value rather than a Net Present Cost.

NPV @ 3.5% p.a.

APPRAISAL DATE: Jul-18

OPTION NUMBER & TITLE: Option 5 - Proposed Layout 1 with Natural Stone Paving, and Car Park A

YEAR :	Year 0	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13	Year 14	Year 15	Year 16	Year 17	Year 18	Year 19	Year 20	Year 21	Year 22	Year 23	Year 24	Year 25	TOTAL
CAPITAL COSTS (£ 000s): Add Row																											
																											0
Construction Costs (Incl. OB adjustment)	1726166	1726166																									3452331
Professional Fees	185693	185693																									371385
																											0
																											0
A. Total Capital Costs (Annual)	1911858	1911858	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3823716
B. Total Capital Costs (Cumulative)	1911858	3823716	3823716	3823716	3823716	3823716	3823716	3823716	3823716	3823716	3823716	3823716	3823716	3823716	3823716	3823716	3823716	3823716	3823716	3823716	3823716	3823716	3823716	3823716	3823716	3823716	
REVENUE COSTS (£ 000s): Add Row																											
																											0
Maintenance	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	1404000
																											0
																											0
																											0
C. Total Revenue Costs (Annual)	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	1404000
D. Total Revenue Costs (Cumulative)	54000	108000	162000	216000	270000	324000	378000	432000	486000	540000	594000	648000	702000	756000	810000	864000	918000	972000	1026000	1080000	1134000	1188000	1242000	1296000	1350000	1404000	
E. Total Costs (Annual) (=A+C)	1965858	1965858	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	5227716
F. Total Costs (Cumulative) (=B+D)	1965858	3931716	3985716	4039716	4093716	4147716	4201716	4255716	4309716	4363716	4417716	4471716	4525716	4579716	4633716	4687716	4741716	4795716	4849716	4903716	4957716	5011716	5065716	5119716	5173716	5227716	
BENEFITS (£ 000s): Add Row																											
																											0
																											0
																											0
G. Total Benefits (Annual)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
H. Total Benefits (Cumulative)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
NET UNDISCOUNTED COST* (=E-G)	1965858	1965858	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	5227716
DISCOUNT FACTOR @ 3.5% p.a.	1.0000	0.9662	0.9335	0.9019	0.8714	0.8420	0.8135	0.7860	0.7594	0.7337	0.7089	0.6849	0.6618	0.6394	0.6178	0.5969	0.5767	0.5572	0.5384	0.5202	0.5026	0.4856	0.4692	0.4533	0.4380	0.4231	
NET PRESENT COST* (Annual)	1965858	1899380	50410	48705	47058	45467	43929	42444	41008	39621	38282	36987	35736	34528	33360	32232	31142	30089	29072	28088	27139	26221	25334	24477	23650	22850	4703066
NET PRESENT COST* (Cumulative)	1965858	3865238	3915647	3964352	4011410	4056877	4100806	4143249	4184257	4223879	4262160	4299148	4334884	4369412	4402772	4435004	4466146	4496235	4525307	4553395	4580534	4606754	4632089	4656566	4680216	4703066	
TOTAL NET PRESENT COST* =	**4703066**																										

* A minus sign in these rows denotes a Net Present Value rather than a Net Present Cost.

NPV @ 3.5% p.a.

APPRAISAL DATE: Jul-18

OPTION NUMBER & TITLE: Option 6 - Proposed Layout 1 with Natural Stone Paving, and Car Park B

YEAR :	Year 0	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13	Year 14	Year 15	Year 16	Year 17	Year 18	Year 19	Year 20	Year 21	Year 22	Year 23	Year 24	Year 25	TOTAL
CAPITAL COSTS (£ 000s): Add Row																											
																											0
Construction Costs (Incl. OB adjustment)	1482500	1482500																									2965000
Professional Fees	159480	159480																									318960
																											0
																											0
A. Total Capital Costs (Annual)	1641980	1641980	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3283960
B. Total Capital Costs (Cumulative)	1641980	3283960	3283960	3283960	3283960	3283960	3283960	3283960	3283960	3283960	3283960	3283960	3283960	3283960	3283960	3283960	3283960	3283960	3283960	3283960	3283960	3283960	3283960	3283960	3283960	3283960	
REVENUE COSTS (£ 000s): Add Row																											
																											0
Maintenance	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	1404000
																											0
																											0
																											0
C. Total Revenue Costs (Annual)	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	1404000
D. Total Revenue Costs (Cumulative)	54000	108000	162000	216000	270000	324000	378000	432000	486000	540000	594000	648000	702000	756000	810000	864000	918000	972000	1026000	1080000	1134000	1188000	1242000	1296000	1350000	1404000	
E. Total Costs (Annual) (=A+C)	1695980	1695980	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	4687960
F. Total Costs (Cumulative) (=B+D)	1695980	3391960	3445960	3499960	3553960	3607960	3661960	3715960	3769960	3823960	3877960	3931960	3985960	4039960	4093960	4147960	4201960	4255960	4309960	4363960	4417960	4471960	4525960	4579960	4633960	4687960	
BENEFITS (£ 000s): Add Row																											
																											0
																											0
																											0
G. Total Benefits (Annual)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
H. Total Benefits (Cumulative)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
NET UNDISCOUNTED COST* (=E-G)	1695980	1695980	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	4687960
DISCOUNT FACTOR @ 3.5% p.a.	1.0000	0.9662	0.9335	0.9019	0.8714	0.8420	0.8135	0.7860	0.7594	0.7337	0.7089	0.6849	0.6618	0.6394	0.6178	0.5969	0.5767	0.5572	0.5384	0.5202	0.5026	0.4856	0.4692	0.4533	0.4380	0.4231	
NET PRESENT COST* (Annual)	1695980	1638628	50410	48705	47058	45467	43929	42444	41008	39621	38282	36987	35736	34528	33360	32232	31142	30089	29072	28088	27139	26221	25334	24477	23650	22850	4172436
NET PRESENT COST* (Cumulative)	1695980	3334608	3385018	3433723	3480780	3526247	3570176	3612619	3653628	3693249	3731531	3768518	3804254	3838782	3872142	3904374	3935516	3965605	3994677	4022765	4049904	4076125	4101459	4125936	4149586	4172436	
TOTAL NET PRESENT COST* =	**4172436**																										

* A minus sign in these rows denotes a Net Present Value rather than a Net Present Cost.

NPV @ 3.5% p.a.

APPRAISAL DATE: Jul-18

OPTION NUMBER & TITLE: Option 9 - Proposed Layout 3 with Natural Stone Paving and Additional Car Park C

YEAR :	Year 0	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13	Year 14	Year 15	Year 16	Year 17	Year 18	Year 19	Year 20	Year 21	Year 22	Year 23	Year 24	Year 25	TOTAL
CAPITAL COSTS (£ 000s): Add Row																											
																											0
Construction Costs (Incl. OB adjustment)	1294452	1294452																									2588903
Professional Fees	139251	139251																									278501
																											0
																											0
A. Total Capital Costs (Annual)	1433702	1433702	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2867404
B. Total Capital Costs (Cumulative)	1433702	2867404	2867404	2867404	2867404	2867404	2867404	2867404	2867404	2867404	2867404	2867404	2867404	2867404	2867404	2867404	2867404	2867404	2867404	2867404	2867404	2867404	2867404	2867404	2867404	2867404	
REVENUE COSTS (£ 000s): Add Row																											
																											0
Maintenance	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	1404000
																											0
																											0
																											0
C. Total Revenue Costs (Annual)	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	1404000
D. Total Revenue Costs (Cumulative)	54000	108000	162000	216000	270000	324000	378000	432000	486000	540000	594000	648000	702000	756000	810000	864000	918000	972000	1026000	1080000	1134000	1188000	1242000	1296000	1350000	1404000	
E. Total Costs (Annual) (=A+C)	1487702	1487702	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	4271404
F. Total Costs (Cumulative) (=B+D)	1487702	2975404	3029404	3083404	3137404	3191404	3245404	3299404	3353404	3407404	3461404	3515404	3569404	3623404	3677404	3731404	3785404	3839404	3893404	3947404	4001404	4055404	4109404	4163404	4217404	4271404	
BENEFITS (£ 000s): Add Row																											
																											0
																											0
																											0
G. Total Benefits (Annual)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
H. Total Benefits (Cumulative)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
NET UNDISCOUNTED COST* (=E-G)	1487702	1487702	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	4271404
DISCOUNT FACTOR @ 3.5% p.a.	1.0000	0.9662	0.9335	0.9019	0.8714	0.8420	0.8135	0.7860	0.7594	0.7337	0.7089	0.6849	0.6618	0.6394	0.6178	0.5969	0.5767	0.5572	0.5384	0.5202	0.5026	0.4856	0.4692	0.4533	0.4380	0.4231	
NET PRESENT COST* (Annual)	1487702	1437393	50410	48705	47058	45467	43929	42444	41008	39621	38282	36987	35736	34528	33360	32232	31142	30089	29072	28088	27139	26221	25334	24477	23650	22850	3762923
NET PRESENT COST* (Cumulative)	1487702	2925095	2975505	3024210	3071268	3116734	3160663	3203107	3244115	3283736	3322018	3359005	3394741	3429269	3462629	3494862	3526004	3556093	3585164	3613253	3640391	3666612	3691946	3716423	3740073	3762923	
TOTAL NET PRESENT COST* =	**3762923**																										

* A minus sign in these rows denotes a Net Present Value rather than a Net Present Cost.

NPV @ 3.5% p.a.

APPRAISAL DATE: Jul-18

OPTION NUMBER & TITLE: Option 10 - Proposed Layout 1 with Natural Stone Paving to Core Retail Area Only

YEAR :	Year 0	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12
CAPITAL COSTS (£ 000s): Add Row													
Construction Costs (Incl. OB adjustment)	1226401	1226401											
Professional Fees	131930	131930											
A. Total Capital Costs (Annual)	1358331	1358331	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
B. Total Capital Costs (Cumulative)	1358331	2716662	2716662	2716662	2716662	2716662	2716662	2716662	2716662	2716662	2716662	2716662	2716662
REVENUE COSTS (£ 000s): Add Row													
Maintenance	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000
C. Total Revenue Costs (Annual)	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000
D. Total Revenue Costs (Cumulative)	54000	108000	162000	216000	270000	324000	378000	432000	486000	540000	594000	648000	702000
E. Total Costs (Annual) (=A+C)	1412331	1412331	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000
F. Total Costs (Cumulative) (=B+D)	1412331	2824662	2878662	2932662	2986662	3040662	3094662	3148662	3202662	3256662	3310662	3364662	3418662
BENEFITS (£ 000s): Add Row													
G. Total Benefits (Annual)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
H. Total Benefits (Cumulative)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NET UNDISCOUNTED COST* (=E-G)	1412331	1412331	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000
DISCOUNT FACTOR @ 3.5% p.a.	1.0000	0.9662	0.9335	0.9019	0.8714	0.8420	0.8135	0.7860	0.7594	0.7337	0.7089	0.6849	0.6618
NET PRESENT COST* (Annual)	1412331	1364571	50410	48705	47058	45467	43929	42444	41008	39621	38282	36987	35736
NET PRESENT COST* (Cumulative)	1412331	2776902	2827312	2876016	2923074	2968541	3012470	3054913	3095922	3135543	3173825	3210812	3246548

YEAR :	Year 13	Year 14	Year 15	Year 16	Year 17	Year 18	Year 19	Year 20	Year 21	Year 22	Year 23	Year 24	Year 25	TOTAL
CAPITAL COSTS (£ 000s): Add Row														
														0
Construction Costs (Incl. OB adjustment)								244711						2697513
Professional Fees								26325						290185
														0
														0
A. Total Capital Costs (Annual)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	271036	0	0	0	0	0	2987698
B. Total Capital Costs (Cumulative)	2716662	2716662	2716662	2716662	2716662	2716662	2716662	2987698	2987698	2987698	2987698	2987698	2987698	
REVENUE COSTS (£ 000s): Add Row														
														0
Maintenance	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	1404000
														0
														0
														0
C. Total Revenue Costs (Annual)	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	1404000
D. Total Revenue Costs (Cumulative)	756000	810000	864000	918000	972000	1026000	1080000	1134000	1188000	1242000	1296000	1350000	1404000	
E. Total Costs (Annual) (=A+C)	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	325036	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	4391698
F. Total Costs (Cumulative) (=B+D)	3472662	3526662	3580662	3634662	3688662	3742662	3796662	4121698	4175698	4229698	4283698	4337698	4391698	
BENEFITS (£ 000s): Add Row														
														0
														0
														0
G. Total Benefits (Annual)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
H. Total Benefits (Cumulative)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
NET UNDISCOUNTED COST* (=E-G)	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	325036	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	4391698
DISCOUNT FACTOR @ 3.5% p.a.	0.6394	0.6178	0.5969	0.5767	0.5572	0.5384	0.5202	0.5026	0.4856	0.4692	0.4533	0.4380	0.4231	
NET PRESENT COST* (Annual)	34528	33360	32232	31142	30089	29072	28088	163352	26221	25334	24477	23650	22850	3750943
NET PRESENT COST* (Cumulative)	3281076	3314436	3346668	3377810	3407899	3436971	3465059	3628411	3654632	3679966	3704444	3728093	3750943	

TOTAL NET PRESENT COST* = **3750943**

* A minus sign in these rows denotes a Net Present Value rather than a Net Present Cost.

NPV @ 3.5% p.a.

APPRAISAL DATE: Jul-18

OPTION NUMBER & TITLE: Option 12 - Proposed Layout 3 with Natural Stone Paving to Core Retail Area Only

YEAR :	Year 0	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12
CAPITAL COSTS (£ 000s): Add Row													
Construction Costs (Incl. OB adjustment)	1112295	1112295											
Professional Fees	119655	119655											
A. Total Capital Costs (Annual)	1231950	1231950	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
B. Total Capital Costs (Cumulative)	1231950	2463899	2463899	2463899	2463899	2463899	2463899	2463899	2463899	2463899	2463899	2463899	2463899
REVENUE COSTS (£ 000s): Add Row													
Maintenance	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000
C. Total Revenue Costs (Annual)	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000
D. Total Revenue Costs (Cumulative)	54000	108000	162000	216000	270000	324000	378000	432000	486000	540000	594000	648000	702000
E. Total Costs (Annual) (=A+C)	1285950	1285950	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000
F. Total Costs (Cumulative) (=B+D)	1285950	2571899	2625899	2679899	2733899	2787899	2841899	2895899	2949899	3003899	3057899	3111899	3165899
BENEFITS (£ 000s): Add Row													
G. Total Benefits (Annual)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
H. Total Benefits (Cumulative)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NET UNDISCOUNTED COST* (=E-G)	1285950	1285950	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000
DISCOUNT FACTOR @ 3.5% p.a.	1.0000	0.9662	0.9335	0.9019	0.8714	0.8420	0.8135	0.7860	0.7594	0.7337	0.7089	0.6849	0.6618
NET PRESENT COST* (Annual)	1285950	1242463	50410	48705	47058	45467	43929	42444	41008	39621	38282	36987	35736
NET PRESENT COST* (Cumulative)	1285950	2528413	2578822	2627527	2674585	2720052	2763981	2806424	2847432	2887054	2925336	2962323	2998059
TOTAL NET PRESENT COST* =	3502677												

YEAR :	Year 13	Year 14	Year 15	Year 16	Year 17	Year 18	Year 19	Year 20	Year 21	Year 22	Year 23	Year 24	Year 25	TOTAL
CAPITAL COSTS (£ 000s):														
														0
Construction Costs (Incl. OB adjustment)								245112						2469701
Professional Fees								26368						265678
														0
														0
A. Total Capital Costs (Annual)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	271480	0	0	0	0	0	2735379
B. Total Capital Costs (Cumulative)	2463899	2463899	2463899	2463899	2463899	2463899	2463899	2735379	2735379	2735379	2735379	2735379	2735379	
REVENUE COSTS (£ 000s):														
														0
Maintenance	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	1404000
														0
														0
														0
C. Total Revenue Costs (Annual)	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	1404000
D. Total Revenue Costs (Cumulative)	756000	810000	864000	918000	972000	1026000	1080000	1134000	1188000	1242000	1296000	1350000	1404000	
E. Total Costs (Annual) (=A+C)	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	325480	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	4139379
F. Total Costs (Cumulative) (=B+D)	3219899	3273899	3327899	3381899	3435899	3489899	3543899	3869379	3923379	3977379	4031379	4085379	4139379	
BENEFITS (£ 000s):														
														0
														0
														0
G. Total Benefits (Annual)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
H. Total Benefits (Cumulative)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
NET UNDISCOUNTED COST* (=E-G)	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	325480	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	4139379
DISCOUNT FACTOR @ 3.5% p.a.	0.6394	0.6178	0.5969	0.5767	0.5572	0.5384	0.5202	0.5026	0.4856	0.4692	0.4533	0.4380	0.4231	
NET PRESENT COST* (Annual)	34528	33360	32232	31142	30089	29072	28088	163575	26221	25334	24477	23650	22850	3502677
NET PRESENT COST* (Cumulative)	3032587	3065947	3098179	3129321	3159410	3188482	3216570	3380145	3406366	3431700	3456178	3479827	3502677	

* A minus sign in these rows denotes a Net Present Value rather than a Net Present Cost.

NPV @ 3.5% p.a.

APPRAISAL DATE: Jul-18

OPTION NUMBER & TITLE: Option 13 - Proposed Layout 1 with Natural Stone Paving to Core Retail Area Only and Additional Car Park A

YEAR :	Year 0	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12
CAPITAL COSTS (£ 000s): Add Row													
Construction Costs (Incl. OB adjustment)	1644880	1644880											
Professional Fees	176948	176948											
A. Total Capital Costs (Annual)	1821828	1821828	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
B. Total Capital Costs (Cumulative)	1821828	3643655	3643655	3643655	3643655	3643655	3643655	3643655	3643655	3643655	3643655	3643655	3643655
REVENUE COSTS (£ 000s): Add Row													
Maintenance	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000
C. Total Revenue Costs (Annual)	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000
D. Total Revenue Costs (Cumulative)	54000	108000	162000	216000	270000	324000	378000	432000	486000	540000	594000	648000	702000
E. Total Costs (Annual) (=A+C)	1875828	1875828	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000
F. Total Costs (Cumulative) (=B+D)	1875828	3751655	3805655	3859655	3913655	3967655	4021655	4075655	4129655	4183655	4237655	4291655	4345655
BENEFITS (£ 000s): Add Row													
G. Total Benefits (Annual)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
H. Total Benefits (Cumulative)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NET UNDISCOUNTED COST* (=E-G)	1875828	1875828	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000
DISCOUNT FACTOR @ 3.5% p.a.	1.0000	0.9662	0.9335	0.9019	0.8714	0.8420	0.8135	0.7860	0.7594	0.7337	0.7089	0.6849	0.6618
NET PRESENT COST* (Annual)	1875828	1812394	50410	48705	47058	45467	43929	42444	41008	39621	38282	36987	35736
NET PRESENT COST* (Cumulative)	1875828	3688221	3738631	3787336	3834394	3879860	3923789	3966233	4007241	4046862	4085144	4122131	4157867
TOTAL NET PRESENT COST* =	**4662263**												

YEAR :	Year 13	Year 14	Year 15	Year 16	Year 17	Year 18	Year 19	Year 20	Year 21	Year 22	Year 23	Year 24	Year 25	TOTAL
CAPITAL COSTS (£ 000s):														
														0
Construction Costs (Incl. OB adjustment)								244711						3534470
Professional Fees								26325						380221
														0
														0
A. Total Capital Costs (Annual)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	271036	0	0	0	0	0	3914691
B. Total Capital Costs (Cumulative)	3643655	3643655	3643655	3643655	3643655	3643655	3643655	3914691	3914691	3914691	3914691	3914691	3914691	
REVENUE COSTS (£ 000s):														
														0
Maintenance	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	1404000
														0
														0
														0
C. Total Revenue Costs (Annual)	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	1404000
D. Total Revenue Costs (Cumulative)	756000	810000	864000	918000	972000	1026000	1080000	1134000	1188000	1242000	1296000	1350000	1404000	
E. Total Costs (Annual) (=A+C)	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	325036	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	5318691
F. Total Costs (Cumulative) (=B+D)	4399655	4453655	4507655	4561655	4615655	4669655	4723655	5048691	5102691	5156691	5210691	5264691	5318691	
BENEFITS (£ 000s):														
														0
														0
														0
G. Total Benefits (Annual)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
H. Total Benefits (Cumulative)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
NET UNDISCOUNTED COST* (=E-G)	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	325036	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	5318691
DISCOUNT FACTOR @ 3.5% p.a.	0.6394	0.6178	0.5969	0.5767	0.5572	0.5384	0.5202	0.5026	0.4856	0.4692	0.4533	0.4380	0.4231	
NET PRESENT COST* (Annual)	34528	33360	32232	31142	30089	29072	28088	163352	26221	25334	24477	23650	22850	4662263
NET PRESENT COST* (Cumulative)	4192395	4225755	4257987	4289130	4319219	4348290	4376379	4539731	4565951	4591286	4615763	4639413	4662263	

* A minus sign in these rows denotes a Net Present Value rather than a Net Present Cost.

NPV @ 3.5% p.a.

APPRAISAL DATE: Jul-18

OPTION NUMBER & TITLE: Option 14 - Proposed Layout 1 with Natural Stone Paving to Core Retail Area Only and Additional Car Park B

YEAR :	Year 0	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12
CAPITAL COSTS (£ 000s): Add Row													
Construction Costs (Incl. OB adjustment)	1401214	1401214											
Professional Fees	150736	150736											
A. Total Capital Costs (Annual)	1551950	1551950	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
B. Total Capital Costs (Cumulative)	1551950	3103899	3103899	3103899	3103899	3103899	3103899	3103899	3103899	3103899	3103899	3103899	3103899
REVENUE COSTS (£ 000s): Add Row													
Maintenance	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000
C. Total Revenue Costs (Annual)	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000
D. Total Revenue Costs (Cumulative)	54000	108000	162000	216000	270000	324000	378000	432000	486000	540000	594000	648000	702000
E. Total Costs (Annual) (=A+C)	1605950	1605950	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000
F. Total Costs (Cumulative) (=B+D)	1605950	3211899	3265899	3319899	3373899	3427899	3481899	3535899	3589899	3643899	3697899	3751899	3805899
BENEFITS (£ 000s): Add Row													
G. Total Benefits (Annual)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
H. Total Benefits (Cumulative)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NET UNDISCOUNTED COST* (=E-G)	1605950	1605950	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000
DISCOUNT FACTOR @ 3.5% p.a.	1.0000	0.9662	0.9335	0.9019	0.8714	0.8420	0.8135	0.7860	0.7594	0.7337	0.7089	0.6849	0.6618
NET PRESENT COST* (Annual)	1605950	1551642	50410	48705	47058	45467	43929	42444	41008	39621	38282	36987	35736
NET PRESENT COST* (Cumulative)	1605950	3157592	3208001	3256706	3303764	3349230	3393159	3435603	3476611	3516233	3554514	3591501	3627238
TOTAL NET PRESENT COST* =	**4127027**												

YEAR :	Year 13	Year 14	Year 15	Year 16	Year 17	Year 18	Year 19	Year 20	Year 21	Year 22	Year 23	Year 24	Year 25	TOTAL
CAPITAL COSTS (£ 000s): Add Row														
														0
Construction Costs (Incl. OB adjustment)									244711					3047139
Professional Fees									26325					327796
														0
														0
A. Total Capital Costs (Annual)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	271036	0	0	0	0	3374935
B. Total Capital Costs (Cumulative)	3103899	3103899	3103899	3103899	3103899	3103899	3103899	3103899	3374935	3374935	3374935	3374935	3374935	
REVENUE COSTS (£ 000s): Add Row														
														0
Maintenance	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	1404000
														0
														0
														0
C. Total Revenue Costs (Annual)	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	1404000
D. Total Revenue Costs (Cumulative)	756000	810000	864000	918000	972000	1026000	1080000	1134000	1188000	1242000	1296000	1350000	1404000	
E. Total Costs (Annual) (=A+C)	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	325036	54000	54000	54000	54000	4778935
F. Total Costs (Cumulative) (=B+D)	3859899	3913899	3967899	4021899	4075899	4129899	4183899	4237899	4562935	4616935	4670935	4724935	4778935	
BENEFITS (£ 000s): Add Row														
														0
														0
														0
G. Total Benefits (Annual)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
H. Total Benefits (Cumulative)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
NET UNDISCOUNTED COST* (=E-G)	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	325036	54000	54000	54000	54000	4778935
DISCOUNT FACTOR @ 3.5% p.a.	0.6394	0.6178	0.5969	0.5767	0.5572	0.5384	0.5202	0.5026	0.4856	0.4692	0.4533	0.4380	0.4231	
NET PRESENT COST* (Annual)	34528	33360	32232	31142	30089	29072	28088	27139	157828	25334	24477	23650	22850	4127027
NET PRESENT COST* (Cumulative)	3661765	3695126	3727358	3758500	3788589	3817660	3845749	3872887	4030716	4056050	4080527	4104177	4127027	

* A minus sign in these rows denotes a Net Present Value rather than a Net Present Cost.

NPV @ 3.5% p.a.

APPRAISAL DATE: Jul-18

OPTION NUMBER & TITLE: Option 17 - Proposed Layout 3 with Natural Stone Paving to Core Retail Area Only and Additional Car Park C

YEAR :	Year 0	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13	Year 14	Year 15	Year 16	Year 17	Year 18	Year 19	Year 20	Year 21	Year 22	Year 23	Year 24	Year 25	TOTAL
CAPITAL COSTS (£ 000s): Add Row																											
																											0
Construction Costs (Incl. OB adjustment)	1167535	1167535																			245112						2580181
Professional Fees	125598	125598																			26368						277563
																											0
																											0
A. Total Capital Costs (Annual)	1293132	1293132	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	271480	0	0	0	0	0	2857744
B. Total Capital Costs (Cumulative)	1293132	2586264	2586264	2586264	2586264	2586264	2586264	2586264	2586264	2586264	2586264	2586264	2586264	2586264	2586264	2586264	2586264	2586264	2586264	2586264	2857744	2857744	2857744	2857744	2857744	2857744	
REVENUE COSTS (£ 000s): Add Row																											
																											0
Maintenance	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	1404000
																											0
																											0
																											0
C. Total Revenue Costs (Annual)	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	1404000
D. Total Revenue Costs (Cumulative)	54000	108000	162000	216000	270000	324000	378000	432000	486000	540000	594000	648000	702000	756000	810000	864000	918000	972000	1026000	1080000	1134000	1188000	1242000	1296000	1350000	1404000	
E. Total Costs (Annual) (=A+C)	1347132	1347132	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	325480	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	4261744
F. Total Costs (Cumulative) (=B+D)	1347132	2694264	2748264	2802264	2856264	2910264	2964264	3018264	3072264	3126264	3180264	3234264	3288264	3342264	3396264	3450264	3504264	3558264	3612264	3666264	3991744	4045744	4099744	4153744	4207744	4261744	
BENEFITS (£ 000s): Add Row																											
																											0
																											0
																											0
G. Total Benefits (Annual)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
H. Total Benefits (Cumulative)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
NET UNDISCOUNTED COST* (=E-G)	1347132	1347132	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	325480	54000	54000	54000	54000	54000	4261744
DISCOUNT FACTOR @ 3.5% p.a.	1.0000	0.9662	0.9335	0.9019	0.8714	0.8420	0.8135	0.7860	0.7594	0.7337	0.7089	0.6849	0.6618	0.6394	0.6178	0.5969	0.5767	0.5572	0.5384	0.5202	0.5026	0.4856	0.4692	0.4533	0.4380	0.4231	
NET PRESENT COST* (Annual)	1347132	1301577	50410	48705	47058	45467	43929	42444	41008	39621	38282	36987	35736	34528	33360	32232	31142	30089	29072	28088	163575	26221	25334	24477	23650	22850	3622973
NET PRESENT COST* (Cumulative)	1347132	2648709	2699118	2747823	2794881	2840348	2884277	2926720	2967728	3007350	3045632	3082619	3118355	3152883	3186243	3218475	3249617	3279706	3308778	3336866	3500441	3526662	3551996	3576474	3600123	3622973	
TOTAL NET PRESENT COST* =	3622973																										

* A minus sign in these rows denotes a Net Present Value rather than a Net Present Cost.

APPENDIX E - CORRESPONDANCE FROM MID ULSTER DISABILITY FORUM

Coalisland Public Realm

Comhairle Ceantair Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster District Council

Pre-Works Survey

This short survey forms part of the consultation process on the proposed design proposal for Coalisland Public Realm.

Mid Ulster District Council welcomes **Mid Ulster Disability Forum's** views and comments on the proposal, as well as any other issue that you consider appropriate.

WDR & RT Taggart, who are acting on behalf of Mid Ulster District Council, would be grateful if you could complete the short survey below and return this form to Tommy Stevenson by email to Tommy.Stevenson@wdr-rt-taggart.com or by post to:-

WDR & RT Taggart, Laganwood House, Newforge Lane, Belfast, BT9 5NX.

1. Do you agree with proposed public realm improvements to Coalisland as attached?

Yes – the improvements to public realm in Coalisland will enhance the accessibility of the town making it more welcoming to disabled people, wheelchair and mobility scooters and visually impaired.

2. Please rate the current condition of proposed public realm boundary?

	1 - Poor	2 - Fair	3 - Average	4 - Good	5 - Excellent
Footpath Widths	✓				
Footpath Surface	✓				
Pedestrian Crossing Provision	✓				
Accessible Parking provision	✓				
Access to premises		✓			
Pavement Clutter	✓				
Visual Contrast		✓			

3. Are there any issues and ideas you would like the project team to be aware off?

Parking on footpaths was a major issue when the Disability Forum undertook its walk around and therefore restricting wheelchair users and forcing them onto the road. Dropped kerbs do not current correspond on opposite side of road. Some footpaths were not wide enough for wheelchairs

Thank you for taking the time to share your views and completing this survey.
Name and contact details (Optional)
Ursula Marshall
Chair
Mid Ulster Disability Forum
Gortalowry House
94 Church Street
Cookstown
BT80 8HX......

Mid Ulster Disability Forum
Gortalowry House
94 Church Street
Cookstown
BT80 8HX
Tel: 028 8676 1805
E: midulsterdisabilityforum@hotmail.com

Mid Ulster District Council

20 June 2018

Ref: Letter of Support to Coalisland Public Realm Scheme

Dear

Mid Ulster Disability Forum would like to lend its support to the proposed public realm scheme in Coalisland Town Centre. Mid Ulster Disability Forum ("The Forum") includes representatives from a range of organisations and groups who are working towards the inclusion of people with disabilities and their carers. We cover the entire Mid Ulster Council area and adopt a pan disability approach to our work.

Mid Ulster Disability Forum (The Forum) have been involved with many public realm schemes across the Mid Ulster District including Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt. It was welcomed by our Forum when asked to become involved in very early discussions around proposals and initial concepts for the Coalisland scheme. It is key to the vibrancy and economic benefit to the town and local traders that people affected with disability are given the equal opportunity to become more socially included in their community and by making town centres more accessible this is beneficial to everyone.

In November 2017, The Forum met with Council representatives and the design team to carry out a walk-around of Coalisland town centre. The skills and experience of the Forum representatives allowed the walk-around to look at: general accessibility, wheelchairs travelling around the town, dropped kerbs, access to shops/facilities, parking provision and visually for those affected with impairments. The exercise was hugely beneficial to the forum, and helped to highlight the accessibility restrictions often encountered by people affected with disabilities.

The forum found the following issues:

- Some footpaths were too narrow for wheelchairs to travel
- Dropped kerbs did not have corresponding on opposite side of road
- Dropped kerbs were not level with road causing possible trip hazard
- Little Parking provision for Blue badge holders
- Cars parking on footpaths extensively resulted in wheelchair using road

- A lack of crossing points/ dropped kerbs.
- Steps/gradients causing restrictions to shops

Overall, The forum felt that Coalisland was currently not very accessible to disabled people with many issues also affecting parents with prams and older people affected by mobility. As an aging population in Mid Ulster it is expected that mobility restrictions in older people will continue to rise and therefore provisions to enhance footpaths and crossings will go a long way in addressing this.

The early involvement of disability needs in a project of this scale is very welcome and it gives the opportunity to make Coalisland a very accessible town, one that can be promoted through the Forum and beyond. The forum and partner organisations would also welcome the opportunity to further develop links to the town through our Accessible Website and other proposed projects.

Should you wish to discuss any of the issues raised, members of the Forum would be happy to meet.

Yours faithfully

U. Marshall

Ursula Marshall

Chair

APPENDIX F - CORRESPONDANCE FROM DfI ROADS

Department for
Infrastructure
An Roinn
Bonneagair
www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Mr Mark Kelso
Director of Public Health &
Infrastructure
Mid Ulster District Council
Circular Road
Dungannon
BT71 6DT

Western Division
Network Development
County Hall
Drumragh Avenue
Omagh
BT79 7AF

Tel: 028 8225 4142

E-mail: harry.gallagher @infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

28th July 2018

Dear Mr Kelso,

I refer to a recent query concerning the enforcement of parking restrictions in Coalisland on completion of the public real scheme.

I can confirm that DfI Roads propose introducing limited waiting legislation for the public real scheme developed by Mid Ulster Council for Coalisland which includes changes to public on-street parking.

I can also confirm that it is also our intention once the legislation and signage is in place that uniformed traffic attendants will carry out enforcement of all parking restrictions. This enforcement is likely to be in line with that carried out in similar towns.

Yours Sincerely

H. Gallagher

Harry Gallagher
Network Development

APPENDIX G - PARKING ENFORCEMENTS NEWS REPORTS

MLA condemns Coalisland threats to traffic attendant

16 November 2016

A DUP MLA has called for greater equality around the enforcement of parking legislation in rural towns.

Lord Morrow was speaking after it emerged that the first traffic warden to be deployed in the County Tyrone town of Coalisland was forced to leave within half an hour.

It is understood the warden was threatened by a member of the public.

The Department of Infrastructure confirmed that it was investigating reports of "an incident" last week.

Its officials have asked for a risk assessment to be carried out.

Lord Morrow first began investigating the number of parking tickets being issued in towns within his constituency in 2014.

He said the number in was unduly high in towns like Aughnacloy and Fivemiletown, while in Coalisland, not a single ticket had been issued in the over a six-year period.

"It seemed to me to be a free-for-all [in Coalisland]," said Lord Morrow.

© KENNETH ALLEN/GEOGRAPH

"So we thought, why not have restrictions in that town also? There needs to be equality in the imposition and enforcement of parking regulations."

Expressing disappointment at the news that a parking attendant was forced to leave the town, he added: "It would be a very sad day for enforcement if people decide to take the law into their own hands and they determine where it will be enforced and where it won't."

There were mixed views about parking regulations among traders in the town - some told the BBC that the town benefits from having few parking restrictions, while others say the lack of enforcement makes driving through Coalisland difficult and deters some shoppers from entering it.

None of them, however, condoned threats against parking attendants.

Lord Morrow said those who intimidated the attendant showed no concern for the disabled, who cannot always access designated parking areas, and emergency services, who need a clear route through the town.

Share this story About sharing

Northern Ireland

NEWS

Zero parking tickets in Coalisland for sixth year

How one car was spotted parked in Coalisland

Staff Reporter

18 April, 2016 01:00

(http://www.irishnews.com/picturesarchive/irishnews/irishnews/2016/04/17/183209843-8ab0dc8d-9781-470d-b677-f7e5a4984bca.jpg)

Bollards were placed on a street in Coalisland instead of double-yellow lines. Picture by Ann McManus

DRIVERS in Coalisland have not received a single parking ticket from traffic wardens for the sixth year in a row.

No motorists in the Co Tyrone town were issued with penalty notices in 2015, newly released figures show.

Coalisland is regarded as a hotspot for problem parking, but there are few parking restrictions such as double-yellow lines.

Motorists in other towns of a similar size and smaller have meanwhile received parking tickets, such as 39 penalties issued in Fivemiletown and 18 in Castlederg last year.

However, separate police statistics obtained by The Irish News show the PSNI has issued five parking tickets in Coalisland since 2010.

The lack of penalties from parking attendants in Coalisland has caused controversy over the years.

Roads chiefs have previously blamed politicians for opposing parking restrictions, while the DUP's Maurice Morrow has described Coalisland as a town where "traffic wardens are forbidden to enter".

However, some Coalisland traders insist there is no need for traffic wardens in the town.

Overall nearly 77,000 parking tickets were issued across Northern Ireland during 2015, according the Department for Regional Development (DRD) figures.

The statistics only cover on-street parking penalties as responsibility for off-street car parks transferred to the north's 11 new 'super councils' last year.

A parking ticket or Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) carries a £90 fine, but that is reduced to £45 if paid within 14 days.

Last year Coalisland received its first parking restrictions in years – but not the usual double-yellows.

Concrete bollards were placed along a street in Coalisland in a bid to prevent motorists parking on the kerb.

But the absence of yellow lines means vehicles can still park along the road.

At the time the DRD said staff met with council officials, councillors and traders, who requested bollards but were "very strongly opposed" to new waiting restrictions.

In February it emerged that traffic wardens across the north have recorded more than 100 threats against them in the past year.

Traffic wardens and police issue parking tickets in different circumstances.

Parking attendants issue penalties when someone illegally parks on parking restrictions, while police tend to ticket for obstruction or when cars are parked dangerously, regardless of whether parking restrictions exist.

On Sunday night, a DRD spokeswoman defended the lack of parking penalties in Coalisland.

"Traffic attendants enforce parking restrictions where they are in place. Coalisland has very few restrictions. We will continue to respond to any requests to enforce in the area," she said.

"The department has received no recent complaints about parking enforcement or requests to enforce the area."

:: On-street parking penalties issued by traffic wardens in 2015

Ahoghill – 4

Aldergrove airport – 5

Antrim – 424

Armagh –2,592

Aughnacloy – 3

Ballycastle – 237

Ballyclare – 158

Ballykelly – 1

Ballymena – 3,261

Ballymoney – 816

Ballynahinch – 202

Banbridge – 726

Bangor – 1,404

Belfast – 33,172

Broughshane – 8

Bushmills – 83

Carrickfergus – 927

Castlederg – 18

Castlewellan – 3

Clogher – 76

Coleraine – 1,472

Comber – 30

Cookstown – 1,375

Crossgar – 26

Crumlin – 50

Derry – 5,366

Donaghadee – 32

Donaghmore – 10

Downpatrick – 1,003

Dromore, Co Down – 118

Dromore, Co Tyrone – 1

Dundonald – 420

Dungannon – 656

Dunmurry – 113

Enniskillen – 2,194

Fivemiletown – 39

Garvagh – 3

Giant's Causeway – 38

Gilford – 4

Hillsborough – 235

Holywood – 239

Irvinestown – 72

Keady – 58

Kesh – 1

Kilkeel – 70

Kilrea – 60

Larne – 553

Limavady – 552

Lisburn – 3,516

Lisnaskea – 39

Lurgan – 1,050

Maghera – 103

Magherafelt – 850

Markethill – 5

Millisle – 4

Moira – 124

Moy – 52

Newcastle – 965

Newry – 4,214

Newtownabbey – 236

Newtownards – 1,592

Newtownstewart – 2

Omagh – 1,180

Portadown – 2,027

Portaferry – 1

Portballintrea – 2

Portglenone – 5

Portrush – 529

Portstewart – 395

Randalstown – 104

Rathfriland – 16

Rich Hill – 2

Saintfield – 76

Strabane – 622

Tandragee – 9

Toome – 1

Warrenpoint – 259

Whitehead – 7

The largest readership
in Tyrone since 1880

NEWS

Parking tickets on the rise in Mid-Ulster.

Wednesday, 21 February 2018

MID-ULSTER residents were issued with over 8,000 parking tickets in 2017, according to the latest government statistics.

The Department for Inf astructure's (DFI) figures released for the year show traffic wardens dished out 5,708 PCNs (Penalty Charge Notices) for on street parking offences, and a further 2,382 for unlawful off street parking.

Magherafelt remains the Mid-Ulster hotbed for parking tickets for the third consecutive year, after receiving a total of 2,546 over the 12 month period.

Cookstown recorded the highest number of on street offences, with a total of 1,066 PCNs issued.

However, the town didn't register a single off street offence, helped by the volume of free car parks in the area.

The amount of PCNs issued in Dungannon has steadily increased since 2015 - 1,414 offences recorded in 2017 - with the DFI's statistics showing a hike of 2,509 in the town.

The statistics reveal Coalisland didn't receive a single parking ticket for the fourth consecutive year.

An investigation was launched into the alleged threatening and 'hounding' of a traffic warden in the town in 2016.

In January 2017, the government announced the removal of wardens from the area, with the Infrastructure minister at the time, Chris Hazzard, stating it was due to "fewer than 10 penalties being issued on average per month."

Aughnacloy becomes the least affected area by parking ticket after it was revealed there were no PCNs issued in 2017.

Donaghmore, Fivemiletown and Moy all saw a decrease in the number of parking offences, with only 1, 12 and 35 tickets issued in the respective areas in the 12 months.

Clogher's traffic wardens remained busy, with 74 offences warranting a PCN, an increase of 30 from 2016's statistics.

A DFI spokesperson said: "The aim of parking enforcement is to reduce the number of vehicles illegally parked on our roads.

"This in turn reduces traffic congestion and helps traffic to flow more freely, assists delivery vehicles, allows buses to keep to their timetable, improves road safety and provides accessibility for all road users, including Blue Badge holders.

"The enforcement of on-street limited waiting and pay and display spaces, Park and Ride charged car parks and Council operated car parks also encourages a turnover of parking spaces, giving shoppers and visitors more opportunities to find suitable parking."

Share / Save

Send this page to a friend »

SEND TO A FRIEND

Please complete the following form to inform a friend about this page.

Your Name*

Your E-Mail*

Friend's Name*

Friend's E-Mail*

Comment

In order to process your information we must ask you to enter the letters in the image into the box:

APPENDIX H - PROPOSED SHOPPER QUESTIONNAIRE

Coalisland Town Centre
Coalisland Public Realm Scheme

Shopper Survey

The Department for Communities, in partnership with Mid Ulster District Council aim to deliver a public realm scheme in Coalisland Town Centre. The area of Coalisland Town Centre involved in the scheme includes the Square, Dungannon Rd, Barrack Square, Main Street, Stewartstown Rd, Station Rd, Lineside, Barrack St, Washinbay Road, Platters Hill.

The scheme aims to:

- Provide a high quality environment;
- Continue to be a neutral space;
- Be accessible to pedestrians/vehicles/buses;
- Have free flowing traffic;
- Retain most on street parking;
- Be pedestrian friendly;
- Improve traffic/pedestrian management;
- Enhance aesthetics;
- Promote business development;
- Stimulate private sector investment;
- Provide a high visual profile;
- Attract more visitors and shopper

We would be most grateful if you could a few minutes to complete this survey. Your answers will provide a baseline and measure the impact a public realm scheme will have on Coalisland. Your views on this are greatly appreciated.

If you have any queries, you can contact Mid Ulster District Council, Economic Development
Office, on 03000 132 132

Any answers provided will be in confidence and no individual will be identified from the responses provided.

1. **Are you a resident or a visitor to Coalisland town centre?**

Resident ☐ Visitor ☐ Other (please state) ______________

2. **Why are you in the town today**?

Work ☐ Shopping ☐ Leisure/Recreation ☐ Other ___________

3. **How often do you come to Coalisland town centre?**

Daily	
Couple of times a week	
Once a week	
Other	

4. **How did you travel to Coalisland today?**

Car	
Bus	
Walk	
Other	

5. **If you travelled by Car where did you park?**

On-Street	
Carpark (Highlight location)	

6. **How far did you travel to get to Coalisland?**

Less than 2 miles	
2-5 miles	
6-10miles	
11-15miles	
15+ miles	

7. **What did you purchase on your trip?**

Food / Drink	
Clothing/Footwear	
Health & Beauty	
Professional Services	
Household/Giftware	
Other	

8. How long to you plan to visit Coalisland today?

30 minutes	
1 hour	
1 – 2 hours	
2-3 hours	
Other	

9. My overall perception of the Coalisland Town centre area as it currently stands is…..?

Very poor	Poor	Average	Good	Very good
1	2	3	4	5

10. Within the town centre, please score your current opinion of the following aspects. (On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is very poor, 5 average and 10 is very good.

	Item	**Score**
A	Aesthetics (Look & Feel)	
B	Pavements	
C	Street Furniture	
D	Pedestrian Linkages/ Accessible	
E	Street Layout	
F	Carparking	
G	Traffic Congestion	
H	Street Signage	
I	Safety	

Please let us know if you have any other comments regarding the Coalsiland town centre.

Thank you for your time.

Date of interview:

Time /Location of interview

Coalisland Town Centre
Coalisland Public Realm Scheme

Business Survey

The Department for Communities, in partnership with Mid Ulster District Council aim to deliver a public realm scheme in Coalisland Town Centre. The area of Coalisland Town Centre involved in the scheme includes the Square, Dungannon Rd, Barrack Square, Main Street, Stewartstown Rd, Station Rd, Lineside, Barrack St, Washinbay Road, Platters Hill.

The scheme aims to:

- Provide a high quality environment;
- Continue to be a neutral space;
- Be accessible to pedestrians/vehicles/buses;
- Have free flowing traffic;
- Retain most on street parking;
- Be pedestrian friendly;
- Improve traffic/pedestrian management;
- Enhance aesthetics;
- Promote business development;
- Stimulate private sector investment;
- Provide a high visual profile;
- Attract more visitors and shopper

We would be most grateful if you could a few minutes to complete this survey. Your answers will provide a baseline and measure the impact a public realm scheme will have on Coalisland. Your views on this are greatly appreciated.

If you have any queries, you can contact Mid Ulster District Council, Economic Development
Office, on 03000 132 132

Any answers provided will be in confidence and no individual will be identified from the responses provided.

Q1	**Please indicate your MAIN business type?**	*(Circle only one)*
	Retail/Groceries	1
	Services (e.g. health, beauty, legal, financial)	2
	Eating or drinking establishments (e.g. café, restaurant, pub)	3
	Entertainment or leisure ,(theatre, arcade)	4
	Other (please specify)______________________________	5

Q2	**Please indicate the location of your business?**	*(Tick)*
	The Square	
	Dungannon Road	
	Barrack Square	
	Main Street	
	Stewartstown Rd	
	Station Road	
	Lineside	
	Barrack Street	
	Washingbay Road	
	Other (please specify)______________________________	

Q3	**How would you describe your current turnover?**	*(Circle only one)*
	Well below average	1
	Below average	2
	Average (Normal)	3
	Above average	4
	Well above average	5

Q4	**My overall perception of the project area following completion of the project is…..?**				*(Circle only one)*
	Very poor	Poor	Average	Good	Very good

	1	2	3	4	5

Q5	Please score your current opinion of the following aspects of Coalisland Town Centre. (On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is very poor, 5 is average and 10 is very good).	*Score all (0 to 10)*
A	Safety	
B	Street Maintenance/Surfacing	
C	Street Cleanliness	
D	Marketing	
E	Space for Public Events	
F	Accessibility (Pedestrians/Vehicles/Buses)	
G	Street Signage/Shop Frontage	
H	Pedestrian Friendliness	
I	Parking	
J	Traffic Congestion	
K	Street Lighting	
L	Floral Displays	

If you have any other comments relating to the Coalisland Town Centre, please add them below.

Time taken to complete (approx. minutes): _________________

Please return your completed survey to: Julieann.spence@midulstercouncil.org.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact Julie Ann Spence by telephoning 03000 132 132.

Thank you for your time

APPENDIX I - GRANTS COST MANAGEMENT COST COMMENT

Department of Finance
An Roinn Airgeadais
www.finance-ni.gov.uk

To: Wesley Davidson,
Client Advisor Branch 2

For: Patrick Anderson,
DfC
Kevlin Buildings
Omagh

From: Raymond Murphy
Quantity Surveyor
Grants Cost Management
Level 1 East
CLARE HOUSE,
303 Airport Road West
Belfast, BT3 9ED

Tel: 02890 816449
E-mail: raymond.murphy@finance-ni.gov.uk

Your ref: Not stated

Our ref: 567094MZ

DATE: 8th August 2018

SCHEME: COALISLAND PUBLIC REALM

APPLICANT: MID ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL

STAGE: Economic Appraisal (Version 3 dated 2nd July 2018)

INTRODUCTION

We have reviewed the capital cost estimates dated 2nd July 2018 for this project for consideration within the Economic Appraisal. The proposed project is for environmental improvements to paving, kerbing, resurfacing, drainage, signage, planting, street furniture, lighting and provision for festive lighting infrastructure in the area.

Mid Ulster District Council proposes that the work should be carried out in the following streets:

The Square
Main Street
Lineside
Dungannon Road
Stewartstown Road
Barrack Street
Barrack Square
Station Road
Washingbay Road
Platters Hill
Birney Square
Seagrave Terrace

The Preferred Option (Option 6) amounts to £2,658,001 for Works plus Professional Fees of £318,960 (12%), as included in Table 5, page 45 of the EA. When OB of £476,016 (15.99%) is added, this gives a total estimated cost of £3,452,977 ex VAT.

OPTIONS:

The following eleven options were considered in the Economic Appraisal, for Works and Professional fees:

Option	Description	Capital Expenditure	Professional Fees	% of Capital Expenditure	Cost Including Professional Fees	Optimism Bias	% of Capital Expenditure	Total Estimated Cost
1	Do nothing	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
2	Layout 1 Natural Stone Paving	£2,344,575	£281,349	12%	£2,625,924	£419,885	15.99%	£3,045,809
4	Layout 3 Natural Stone Paving	£2,221,804	£266,616	12%	£2,488,420	£397,899	15.99%	£2,886,319
5	Layout 3 Natural Stone Paving, Car Park A, Birney Street & Seagrove Terrace	£3,094,873	£371,385	12%	£3,466,258	£554,254	15.99%	£4,020,512
6	Layout 1 Natural Stone Paving & Car Park B	£2,658,001	£318,960	12%	£2,976,961	£476,016	15.99%	£3,452,977
9	Layout 3 Natural Stone Paving & Car Park C	£2,320,845	£278,501	12%	£2,599,346	£415,636	15.99%	£3,014,982
10	Layout 1 Concrete Setts	£2,198,836	£263,860	12%	£2,462,696	£393,785	15.99%	£2,856,481
12	Layout 3 Concrete Setts	£1,994,253	£239,310	12%	£2,233,563	£357,146	15.99%	£2,590,709
13	Layout 1 Concrete Setts, Car Park A, Birney Street & Seagrove Terrace	£2,949,134	£353,896	12%	£3,303,030	£528,154	15.99%	£3,831,184
14	Layout 1 Concrete Setts, Car Park B	£2,512,262	£301,471	12%	£2,813,734	£449,916	15.99%	£3,263,650
17	Layout 3 Concrete Setts Car Park C	£2,093,293	£251,195	12%	£2,344,489	£374,883	15.99%	£2,719,372

The above figures exclude VAT, Statutory Charges and Inflation.

Options 3,7,8,11,15,and16 were considered and eliminated on the basis that they included the implementation of a one–way traffic system which did not receive sufficient support from the general public.

GCM reviewed the costs of all options generally, and reviewed Option Nr 6 in detail being the preferred option.

PREFERRED OPTION 6

The Preferred Option is Option 6, with high spec using Natural Stone paving and granite kerbs to all public footpaths at £2,658,001excluding professional fees and OB having a total area of 9,562 m² (Proposed Layout 1 with an area of 8,288 m2 and Car Park B with an area of 1,274 m2).

Under Option 6 it is proposed that no work will be carried out to Platters Hill, Birney Square and Seagrave Terrace.

The cost estimate is reasonably well detailed, giving the quantities and rates for the two locations, under the main headings – Site Clearance/Groundworks, Surfacing, Street Furniture, Services, Preliminaries, Site and Land purchase.

The main work is as follows:

- Removal of vacant derelict building
- New angled parking on Main Street
- New landscaped area and event space
- New bus layby
- Undergrounding overhead BT cables
- Forming a right hand turning lane
- Formalised parking and loading bays
- New natural stone paving and granite kerbs to all public footpaths
- New exposed aggregate paving to privately owned areas
- Additional car parking (Car park Option B)
- WiFi/sound system

GCM carried out a random check of several items included in the estimate and can verify that the quantities involved appear to be correct.

COST COMMENT

The new natural stone paving has an estimated rate of £120/m² which is considered reasonable for natural yorkstone paving referred to on page 15 of the EA.

Other types of stone paving, such as imported stone, could be investigated which may lead to a cost saving for the project.

Estimated costs are included for the purchase of a vacant site in the sum of £120k and purchase of land in Cornmill Car Park in the sum of £50k for the Public Realm works and purchase of a site in the sum of £150k for the car park. As with all land purchases these items present a risk to the project in terms of time and money. It is assumed that property and site valuations will be confirmed by LPS.

Other rates included in the estimated cost for Option 6 appear to be within the acceptable range for EI schemes.

The Preliminaries at 10% are considered to be reasonable.

PROFESSIONAL FEES

These have been included in the EA at £318,960 on the above Works cost of £2,658,001, which amounts to 12.00% which is considered reasonable for a project of this nature.

OPTIMISM BIAS (OB)

An allowance of 15.99% has been included for OB as stated in the EA. An additional cost for £476,016 has therefore been calculated as OB in the cost summary and is subject to clearance by the DFC economist.

DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

It is noted that Design Development is included in the estimated costs for Car Park B but not in the estimated cost for Proposed Layout 1.

GCM BRANCH ASSESSMENT

GCM have made adjustments to costs submitted as follows:

Capital Expenditure as EA		£ 2,658,001	(This figure includes land & building purchase)
Deduct Land & Building purchase		(£ 320,000)	
Construction Cost		£ 2,338,001	
Professional Fees	12%	£ 280,560	
		£ 2,618,561	
Statutory Charges	0.5%	£ 11,690	(Based on Construction Cost only)
		£ 2,630,251	
Optimism Bias	15.99%	£ 420,577	
Total Estimated Cost for Construction		**£ 3,050,828**	

Other estimated costs not included in the above figures which need to be considered are:

1.	Purchase of vacant site for Public Realm	£120,000
2.	Purchase of land in Cornmill car park for Public Realm	£ 50,000
3.	Purchase of site for Car Park	£150,000
	Estimated Total for land and building purchase	£320,000

SUMMARY

GCM consider that the estimated cost for Option Nr 6 in the sum of £3,452,977 ex VAT for natural stone paving is reasonable. An adjustment to the method used by GCM to calculate the construction cost results in a decrease of £82,149 bringing the Total Estimated Cost to £3,370,828 including £320,000 for land and building purchase and an amount of £420,577 for OB. As stated above the OB percentage is subject to clearance by the DFC Economist.

Please contact this office if we can be of further assistance.

Raymond Murphy

Grants Cost Management

Cc Damian McErlane

Comhairle Ceantair Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster District Council

APPENDIX 7

COOKSTOWN CONTINENTIAL MARKET

2 – 3 JUNE 2018

EVALUATION REPORT

1.0 Introduction

Mid Ulster District Council, in partnership with Cookstown Town Centre Forum, hosted the Continental Market, from Saturday 2 – Sunday 3 June 2018. This was the fifth 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 1 June – 10.00pm Sunday 3 June 2018, 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 2018 Outputs

- 25,000 visitors to the Continental Market
- 52 traders within the Continental Market arena
- Social Media:-
    - Visit Cookstown facebook- 45 facebook posts, 228k people reached, 30k people engaged,
    - Visit Cookstown facebook event page- 89k reach, 2.4k responses (stating interested in attending the event),
    - 27 twitter posts, over 27k impressions (number of times a tweet has been delivered to twitter stream of users), 1.2k engagements (Number of users that interacted with post), video views of 1.7k

- 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
- The Brickx Club 151 tickets sold for the event
- An estimated additional spend of £283,825 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	£12,000
Subsistence	£150	£8,500
Refuelling	£50	£3,325
Footfall	£20 (average normal weekend 10,000 people, additional £8,000 Continental Market Weekend)	£260,000
	TOTAL	**£283,825**

4.0 Marketing & Promotion

The marketing & promotion campaign was delivered over a four week period commencing 7 May 2018. 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 25 May – 2 June 2018.
- 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 7 May 2018.

❖ Advertising was conducted in the regional press- Friday 1 June 2018 Irish News Mid Ulster Feature.
❖ 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.
❖ Bollard Triangles, Burnavon.
❖ Events Guides listings/websites
❖ Cookstown Branded Shopping Bags distributed to local shops

5.0 Event Planning of Continental Market 2017

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 the traders increased in numbers from 40 to 52 on the previous year.

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 1 June – 10.00pm Sunday 3 June 2018. This event was the first to apply and secure Road Closure Order within Mid Ulster District and the first civic event following the implementation of GDPR on 25 May 2018. 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 2 June 2018.

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 themed Willie Wonka 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)

4.6 The Brickx Club, Burnavon

Over the Continental Market, The Brickx Club delivered LEGO workshops. The workshops provided the opportunity for children and adults to have the opportunity to utilise LEGO through creative brick building. Construction zones and brick pits were available for all ages to build and create.

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.

59 people completed the questionnaire.

Feedback from the public included:-

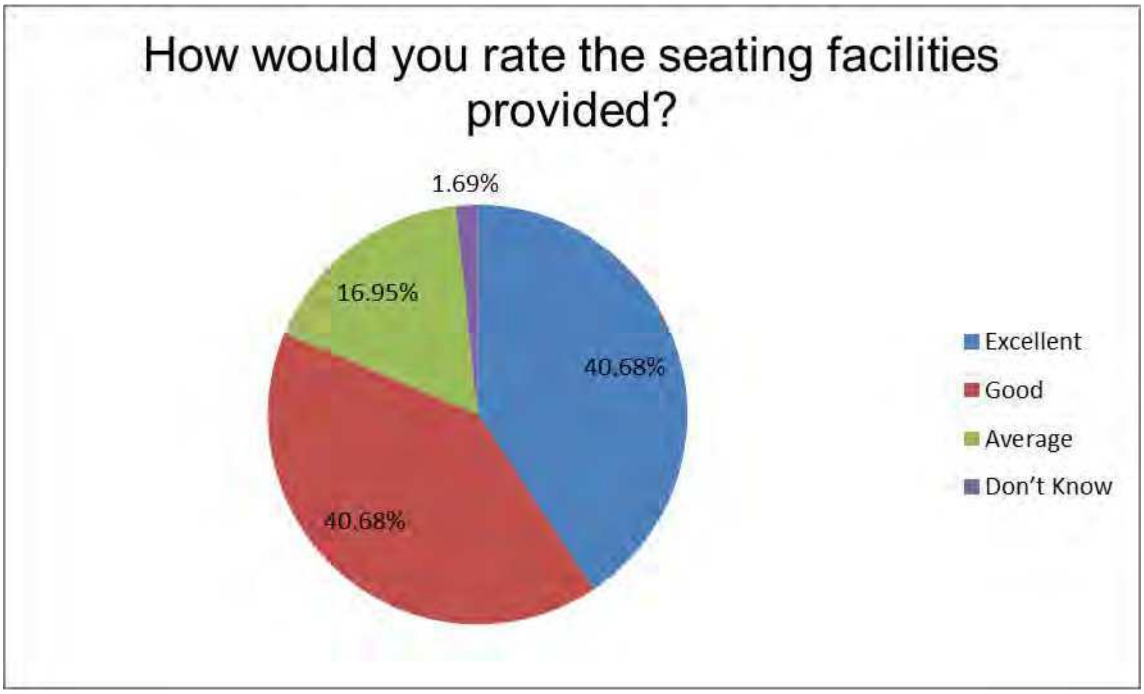
“No improvement required just ensure you have the same amazing weather as this year as it really helped the atmosphere. Excellent work too by stewards who were very helpful with queries and also the litter picking squads as well as the place was spotless. clearly a very dedicated team of staff”

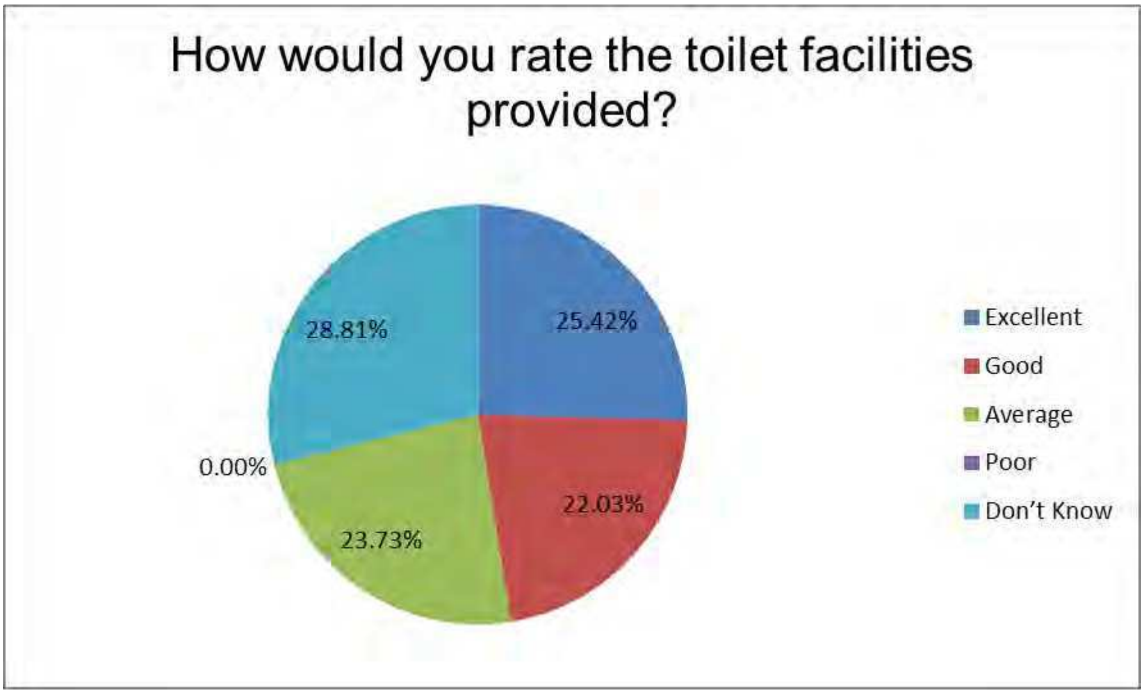
“I felt it was very well organised great relaxed atmosphere very family friendly offered something for everyone.”

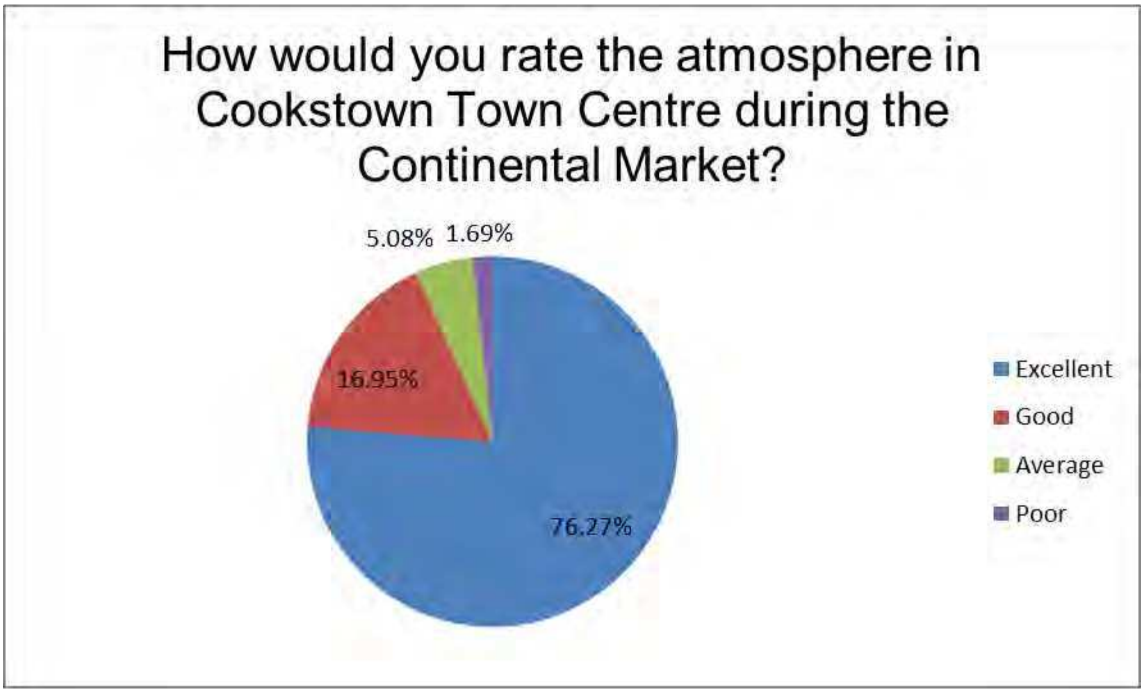
“Although I don't drink the bar area was in a great place. There was loads of wooden benches & seat to sit at when eating your food. We also called into the Burnavon where there was a small Lego display....just amazing & to meet the fella who built them all amazing. We had a great time thanks again for all your hard work.”

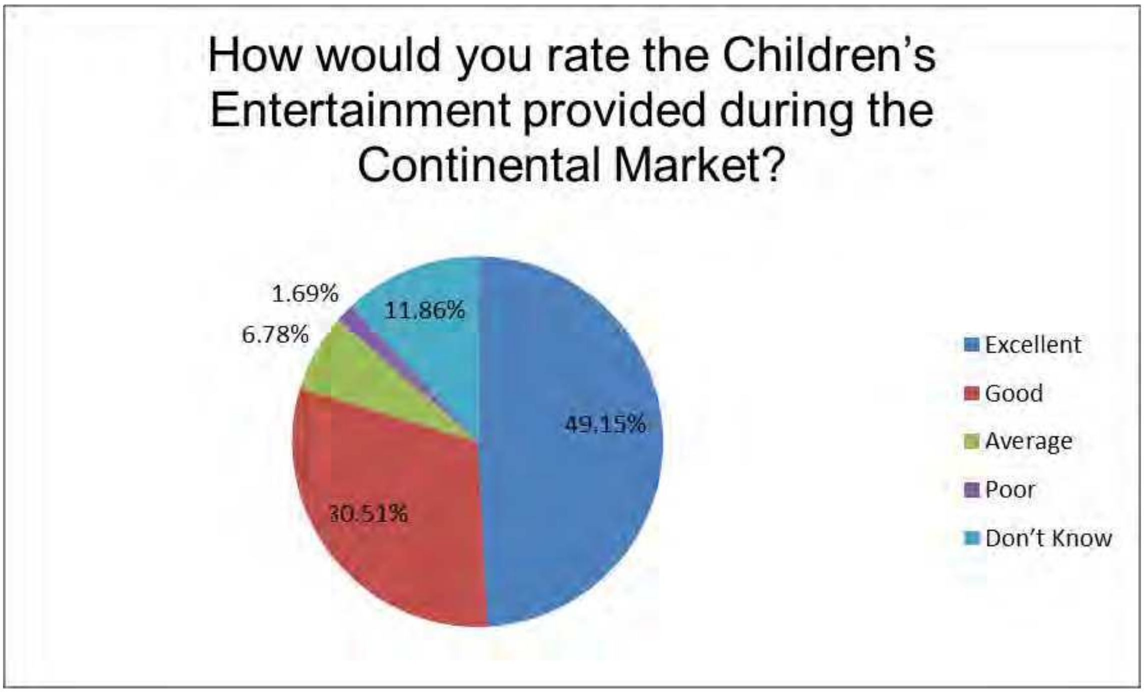
“Excellent event - well organised, great family atmosphere. Really enjoyed it, thank you!”

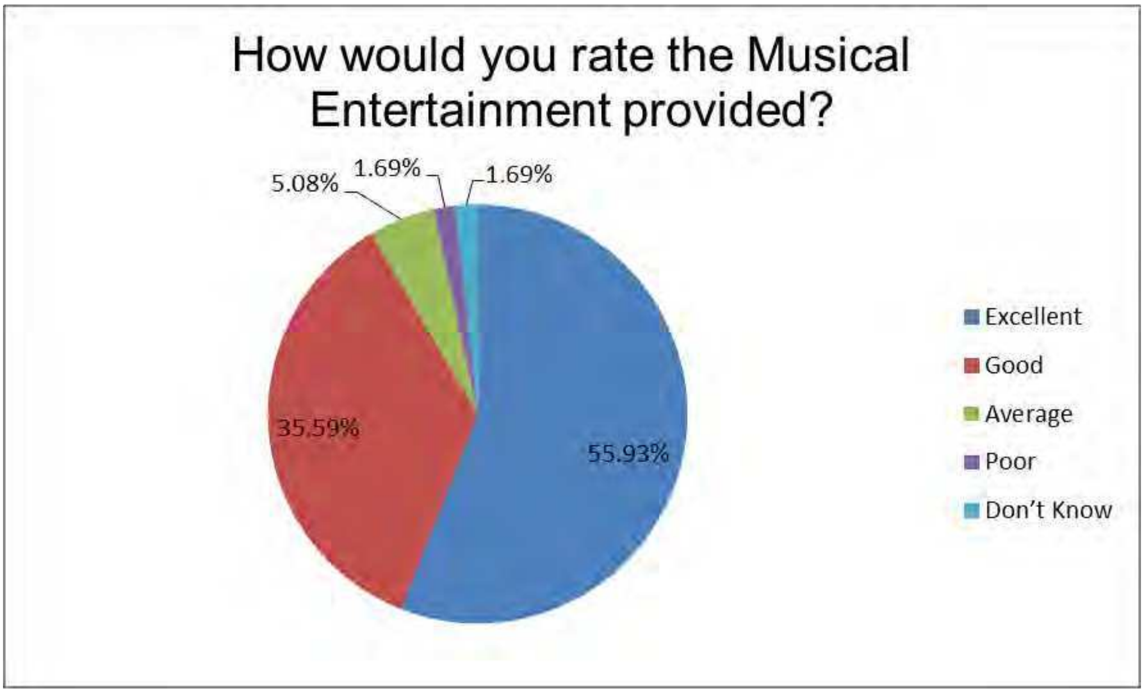
A sample of responses are depicted in the following pie charts:-


How would you rate the seating facilities provided?
1.69%
16.95%
40.68%
40.68%
Excellent
Good
Average
Don't Know


How would you rate the toilet facilities provided?
28.81%
25.42%
0.00%
22.03%
23.73%
Excellent
Good
Average
Poor
Don't Know


How would you rate the atmosphere in Cookstown Town Centre during the Continental Market?
5.08%
1.69%
16.95%
76.27%
Excellent
Good
Average
Poor


How would you rate the Children's Entertainment provided during the Continental Market?
1.69%
6.78%
11.86%
49.15%
30.51%
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 Moira, Armagh, Castlederg, Belfast and Newry.
- Saturday was the most popular day for visiting the market with 63% of respondents.
- 36% of people spent 2-3hrs in Cookstown Town Centre, followed by 25% who attended for more than 1-2hrs
- 81% visited local businesses while at the market
- 100% stated they would return to Cookstown to shop

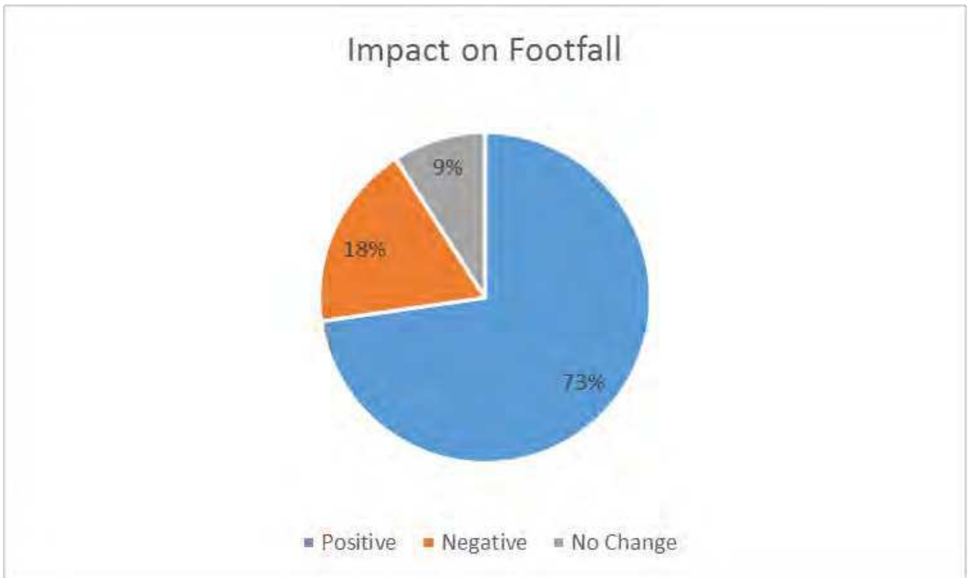
6.2 Feedback from Businesses

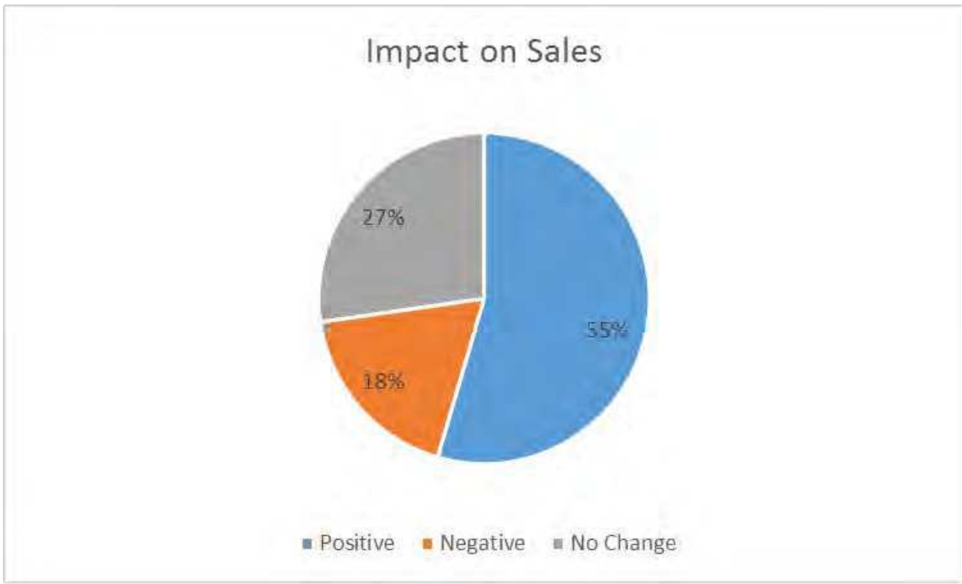
An Evaluation Form (Appendix 2) was prepared and distributed to Town Centre businesses to obtain feedback on the Continental Market.

11 businesses completed and returned the Evaluation Form

The feedback from businesses was mostly positive:


How would you rate the Continental Market Event
18%
36%
46%
Excellent
Good
Average


Impact on Footfall
9%
18%
73%
Positive
Negative
No Change



Other key statistics recorded include:

- 35% operated extended opening hours throughout the market
- 80% felt Cookstown town benefitted from the event
- 82% of businesses felt the Entertainment was Good-Excellent
- 82% of businesses felt the Atmosphere at the event was Good-Excellent

6.3 Feedback from Market Place Europe

Managing Director, Allan Hartwell stated:-

'Bringing forward the road closure time to 6pm worked extremely well and allowed traders to set up in time to get a good nights sleep before the start on Saturday. The traders reported that they were slightly down on the Saturday compared with last year with the German Beer Stall being approx. 30% down. However this is pretty consistent with the event industry nationally where most events are reporting a downturn in trading. The footfall on the Sunday was however slightly up on the same day last year and the event was a huge success and traders certainly want to return.

The traders appreciate the level of publicity that the Council give to making the overall event extremely successful.

We had a few more traders in attendance this year such is its popularity but it was felt that in order to create better movement between both sides of the road that a Central walkway should be created to allow customer to traverse from one side to the other more freely.'

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

- Extend Continental Market area
- Route for wheelchair users
- Additional seating
- Lack of crafts

Town Centre Businesses

- Two day market works well
- Additional seating
- Additional crafts stalls
- Relocate the market to alternative area
- Alternative dates perhaps late Summer

Appendix 1

Comhairle Ceantair Lár Uladh Mid Ulster District Council

EVALUATION OF COOKSTOWN CONTINENTAL MARKET

SATURDAY 2 - SUNDAY 3 JUNE 2018

From 2-3 June 2018 Cookstown hosted the Continental Market.

This was one of the Mid Ulster District Council's signature events for 2018, delivered in conjunction with Cookstown Town Centre Forum. 50 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 2 June
    - Sunday 3 June

12. Did you visit the market during the extended opening hours on
    - Saturday 2 June 18.00-21.00
    - Sunday 3 June 18:00-19.00

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 11.00-19.00?
    - 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

Comhairle Ceantair Lár Uladh Mid Ulster District Council

COOKSTOWN CONTINENTAL MARKET
COOKSTOWN TOWN CENTRE
SATURDAY 2-SUNDAY 3 JUNE 2018

RETAILER EVALUATION FORM

1. How would you rate the Continental Market held from Saturday 2-Sunday 3 June 2018?
   (Please Tick)

	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Don't Know
Continental Market					
Location/Layout of Market					
Seating Facilities					
Toilet Facilities					
Atmosphere in the town					
Street 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. Did your business operate extended opening hours on the Saturday/Sunday?

   Yes ☐ No ☐

   If yes what trading hours did you operate?_______________________________

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

   Yes ☐ No ☐

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

   ____

   ____

   ____

7. 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?

   ____

   ____

   ____

   ____

8. 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 by **Friday 15 June 2018.**

Appendix 3

COOKSTOWN CONTINENTAL MARKET – 2 & 3 JUNE 2018

ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE

<table>
<tr><th>Date</th><th>Times</th><th>William Street (Free of Charge)</th><th>Burnavon</th></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="6">Sat 2 June</td><td>9am</td><td>Continental Market Opens</td><td rowspan="11">The Brickx Club provides the opportunity for children and adults to utilise LEGO® through creative brick building. Each session will provide different construction zones and brick pits where LEGO® enthusiasts of all ages can create models in a fun and creative environment.

Workshops will take place on Saturday 2 & Sunday 3 June in the Auditorium at:

• 10.00am-12Noon
• 12.30pm-2.30pm
• 3.00pm-5.00pm
• A quiet session will take place on Saturday 2 June 2018 from 9.00am-10.00am.

Workshop Tickets cost £8 / Family (2 adults/3 children or 1 adult 4 children) £35. Tickets can be booked on www.burnavon.com

A Brickx Exhibition will take place in the Studio, with alternative workshops in the Exhibition Area.</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="3">11am – 5pm</td><td>Kids Zone

• Face Painting
• Balloon Modelling
• Kids Craft making
• Photo Booth</td></tr>
<tr><td>On Street Entertainment
• The Great Mefiesto (11am-12noon)
• Meet & Greet Elsa & Anna (12noon-1pm)
• Drumming Circle Workshop (1pm-3pm)
• Hoopspin (3pm-5pm)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Music Performances On Stage Risers
• Elsa & Anna Singalong (11am-12noon)
• Cup O' Joe (12noon-2pm)
• Emma Horan (2pm-3pm)
• The Swingtime Starlets (3pm–5pm)</td></tr>
<tr><td>6.30pm - 8.30pm</td><td>The Knotty Pine String Band</td></tr>
<tr><td>9pm</td><td>Continental Market Closes</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="5">Sun 3 June</td><td>11am</td><td>Continental Market Opens</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="3">12Noon - 5pm</td><td>Kids Zone

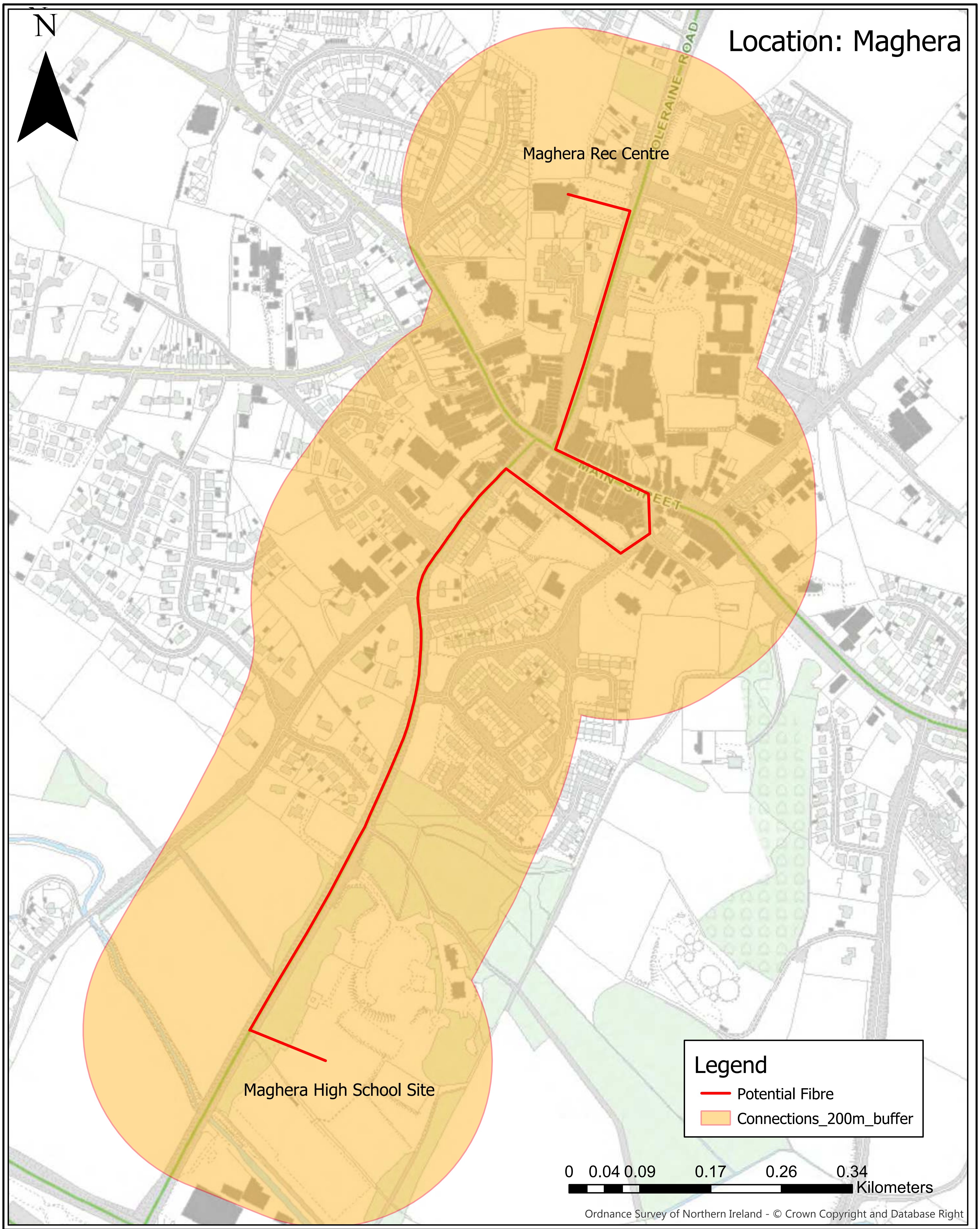
• Face Painting
• Balloon Modelling
• Kids Craft making
• Photo Booth</td></tr>
<tr><td>On Street Entertainment

• Gondo Leering (12noon-2pm)
• Barren Carousel (1pm-3pm)
• Circus Skills Workshop (3pm-5pm)
• Puppet Show commencing at 12.30,1.30, 2.30, 3.30 & 4.30pm)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Music Performances On Stage

• The Hub Choir (12noon–1pm)
• Banjacks & Jiving (1pm-3pm)
• Cookstown Folk Club (3pm-4pm)
• Brian Mills & Declan McGrath (4pm-5pm)
• Fusion (5pm-6pm)</td></tr>
<tr><td>7pm</td><td>Continental Market Closes</td></tr>
</table>

APPENDIX 8

Draft Full Fibre Network



Comhairle Ceantair Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster District Council

Author: Nicky Doris

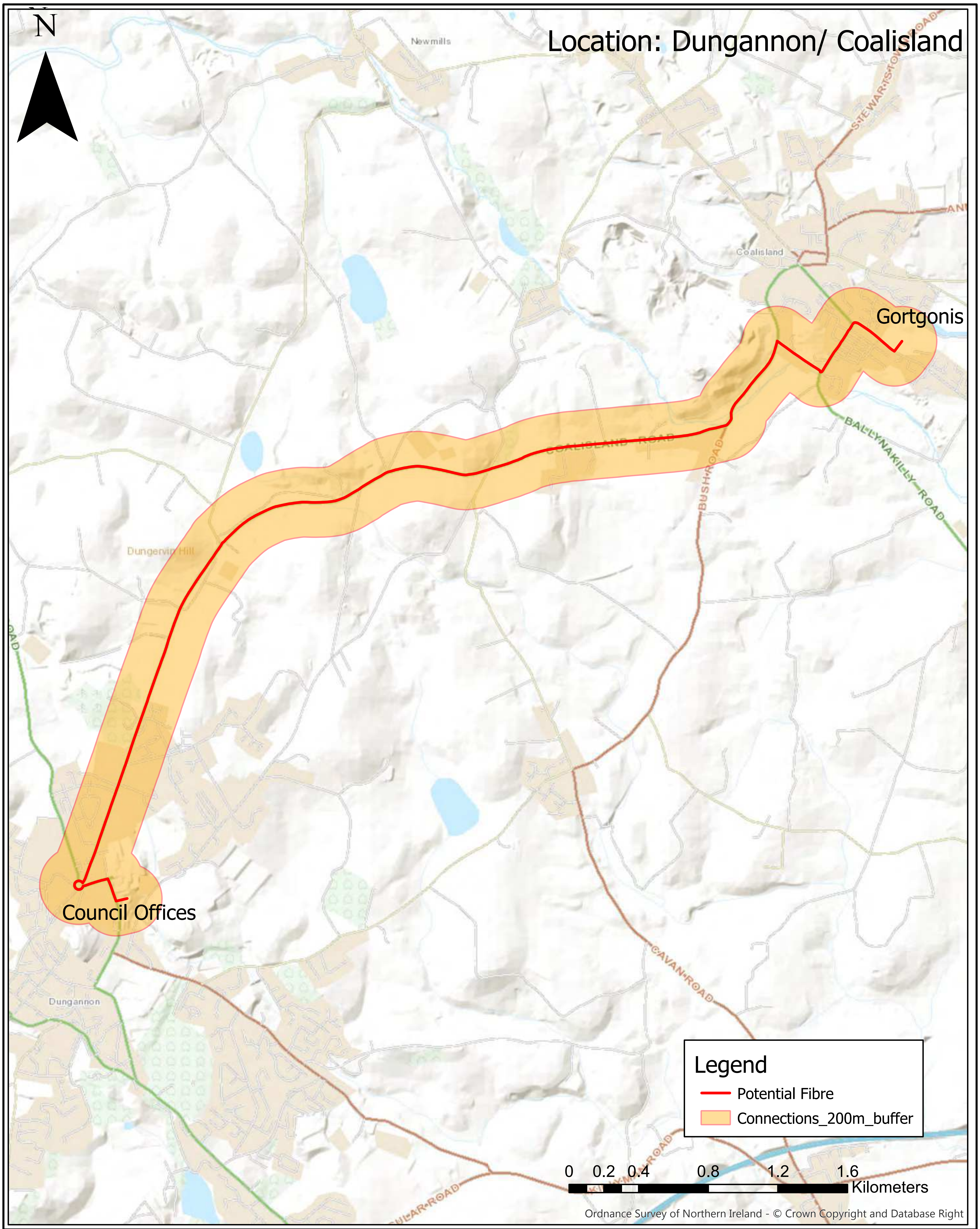
Date: 17/04/2018

Dept: ICT

Authority License No: CS & LA 156

APPENDIX 9

Draft Full Fibre Network



Comhairle Ceantair Lár Uladh Mid Ulster District Council

Author: Nicky Doris

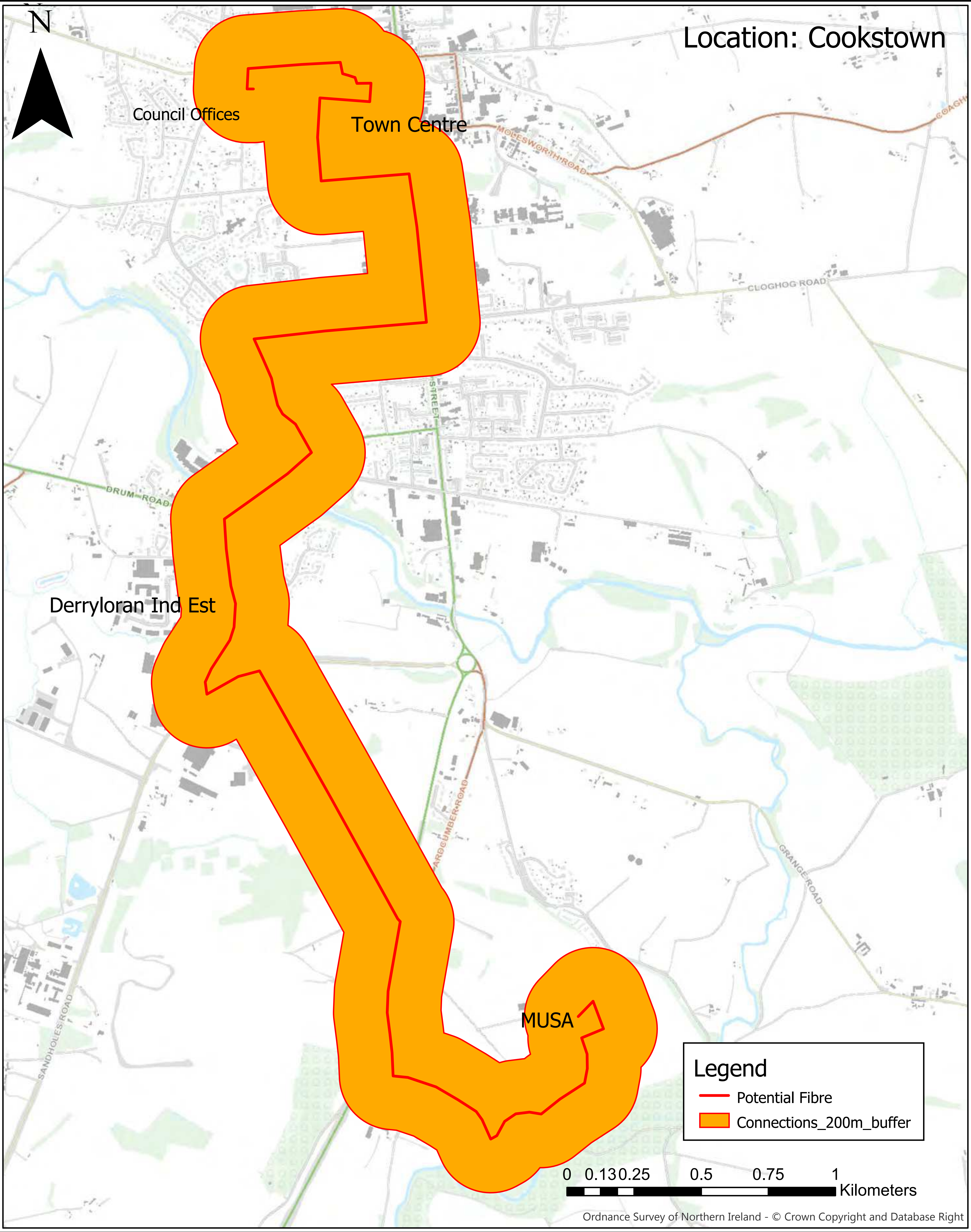
Date: 17/04/2018

Dept: ICT

Authority License No: CS & LA 156

APPENDIX 10

Draft Full Fibre Network



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

Author: Nicky Doris

Date: 17/04/2018

Dept: ICT

Authority License No: CS & LA 156

Report on	Audit of Natural Grass Playing Pitches in Mid Ulster
Date of Meeting	13th September
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 update members on an audit of existing natural grass pitches across Mid Ulster with an assessment of usage based on the number of teams currently using these facilities.
2.0	**Background**
2.1	The Mid Ulster (MUDC) Sports Facility Strategy previously presented to Council provided a framework for the future prioritisation, development and provision of sports facilities at a local level in order to meet identified community need, helping to increase participation, addressing health inequalities, and other local specific factors.
2.2	The focus of the Strategy however was on the following facilities • sports halls of 4 courts or above (except those on education sites) • pools of 20m and above, • health and fitness suites of 20 stations and above • full size AGPs (Artificial Grass Pitches)
2.3	It was recognized that the limitations to the strategic planning work undertaken included the fact that every natural grass pitch could not be visited and for this reason, the Strategy focused only on headline issues, with the realisation that natural grass pitches needed to be examined through a more detailed piece of research.
2.4	In order to commence this research development committee requested that MUDC Officers carry out an audit of natural grass pitches and at the same time try to quantify the usage levels of the identified pitches.
3.0	**Main Report**
3.1	It is widely recognised that natural grass pitches can only accommodate a restricted amount of use whilst still maintaining adequate playing quality. Grassroots pitches which are well constructed, drained and maintained should be able to accommodate approximately seven hours per week of the varied type of use expected, according to the Sports and Play Construction Association (SAPCA).

3.2	It should be noted that this is very much dependant on the pitch being of the requisite quality and receiving an appropriate level of routine maintenance. Pitches which do not meet such a standard cannot be expected to accommodate such high levels of use. The amount of use the pitch will be able to withstand relates to a number of variables. These include:
	
	- Weather conditions before and during use
	- Turf density and rooting depth
	- Grass species and varieties
	- If weather time dependant play is required i.e. whether it is it possible to restrict pitch during poor weather conditions
	- Pitch usage pattern
	- Pitch maintenance, including but not limited to:
	    o Aeration programmes
	    o Fertiliser regimes
	    o Mowing frequency
	    o Topdressing practices
	    o Scarification and thatch control
	    o Decompaction treatments

3.3	Phase 1 of the audit process was to collect the relevant information from both the sport Governing bodies and local contacts. This is presented in the Appendix 1 along with Phase 2 of the exercise which was a desk top assessment of pitch usage. For information we have also included MUDC facilities which in the main are in good condition with usage levels managed and annual maintenance programmes in place.
3.4	A number of assumptions have been made during this process to allow for comparison with SAPCA guidance of 7 hours use per week (Sport England recommendation varies between 2hrs and 6hrs per week depending on drainage).
3.5	We have assumed each team trains for 1 hour per night and 2 nights per week as well as playing matches home and away. This gives a 2.5 factor of use per week. This is divided by the number of pitches even though some cannot be used for matches. It does not account for use of Club based 3g or that clubs do use other facilities ie schools or MUDC facilities depending on their location. In addition these usage figures do not include all the other groups who use the pitches eg summer camps, blitzs etc. and does not account for the pitch having floodlights. Mini rugby is recorded as 1 hr use per week.
3.6	This information is provided only for guidance, clubs can use this formula to obtain a more accurate figure per week based on actual usage. However it is evident from the data that almost all natural grass pitches in the area are over used, and whilst additional usage can in some cases be accommodated on 3G pitches, MUDC facilities or on Education Authority sites where permitted, the high levels of over use need further examination.
3.7	This audit does not make any comment on the quality of the identified pitches however anecdotal evidence would suggest that they vary in performance standards with some exceptionally well maintained and others to a lesser standard.
3.8	It is possible to commission an additional piece of work to project the need and supply of Artificial and Natural turf pitches in the future using Sport Englands Playing Pitch Methodology however the extremely high levels of over use demonstrated in this report will be key a contributing factor.

3.9	It should be noted that in order for natural grass pitches to perform to their best a regular maintenance programme should be implemented. It is estimated by Sport England this can cost in excess of £5,000 per year. The works required include mowing, verti-draining, top dressing and re seeding (for high wear areas re-turfing may be required) and spraying for weeds. Specialist maintenance programmes are widely available from sports Governing Bodies, Sport England etc.
4.0	**Other Considerations**
4.1	**Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications**
	Financial: N/A
	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	To consider the results of this audit of natural grass pitches, and to allow MUDC Officers to engage with relevant sporting clubs to further develop a policy regarding the future demand, need and maintenance of natural grass playing pitches.
6.0	**Documents Attached & References**
6.1	Appendix 1 – Natural Grass Pitch Use

Summary of Natural Turf Pitch use per Week.

GAA - Derry

Club	No. Teams	Pitches	Use per Week
Ballinascreen	32	2	40hrs
Ballinderry	16	2.5	16hrs
Ballymaguigan	16	2	20hrs
Bellaghy	16	3	13.3hrs
Castledawson	20	2	25hrs
Desertmartin	8	2	10hrs
Glen	16	2.5	16hrs
Greenlough	16	2	20hrs
Lavey	24	2	30hrs
Lissan	8	1.5	13.3hrs
Loup	16	2	20hrs
Magherafelt	24	2	30hrs
Moneymore	8	1	20hrs
Newbridge	16	2	20hrs
Ogra Colmcille	2	1.5	3.3hrs
Slaughtneil	24	2.5	24hrs
Swatragh	24	2	30hrs

GAA - Tyrone

Club	No. Teams	Pitches	Use per Week
Aghaloo	14	2	17.5hrs
Ardboe	18	2	22.5hrs
Augher		2	
Brackaville	12	1, Small 3G	30hrs
Brocagh	12	1	30hrs
Clogher	10	2	12.5hrs
Clonoe	14	1, Small 3G	35hrs
Coalisland	14	1, 2 Small 3G	35hrs
Cookstown	18	1	45hrs
Cuhullian an Gleanna	4/5	1	12.5hrs
Derrylaughan	16	2	20hrs
Derrytresk	18	1.5	30hrs
Donaghmore	20	2, Small 3G	25hrs
Edendork	26	1	65hrs
Eglish	16	2.5	16hrs
Eoghan Ruadh		1	
Errigal Ciaran	20	2	25hrs
Galbally	18	3	15hrs
Kildress	17	2	21.25hrs
Killeeshil	16	1	40hrs
Killyman		1	
Moortown	16	3	28.8hrs
Moy	9	2	11.25hrs

Naomh Colmcille	7	1	17.5hrs
Pomeroy	16	2	20hrs
Rock	9	2	11.25hrs
Stewartstown	11	2	13.75
Tullagh Ogs		0	

Rugby Clubs

Club	No Teams	Pitches	Use per Week
Cookstown	1	1	2.5hrs
Clogher Valley	(Mini) 8	2	20.5hrs
Dungannon	(Mini) 9	2	23hrs
Rainey OB	(Mini) 7	2	18hrs

Soccer Clubs

Club	No Teams	Pitches	Use per week
Caledon FC	2	1	5hrs
Castlecaulfield Youth FC	6	3G	n/a
Coagh Utd	4	3, 3G	3.3hrs
Dungannon Swifts	12	1, 3G	30hrs
Fivemiletown Utd	10	1	25hrs
Moyola FC	12	3G	n/a
Tobermore Utd	6	1	15hrs
Sky Blues	20	1	50hrs

MUDC Pitches

	Facility	Pitches
1	MUSA	1 3G Soccer
		1 3G GAA/Rugby
		2 Grass Soccer
		2 Grass GAA
2	Beechway	1 Grass Soccer
3	Fairhill	2 Grass Soccer
4	Cahore	2 Grass Soccer
		1 Grass GAA
5	Maghera	2 Grass Soccer
6	Boyne Row & Riverside	1 Grass Soccer
7	Knockloughrim	1 Grass Soccer
8	Tobermore Golf Centre	1 Grass Soccer
9	Meadowbank	1 Grass Soccer
		1 3G GAA/Rugby
10	Upperlands	1 Grass Soccer
11	Clady	1 Grass GAA
12	Bellaghy	1 Grass Soccer
13	Drumcoo	2 Grass Soccer
		1 3G Multi use
14	Benburb	1 Grass Soccer
		1 Small 3G
15	Ballygawley	1 Grass Soccer
		1 Small 3G
16	Castlecaulfield	1 Grass Soccer
17	Gortgonis	1 Grass Soccer
18	Newmills	1 Grass Soccer
19	Aughnacloy	1 Grass Soccer
20	Fivemiletown	1 Grass Soccer
		1 Grass Soccer
21	Dungannon Park	1 Grass Rugby
		1 Cricket Pitch

Report on	Sports Representative Grants
Date of Meeting	13th September, 2018
Reporting Officer	Oliver McShane
Contact Officer	Oliver McShane

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 present to members the proposed community grant allocations for the range of Sports Representative Grants ~ 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: 24 Individuals applications were received but 2 of these are ineligible; 1 as the applicant did not live in Mid Ulster and the other applicant had already received a representative grant this year. The 22 eligible applicants were awarded a total of £5,425. 13 Team applications were received but 3 of these are ineligible was deemed ineligible; 1 is a fundraiser; 1 as team not based in Mid Ulster and the 3rd application is for and invitational event. The 10 eligible applicants were awarded a total of £3,650. A grand total of £9,075.
4.0	**Other Considerations**
4.1	**Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications**
	Financial: Total finance allocated: The Sports Representative Grant awards £9,075.

	This is a continuous rolling programme with a budget of £10,000 with current allocation for 18/19 of £12,075. To request transfer of £12,000 from an underspend in Sports Capital Grants.
	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 for Sports Grant allocations as per Appendix 1. To request transfer of £12,000 from an underspend in Sports Capital Grants.
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
Ruth	Arrell	Ladies International Fly Fishing Competition	£250	2	£225
Harvey	Barnes	2018 European U23 Cycling championships	£1,075	1	£250
Charlotte	Beggs	Ireland U16 Girls Hockey	£800	2	**£225**
Alex	Burns	Ireland U18 Girls Hockey	£730	1	£250
Carolyn	Burns	World Masters Hockey	£1,012	1	£250
Stephen	Campbell	Paratriathlon World Cup, Portugal	£860	1	£250
Niamh	Conlon	World Taekwando Championships	£408	2	£225
Gary	Conway	World Deaf Golf Competition 2018	£250	2	£225
Colleeen	Conway	World Deaf Golf Competition 2018	£250	2	£225
Julian	Costello	Ireland Hockey World Cup Masters	£150	1	£150
Gareth	Cuddy	Ireland Hockey World Cup Masters	£150	1	£150
Jakub	Durac	Taekwondo Scotland championship	£250	2	£225
Matthew	Hackett	World Taekwando Championships	£230	2	£225
Hannah	Hackett	World Taekwando Championships	£230	2	£225
Christopher	Hackett	World Taekwando Championships	£270	2	£225
Darcey	Harkness	British XC Mountain Biking	£1,000	3	£200
Jack	Haycock	U18 Ireland Hockey European Championships	£250	1	£250
Rebecca	Hughes	World Taekwando Championships	£250	2	£225
Matthew	Kelly	World Taekwando Championships	£250	1	£250
John	Lyttle	World Taekwando Championships	£339	1	£250
Eoin	McKenna	Tae Kwon do international championships	£250	2	£225
Louise	Millar	2018 World Powerlifting Championships	£250	1	£250
Janice	Spiers	Ladies International Fly Fishing Competition	£250	2	£225
Stuart	Wylie	Ireland U16 Boys Hockey	£250	2	£225

Band	Amount
1	**£250.00**
2	**£225.00**
3	**£200.00**
4	**£175.00**
5	**£150.00**

Total					£5,425

Ineligible Sports Individual

Mary Kate Rice	World Taekwando Championships	£395	Applicant outside Council area
Ellie Kelso	Ireland Cycling U16	£680	Already have received a Sports Representative Grant this year

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

Name	Project Title	Amount Requested	Band	Amount Awarded
Ardboe O'Donovan Rossa GAC	All Ireland Feile U14 Competition	£1,830	3	£400
Ballinascreen GAC U14 Hurling	U14 hurling Manager	£500	3	£400
Ballinascreen Camogie Club	Feile Officer	£500	3	£400
Ballinderry Shamrocks GAC	Feile Co Ordinator	£4,740	3	£400
Cookstown Fr Rock's GFC	All Ireland Feile U14 Competition	£1,500	3	£400
Kildress Wolfe Tones GFC	Girls Gaelic Football U14 Feile	£500	3	£400
Leo's Tug of War Team	British Tug of War Championships	£3,578	3	£400
Moneymore Boys Brigade	British Isles Finals U14 football	£600	2	£450
O' Donovan Rossa GAC, Magherafelt	All Ireland Feile U14 Competition	£1,880	3	£400
St Malachy's GAC Castledawson	2018 Hurling and Camogie Feile	£1,000	3	£400
Total				**£3,650**

Band	Amount
1	**£500.00**
2	**£450.00**
3	**£400.00**
4	**£350.00**
5	**£300.00**

Ineligible Sports Representation

Deaf Golf Ireland	World Deaf Golf Competition 2018	£500	Not eligible team is not based in Council area and the only two Mid Ulster competitors have both applied to the individual grant.
Watty Graham's GAC, Glen	Camogie - National Hurl with Me Programme 2018	£500	Invitational event not representative
Torrent Cycling Club	Charity Fundraising Cycle	£1,250	Not eligible as event fundraiser and not representative

Report on	Leisure Family Fun Days
Date of Meeting	13th September 2018
Reporting Officer	Oliver McShane
Contact Officer	Oliver McShane

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 outline a proposal to deliver a range of Family Fun days at our key leisure centres during October/November 2018.
2.0	**Background**
2.1	As part of the modernization of Leisure Services and following on from work being carried out by the Income Generation sub group it is proposed to further promote the benefits of council leisure facilities, to increase awareness and especially to improve participation from those individuals and families who do not currently use our facilities.
3.0	**Main Report**
3.1	The proposed plan is to provide a range of Family Fun days which showcase the existing activities on offer as well as taster sessions in centre based activities, the proposed dates are as follows • Dungannon Leisure Centre - Sun 14th October 2.00pm – 4.00pm • Cookstown Leisure Centre - Sat 20th October 2.00pm – 4.00pm • Maghera Leisure Centre – Wed 31st October (Halloween Hooley 4pm-8pm) • Greenvale Leisure Centre - Sat 3rd November 2.00pm – 4.00pm Access will be provided free of charge to a range of activities with additional taster classes also being offered. Activities will include Bowling (If available) Swimming Face Painting Soft Play (If available) Gym Access Fitness class taster sessions etc

3.2	As part of the agreed Mid Ulster District Council Disability Sports Hub Development Plan a Sports Hub Fun Day was organised at Mid Ulster Sports Arena which was chosen as the preferred location for the Disability Sport NI Sports Hub. The Fun Day introduced the Sports Hub and the equipment available to all the District's disabled groups. Coordinated alongside the Sports Hub Fun Day, two Roadshow events were held in Dungannon and Magherafelt during June offering participants the opportunity to take part in taster sessions involving the Sports Hubs equipment. More than 200 people attended taking part in Goal Ball, Wheelchair Hurling, Disability Gaelic, Wheelchair Basketball, the first ever Wheelchair Hockey event, Disability Rugby, Boccia and taster cycling. Due to the success of the event, it is planned to host a similar day at Meadowbank Sports Arena in the Spring of next year, date to be agreed.
3.3	It is also planned to organise a Family Fun day at Tobermore Driving Range on the 10th November 2.00pm - 4.00pm in order to promote the facility and the various activities/coaching sessions on offer
4.0	**Other Considerations**
4.1	**Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications**
	Financial: The financial implications that need to be considered, include costs of approximately £3,000 which will be covered from 2018/19 existing Leisure budgets
	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	To approve the proposed delivery of Family Fun days at key Leisure facilities to commence in October 2018.
6.0	**Documents Attached & References**
6.1	None.

Report on	Parks and Play Five Year Strategic Plan
Date of Meeting	Thursday 13th September 2018
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 Member approval for the Parks and Play Five Year Strategic Plan.
2.0	**Background**
2.1	Outdoor Recreation NI (ORNI) was commissioned in November 2016 to prepare a Public Park and Play Strategy for Mid Ulster District Council area (MUDC) that will provide direction for the management and development of facilities, programs, infrastructure, resources, and investment over the period 2017-2022 within the Mid Ulster District Council area. MUDC park estate boasts over 100 public park/play facilities across the Council area ranging from small equipped areas for play, Multi Use Game Areas (MUGAs) to parkland of 70 acres in size. In assessing the park locations, the spatial distribution is an important factor. While a higher concentration of park/play facilities are located in the larger towns and settlements, some areas within Council are over provided for while others experience provision to a lesser extent. The draft parks and Play Five Year Strategic Plan was presented to committee in June 2018. Members requested that further consultation be undertaken. Two workshop information sessions were held on 31st July 2018 and 2nd August 2018 for members' participation from which contributions were collected and factored in to the current plan. Council are committed to develop public park space, increasing the open and green areas for all members of the community where possible. This Strategy provides an opportunity to review the Council's overall offering with regards the type of provision and also consider the needs of each DEA with regards the distribution of public parks and play for the coming five years.
3.0	**Main Report**
3.1	The overall aim is to prepare a strategy that will provide direction for managing and developing parks and play facilities, programs, infrastructure, resources, and investment over the next 5 year period. The Strategic Plan process has assessed the status of parks and play within the Council area and planned a future that reflects the Corporate Priorities of the Council and needs of the community.

	Objectives In order to achieve the aims of the Strategy, the following objectives were addressed: • Detail and GIS map the nature and extent of public parks and current play provision in Mid Ulster • Outline relevant context of play against what is happening at a regional and national level • Conduct consultation exercise with relevant stakeholders including Council elected representatives, Council Officers, local community groups and user groups to identify current usage and aspirations for future development of public parks and play in the MUDC area • Undertake research into the benefits, trends and best practice in play • Identify future opportunities and sites for development using supplementary information from the 2011 Census and L&PS • Produce a 5 year costed Action Plan (2017-2022) outlining proposed plans for development between 2017-2022 • Cost the Action Plan providing cost summary for both capital works and revenue costs and identify potential sources of funding to help deliver the Plan. A programme of works setting out the recommendations for each of the 102 public park/play park locations has been identified. The first five years of the strategy has a projected spend of £250,000 per annum, a total cost of £1,125,000. The Rural Development Programme (RDP) will contribute an additional £1,004,339 of funding during the first two years of the strategy across 19 sites that will provide for new facilities and enhancement to existing parks and play areas. A combined projected strategy expenditure of £2,129,339 has been identified for Parks and Play projects across Mid Ulster District Council to the end of 2022. This programme aims to enhance the public park and play provision across Mid Ulster, tailoring the provision to the needs of the community in each DEA. However due to the volume of locations, it is suggested that the Strategy is revisited within the third year to assess progress and review progress and outstanding works to be completed in the remaining 2 years. This Public Parks and Play Strategy for the Mid Ulster Council area sets out a strategic framework for the next 5 years in order to help reposition the parks and play provision within the Council. It will help improve co-ordination, collaboration, capacity and the Councils' capability to meet the current and future challenges in a way that maximises opportunities, benefits, investment and resources. In addition, it will help consolidate into one joined up Plan previous pieces of work undertaken by the legacy Councils.
4.0	**Other Considerations**
4.1	**Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications**
	Financial: Parks and Play Five Year Strategic Plan will require council resourcing for the period of the programme at £250,000 per annum for five years equating to £1,125,000 (excluding external funding streams). The Parks and Play Strategy may be subject to variables associated to opportunities of external funding that may enhance the delivery objectives over the life of the strategy.
	Human: Current staff structure sufficient to deliver on Parks and Play Strategic Plan

	Risk Management: The strategic plan will be managed and monitored by the Parks Services in line with Council's risk management governance procedures
4.2	**Screening & Impact Assessments**
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: An extensive process of consultation was carried out with individual Council Officers, Council elected members, national governing bodies of sport (NGBs), public and statutory agencies, children's day-care providers, youth centres, community associations and groups, sporting clubs and the general public.
	Rural Needs Implications: In line with the Mid Ulster Council Community Plan, one the 15 outcomes is to 'give our children and young people the best chance in life'[1]. Within this Strategy, it is the aim of Council to address this deficiency and ensure citizens of all abilities are adequately provided for across rural and urban areas
5.0	**Recommendation(s)**
5.1	Members are asked to approve the Parks and Play Five Year Strategic Plan and recommend to the Policy and Resources Committee that Capital funding of £250,000 per annum be released to fund the proposed programme of work.
6.0	**Documents Attached & References**
6.1	Appendix 1 - Parks and Play Five Year Strategic Plan

PUBLIC PARKS AND PLAY FIVE YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

2019 - 2024

September 2018

Produced by Outdoor Recreation NI

on behalf of Mid Ulster District Council

CONTENTS

TABLE OF FIGURES

ACRONYMS

CP	Changing Places
DEA	District Electoral Area
DEARA	Department of Environment, Agriculture and Rural Affairs
DCAL	Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure
DRD	Department of Regional Development
FSNI	Forest Service NI
GIS	Geographic Information System
LPS	Land & Property Services
LAP	Local Area for Play
LEAP	Locally Equipped Area for Play
MUGA	Multi-Use Games Area
MUSA	Mid Ulster Sports Arena
ORAP	Outdoor Recreation Action Plan
ORNI	Outdoor Recreation NI
RDP	Rural Development Programme

FOREWORD

This report aims to provide a full list of all public park and play within Mid Ulster and every endeavour has been taken to ensure accuracy in mapping.

The results recorded are based on the information received through Council and consultation with various organisations and local groups - sincere thanks and appreciation to all who contributed.

This report and associated recommendations provides a comprehensive picture of the status of current public parks and play opportunities for future development in the Mid Ulster District Council (MUDC) area.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Outdoor Recreation NI (ORNI) was commissioned in November 2016 to prepare a Public Park and Play Strategy for Mid Ulster District Council area (MUDC) that will provide direction for the management and development of facilities, programs, infrastructure, resources, and investment over the period 2017-2022 within the Mid Ulster District Council area.

Mid Ulster District Council covers an area of some 1714 km², straddles two counties, running from Swatragh in the north to Fivemiletown in the south and from the Sperrin Mountains in the west to the shores of Lough Neagh in the east. The MUDC area is divided into 7 District Electoral Area (DEA) namely; Carntogher, Clogher Valley, Cookstown, Dungannon, Magherafelt, Moyola and Torrent.

MUDC park estate boasts over 100 public park/play facilities across the Council area ranging from small equipped areas for play, Multi Use Game Areas (MUGAs) to parkland of 70 acres in size. In assessing the park locations, the spatial distribution is an important factor. While a higher concentration of park/play facilities are located in the larger towns, some areas within Council are over provided for while others suffer an obvious lack in provision.

Council are committed to develop public park space, increasing the open and green areas for all members of the community where possible. This Strategy provided an opportunity to review the Council's overall offering with regards the type of provision and also consider the needs of each DEA with regards the distribution of public parks and play.

A number of resources were used to assess the public park and play provision in Mid Ulster:

- Fields In Trust Benchmark Guidelines
- Population data from the 2011 census
- Household pointer data from LPS
- Play Park Quality Inspection Audit
- Community consultation and public survey

Recommendations have been provided for each of the 102 sites in Mid Ulster as well as the open/green space sites that are under Council ownership. In addition, a number of over-arching strategic recommendations have been made for consideration:

- Consultation – It is recommended that Council place consultation with the community at the centre of any proposed future development regards the recommendations for Activity Centres and District Play development as well as those sites considered on the basis of their recommended life span, change of use, enhancement, upgrade, relocation, new park development and woodland play provision. It is felt the proposals for the Activity Centres and District Play should undergo a thorough public consultation process with input from children and young people as well as representation from those with a disability. The establishment of a Steering Group made up of members of the community, Special Education representation as well as relevant agencies would be beneficial and is recommended (including but not limited to Disability Action, MENCAP, RNIB, Guide Dogs NI). In addition, it is felt that a Statistical Disabilities Analysis of children within Northern Ireland and more specifically Mid Ulster would further determine all-ability, facility need.

- Inclusive Play – As highlighted in the Mid Ulster Local Development Plan 2030 **-** Preferred Options Paper (Mid Ulster District Council, November 2016), planning must: "ensure that new open space areas and sporting facilities are convenient and accessible for all sections of society, particularly children, older people and those with disabilities". Should Council embark on the process of developing two Activity Centres, it is recommended that these facilities are designed for the groups in need, with consideration being given to the young and those with disabilities. These all ability facilities will not only provide for the community of Mid Ulster but will also enhance the offering for the visitor. Development of the activity centres would be subject to sourcing funding and projected as a 5year + programme. (Development programmes and time scales may vary subject to available funding streams).

- Public Park Development – With a lack of open/green space in some DEA's (e.g. Cookstown and Moyola), it is suggested that Mid Ulster Council consider developing 14 of its current park sites and its open/green space sites into public parks as well as including a play element in its Forests. Potential new public park sites include: Ballymacombs - Carntogher, Castlehill - Dungannon, Clady - Carntogher, Fairhill - Cookstown, Henderson Park - Torrent, Hunters Park - Moyola, Manor Park - Magherafelt, Mill Park - Moyola, Moykeeran - Moyola, Railway Park - Dungannon, Parkview/Riverside - Moyola, Roundlake - Clogher Valley, Swatragh - Carntogher and Windmill Wood - Dungannon. Council have a £1m development proposal for Railway Park, deliverable within the strategy period subject to funding. Development of Public Parks would be subject to sourcing funding and projected as a 5year + programme. (Development programmes and time scales may vary subject to available funding streams).

- Woodland Play – With a high concentration of woodland and forests across Mid Ulster, it is proposed that a Woodland Play element be developed in some of the key forest sites. This will add value to these locations for the local community and will help support visitor numbers. 8 Small Woodland Play sites and 5 Significant Woodland Play sites have been identified. The 8 Small Woodland Play site identified are: Knockmany Forest, Windmill Wood, Brantry Lough and Forest, Cabin Wood, Inniscarn Forest, Lissan House, Traad Point and Drumcairne Forest. The Significant Woodland Play sites identified include: Derrynoyd Forest, Parkanaur Forest, Pomeroy Forest, Drum Manor Forest and Drumlamph Forest. Development of Woodland Play would be subject to sourcing funding and projected as a 5year + programme. (Development programmes and time scales may vary subject to available funding streams).

- Public Parks and Play Strategy complemented by other Council Strategies – As highlighted above, this Strategy should be considered alongside other relevant Council Strategies including the Outdoor Recreation Strategy, Tourism Strategy and Sports Facility Strategy to ensure the recommendations in each achieve their full potential.

- Harness Community Relationships – The consultation process highlighted that Mid Ulster has strong community involvement with a number of groups developing recreational facilities for their own communities and successfully funding these programmes through relevant grants. One of the 5 themes in the Mid Ulster Council Community Plan is: '*Vibrant and Safe Communities - promote and develop shared space across the area and make more use of existing facilities'.* Therefore, it is recommended that where gaps in provision exist, Council work alongside the community including established community groups and associations as well as local sports clubs and other bodies such as schools and Forest Service.

- Assessments and Audits – While Quality Inspections take place on an annual basis, it is suggested that a Play Value Assessment takes place alongside the forthcoming Quality Audit. Play Value assessments consider the range of play types and the experiences that children derive from the equipment as well as locational and environmental factors and access issues. A Play Value Assessment will be instrumental when determining the enhancements, upgrades and relocations of play sites.

- Risk-Benefit Approach to Play – When considering future play development in Mid Ulster it is suggested that a Risk-Benefit Approach is adapted. The benefits of challenging play are highlighted in the following sections but this is a relatively new way of thinking when developing fixed play. Health and safety considerations in the past have meant that play provision is somewhat lacking in challenging play which offers essential developmental skills. However, Council needs to consider that providing a high standard of play means that children and young people are challenged, whilst minimising unnecessary danger through a common-sense approach.

- Land availability – Land availability is at a premium across Mid Ulster, especially in the DEA of Magherafelt. However, this Strategy acknowledges the lack of provision of open/green space in Magherafelt and it is suggested that Council focus its efforts on investigating possible areas for development and works with other statutory bodies to identify potential sites e.g. Education Authority and Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

- Residential Planning – In line with Council's Preferred Options Paper, it is suggested that Council adopt a strengthened policy approach to ensure that the loss of open space is prevented unless it can be demonstrated that redevelopment would bring substantial community benefit that outweighs the loss of the open space. This strengthened approach takes account of the Regional Development Strategy, SPSS and the Local Development Plan objectives where the relevant criteria are met.

- Manned/Staff provision – Park sites that have a staffing element are proven to suffer reduced levels of anti-social behaviour and vandalism. While not immediate, suggested staff requirements have been correlated as an indicator and should be factored into development projects on a rolling basis. While the development of Activity Centres, District Play and new Public Park proposals are heavily dependent on sourcing external funding streams and are also scheduled beyond the initial five year delivery programme, when the number of these larger facilities increase, staffing levels at designated locations will need to be reviewed.

A programme of works setting out the recommendations for each of the 102 public park/play park locations has been identified. The first five years of the strategy has a projected spend of £250,000 per annum, a total cost of £1,125,000. The Rural Development Programme (RDP) will contribute an additional £1,004,339 of play improvements during the first two years of the strategy. A projected expenditure of £2,129,339 has been identified for projects to the end of 2024. This programme aims to enhance the public park and play provision across Mid Ulster. However due to the volume of locations, it is suggested that the Strategy is revisited within the third year to assess progress and review the outstanding works to be completed in the remaining 2 years.

The Action Plan below should be read in conjunction with Section 8 which provides additional detail on the action for each of the park, play park, forest or open/green space sites.

Development Year 1	DEA	Park Site	Action	Indicative Cost
RDP Funded				
	Clogher Valley	Augher	RDP	£38,103
	Clogher Valley	Ballygawley	RDP	£51,000
	Clogher Valley	Caledon	RDP	£38,103
	Clogher Valley	Eglish	RDP	£17,000
	Clogher Valley	Fivemiletown Fairgreen	RDP	£160,000
	Clogher Valley	Granville	RDP	£38,103
	Dungannon	Killyman	RDP	£38,103
	Moyola	Mill Park Tobermore	RDP	£38,103
	Carntogher	Upperlands	RDP	Play Park £145,000 MUGA £101,000
Upgrades				
	Cookstown	Beechway	Upgrade	£50,000
	Cookstown	Coolnafranky	Upgrade	£50,000
	Cookstown	Drum Manor Forest	Upgrade to provide inclusive play options	£30,000
Maintenance & Enhancements				
	Moyola	Boyne Row	Maintenance/ Enhancement	£25,000
	Moyola	Knockloughrim	Maintenance/ Enhancement	£25,000
	Magherafelt	Northland Moneymore	Maintenance/ Enhancement	£20,000
	Dungannon	Redford	Maintenance/ Enhancement	£25,000
Removal				
	Cookstown	Sperrinview	Removal	Maintenance Budget
	Clogher Valley	Killymaddy	Removal	Maintenance Budget
	Carntogher	Moneyneena	Removal	Maintenance Budget
Total (RDP Funding) +10% Contingency **Overall Total excl RDP**				**£889,515** (£664,515) £25,000 **£250,000**

Development Year 2	DEA	Park Site	Action	Indicative Cost
	Torrent	Annaghmore/ Clonoe	RDP	£38,103
	Carntogher	Ballymacombs	RDP	£38,103
	Dungannon	Ballynakelly	RDP	£18,000
	Cookstown	Berkeley Square, T'hogue	RDP	£38,103
	Torrent	Castlebay, Brocagh	RDP	£38,103
	Clogher Valley	Castlecaulfield	RDP	£17,000
	Cookstown	Churchview, Drumullan	RDP	£38,103
	Torrent	Henderson Park	RDP	£38,103
	Magherafelt	Loup	RDP	£38,103
	Carntogher	Swatragh	RDP	£38,103
Change of Use/Upgrade				
	Torrent	Innishmore	Change of use MUGA to LEAP Subject to funding from Gortgonis Community Hub Development Project	£40,000
Upgrades				
	Dungannon	Railway	Upgrade and relocation. Subject to major match funded project	£150,000
Maintenance & Enhancements				
	Torrent	Lisnahall, Ardtrea	Maintenance/ Enhancement	£25,000
	Torrent	Donaghmore	Maintenance/ Enhancement	£25,000
	Torrent	Brackaville	Maintenance/ Enhancement	£25,000
Total (RDP and Gortgonis Community Funding) +10% Contingency **Overall Total excl RDP and Gortgonis Community Funding)**				**£604,824** (£379,824) £25,000 **£250,000**

Development Year 3	DEA	Park Site	Action	Indicative Cost
Upgrades				
	Clogher Valley	Clogher	Upgrade	£50,000
	Cookstown	Monrush	Upgrade (Phase 1)	£50,000
	Dungannon	Moygashel Jacksonville	Upgrade	£50,000
Maintenance & Enhancements				
	Torrent	Battery Harbour	Maintenance/ Enhancement	£25,000
	Cookstown	Orritor St.	Maintenance/ Enhancement	£25,000
	Torrent	Washingbay	Maintenance/ Enhancement	£25,000
Total +10% Contingency **Overall Total**				**£225,000** £25,000 **£250,000**

Development Year 4	DEA	Park Site	Action	Indicative Cost
Upgrades				
	Dungannon	Moy Curran's Brae	Upgrade	£50,000
	Cookstown	Monrush	Upgrade (Phase 2)	£25,000
Maintenance & Enhancements				
	Dungannon	Milltown	Maintenance/ Enhancement	£25,000
	Cookstown	Conway Close	Maintenance/ Enhancement	£25,000
	Cookstown	Gortalowry	Maintenance/ Enhancement	£25,000
	Cookstown	Killymoon	Maintenance/ Enhancement	£25,000
	Cookstown	Rockdale, Rock	Maintenance/ Enhancement	£25,000
	Clogher Valley	U.S. Grants	Maintenance/ Enhancement	£25,000
Total +10% Contingency **Overall Total**				**£225,000** £25,000 **£250,000**

Development Year 5	DEA	Park Site	Action	Indicative Cost
Upgrades				
	Clogher Valley	Aughnacloy	Upgrade	£50,000
Maintenance & Enhancements				
	Torrent	Beechline, Galbally	Maintenance/ Enhancement	£25,000
	Cookstown	Blackhill	Maintenance/ Enhancement	£25,000
	Carntogher	Clady	Maintenance/ Enhancement	£25,000
	Cookstown	Coagh Park, Coagh	Maintenance/ Enhancement	£25,000
	Cookstown	Rathbeg	Maintenance/ Enhancement	£25,000
	Torrent	Mourneview, Carnan	Maintenance/ Enhancement	£25,000
	Cookstown	Tullywiggan	Maintenance/ Enhancement	£25,000
Total +10% Contingency **Overall Total**				**£225,000** £25,000 **£250,000**

Development 5 Years +	DEA	Park Site	Action	Indicative Cost
Activity Centre Development				
	Magherafelt	Ballyronan Marina	Activity Centre Subject to funding	£250,000
	Dungannon	Dungannon Park	Activity Centre Subject to funding	£250,000
District Play Development				
	Carntogher	Coleraine Road	District Play Subject to funding	£100,000
	Cookstown	Fairhill	District Play Subject to funding	£100,000
	Torrent	Gortgonis	District Play Subject to funding	£100,000
	Magherafelt	Meadowbank (leisure centre)	District Play Subject to funding	£100,000
	Clogher Valley	Roundlake, Fivemiletown	District Play Subject to funding	£100,000
Upgrades				
	Dungannon	Drumcoo Green	Upgrade	£50,000
Maintenance & Enhancements				
	Clogher Valley	Ackinduff	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Maintenance Budget
	Clogher Valley	Ackinduff	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Maintenance Budget
	Dungannon	Ballynakelly	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Maintenance Budget
	Dungannon	Benburb	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Maintenance Budget
	Moyola	Castledawson	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Maintenance Budget
	Carntogher	Clady	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Maintenance Budget
	Carntogher	Culnady	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Maintenance Budget
	Cookstown	Davagh Forest	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Maintenance Budget
	Cookstown	Derrychrin, Ballinderry	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Maintenance Budget
	Dungannon	Dunavon	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Maintenance Budget
	Carntogher	Gleone	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Maintenance Budget
	Carntogher	Gulladuff	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Maintenance Budget
	Moyola	Hunters Park	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Maintenance Budget

	Carntogher	Innishrush	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Maintenance Budget
	Torrent	Killeen	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Maintenance Budget
	Moyola	Kilross	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Maintenance Budget
	Carntogher	Lisnamuck	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Maintenance Budget
	Moyola	Longfield	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Maintenance Budget
	Magherafelt	Lough Fea	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Maintenance Budget
	Dungannon	Meadowbank	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Maintenance Budget
	Magherafelt	Moneymore RC	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Maintenance Budget
	Torrent	Mountcairn Coalisland	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Maintenance Budget
	Torrent	Newmills	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Maintenance Budget
	Cookstown	Orritor	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Maintenance Budget
	Cookstown	Parkview, Pomeroy	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Maintenance Budget
	Carntogher	Tamlaght	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Maintenance Budget
Recommended Lifespan				
	Clogher Valley	Aughnacloy - Coronation Park	Recommended Lifespan	Maintenance Budget
	Dungannon	Ballysaggart	Recommended Lifespan	Maintenance Budget
	Cookstown	Clare	Recommended Lifespan	Maintenance Budget
	Cookstown	Coagh Street	Recommended Lifespan	Maintenance Budget
	Carntogher	Crawfordsburn	Recommended Lifespan	Maintenance Budget
	Dungannon	Gortnasoar	Recommended Lifespan	Maintenance Budget
	Drumcoo	Killymerron	Recommended Lifespan	Maintenance Budget
	Magherafelt	Lindsayville, Ballyronan	Recommended Lifespan	Maintenance Budget
	Dungannon	Moy Oakfield	Recommended Lifespan	Maintenance Budget
	Dungannon	Mullaghmore	Recommended Lifespan	Maintenance Budget

	Cookstown	Ratheen	Recommended Lifespan	Maintenance Budget
	Cookstown	Stewart Avenue	Recommended Lifespan	Maintenance Budget
Relocation				
	Torrent	Ardboe	Relocation	£50,000
Change of Use				
	Dungannon	Northland Village	Change of use	Maintenance Budget
Small Woodland Parks (8)	Clogher Valley	Knockmany Forest	Small Woodland Park (subject to funding)	£25,000
	Clogher Valley	Brantry Lough and Forest	Small Woodland Park (subject to funding)	£25,000
	Dungannon	Windmill Wood	Small Woodland Park (subject to funding)	£25,000
	Moyola	Traad Point	Small Woodland Park (subject to funding)	£25,000
	Cookstown	Cabin Wood	Small Woodland Park (subject to funding)	£25,000
	Magherafelt	Inniscarn Forest	Small Woodland Park (subject to funding)	£25,000
	Magherafelt	Lissan House	Small Woodland Park (subject to funding)	£25,000
	Torrent	Drumcairne Forest	Small Woodland Park (subject to funding)	£25,000
Significant Woodland Parks (5)				
	Moyola	Drumlamph Forest	Significant Woodland Park (subject to funding)	£50,000
	Carntogher	Derrynoyd Forest	Significant Woodland Park (subject to funding)	£50,000
	Clogher Valley	Parkanaur Forest	Significant Woodland Park (subject to funding)	£50,000
	Cookstown	Pomeroy Forest	Significant Woodland Park (subject to funding)	£25,000
	Cookstown	Drum Manor Forest	Significant Woodland Park (subject to funding)	£50,000
New Park Sites (15* O'Neill Play only)				
	Moyola	O'Neill Park*	Park Development Subject to funding (subject to funding)	£50,000
	Magherafelt	Manor Park	Park Development Subject to funding (subject to funding)	£150,000

	Moyola	Mill Park	Park Development Subject to funding	£100,000
	Carntogher	Swatragh	Park Development Subject to funding	£140,000
	Carntogher	Ballymacombs	Park Development Subject to funding	£100,000
	Moyola	Parkview/ Riverside	Park Development Subject to funding	£150,000
	Clogher Valley	Roundlake, Fivemiletown	Park Development (subject to funding)	£100,000
	Carntogher	Clady	Park Development (subject to funding)	£100,000
	Cookstown	Fairhill	Park Development (subject to funding)	£250,000
	Dungannon	Windmill Wood	Park Development (subject to funding)	£150,000
	Dungannon	Castlehill	Park Development (subject to funding)	£150,000
	Moyola	Hunters Park	Park Development (subject to funding)	£125,000
	Moyola	Moykeeran	Park Development (subject to funding)	£100,000
	Dungannon	Railway Park	Park Development (subject to funding)	£100,000
	Torrent	Henderson Park	Park Development (subject to funding)	£50,000
Total				**£3,340,000***

Development programmes and time scales may vary subject available funding streams*

1. BACKGROUND

1.1. Introduction

"Children are disappearing from the outdoors at a rate that would make the top of any conservationist's list of endangered species if they were any other member of the animal kingdom" (Gill, 2005)[1]

In recent years, there has been a cultural shift in our society that has reduced the access and use of outdoors for many children. No longer do children enjoy the same everyday freedom of movement as previous generations.

Adults of the future are becoming increasingly disconnected from green space and the outdoors and are showing symptoms of what has been described as 'nature deficit disorder'. They are losing their physical contact with the outdoors and intimacy with the outdoors is fading.

According to Tim Gill having regular contact with nature and green spaces is part of a balanced diet of childhood experience and if children do not have those experiences then they are not going to thrive to the same degree as if they did.

Contributory factors to children now experiencing less time in the outdoors include increased fear amongst adults in relation to children's safety ('stranger danger'), a loss of greenspace for public access, historical under investment in facilities, reduced parental time for supervision because of work and technological advances leading to an overwhelming prominence of more sedentary indoor activities, such as TV, video and computer games.

According to Play England, it is not uncommon that parents think that taking their kids to the Park is something you do as a treat instead of something you do every day.

This sits against the fact that play has many benefits and includes according to OFMDFM (Play and Implementation Plan)

- positive physical and mental health development
- supporting the development of brain capacity in early years
- supporting a connection with nature and the environment
- supporting broad holistic development incorporating areas such as physical literacy, cognitive skills and creativity
- providing opportunities for children and young people to assess and manage risk for themselves[2]

This Public Parks and Play Strategy for the Mid Ulster Council area sets out a strategic framework for the next 5 years in order to help reposition the parks and play provision within the Council. It will help improve co-ordination, collaboration, capacity and the Councils' capability to meet the current and future challenges in a way that maximises opportunities, benefits, investment and resources.

In addition, it will help consolidate into one joined up Plan previous pieces of work undertaken individually by the legacy Dungannon and South Tyrone, Magherafelt and Cookstown Councils.

---

[1] Children in the Outdoors - A literature review, Dr. Sarah-Anne Muñoz (2009)

[2] Play and Leisure Implementation Plan Narrative, Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister

1.2. Aim

The overall aim of the Strategy is:

- To prepare a Strategy that will provide direction for managing and developing parks and play facilities, programs, infrastructure, resources, and investment over the next 5 year period.
- The Strategic Plan process will assess the status of parks and play within the Council area and plan a future that reflects the Corporate Priorities of the Council and needs of the community.

1.3. Objectives

In order to achieve the aims of the Strategy, the following objectives were addressed:

- Detail and GIS map the nature and extent of public parks and current play provision in Mid Ulster
- Outline relevant context of play against what is happening at a regional and national level
- Conduct consultation exercise with relevant stakeholders including Council elected representatives, Council Officers, local community groups and user groups to identify current usage and aspirations for future development of public parks and play in the MUDC area
- Undertake research into the benefits, trends and best practice in play
- Identify future opportunities and sites for development using supplementary information from the 2011 Census and L&PS
- Produce a 5 year costed Action Plan (2017-2022) outlining proposed plans for development between 2017-2022
- Cost the Action Plan providing cost summary for both capital works and revenue costs and identify potential sources of funding to help deliver the Plan.

2. SCOPE

2.1. Project Area

Mid Ulster District Council covers an area of some 1714 km^2, straddles two counties, running from Swatragh in the north to Fivemiletown in the south and from the Sperrin Mountains in the west to the shores of Lough Neagh in the east.

According to the 2011 Census, the Council serves a population of over 138,590, one third of which live in urban areas. The area's principal towns are Cookstown, Coalisland, Dungannon, Magherafelt and Maghera. Two thirds of its population live in rural areas.

The Mid Ulster Council area is divided into 7 District Electoral Area namely; Carntogher, Clogher Valley, Cookstown, Dungannon, Magherafelt, Moyola, and Torrent.

DEA Name	Estimated Population[3]
Carntogher	16,972
Clogher Valley	19,402
Cookstown	23,049
Dungannon	21,485
Magherafelt	18,000
Torrent	22,240
Moyola	17,442
TOTAL	**138,590**

The estimated overall population of Mid Ulster Local Government District at 30 June 2015 was 147,152 with further growth anticipated by 2025 rising to 164,671[4].

According to the 2011 census, Mid Ulster has a population of 31,952, 0-15 year olds or 23% versus an average of 21% for Northern Ireland for this age band. The estimated overall population of 0-15 from the 2014-based Population Projections for Areas within Northern Ireland was estimated to be 31,225 with the projected youthful population rising slightly to 33,282 by 2025[5]

[3] All usual residents, Northern Ireland Census 2011
[4] Mid Ulster Position Paper One, Population and Growth, September 2014
[5] https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/2014-based-population-projections-areas-within-northern-ireland

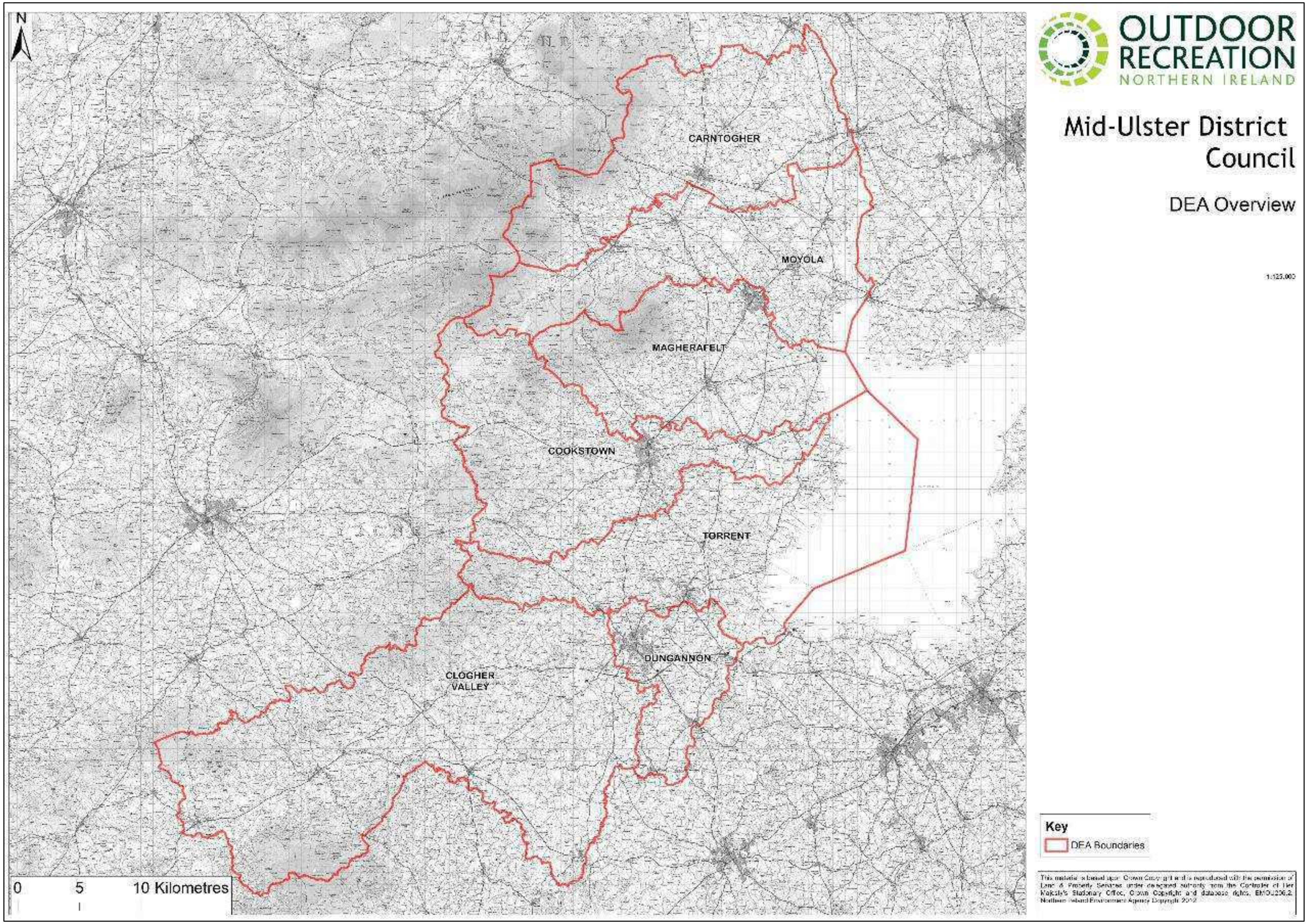


FIGURE 1 MID ULSTER DEA BOUNDARIES

3. CONTEXT

This Public Parks and Play Strategy for Mid Ulster is set in the context of numerous strategic, regional and local plans, strategies and policy statements as well as documents that focus on the benefits, trends and best practice of play and inclusive play:

- Draft Northern Ireland Programme for Government 2016 – 2021
- Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister Our Children and Young People (2006).
- Play and Leisure Policy Statement (OFMDFM, 2008)
- Play and Leisure Implementation Plan (OFMDFM, 2011)
- A Fitter Future for All - Framework for Preventing and Addressing Overweight and Obesity in Northern Ireland (Department of Health, 2012-2022)
- Our Great Outdoors – The Outdoor Recreation Plan for Northern Ireland
- Sports Matters: Strategy for Sport and Physical Recreation 2009 -2019
- Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) Census 2011
- Mid Ulster District Council Corporate Plan 2015-2019
- Tourism Strategy and Action Plan 2016 -2021 for Mid Ulster District Council
- Mid Ulster District Council Community Plan
- Mid Ulster District Council Village Plans
- Mid Ulster Area Preparatory Open Space, Recreation and Leisure Study 2015
- Mid Ulster Forest Recreation Audit 2015
- Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People (NICCY) Play and Leisure Policy Briefing Paper (2010)
- Relevant Research and Publications by Playboard Northern Ireland
- Planning Policy Statement PPS 7 Quality Residential Environments
- Planning Policy Statement PPS8 Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Policy
- Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play – Beyond the Six Acre Standard, FIT (October 2015)
- Children's Play and Leisure – Promoting a balanced approach – Health and Safety Executive 2012
- Best Play – National Playing Fields Association (March 2005)
- Local Development Plan 2030 - Preferred Options Paper, Mid Ulster District Council (November 2016)
- Health and Well-being -Trees, Woodlands and Natural Spaces, Forestry Commission (2003)

Although all the above are important, the following documents are considered of most relevance and are detailed below:

1. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
2. Draft Northern Ireland Programme for Government 2016 – 2021
3. Play and Leisure Policy Statement (OFMDFM, 2008)
4. Play and Leisure Implementation Plan (OFMDFM, 2011)
5. Our Great Outdoors - The Outdoor Recreation Action Plan for Northern Ireland
6. Sport Matters - The Northern Ireland Strategy for Sport and Physical Recreation 2009 – 2019
7. Mid Ulster District Council Corporate Plan 2015 – 2019

8. Mid Ulster District Council Community Plan
9. Mid Ulster District Council Village Plans
10. Tourism Strategy and Action Plan for 2016 – 2021 for Mid Ulster District Council
11. Our Children and Young People – Our Pledge 2016
12. Planning Policy Statement PPS 7 Quality Residential Environments
13. Planning Policy Statement PPS8 Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Policy
14. Best Play – National Playing Fields Association (March 2005)
15. Health and Well-being -Trees, Woodlands and Natural Spaces, Forestry Commission (2003)
16. Play for All – Providing play facilities for disabled children
17. Children's Play and Leisure - Promoting A Balanced Approach, September 2012
18. Managing Risk in Play Provision: Implementation Guide, Play Safety Forum, David Ball, Tim Gill and Bernard Spiegal (2013)
19. Design for Play: A guide to creating successful play spaces, Play England (2008)
20. Playable Space – Quality Assessment Tool, Play England (October 2009)
21. Local Development Plan 2030 - Preferred Options Paper (Mid Ulster District Council, November 2016)
22. A Countryside for health and well-being- the physical and mental health benefits of green exercise (CRN, 2005)
23. Play - A report by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on a Fit and Healthy Childhood (Appg, October 2015)
24. Changing Places: the practical guide, Changing Places Consortium
25. The Value of Public Space – Commission for Architecture

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

The basic principle underlying the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, often referred to as the UNCRC is that children (defined as being 18 years or under) are born with the same fundamental set of rights as all humans, with a number of additional rights due to their vulnerability.

Article 31 of the UNCRC formally recognises the child's right to play and the right to engage in other recreational activities, including participation in cultural activities and the arts. Article 31 states:

1. States Parties recognize the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.

2. States Parties shall respect and promote the right of the child to participate fully in cultural and artistic life and shall encourage the provision of appropriate and equal opportunities for cultural, artistic, recreational and leisure activity.

Draft Northern Ireland Programme for Government 2016 – 2021

The Draft Programme for Government 2016 – 2021 is currently out for public consultation. In due course, the Programme for Government Framework will provide the strategic context for other key Executive strategy documents, including the Investment Strategy, the Economic Strategy and an Anti-Poverty/Social Strategy. The Programme will also inform the development of the Executive's budget over the course of this mandate and provide a mechanism for ensuring limited funds are best directed to where they can contribute most.

The Draft Framework contains 14 strategic outcomes which, taken together, set a clear direction of travel and enable continuous improvement on the essential components of societal wellbeing. They touch on every aspect of government, including the attainment of good health and education, economic success and building confident and peaceful communities. In addition to merely fulfilling statutory obligations, the new Executive hopes to be able to target those things that make real improvements to the quality of life for the citizen.

The strategic outcomes are supported by 42 indicators, which are clear statements for change. The following indicators are of particular relevance to the proposed project:

- Reduce health inequality
- Increase life expectancy
- Improve mental health
- Improve our attractiveness as a destination and improve our international reputation.

Key to the success of the new Programme for Government is the ability of Departments to work collaboratively with not only themselves but also with other public bodies and the voluntary and private sector.

Play and Leisure Policy Statement for NI

OFMDFM's ten year Play and Leisure Policy Statement published in 2009 sets out the NI Executive's commitment towards ensuring 'a happier and healthier future for all children and young people'. The Strategy has its foundations in the UNs Convention on the Rights of the Child which was ratified by the UK Government in December 1991 and which recognised the importance of play and leisure activities for the child

It recognises that play is a 'powerful medium for teaching values to children of all ages' and recognises that good play and leisure opportunities can help improve quality of life and safety in neighbourhoods, tackle obesity, promote children's health and well-being, support children's development and build community cohesion.

It sets out a vision for play as:

To recognise, respect and resource play is to recognise, respect and value childhood'

The Statement also recognises that some vulnerable groups including those in poverty and those with disabilities may need additional support to gain maximum benefit from play.

Play and Leisure Implementation Plan

Consistent with 'Our Children and Young People – Our pledge', OFMDFM's 2011 Play and Leisure Implementation Plan includes the following key principles:

Accessibility – there should be sufficient provision of, and transport to and from places and spaces for play and leisure.

Affordability – costs associated with play and leisure should be affordable.

Flexibility – service providers should be flexible in delivering play and leisure opportunities based on the views of children and young people.

Diversity – through play and leisure there should be access to a range of people, places, spaces, opportunities and experience.

Integration – play and leisure opportunities should support building community cohesion.

Inclusion – irrespective of race, ethnic origin, class, gender, sexual orientation, ability religion or age, all children and young people should have an equal opportunity to be involved in play and leisure.

Quality – all play and leisure activities and places should be fit for purpose and meet quality standards.

Participation – all children and young people have the opportunity to participate actively in decision that may affect their play and leisure.

Our Great Outdoors - The Outdoor Recreation Action Plan for Northern Ireland

This Action Plan published in 2014 was commissioned by Sport NI and Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) with support from the Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB) and the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) Inland Waterways Branch.

The Action Plan highlights the importance of making the outdoors accessible to everyone and the opportunities that there are to participate, not only in rural areas but also in the urban fringes.

The Plan's vision is: "a culture of dynamic, sustainable outdoor recreation in Northern Ireland"

To achieve this vision, the aim is for Northern Ireland to be a place where:

- there are increasing opportunities and improved access and infrastructure for sustained and increased participation for everyone in a broad range of outdoor recreation activities
- there are accompanying benefits to local communities, especially those who are socially excluded in terms of health, social inclusion, cohesion, equality, and economic development; and
- people enjoy the outdoors and show a high degree of responsibility for themselves, towards others and towards the environment they are using, and play their part in maintaining, supporting and enhancing our environment and heritage.

Sport Matters - The Northern Ireland Strategy for Sport and Physical Recreation 2009 – 2019

Whilst Northern Ireland's environment provides conditions of international quality for a range of activities, Sport Matters recognises that not everyone will wish to achieve in performance sport and the Strategy encourages the development and use of open spaces for a variety of informal recreational and outdoor pursuits. Being out in the fresh air enjoying the scenery, whilst taking exercise, is recognised as important elements of Sport Matters. The Strategy acknowledges that the natural environment provides many opportunities for a range of sporting and physical recreation activities but that access issues exist.

In aspiring to the target that "by 2019 Northern Ireland will have developed a range of new, improved and shared sports facilities to a standard comparable with other similar regions of the UK', the Strategy indicates that this will require:

- public access to and sustainable use of, publicly-owned lands across Northern Ireland for sport, physical recreation and activity tourism (2015 target included in the Strategy);
- a planning system which facilitates and protects the provision of spaces for sport and physical recreation by following Planning Policy Statement 8: Open Space Sport and Outdoor Recreation (2019 target included in the Strategy).

Sport Northern Ireland has also approved a position statement regarding access to the natural environment in support of targets set out in the Sport Matters Strategy. The objective is to communicate Sport Northern Ireland's position on the importance it attaches to outdoor recreation through:

- promoting the best possible access to the natural environment for sport and physical recreation within the confines of existing legislation and organisation of the land ownership prevalent in Northern Ireland.
- encouraging and supporting full access for responsible and sustainable recreation on public land through the development of policy frameworks by other public bodies – especially those that are custodians of public land.

Mid Ulster District Council Corporate Plan 2015 – 2019

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

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

1. Delivering for our People
2. Creating Growth
3. Sustaining our Environment
4. Building Unity

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

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

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

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

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

Mid Ulster District Council Community Plan

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

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

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

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

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

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

Economic growth

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

Infrastructure

- secure the transfer of Lough Neagh into public ownership
- progress the reinstatement of the Ulster Canal and its greenway links
- increase the protection of, and access to and development of heritage assets – both natural and man-made including; Seamus Heaney countryside, O'Neill heritage, Lough Neagh, Sperrins, Beaghmore and the area's forests.

Health and Well Being

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

Vibrant and Safe Communities

- promote and develop shared space across the area and make more use of existing facilities.

Mid Ulster District Council Village Plans

46 village plans cover MUDC. Many of these have been updated within the past 12 months. Within many of the individual Village Plans there are specific recommendations relating to the provision of public park and play opportunities. These have been extracted and are highlighted in Appendix 5.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Our Children and Young People – Our Pledge 2016

OFMDFM's 10-year strategy for children and young people published in 2006 sets out 6 high level outcomes namely:

- Healthy
- Enjoying, learning and achieving
- Living in safety and with stability
- Experiencing economics and environmental well being
- Contributing positively to community and society
- Living in a society which respect their rights

Play links directly to these outcomes in the following way:

Healthy: Play, especially outdoors, offers many opportunities for physical activity. Physical inactivity and rising levels of childhood obesity in NI is of major concern. To get the maximum developmental and experiential benefit from their play children need to have access to a rage of play experience and opportunities and be involved in different and distinctive types of play. It is recognised that play also enhances the mental health of children and highlights the importance of children being able to play, take risks and to use their own initiative.

Enjoying, learning and achieving: in early childhood, most of children's learning is acquired through play. It allows children and young people to explore boundaries, test abilities, use initiative, take risk and make mistakes without fear of failure. The Statement states that since the essence of play is about fun, enjoyment and achievement it is important to work to create spaces both in rural areas and in a range of setting where children are enjoying themselves and having fun.

Contributing positively to community and society: facilities used for play are frequently seen as focal points for communities and offer opportunities for real social interaction for children and for the wider community and supports the development of a greater sense of community spirit.

Living in safety and with stability: communities where play is configured to maximise informal contact among neighbours, the streets are safer, children are taken better care of, people are generally happier with their surroundings and there is increased social participation in local activities and reduced risk of crime, graffiti and violence.

Experiencing economic and environmental well-being: people who acquire more skills become more able. Play is recognised as being central to acquiring skills and developing one's ability.

Policy Statement 7 (PPS7) – Quality Residential Environments (2001)

PPS 7 sets out the Department's planning policies for achieving quality in new residential development and advises on the treatment of this issue in development plans. It applies to all residential development proposals with the exception of proposals for single dwelling in the countryside.

It recognises that new residential development can threaten local character and identity and that developments have tended to be designed around the requirements of the private car and often lack adequate provision of open space or landscaping. Consequently, all residential developments are expected to confirm to certain criteria including:

- adequate provision is made for public and private open space and landscaped areas as an integral part of the development.

More specifically it states that integrating pleasant, attractive and landscaped areas of public open space, including children's play spaces, is as an intrinsic element of any new residential development as open space has not open has recreational and social benefits but is also considered vital to the overall design quality of the development. It can help promote biodiversity and contributes to the creation of an attractive, sustainable and varied residential environment, helping to 'green' an area, soften any environmental impact and foster a sense of community.

Policy Statement 8 (PPS8) - Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation (2004)

PPS 8 sets out the Department's planning policies for the protection of open space, the provision of new areas of open space in association with residential development and the use of land for sport and outdoor recreation and advises on the treatment of these issues in development plans. It embodies the Government's commitment to sustainable development, to the promotion of a more active and healthy lifestyle and to the conservation of biodiversity.

Open Space is defined in PPS8, Open Space, Sport and outdoor Recreation as:

> 'all open space of public value, including not just land, but also inland bodies of water such as rivers, canal, lakes and reservoirs which offer important opportunities for sport and outdoor recreation and can also act as a visual amenity'.

Open space, sport and outdoor recreation are important components of life providing many health, cultural, social, economic and environmental benefits. Open space can enhance the character of residential areas, civic buildings, conservation areas and archaeological sites. It can also help to attract business and tourism and thereby contribute to the process of urban regeneration. The use being made of the countryside for a range of sporting and outdoor recreational activities, particularly where these are associated with farm diversification, can contribute to the process of rural regeneration and help promote natural resource tourism.

Consequently, retaining open space, creating new open space and promoting more opportunities to participate in outdoor recreation in the future is of significant importance.

Best Play – National Playing Fields Association (March 2005)

Developed in conjunction with PLAYLINK and the Children's Play Council, Best Play is about how children benefit from play opportunities. It is also about how play services and spaces can provide these benefits, and how they can show that they are providing them. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified by the UK Government in December 1991, recognises the importance of play for the child. Article 31 of the Convention states that:
"States parties recognise the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts. A set of values and principles about children and play, based on the UN Convention and on understandings about play have been created within the document: Children's views, Access to Rich Stimulating Environments, Freedom to Play,
Equal entitlement, Respect for children, Children's abilities, Play for its own sake, The importance of risk, The adult role in play and Adult responsiveness.

Health and Well-being -Trees, Woodlands and Natural Spaces, Forestry Commission (2003)

The relationships between the environment, health, culture and society are the foundation of the study within this document. Outdoor activity in a Forest environment will have an obvious and direct positive effect on health but it is also highlighted that people feel more relaxed when viewing trees and other plants as well as water and therefore has a positive impact on physical well-being. In addition, Woodlands also offer a focal meeting place which forms an important part of local identity. Finally, it is also stated that 'Natural Environments' can introduce an element of physical and mental challenge. A USDA Forest Service Study (2001) also suggested that in areas with trees, children played for longer and were involved in more collaborative play.

Play for all - Providing play facilities for disabled children (http://www.dessa.ie/publications)

Play for All aims to help Family Resource Centres (FRCs), Community Development Projects (CDPs) and other small community-based organisations to ensure that outdoor play facilities associated with their premises and centre-based activities, or any others that they use, are accessible and welcoming to all disabled children living in their local areas. It highlights the importance of play and that all children are entitled to access to play. Consultation is highlighted and that disabled children and their families should be included in the process. Safety and risk need to be managed to ensure the balance of attractive challenging play is coupled with adequate safety measures. Finally, planning and design recommendations are highlighted providing some initial thoughts when planning an inclusive play area.

Children's Play and Leisure - Promoting A Balanced Approach, Health and Safety Executive (2012)

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) fully supports the provision of play for all children in a variety of environments. In this statement, HSE makes clear that, as a regulator, it recognises the benefits of allowing children and young people of all ages and abilities to have challenging play opportunities.
Key message: 'Play is great for children's well-being and development. When planning and providing play opportunities, the goal is not to eliminate risk, but to weigh up the risks and benefits. No child will learn about risk if they are wrapped in cotton wool'. The HSE state that it is important to strike the right balance between protecting children from the most serious risks and allowing them to reap the benefits of play. They state that it is not about eliminating risk but more about sensible adult judgements are all that is generally required to derive the best benefits to children whilst ensuring that they are not exposed to unnecessary risk. This statement also states that industry standards such as EN 1176 offer benchmarks that can help. This statement defines what parents and society should expect from play providers: Key message: 'Those providing play opportunities should focus on controlling the real risks, while securing or increasing the benefits – not on the paperwork'. The HSE supports the Implementation Guide developed by the Play Safety Forum, as a sensible approach to risk management. Indeed, the Statement acknowledges that accidents can happen but this possibility does not mean that play providers should eliminate even the most trivial of risks and provided sensible and proportionate steps have been taken, it is highly unlikely there would be any breach of health and safety law involved, or that it would be in the public interest to bring a prosecution.

Managing Risk in Play Provision: Implementation Guide, Play Safety Forum (2013)

As an independent body, hosted by play England, The Play Safety Forum, formed in 1993, exists to consider and promote the wellbeing of children and young people through ensuring a balance between safety, risk and challenge in respect of play and leisure provision. Children want exciting places to play which in turn are inherently risky, however there is a need to foster positive risk taking which is fundamental to children's health and development. This document acts as a guide for those tasked with the design, maintenance and delivery of play services. The document states that many providers do not use all four levels of the risk benefit management process. Risk management as it is currently practised is likely to include the following activities:

- procurement processes that require designs to be compliant with standards to a lesser or greater extent
- post-installation inspections by competent inspectors (in-house or external)
- annual inspections by competent inspectors (in-house or external)
- more frequent routine inspections by staff or volunteers.

The guide further advises how providers can incorporate their Risk Management procedures into a Risk Benefit Assessment. The risk benefit assessment model is recognised as a practical and common-sense approach in the provision of children's play balancing risk and challenge. 'Risk-benefit assessment focuses on making judgements and identifying measures that manage risks while securing benefits'.

In conclusion, despite increasing concern over health and safety in today's society, it is still acknowledged there is a need for good or managed risk in play which engage and challenge children to supports their growth, learning and development.

Design for Play: A guide to creating successful play spaces, Play England (2008)

This document is primarily aimed at commissioners and designers of children's play areas. The guidance is intended to support good practice in the development and improvement of public play space. Given the reduced opportunity for children to play, this guide is also intended to inform the creation of outdoor play space for years to come. This document states that these areas should be places where children and young people can enjoy spending time, be physically active, interact with their natural surroundings, experience change and continuity, take risks in an environment where they feel safe and, of course, play – alone or with others – in a wide variety of ways.

The key piece of guidance within this document is how to create inspiring places for play, giving children and young people the freedom to play creatively, yet still allow them to experience risk, challenge and excitement. 10 principles for designing successful play spaces are encapsulated in one golden rule 'A successful play space is a place in its own right, specially designed for its location, in such a way as to provide as much play value as possible'.

It aims to show that, with imagination, planning and an understanding of children's needs, it is possible to create and maintain exciting play areas for children and young people of different ages, sometimes by making only small changes to existing provision. It also aims to provide the ideas and the practical resources for building new play areas in a fresher and more inspiring way than is current common practice.

Playable Space – Quality Assessment Tool, Play England (2008)

The benefits of play have been well documented by Play England and how play contributes to children's overall development including teaching vital skills such as planning, negotiating, being creative, not being afraid to take risks and to experiment, having fun and enjoying themselves. The Quality Assessment Tool aims to help providers create the best possible conditions to allow children develop in through play. The aim of the quality assessment is to assess the quality of children's play spaces. It is designed as a tool to help play providers look at the spaces available for children's play, and assess what improvements could be made to enhance the use and quality of those spaces.

The assessment tool focuses on three major aspects to children's outdoor play provision: the location of play areas, the play value and the care and maintenance. The guide offers guidelines for the assessment of the three different types of play space and facility to which all children and young people should have free access in their local neighbourhood – Type A: Doorstep space and facility, Type B: Local space and facility and Type C: Neighbourhood space and facility

This document highlights that location may be the single most important factor in how well children use not only play spaces but also open/green spaces. Young children need a location where they can be seen, older children need a location where they can roam and 'hang out' and children with disabilities or siblings in push chairs need a facility they access with ease.

The importance of play value is described as the different experiences that children derive from play areas such as swinging, sliding and rocking. It is noted that quiet, contemplative play is just as important as physical, boisterous play and that the natural environment provides a wealth of opportunity in this environment.

The importance of care and maintenance is addressed to allow children to play free from unexpected hazards and to ensure other types of risk-benefit analysis are being undertaken.

Finally, the Quality Assessment tool gives consideration to who carries out the assessment, guidelines and definitions for assessing the three different types of play and the score sheet. The score sheet assesses the site including first impressions as well as considering planning decisions. The 'Judgements for planning' section is to be completed at the end of the assessments once scores have been analysed. This section will provide a record of the rationale for the development decisions for each site. The scores (from 1 to 5) are converted into percentage scores to allow for weighting and comparisons between sites and between the location, play value and care and maintenance sections. The aim of the scoring system is to identify which play area and which particular aspects of the play area require improvement.

Local Development Plan 2030 - Preferred Options Paper (Mid Ulster District Council, November 2016)

The Preferred Options Paper (POP) from Mid Ulster Council is the first formal stage in the development of the Council's Local Development Plan. The POP is a consultation document prepared to promote debate and discussion on strategic issues which are likely to influence and shape future development in Mid Ulster.

The Paper has been prepared to inform interested parties and individuals on the matters that may have a direct effect on the area and to set out possible options for development as well as the council's preferred option to address those matters. The paper provides the public and stakeholders with an opportunity to put forward their views and influence the plan from the outset.

The POP proposes strategic guidelines for accommodating growth across Mid Ulster, together with housing allocations and policies. It also explores how the creation of new jobs and prosperity can be facilitated and how our environment can be enhanced and infrastructure improved. It provides a series of maps showing where possible constraints on development could be introduced and indicates directions of growth for the towns.

The Mid Ulster Local Development Plan will share the vision of the Regional Development Strategy;

"An outward-looking, dynamic and liveable Region with a strong sense of its place in the wider world; a Region of opportunity where people enjoy living and working in a healthy environment which enhances the quality of their lives and where diversity is a source of strength rather than division."

The Plan will be tailored in line with Mid Ulster's emerging Community Plan which presents a vision of:

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

To address the vision of the RDS, the emerging Community Plan and the current key issues within Mid Ulster the Local Development Plan will contain a set of objectives to aid the sustainable development of the District:

- Accommodating People and Creating Places
- Creating jobs and promoting prosperity
- Enhancing the environment and improving infrastructure

It is the final objective that aims to address the matter of open space and leisure, ensuring that Mid Ulster is well served in relation to the provision of formal and informal open space and leisure facilities, thus improving the quality of life for its people.

A Countryside for Health and Well-being – The Physical and Mental Health Benefits of Green Exercise (CRN, 2005)

This study focuses on the physical and mental health benefits of green exercise. In an age where green space is at a premium and under pressure from economic development this document indicates that less green nature means reduced mental wellbeing, or at least less opportunity to recover from mental stress.

Substantial evidence links the natural environment with good physical health and psychological wellbeing. The 'Biophilia Hypothesis' states that the desire for contact with nature is partly innate. As physical activity and nature can positively affect wellbeing, the research explores the synergy in adopting physical activities whilst being directly exposed to nature and have named it 'green exercise'.

The study sets out three levels of engagement with nature

- viewing nature - as through a window, or in a painting
- being in the presence of nearby nature - which may be incidental to some other activity, such as walking or cycling to work, reading on a garden seat or talking to friends in a park; and
- active participation and involvement with nature - such as gardening, farming, trekking, camping, cross-country running or horse-riding

As a result of green exercise, there was a significant improvement in self-esteem in nine out of the ten case studies. The largest change was detected amongst those who took part in Woodland Activities.

Play - A report by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on a Fit and Healthy Childhood (Appg, October 2015)

The purpose of the All Party Parliamentary Group is to promote evidence based discussion and produce reports on all aspects of childhood health and wellbeing including obesity; to inform policy decisions and public debate relating to childhood; and to enable communications between interested parties and relevant parliamentarians. The Working Group that produced this report is a sub-group of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on a Fit and Healthy Childhood.

There are a number of recommendations made within this report which are felt to be a reflection of the work required to recognise the importance of play to child development and to create the environment that will reverse the recent trend of reducing play opportunities. Recommendations made are in line with the following:

- the role and responsibilities of government enabling play both in England and the devolved UK and the practice and model of other countries
- play in early years' settings, primary and secondary schools
- outdoor and indoor play; barriers and opportunities
- educational learning through play both pre-school and in-school to include an exploration of the role and place of modern technology in child play in home and school settings
- assistance/guidance for families in facilitating a rich and stimulating play environment for children both within and outside the home
- play and the planning system
- play and the evaluation of risk and safety
- the role of media, advertising and the play industry in the promotion of beneficial children's play
- the training needs of the children's workforce
- health benefits of play; physical health and nutrition, mental and emotional health – and play as therapy for children, how play contributes to the public health agenda
- play, diversity and inclusion

The report concludes with the government strategy for play.

Changing Places: the practical guide, Changing Places Consortium

Drafted by the Changing Places Consortium, this document provides practical guidance on the design and management of a Changing Places (CP) toilet facility. The CP Consortium supports the installation of CP facilities in public buildings and raises awareness of CP facilities across the UK through an interactive map displaying location address, contact details and opening times of accredited CP facilities. Members of the CP Consortium include: PAIMS, Royal Mencap Society, Centre of Accessible Environments, Dumfries and Galloway Council, Nottingham City Council and Scottish Government. CP is supported in Northern Ireland by Mencap.

Section 75 of the Northern Ireland act is most relevant to the provision of CP in Northern Ireland while Public bodies in Northern Ireland must also meet duties under the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA 1995) to promote positive attitudes towards those with disabilities and encourage participation of disabled people in public life. Building regulations and design guidance under Technical Booklet R2012 – Access to and use of buildings, recommends that those with profound and multiple learning difficulties and who need help of up to two assistants, need a facility if that is a combined toilet, shower and changing room.

The guide details planning and design specifications as well as equipment, finance/funding, management and maintenance information, providing a comprehensive guide to ensure those people with disabilities and their families have access to hygienic and dignified toilet and changing provision.

The Value of Public Space: Architecture Commission

CABE Space is part of the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment and was set up in May 2003. It champions excellence in the design and management of parks, streets and squares in towns and cities. CABE Space receives funding from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and support from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport. This report identifies how high-quality parks and public spaces create economic, social and environmental value.

4. METHODOLOGY

Both primary and secondary research techniques were employed during the preparation of the Strategy. Data from previous projects within the area supplemented with further on-line research was used to complement an extensive consultation exercise.

Consultation involved a variety of techniques including email, telephone, face-to-face, online questionnaires and a series of public consultation events. In total, seven public consultation events took place, one in each of the Council's seven District Electoral Areas (DEAs). See Appendix 2 for details of the public consultation events.

Each consultation event was promoted widely through the following channels:

- direct emails to all community groups within the area through Council Community Development Service
- editorial in local newspapers including Derry Post, Mid Ulster Mail, Mid Ulster Observer, Tyrone Courier, Tyrone Herald and Tyrone Times
- websites including Outdoor Recreation NI.com, OutdoorNI.com, WalkNI.com, Rural Community Network.com, CommunityNI.com and Mid Ulster Council consultation page
- direct emails through in-house mailing lists, Rural Community Network and various governing bodies
- Facebook pages including WalkNI and social media channels across Council
- wide circulation of consultation poster which advertised dates, venues and purpose of the events to community groups and youth organisations
- consultation posters printed on corriboard located at public parks and play parks across Mid Ulster

At each of the consultation events a short presentation, given by ORNI, was followed by a breakout session where attendees had the opportunity to report the sites and areas they currently use for play and outdoor recreation and what they would like to see developed in the future.

In total 55 people attended the public consultation events.

Table 1 summarises the different consultation methods used throughout the preparation of the Strategy.

Consultee Category	Consultation Method
Council Officers	Face-to-face meeting Invited to DEA public consultations Senior Management Team (SMT)
Council Elected Member	Invited to DEA public consultations
Governing Bodies of Sport	Face-to-face meeting or telephone interviews (depending on convenience)
Public/Statutory Agencies and Charitable organisations e.g. Sure Start, MENCAP, Disability Action, Guide Dogs NI	Face-to-face meeting (where relevant) Follow-up phone call to discuss (where relevant)
Community Groups	Invited to DEA public consultations Face-to-face meetings (where appropriate)
Youth organisations, afterschool clubs and special schools	Face-to-face meeting (where relevant) Follow-up phone call to discuss (where relevant) Invited to DEA public consultations
General Public	Invited to DEA public consultations

TABLE 1 CONSULTATION METHODS USED DURING THE PREPARATION OF THE STRATEGY.

All data collected was analysed and presented using the spatial mapping tool ArcGIS. The following information was mapped:

- current provision of public parks, play facilities, MUGAs and open/green space parks
- population breakdown of Mid Ulster across the 7 DEAs
- household pointer data of Mid Ulster across the 7 DEAs
- future development opportunities

5. CONSULTATION RESULTS

5.1. Public Meetings

An extensive process of consultation was carried out with individual Council Officers, Council elected members, national governing bodies of sport (NGBs), public and statutory agencies, children's day-care providers, youth centres, community associations and groups, sporting clubs and the general public.

Public Consultation took place within each of the 7 DEAs. A number of recurrent themes became apparent with regards public parks and play provision (please note this is not an exhaustive list but responses gathered have been grouped together into themes which have been reviewed against the wider Mid Ulster Community Plan as well as individual village plans where relevant):

Popular and Well Used Playparks/MUGAs

A number of sites across Mid Ulster were highlighted as having good facilities Fairhill in Cookstown, Monrush MUGA in Cookstown, Gortgonis in Torrent and Hunters Park in Moyola. These are valued sites that are important to the community.

Poor Playpark Provision/Upgrade Required

Some of the smaller playparks were highlighted as inefficient, with poor quality play equipment offering little value to the community. Examples include Coagh Street in Cookstown. In addition, a number of locations were felt that they no longer adequately serviced the community surrounding them including Ballygawley in Clogher Valley.

New Park/Playpark Provision Highlighted

Sandholes in Cookstown, Walled Garden in Maghera and Maghera were highlighted as areas in need of provision. In comparison to other DEAs within the District, Magherafelt and the town of Magherafelt is lacking in play provision.

Inclusive Facilities

The demand and real need for increased inclusive facilities within Mid Ulster was highlighted at a number of the consultations most notably within the Torrent and Magherafelt events. The need for inclusivity includes not only play provision but most importantly adequate changing facilities.

Partnerships

A number of potential partnerships were highlighted across Mid Ulster where the Council and Community Groups/Associations could work alongside one another to create open/green space for community use and/or play e.g. Workspace, GAA and other sporting clubs.

Neutral Venues

It was felt that where any new play or open/green space provision is to be developed that consideration should be given to neutral sites to cater for both sides of the community to improve community cohesion.

Maintenance/Ancillary Items/Vandalism

Overall it was felt that public parks and parks within Mid Ulster require continued maintenance as well as improved signage with regards opening hours and dog policy for example.

Opportunities for Play at Forest Locations

A number of forest sites were raised at consultation because they are popular for outdoor recreation and it was felt they could be further enhanced by introducing an element of play provision. It was felt that this enhanced offering would better serve the local community and visitors alike providing an improved visitor experience. Locations highlighted included Knockmany Forest, Brantry Forest Parkanaur Forest and Drumlamph Forest (in conjunction with the Development Association).

Increased Promotion

Despite there being over one hundred public parks/play parks and open/green spaces in Mid Ulster, it was felt there was a lack of awareness and the locations and associated facilities could be better promoted.

Consultation

Parks are important to communities especially in Mid Ulster, therefore it was highlighted that the community would require further consultation with regards proposed recommendations including new developments, change of use or sites based on their recommended life span.

5.2. Public Survey

Working closely with Mid Ulster Council, a public survey was developed in order to assess current provision of public parks and play in Mid Ulster and what future provision should address in order to meet the needs of the various communities across the Council area.

Drafted using Survey Monkey the survey was live from January to February 2016, with the average survey taking between 10-12 minutes. The survey link was promoted in press, online via Council and Outdoor Recreation NI websites as well as WalkNI and OutdoorNI. The link also featured in online articles on Community NI and the Rural Community Network websites. Social media was also a key tool in promoting the survey with posts on Council and Outdoor Recreation NI Facebook pages. The survey link also featured on temporary Council signage which publicised the Public Consultation events. Finally, a number of community and youth groups as well as day care, after school groups and special schools were also contacted by telephone to drive traffic towards the survey site.

Despite a concentrated effort to increase participation, a total of 141 responses were received. While not statistically robust to provide in depth analysis, the results gathered provide supplementary data which has supported the overall analysis of current and future play provision in Mid Ulster. In addition, the verbatim responses collected are felt to be invaluable with detailed replies to open ended questions in which respondents were honest and open about the issues within their local public parks, play facilities and open/green spaces.

Please note, in line with best practice, responses with a base of less than 30 should not be used for statistical analysis purposes. However, when filtering within questions, several low base responses exist therefore for the purposes on this survey, bases less than 10 will not be reported on. As such, the survey should be treated as supplementary in nature. The full survey and results can be viewed within Appendix 4 of this document.

Current Usage – Park visited most often (Q1 – Q12 Base: 99 – 141)

The majority of respondents reside in Upperlands (14%) and Magherafelt (12%) - subsequently these are two areas within Mid Ulster that fall behind in terms of current public park and play provision when compared to the other 5 DEAs. It is encouraging to note that overall usage is high, with over 90% of respondents (129) using public parks/play parks in Mid Ulster. Dungannon Park and Meadowbank Magherafelt were cited as the parks used most often (14 respondents or 12% for each). When asked about the play park they use most often, respondents naturally visit these parks with children or other family (84%) with 1 in 4 going a few times per week. With regards location, it is interesting to note that while over 30% live less than 1 mile away from their nearest play park, nearly 70% travel to the play park they use most often by car. Nearly 60% of respondents visit these parks to ‘get the children outdoors for half an hour’ versus 12% of those who use them for ‘a fun day out with the family’. When respondents were asked what they do at the public park/play park they visit most often, almost three quarters of respondents make use of the play park facilities, with walking being the next most popular activity (40%).

Respondents were asked to rate their satisfaction on a scale of 1-5 about the play provision, visitor facilities as well as other ancillary items at the park they visited most often as well as how important these factors are to them. Council are failing to meet current expectations with regards performance on the things that matter most to the community with regards parks and open/green spaces namely the provision of play equipment, provision of inclusive play equipment, accessible paths for those with limited mobility and a sense of feeling safe.

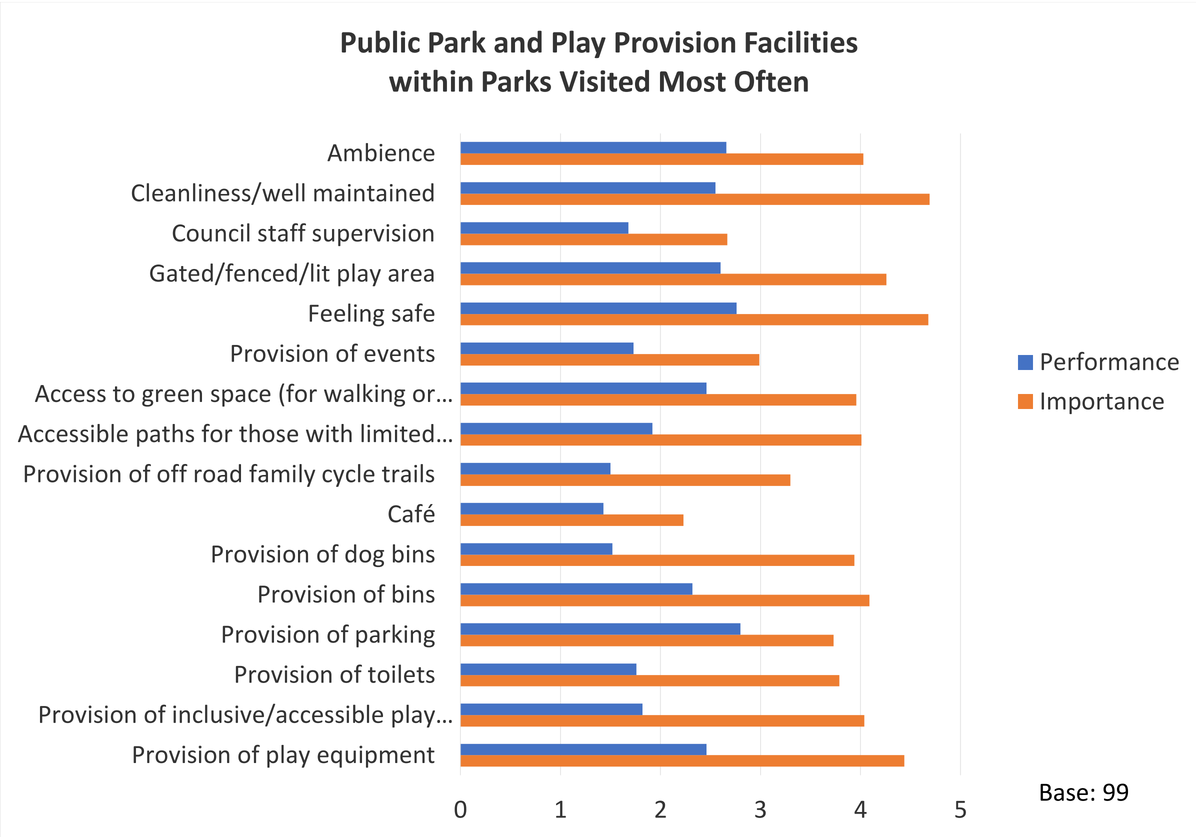


CHART 1 PUBLIC PARK AND PLAY PROVISION FACILITIES WITHIN PARKS VISITED MOST OFTEN

Current Usage – Favourite Park (Q13 – Q21 Base: 78-90)

Respondents were then asked about their favourite park with over 20% (21 respondents) stating Meadow Bank in Magherafelt, Dungannon Park was the next most popular park, 13% (12 respondents).

Respondents tend to visit their favourite park less often with 28% visiting a few times per month compared to a few times/week (20%). Again, family members and children are the groups most likely to accompany respondents to parks (86%). What is interesting to note is that respondents appear to be prepared to travel further to their favourite park with the majority of over 30% travelling 11 miles+ to spend time at this location, with 90% using a car to get there. 35% (31 people) stated that their main reason for visiting their favourite park was to 'have a fun day out with the family'. This is compared to only 12% (14 respondents) who stated this same reason for the park they visited most often. When comparing the responses on favourite parks with parks visited most often, the numbers remain consistent with regards making use of the play facilities (75%) and walking (41%) as what people do when they go to parks in Mid Ulster. With regards rating the performance of their favourite park, these locations performed slightly better than the parks visited most often with the importance of play provision, visitor facilities and other ancillary items at their favourite park being on a par with the responses provided for the parks visited most often. Therefore, while the gaps in performance and importance are reduced for parks cited at respondent's favourite parks, these are areas which Council need to address to ensure that they continue to provide a high-quality product with regards their public parks and play provision.

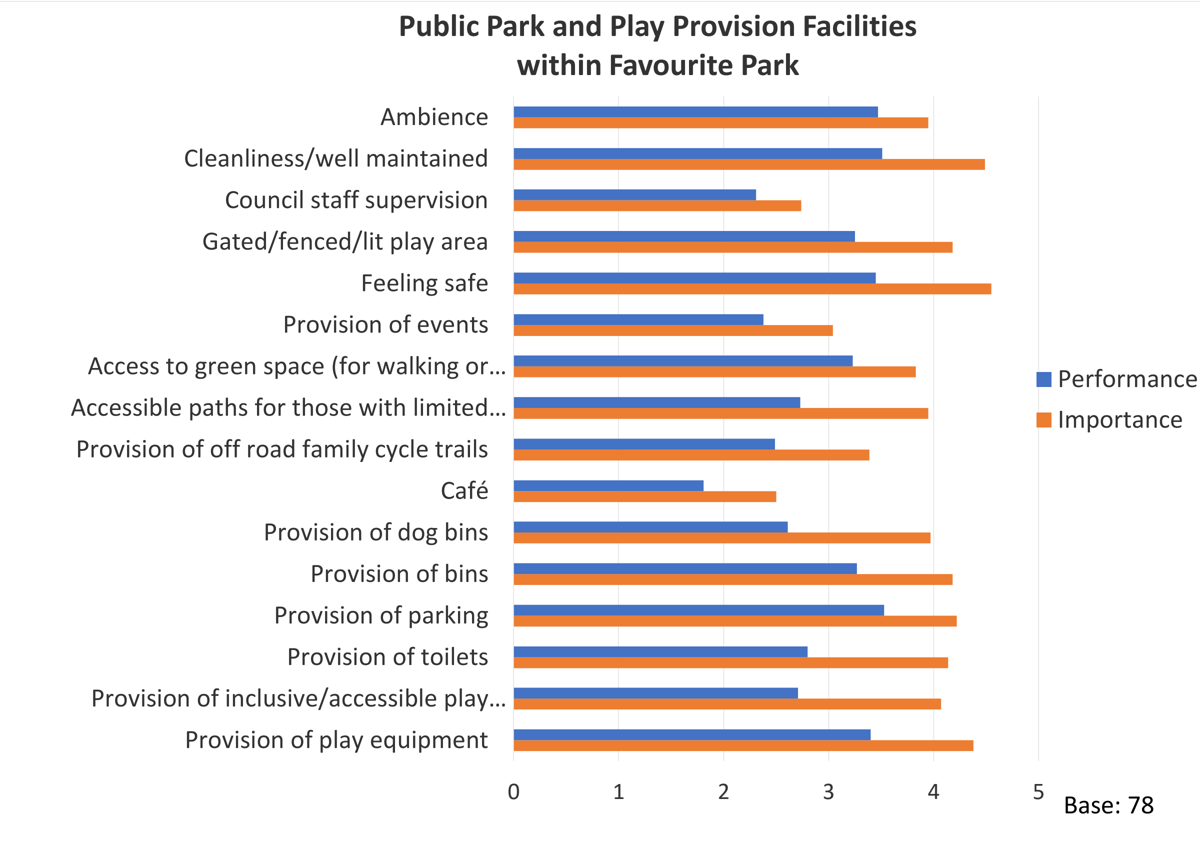


CHART 2 PUBLIC PARK AND PLAY PROVISION FACILITIES WITHIN FAVOURITE PARK

Public Park and Play provision in Northern Ireland (Q22 – Q25 Base: 76)

Having assessed the current provision in Mid Ulster, respondents were asked about what other public parks and play provision they used outside the Council area. The majority of respondents (38%) cited Castle Gardens in Antrim as a venue they have visited in the last 12 months. The Peoples Park, Ballymena (30%), Carnfunnock Country Park, Larne (25%) Slieve Gullion, Newry (17%) and Loughgall Country Park (14%) were also parks outside the Council district visited in the last 12 months. Family and children are the group most likely to accompany respondents to these public parks/play parks with it providing 'a day out for all the family' as the most popular reason for visiting these locations (28%). 23% of respondents felt it provided 'somewhere different to go' while 20% felt these locations offered a 'good range of play facilities for all ages'. Remaining largely consistent with the reason for visiting parks in Mid Ulster, the majority of respondents made use of the play facilities (70%) as well as walking (60%) with 37% having a picnic and thus spending more time at these locations.

With Meadow Bank and Dungannon Park later affirmed as respondents' favourite parks (23% and 16% respectively), children aged 0-4 use these facilities most (42%), followed 33% of those aged 5-8 years with 24% of children aged 9-12 years using the facilities at these locations. When asked to rate the performance of the play provision, ancillary items and other outdoor recreation offering, the provision of 'play equipment' and 'feeling safe' and basic facilities such as toilet provision were felt to be most important and are areas where Council fails to perform.

An opened ended question was asked so that respondents could provide full and open answers on how their favourite play park could be improved. These verbatim responses have been grouped into the below themes. They do not exclusively refer to Meadow Bank and Dungannon Park but all mentions of respondents' favourite park at Q26

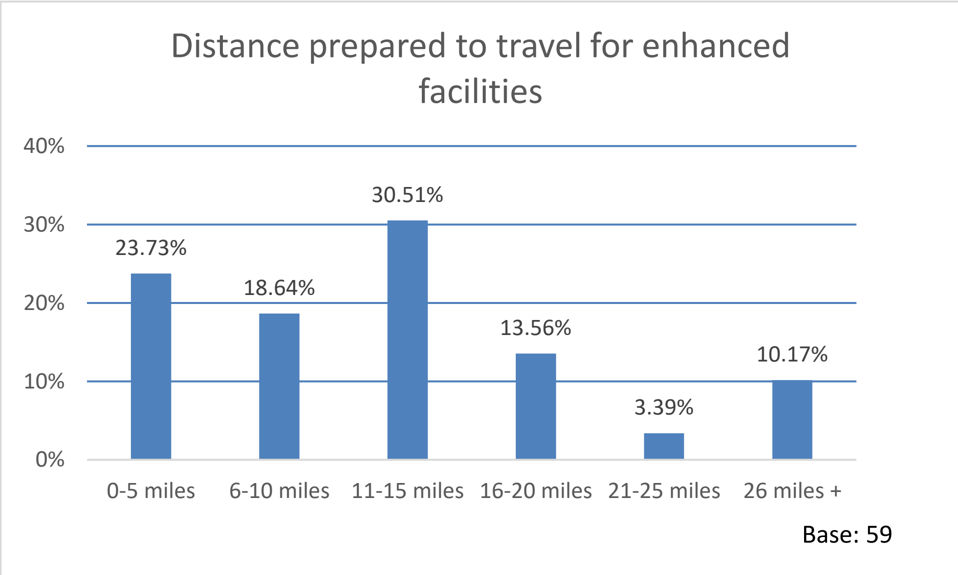
Response Themes	Additional Detail
No improvement to be made (10)	*I don't think it needs to be improved however better provision in smaller villages would be better*
Add walking routes (7)	*I would love a park with mix of play equipment, green space and shared walking/cycling paths nearer my home in Maghera*
Improve equipment/ Improve quality and materials (6)	*More play facilities. Play area fenced in. Seats for adults when children playing*
Add parks across the district (5)	*We need more than one park in Magherafelt. We need adventure type parks made with wood and rope etc. not all metal. The park is closed on bank holidays and at other times when we would be likely to use it*
Extend the park / add another (4)	*How about planning on putting a park onsite please? There are 2 useable swings for older children… personally I think it's a disgrace what the children in and around Caledon have! As a mum of quite a large family of a big age range, I know my kids, as are other children from the 3 schools in Caledon are missing out!*
Have play options for all ages (4)	*Cycling routes, toilets, changing rooms, events better equipment, more for older children*

Improved facilities for those with a disability (3)	*It's a disgrace that Drum Manor play park is not meeting the needs of disabled children in this community*
Improve lighting provision (3)	*Park is not lit at night which could limit potential use in evening for at least 4months of the year*
Add seating for parents/guardians (3)	*More seats and modern equipment*
Add a picnic area (3)	*Tables for picnic*
Deal with sectarian/hostile atmosphere (2)	*It is quite good I think improvements need to be focused and made instead to parks that aren't good in the likes of the smaller villages like Upperlands*
Improve drainage (2)	*Dungannon Park - the grass gets very muddy between the play spaces. There are a few very steep/sudden steps off the soft areas that could hurt someone (esp. if you're standing watching you could tumble off - at the edge of the large climbing frame especially). There also is a lack of facilities for children between toddlers and those 6/7+ who can use the larger equipment*
Additional car parking (2)	*Better parking. Kids can run out straight to carpark which is very busy*
Add cycling trails (2)	*More challenging equipment for age 10 plus. E.g. Sandwell play park in West Bromwich, Lake Windermere play park. There is no green space, cycle paths areas to walk, picnic tables. No opportunity for a day out in the area - apart from the local cemetery. No thanks*
Fence in play area (1)	*More play facilities. Play area fenced in. Seats for adults when children playing*
Clamp down on anti-social behaviour (1)	*Moneymore main park needs to protected more between anti-social behaviour in cars to children trying to cross what is an extremely dangerous fast road and the park being locked it is not an accessible place to let the children go to*

TABLE 2 RESPONSE THEMES AND VERBATIM RESPONSES

Respondents were asked what other Outdoor Recreation facilities they would like to see at their local public park/play park in Mid Ulster. This was a multiple-choice question where respondents had the option of choosing more than one answer. Nature play (*the provision of a play opportunity using something from the natural environment rather than a purpose-built piece of equipment. For example, the use of a tree trunk as a climbing frame or balance beam. The piece is usually modified to provide safer access*) as an alternative play facility was chosen by 66% (39) respondents followed by 'Improved play facilities' (57%), walking trails (56%) and the provision of Wild Play opportunities (*opportunistic play with the visitor using something they would expect to encounter in the environment e.g. climb a tree*) and a 'Play Hub' (*substantial, equipped play resource catering for all age groups and abilities on a single site within a designated catchment area*) 46% (27). These results prove there is an appetite for alternative and improved play facilities in Mid Ulster. Other recreational provision was also highlighted including Park Run 29% (17), bike trails/pump track 27% (16) and Park Walk 5k, 19%

(11). When asked how far they would travel for the aforementioned facilities, the majority of respondents, 30% (18 responses) stated they would travel 11-15 miles, proving that people would be prepared to travel for enhanced provision.



Further comments or observations regards the future development of outdoor recreation and parks and play provision in Mid Ulster (Q34 - base 59)

Finally, respondents gave their comments and observations which they felt were important to the future development of outdoor recreation and public parks and play provision in Mid Ulster. A number of detailed responses were given and these have been grouped into the themes below. However, it is worth noting that a number of detailed responses were received from those residing in Upperlands. This community feel that the play provision was most definitely deficient in this area and that the existing play is not open to all.

In addition, detailed responses were also provided with regards reinstating play provision at Ballymacombs Road to the park once located at Glenone Park. It was felt that as the only green space in the village of Glenone that more should be done with the space to serve the growing and young community.

Response Themes	Additional Detail
Upgrade facilities (12)	*We NEED a playpark for our children in Caledon! There are 2 useable swings (which can only be used by older children), what is there has been there for over 30 years! We need something for our children!!*
Multi-Use Trails (8)	*More areas for walking / cycling (kids) in Magherafelt*
Upperlands (8)	*Our nearest park is Upperlands and it is in one of the housing estates which I don't think is fair to those who don't live in that estate, we need a larger fit for purpose park that all people around*

	the village and outside of the village can comfortably use. We have to travel quite a distance to allow our children to use good standard and variety park facilities like Meadowbank and would like to see that our Council can now focus and invest in the more rural parks outside of the council area to improve them and make them fit for purpose for all the local children
Local Provision/Rural Needs (7)	*A play park for Sandholes village*
Open/Green Space (5)	*'Open space' parks are needed for walking/ running/picnics etc. in each locality*
Anti-Social Behaviour/Safety (3)	*Play areas should be enclosed for safety*
Outdoor Recreation (3)	*Look at options around water for water sports etc.*
Basic Services (2)	*Please improve the basic facilities at Knockmany Forest Park to that we continue to safely use them as a running group and as a family with young children.*
Inclusive Play (2)	*These areas need to be able to meet the diverse needs of all children and family and include play equipment for children with special needs*
Challenging Play (1)	*Kids need to be challenged and not wrapped in cotton wool. They need to learn to assess and manage risk at an early age*
Events (1)	*Events at weekends as we are always trying to go somewhere to entertain our children*
Health (1)	*Encouraging children to be active in the environment is critical to protecting our environment and our children health*
Magherafelt (play provision) (1)	*We need more than one park in Magherafelt. We need a park that is not located as an afterthought within a car park. We need other facilities around the park. We need equipment created from natural resources such as wood and rope in an adventure playground style, not metal equipment. We need a facility that is open on bank holidays and at other times when we would like to use it, not closed because council staff are off.*
Miscellaneous (5)	-

Demographics – (Q35 – Q42 - base 68)

The majority of respondents fell into the 36-45 age bracket (44%) with more females taking part in the survey (64%). 49% of those who took part work full time i.e. more than 30hrs per week with 22% of respondents holding part-time positions. 26% earn between £21,000 and £30,000 with 29% earning between £31,000 - £50,000. More people have children under 4 years of age than any other age group (64%). This may indicate that any future recommendations made within this Strategy, will therefore benefit the youthful population of Mid Ulster as they grow. 6 respondents declared their children have a disability with special needs ranging from physical, sight, learning and mental health.

6. PLAY: DEFINITION, BEST PRACTICE, TRENDS AND BENEFITS

6.1. Play Defined

The most commonly accepted definition of play is:

'Freely chosen, personally directed, and intrinsically motivated behaviour that actively engages the child. It can be fun or serious – by playing children learn and develop as individuals and as members of the community' (Hughes, B. and King, F. 1984)[6]

Through play, children explore the world around them and make meaning of it for their own lives. When children are given the freedom to follow their own ideas and interest, in their own way and for their own reasons play can become a hugely powerful tool. (OFMDFM, 2006)

Health and safety laws and regulations are sometimes presented as a reason why certain play and leisure activities undertaken by children and young people should be discouraged. The reasons for this misgiving are many and varied and include fears of litigation or criminal prosecution because even the most trivial risk has not been removed.

The HSE however recognises the benefits of allowing challenging play opportunities and understands and accepts that this means children will often be exposed to play environments which whilst well-managed carry a degree of risk and sometimes potential danger. It states that providers' goals 'should not be to eliminate risk, but to weigh up the risks and benefits as no child will learn about risk is they are wrapped in cotton wool'[7].

The Visitor Safety in the Countryside Group taking on board the principles of the Health and Safety Executive have defined play into Formal, Nature or Adventure

Formal Play or fixed play, uses manufactured items bought from a supplier. These have been purpose designed and built as play pieces. The design will have dealt with many of the inherent risks and they are often supplied with a certificate of conformity.

Nature Play is the provision of play opportunity within a structured play area using something from the natural environment rather than a purpose-built piece of equipment. For example, the use of a tree truck as a climbing frame or balance beam. The piece is usually modified to provide safer access. Branches may be trimmed to avoid traps or limit heights. Sometimes formal play and nature play are found together on the same site.

Wild Play is opportunistic play with the visitor using something they would expect to encounter in the environment. There is no planned intention for play to be part of the management of such a feature. There may, however, be wider encouragement for this type of play through national or local campaigns e.g. The National trust's 50 Things to do before you're 11 ¾ campaign that aims to promote nature and outdoor play as a fund part of a healthy happy and enjoyable family life. The first thing to do on the list is to climb a tree.

Although not strictly true, formal play is more often associated with urban based play whilst nature and wild play are more commonly found in more rural settings e.g. forest and country parks.

---

[6] What Play Provision Should Do for Children, National Playing Fields Association, March 2000.
[7] Children's Play and Leisure - Promoting A Balanced Approach, September 2012.

6.2. Best Practice - Play

6.2.1.Determining Fixed Play Sites

Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 (the Act) requires public authorities designated for the purposes of the Act to comply with two statutory duties. The first duty is the Equality of Opportunity duty, which requires public authorities in carrying out their functions relating to Northern Ireland to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity between the nine equality categories of persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation; men and women generally; persons with a disability and persons without; and persons with dependants and persons without.[8]

Under Section 75 Mid Ulster Council have a duty to promote equality of opportunity for all persons in relation to employment or in accessing goods, facilities or services (such as health services, housing, education, justice, policing). With regards open space and equipped play areas, this duty must however be considered alongside assessing the need for fixed play provision and adopting the accessibility benchmarking as detailed by Fields In Trust. Once known as the Six Acre Standard, these are recognised guidelines which help determine the locations of fixed play sites based on walking time (radial distances) from the home. They outline 3 types of play spaces:

Nature of play facility	Walking Time	Pedestrian Route	Straight Line Distance
LAP	1 minute	100 metres	60 metres
LEAP	5 minutes	400 metres	240 metres
NEAP	15 minutes	1000 metres	600 metres

TABLE 3 WALKING TIME AND STRAIGHT LINE DISTANCES FROM THE HOME TO FIXED PLAY PROVISION

The revised 2015 guidance no longer differentiates between rural and urban areas but it is recommended that these guidelines should be used to assist planning while taking account of local circumstances. In addition, the above types of place spaces can also be complemented by other facilities including Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGAs) and skateboard parks etc[9]

6.2.2. Designing Fixed Play and Play Value

While there are unique considerations when designing a fixed play space such as availability of land or size and nature of play sites there are a number of key elements that should be considered when developing an inspiring play space.

Within the Play England document 'Design for Play: A guide to creating successful play places', it is stated that play space needs to be of high quality and good design to attract children and families and become a valued part of the local environment. Poor quality, unimaginative space will not be attractive to children, will not be valued by the local community and will fall in to disuse and disrepair.[10]

[8] Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 - A Guide for Public Authorities (April 2010)
[9] Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play – Beyond the Six Acre Standard
[10] Design for Play: A guide to creating successful play spaces, Play England (2008)

Furthermore, Play England have identified 10 key principles for developing successful play spaces

Successful play spaces…

1. Are ‘bespoke’
2. Are well located
3. make use of natural elements
4. provide a wide range of play experiences
5. are accessible to both disabled and non-disabled children
6. meet community needs
7. allow children of different ages to play together
8. build in opportunities to experience risk and challenge
9. are sustainable and appropriately maintained
10. allow for change and evolution

In addition, Play England state that the ‘golden rule’ in designing play is a play space that is specifically designed for its location, in such a way to provide as much play value as possible. Within Play England’s document ‘Playable Space – Quality Assessment Tool’[11] the importance of location is highlighted as well as the play value and care and maintenance. Play value essentially assesses the play experiences derived from a play area, such as rocking, swinging and sliding. Play England note that this is particularly important for children with disabilities. The surrounding environment also contributes to play value with the natural environment offering varied and alternative ways in which children can play. Finally, risk is also acknowledged, allowing children to test their boundaries and challenge themselves.

The document covers how play value assessments should be carried out for three main types of play areas, those that are on the doorstep, local space and facilities and finally neighbourhood space and facilities. Play England state the guidelines and definitions for assessing the 3 types of play space are neither fully comprehensive nor definitive and are provided more so to provoke thought and discussion taking into account local surroundings and the wishes and needs of local children.

Each site is assessed using a score sheet where scores from 1-5 which are converted into a percentage for weighting purposes and to allow comparisons to be made between location, play value and care and maintenance sections. The scoring system aims to identify which play areas and which aspects of play need improving reviewing design and layout of a play area. In addition, the local authority can set their own benchmark of what constitutes ‘good quality’. Furthermore, the scores calculated will also provide data for supporting planning decisions.

It should be noted that while the Play England Quality Assessment tool can be implemented in-house, there are a number of local independent providers who can be employed to carry out a play value assessment.

In addition to designing inspiring play spaces, Best Play - What Play Provision should do for Children[12] have set out seven play objectives that should be met when developing good play opportunities. They form the basis against which play provision can be evaluated.

[11] Playable Space – Quality Assessment Tool, Play England (October 2009)
[12] Best Play – What Play Provision should do for Children, National Playing Fields Association (March 2005)

1. The provision extends the choice and control that children have over their play, the freedom they enjoy and the satisfaction they gain from it.

2. The provision recognises the child's need to test boundaries and responds positively to that need.

3. The provision manages the balance between the need to offer risk and the need to keep children safe from harm.

4. The provision maximises the range of play opportunities.

5. The provision fosters independence and self-esteem.

6. The provision fosters children's respect for others and offers opportunities for social interaction.

7. The provision fosters the child's well-being, healthy growth and development, knowledge and understanding, creativity and capacity to learn.

6.2.3.Risk and Challenge

Children's play has long been understood to not only have a key role in their wellbeing but also in the development of their future life skills. When children play, not only are they experiencing a sense of adventure, they are making decisions. They assess and determine the levels of risk they want to take, physically, emotionally and socially thus adding to their experience. They test their abilities and challenge themselves, they grow in confidence, becoming aware of their limits and boundaries and in turn develop a better understanding of the meaning of safety. However, in today's society with modern worries, the freedom to build these skills can be curtailed. Parental or carer anxiety may prevent children from taking part in risky or challenging play and likewise the Health and Safety Executive feel that Health and safety laws and regulations are sometimes presented as a reason why certain play and leisure activities undertaken by children and young people should be discouraged. The reasons for this misunderstanding are many and varied. They include fears of litigation or criminal prosecution because even the most trivial risk has not been removed[13.] However even governing bodies acknowledge the need for a balanced approach of offering challenge and risk through play but minimising unnecessary danger. Indeed, the Play Safety Forum offers providers a guide on how to manage risk in play provision through a 'Risk – Benefit approach' which includes:

- developing a policy framework
- risk-benefit assessment
- technical inspection
- dynamic risk – benefit assessment [14].

The HSE states that the approach in this guidance is that risks and benefits are considered alongside each other in a risk-benefit assessment. This includes an assessment of the risks which, while taking account the benefits of the activity, ensures that any precautions are practicable and proportionate and reflect the level of risk. The HSE supports this guidance, as a sensible approach to risk management.

It is also worth noting that while there is no specific legislation on play safety in the UK, there are agreed Europe-wide industry standards which should be considered when carrying out a risk assessments. Standards are important tools in managing risks and give guidance on difficult issues but within 'Managing Risk in Play Provision', it is felt the importance of developmental role of play must be upheld.

---

[13] Children's Play and Leisure - Promoting A Balanced Approach, September 2012

[14] Managing Risk in Play Provision: Implementation Guide, David Ball, Tim Gill and Bernard Spiegal (2013)

6.3. Trends - Play

6.3.1.Older Children/ Teenagers

The benefits of outdoor play have been recognised throughout various research findings including improved physical and emotional development as well as cognitive benefits of reduced levels of anxiety and depression. However, research studies often focus on 'children' as play areas are typically designed for those under 12 years but for older children and teenagers, the outdoors is perceived as the most important environment for physically active play (Open Space 2006). Indeed, older children and teenagers could benefit more so from 'play' areas that foster improved social skills and creativity as well having a positive effect on mental health and well-being. Therefore, it is acknowledged that while this study focuses primarily on young children, consideration should be given, were appropriate, to the provision for those that fall into the older age group. The offering would be less conventional that the standard fixed play equipment as young teenagers don't want to be seen as 'playing' but equally need a facility where they can socialise with their contemporaries. Teen shelters give older children and teenagers a safe and comfortable place to meet their friends with the added benefit of the site being specifically chosen. In turn the older children/teenagers can call their own but is located in a well-lit area so to avoid anti-social behaviour and vandalism. Such shelters are also popular within school settings with a similar shelter/pod located at a local school in Coalisland.

6.3.2.Inclusive Play

Under the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995, employers and service providers have the positive duty to make reasonable adjustments to premises and policies in order to provide disabled people access to goods, facilities, services or premises. In addition, Public bodies in Northern Ireland have additional duties to promote equality of opportunity and good relations under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. They must also meet duties under the Disability Discrimination Act to promote positive attitudes towards disabled people and to encourage the participation of disabled people in public life.

According to the Northern Ireland Executive's Children and Young People's Strategy 2017-2027 Consultation Document, the enjoyment of play and leisure was highlighted as a population outcome with children and young people with a disability highlighted as one of the groups where the greatest effort is needed:

"Children with a disability, and their families, require additional support for play and leisure activities. Their needs must be taken into account in relation to play provision"[15]

The term all ability play or inclusive play highlights the social model of thinking rather than the medical model which traditionally focused on their complex needs, that disabled children needed to play in special places or particular ways. Instead children with disabilities require the same opportunities for play, variety, socialising and challenge as all other children.[16]

According to MENCAP, disabilities range from physical, mental, developmental or hidden. This may mean some children are confined to a wheelchair where others may have reduced mobility or manual dexterity, poor physical co-ordination, vision or hearing impairments, emotional and behavioural or learning difficulties. While various disabilities should be acknowledged, designing an environment that

---

[15] Northern Ireland Executive's Children and Young People's Strategy 2017-2027 Consultation Document

[16] Play for all – Providing play facilities for disabled children (http://www.dessa.ie/publications)

integrates play throughout a site and steering away from the idea of a 'special' or separate area for use by disabled children is preferred. Furthermore, consideration should be given not only to the child who plays but also the needs of the accompanying parents or carers, embracing the ideal that families can play together regardless of ability.

'Play for All' drafted by the Disability Equality Specialist Support Agency (DESSA) outlines some areas that need to be considered when designing inclusive play for children.

- Children with physical impairments, for example may have difficulty with long distances, steps, steep slopes, be unsteady on their feet and liable to slip or trip and find it hard to hold on to or grip ropes or poles. Therefore, they may benefit from equipment with enhanced back support, broader stairs and double width slides to accommodate a parent or carer. Low-level crawling and climbing nets, tunnels and tubes can be used by children with significant mobility impairments. They find it easier to climb on sloping netting than on vertical netting, which also allows an adult to assist and take part in the activity.

- Children with intellectual impairments may find complex layouts difficult to navigate, may have difficulty taking turns or may display what appears to be a lack of awareness of or a heightened sensitivity to other children. Play items considered could include ground level activities, such as balance beams, spring rockers, adventure trails, play items that need co-operation and eye contact, such as seesaws, group swings, role play activities or pictograms explaining how play items may be used.
- Children with visual impairments may benefit from play that incorporates mirrors, tactile play panels, play items which involve sound and play items with consistent and good colour contrast.
- Children with hearing impairments may not be able to hear voices of other children or adult instruction. They may be particularly unaware of things going on behind them, and may need to see important information that other children can hear. Well-designed play spaces and equipment, and clear, easy-to-understand information boards, may help. Safety-related audible effects, such as gravel surrounds, can be designed into the playground.

- Children with autism spectrum disorder will appreciate quiet places where they can rest or be alone for a while. Tunnels, play houses and shelters offer all children the opportunity of taking time out.

As well as fixed play equipment, sand and water are great play materials for children of all abilities and of course target the senses. Indeed, creating a sensory space will allow children to develop their smell, taste and tactile senses. This can be achieved through landscaping using various plants, flowers and herbs as well as water, sand and manipulation of the wind. While sensory gardens offer so many benefits, it is worth noting that they need continued maintenance and to be well managed.

While Council acknowledge the shift towards inclusive or all ability play, they also recognise the equal importance of adequate changing facilities. It was noted through consultation that these are equally important when considering all ability play provision. MENCAP are members of the Changing Places consortium and support the installation of Changing Places (CP) toilets in public buildings. A CP toilet facility provides sanitary accommodation for people with multiple and complex disabilities who may have one or two assistants with them[17].

[17] Changing Places: the practical guide, Changing Places Consortium

They enable those with disabilities to make use of safe and dignified toilet facilities – something that we all would expect when visiting a public place. Indeed 'Changing Places: the practical guide' states:

"The absence of a toilet and changing facilities means that some disabled people are often limited in terms of activities available to them or even prevented from going out altogether… CP toilets can vastly improve people's quality of life, allowing disabled people and their assistants to stay out for longer and participate in more activities"

The CP guide outlines planning and design concepts including the specific equipment required in order to be awarded a CP accreditation. Construction costs are also detailed and well as the management and maintenance of the facility

The Children with Disabilities Strategic Alliance Manifesto (2012) acknowledges that play, leisure, culture, sports and youth services providers should monitor use and uptake of these services and demonstrate that they are inclusive[18]. In addition, while it has a primary focus on sport, the ethos of the Active Living No Limits Plan (2016-2021) is valuable for Council to observe also. Council is therefore committed to address the barriers that prevent young people participating in active recreation including play and will give consideration to the formulation of an implementation group when embarking on inclusive play initiatives. This is turn will enable improved communication and further enhance relations between community and Council.

[18] Children with Disabilities Strategic Alliance Manifesto (2012)

6.4. Best Practice - Parks

6.4.1.Green Flag Award

The Green Flag Award scheme recognises and rewards well managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of recreational outdoor spaces across the United Kingdom and around the world.

Purpose and Aims

- To ensure that everybody has access to quality green and other open spaces, irrespective of where they live
- To ensure that these spaces are appropriately managed and meet the needs of the communities that they serve
- To establish standards of good management, and to promote and share best practice amongst the green space sector
- To recognise and reward the hard work of managers, staff and volunteers

Successful sites show that they manage a quality space with clear aims and objectives and who they aim to serve. Award applicants are judged against 27 different criteria and must submit their active management plan, showing that they understand:

- the users – who they are, who they could be, what they want, how they are informed and involved
- the site – what is special about its history, biodiversity, landscape, social and physical setting, and what it is trying to achieve; and
- the management – that what is there is safe, in line with legislation and policy, well maintained, and that there are plans for the future.

This flexible and useful management framework is the key to the Green Flag Award, making it relevant to any green space. It is deliberately conceived not to be a formulaic list of things to have or to do, but instead as a guide to how professionals and communities can approach the management of their sites. It also helps to quantify what they are doing now and in the future, helping to prove value to customers, colleagues and funders[19]

In Mid Ulster Dungannon Park and The Walled Garden, Maghera have achieved Green Flag Status.

6.4.2.Blue Flag Award

The Blue Flag Award is truly a world-renowned accreditation trusted by millions around the globe. A world-renowned eco-label trusted by millions around the globe, the Blue Flag programme is operated under the auspices of the Foundation for Environmental Education and is headquartered in Copenhagen, Denmark. In order to qualify for this prestigious award, a series of stringent environmental, educational, safety-related and access-related criteria must be met and maintained. Central to the ideals of the Blue Flag programme is the aim of connecting the public with their surroundings and encouraging them to learn more about their environment. As such, environmental education activities must be offered and promoted in addition to a permanent display of information relevant to the site in terms of biodiversity, ecosystems and environmental phenomena[20]. With its marina, caravan and park facilities, Ballyronan Marina currently has a Blue Flag award.

[19] Raising the Standard – The Green Flag Award Guidance Maual, Katharine Ellicott (2016)
[20] http://www.blueflag.global/

6.5. Benefits - Parks and Play

Open/green spaces, sport and outdoor recreation are important components of life. They provide many cultural, social, economic and environmental benefits and contribute positively to physical and mental health and a better quality of life. Everyone, particularly children, the elderly and those with disabilities should have easy access to open space and the opportunity to participate in sport and outdoor recreational pursuits. Council attach great importance to the retention of existing open spaces, the creation of attractive new spaces and the promotion of more opportunities to participate in sport and outdoor recreation in the future. Mid Ulster District Council have a key role in the provision of recreational facilities, along with bodies such as local sports clubs, schools and colleges, and Sport NI.[21]

6.5.1.Community Cohesion and Social inclusion

Open spaces and public parks are often the seen as the hub of a community, bringing people together and promoting social inclusion. They are open to all, regardless of ethnic origin, age or gender, and as such they represent a democratic forum for citizens and society. These spaces shape the cultural identity of an area, are part of its unique character and provide a sense of place for local communities [22] Furthermore OFMDFM supports the development of play areas for children, and in doing so produced the 'Play and Leisure Policy' (2008). According to the Play and Leisure Policy Statement:

Provisions for play areas are crucial as:

• Children contribute to the community and to society when they are visible and when their environment offers them maximum opportunities to play.

Facilities and areas for play act as focal points for communities offering social interaction for children and the wider community, which all help in the generation of community cohesion.

• Good play provision and appropriately designed spaces for children create a positive environment, and contribute to the sense of wellbeing and security that children have with their surroundings[23]

However as with all public spaces, there are risks of vandalism and antisocial behaviour, however (Gill, 2014) highlights that play and youth facilities in public spaces have led to reductions in levels of anti-social behaviour and vandalism thus highlighting the importance of public parks as a focal point for the community, taking ownership and pride in their area. Gill comments further on reports (Hall Aitken 2013) where an evaluation of Community Spaces, a £57.5 million Big Lottery Fund programme run by Groundwork UK in which playgrounds and youth recreation spaces were a major component, concluded that "all 'major issue' indicators have improved since the completion of the projects, with the most significant reduction being antisocial behaviour[24]. It is acknowledged that community associations, groups and clubs play a key role to community life in Mid Ulster. It is felt that the formulation of strategic alliances and partnerships between Council and community organisations will undoubtedly facilitate the development of public park and play provision in the areas that will benefit from it most.

[21] Local Development Plan 2030 **-** Preferred Options Paper (Mid Ulster District Council, November 2016)
[22] The Value of Public Space - Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment
[23] Play Areas in Residential Developments NI (NI Assembly, June 2010)
[24] The Play Return: A review of the wider impact of play initiatives (Tim Gill, July 2014)

6.5.2. The Economic Value of Public Space

A high-quality public environment can have a significant impact on the economic life of town centres big or small, and is therefore an essential part of any successful regeneration strategy. As towns increasingly compete with one another to attract investment, the presence of good parks, squares, gardens and other public spaces becomes a vital business and marketing tool: companies are attracted to locations that offer well-designed, well-managed public places and these in turn attract customers, employees and services. In town centres, a pleasant and well-maintained environment increases the number of people visiting retail areas, otherwise known as 'footfall'. A good public landscape also offers very clear benefits to the local economy in terms of stimulating increased house prices, since house-buyers are willing to pay to be near green space.

6.5.3. Value for Biodiversity and Nature

The significant increase in hard surfacing and the reduction in green spaces lead to higher temperatures in towns and cities than in the surrounding countryside. This is known as the 'heat island effect'. Vegetation – whether in public spaces or private gardens – can help to redress this imbalance. It brings many important environmental benefits to urban areas, including the cooling of air and the absorption of atmospheric pollutants. Vegetation also provides an opportunity for people to be close to 'nature', with the associated positive impact that this can bring in terms of mental health and the simple pleasure of experiencing trees, birds, squirrels, ladybirds and other wildlife in an urban situation [25]

6.5.4. Health and Well Being

Indeed, the link between active outdoor recreation and leisure participation and improved physical and mental health is well documented through research[26]. Access to good-quality, well-maintained public spaces can help to improve our physical and mental health by encouraging us to walk more, to play sport, or simply to enjoy a green and natural environment. It has been noted that play is central to the development of good physical and mental health and children's overall development. Reports (Nuffield Foundation 2013, Twenge 2000, Gray 2011) have shown that the decline in opportunities to enjoy freely chosen outdoor play has been a key factor in the decline in children's mental wellbeing[27].

The Play Safety Forum - Managing Risk in Play Provision outlines several benefits of play provision[28]

Places to play	Children need and have the right to play, and play provision offers them places where they can play freely in the ways they choose, without direction from adults.
Space to meet and hang out	Children and young people actively seek out places to meet and hang out, and facilities for them are high on the list of local priorities in many neighbourhoods. There is wide spread agreement that in many areas, young people in particular have a poor choice of leisure activities.

[25] The Value of Public Space - Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment
[26] A Countryside for health and well-being- the physical and mental health benefits of green exercise (CRN, 2005)
[27] Play - A report by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on a Fit and Healthy Childhood (Appg, October 2015)

[28] Managing Risk in Play Provision: Implementation Guide, Play Safety Forum, David Ball, Tim Gill and Bernard Spiegal (2013)

Space to have fun	Like adults, children need to enjoy their lives, to have times and spaces where they can simply have fun. Good play environments offer a wide range and choice of play experiences.
Support for parents and carers	Good, accessible play provision helps parents and carers extend their children's play experiences. It can help to reduce conflict and relieve stress levels inside the home by providing other places where children spend their time.
A community gathering point	Centrally located play facilities can bring different age groups together and foster interactions and connections between children, and between children and adults. Good multi-functional provision can help to build neighbourliness and a sense of community.
A chance to encounter nature	Children value the chance to interact with nature, and such experiences help them to appreciate the importance of the natural world and the environment. There is growing evidence of the health benefits of access to green, outdoor environments.
A place to make friends	The opportunity to make friends and develop friendships is one of the most important experiences in childhood. In addition to this, such opportunities help children build their confidence and social competences.
Encourages physical activity	Most children are naturally physically active when they play out of doors. Comparative studies have shown that children can be as active in spontaneous outdoors play as in structured sport activities.
Learning how to manage risks	Rich, challenging, engaging play environments allow children to test themselves and explore their abilities. They can learn the penalties of misjudging a risk – or simply having bad luck – in managed environments that reduce the likelihood of serious harm.
Developing a sense of one's abilities	Self-directed play experiences give children the opportunity to try out for themselves ways to solve problems and achieve goals, without the interference of adults. These experiences are likely to foster children's abilities and resilience.
Catering for the adventurous	Some children and young people actively seek out risky situations. Play provision can give them the chance to satisfy their search for excitement in a managed context, potentially reducing the risk that these children will spend time in truly dangerous environments.

Table 4 Examples of the Benefits of Play Provision

The benefits of play to children are not only present at the time of playing but also benefit them over time:

Benefits that are experienced at the time that the child is playing

- Provides children with opportunities to enjoy freedom, and exercise choice and control over their actions
- Offers children opportunities for testing boundaries and exploring risk
- Offers a very wide range of physical, social and intellectual experiences for children

Benefits that develop over time

- Fosters children's independence and self-esteem
- Develops children's respect for others and offers opportunities for social interaction
- Supports the child's well-being, healthy growth and development
- Increases children's knowledge and understanding
- Promotes children's creativity and capacity to learn [29]

[29] Best Play - What Play Provision Should Do For Children (National Playing Fields Association, March 2000)

7. Current Provision

7.1. Parks and Play Areas

Within the Council area, there are 102 public parks/play parks, most of these are located within the towns but a number of villages also benefit from equipped play areas. Figure 2 shows the distribution of play provision throughout Mid Ulster. The breakdown of equipped play areas in each DEA provided by Mid Ulster Council are identified in the table below.

DEA	Number of Public Parks/Play Parks
Carntogher	11
Moyola	9
Magherafelt	6
Cookstown	28
Torrent	15
Dungannon	19
Clogher Valley	14

TABLE 5 NUMBER OF PUBLIC PARKS/PLAY PARKS BY DEA

As well as play, a number of parks within Mid Ulster offer additional provision including walking and cycling trails, water recreation, caravanning and visitor facilities. These locations range in size from small areas of 0.5 acres to parkland of up to 70 acres. These 3 public park sites are detailed in the table below and are mapped in Figure 7.

Park ID	Park Site	DEA
1	Ballyronan	Magherafelt
2	Dungannon Park	Dungannon
3	Railway Park	Dungannon

TABLE 6 PARK SITES IN MID ULSTER

As detailed in Position Paper Seven – Open Space, Recreation and Leisure, with regards assessing existing play space provision, it needs to be analysed on two tiers: the overall quantum and the spatial distribution. The NPFA standard (operating as Fields in Trust) for children's play space is 0.80 hectares per 1000 population. Relative to each other, the spatial distribution is seen as more important as it relates to access to provision within the various settlements – in relation to children's homes[30].

Fields In Trust classify fixed play under its benchmark guidelines for open space and equipped play areas based on walking time from the home as well as the nature of the play facility (Table 7 below). In line with Position Paper Seven these are as follows:

Local Area for Play (LAP) - These are unsupervised small open spaces specifically designed for young children for play activities close to where they live. Although without play equipment, LAPs have characteristics that make the area conducive to children's play. Such characteristics include ease of access, a relatively level site, informal surveillance and modest provision of landscaping so that play is not inhibited. The NPFA consider that LAPs should be within 1 minute walking time of home.

A Local Equipped Area for Play (LEAP) - These are unsupervised play areas that are equipped for children of early school age. While sharing similar characteristics to LAPs, LEAPs feature a range of

[30] Position Paper Seven – Open Space, Recreation and Leisure[30] (Mid Ulster District Council, June 2015)

different types of play equipment. The NPFA consider these should be located within 5 minutes walking time of home.

A Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP) - These are also unsupervised but they are intended to service a substantial residential area. While sharing similar characteristics to LEAPs, NEAPs feature a significant range of different types of play equipment. It is equipped mainly for older children but also having opportunities for play for younger children. The NPFA recommend these should be located within 15 minutes walking time of home.

Nature of play facility	Walking Time	Pedestrian Route	Straight Line Distance
LAP	1 minute	100 metres	60 metres
LEAP	5 minutes	400 metres	240 metres
NEAP	15 minutes	1000 metres	600 metres

TABLE 7 NATURE OF PLAY FACILITY AND DISTANCE FROM THE HOME

Figure 3 shows the locations of the playparks relative to their classification. Appendix 1 provides a full list of Mid Ulster District Council play areas in terms of their classification.

While the NPFA standard has been formulated essentially for urban areas, it is useful in assessing spatial distribution in the regional towns of Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt and the smaller towns of Coalisland and Maghera.

In addition, in order to help assess the current provision and identify gaps of play provision in more rural areas, Mid Ulster Council has been mapped using population data (Census 2011) to show the distribution of young children aged 0-15 years (Figure 4 Population of Mid Ulster Under 15 Years). This map highlights a number of areas in Mid Ulster that have youthful population. Furthermore Figure 5 shows the areas that have both a youthful population and where play provision is located. In order to further support the analysis for under provision or indeed over provision of play facilities, household pointer data from Land and Property Services (LPS) has been used to indicate the more densely populated areas across the Council area with clusters of data points showing the areas with a greater number of households (see Figure 6). From Figure 6 it can be seen that there is a high concentration of play provision within the towns of Dungannon and Cookstown but in comparison Magherafelt is somewhat lacking in play provision. Despite this, there is a good spread of play provision across the Council area with more rural areas in Clogher Valley catered for as well as the Western side of the region.

However, based on the NPFA standards as well as the supporting population and household pointer data, Council have set out to address the balance of play provision across the 7 DEAs considering capacity and facilities at each site, the presence of a youthful population as well as indicative household data. This analysis is detailed in Section 8 of the report, with the provision of public parks and play provision in each DEA covered in detail.

In addition to its public parks/play parks, Mid Ulster District Council also has a number of open/green space parks within its ownership (see table below). These areas do not necessarily offer an equipped play area but may once have provided play or indeed may facilitate future play or public park opportunities (Figure 8). These sites have also been mapped alongside current play locations as shown in Figure 9.

ID	DEA	Park Site
1	Carntogher	Ballymacombs Road
2	Moyola	Cahore Road
3	Dungannon	Castlehill
4	Carntogher	Clady
5	Carntogher	Coleraine Road
6	Dungannon	Drumglass Wood
7	Magherafelt	Glenburn
8	Moyola	Glenelly Villas
9	Carntogher	Glenone
10	Magherafelt	Greenvale Spires Park
11	Magherafelt	Manor Park
12	Moyola	Newferry Slipway
13	Moyola	O'Neill Park
14	Moyola	Riverside
15	Magherafelt	Sperrin View
16	Moyola	Tradd Point
17	Moyola	Tradd House
18	Dungannon	Windmill Wood
19	Carntogher	Upperlands
20	Torrent	Henderson Park

TABLE 8 OPEN/GREEN SPACE SITES

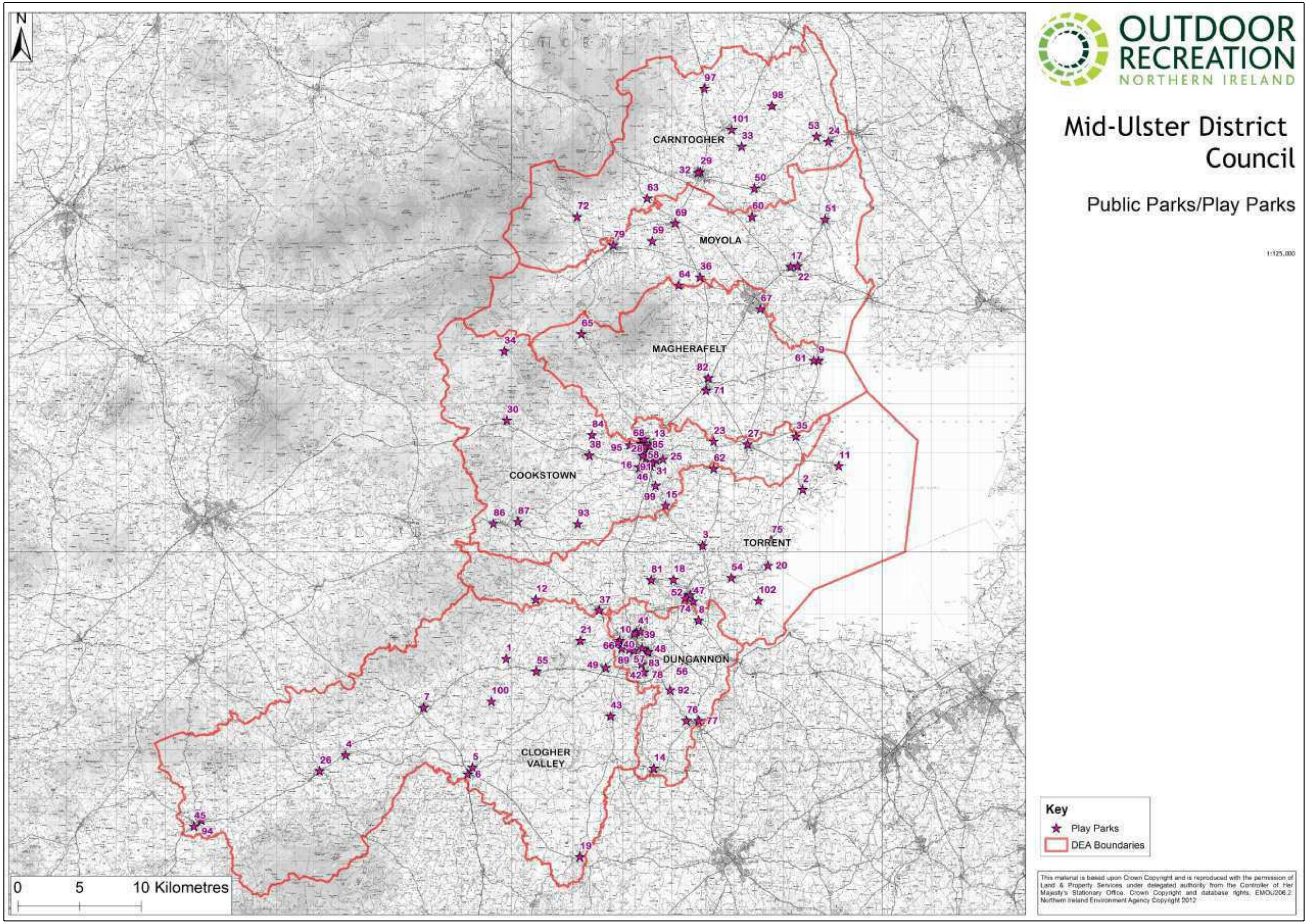


FIGURE 2 CURRENT PLAY PROVISION IN MID ULSTER

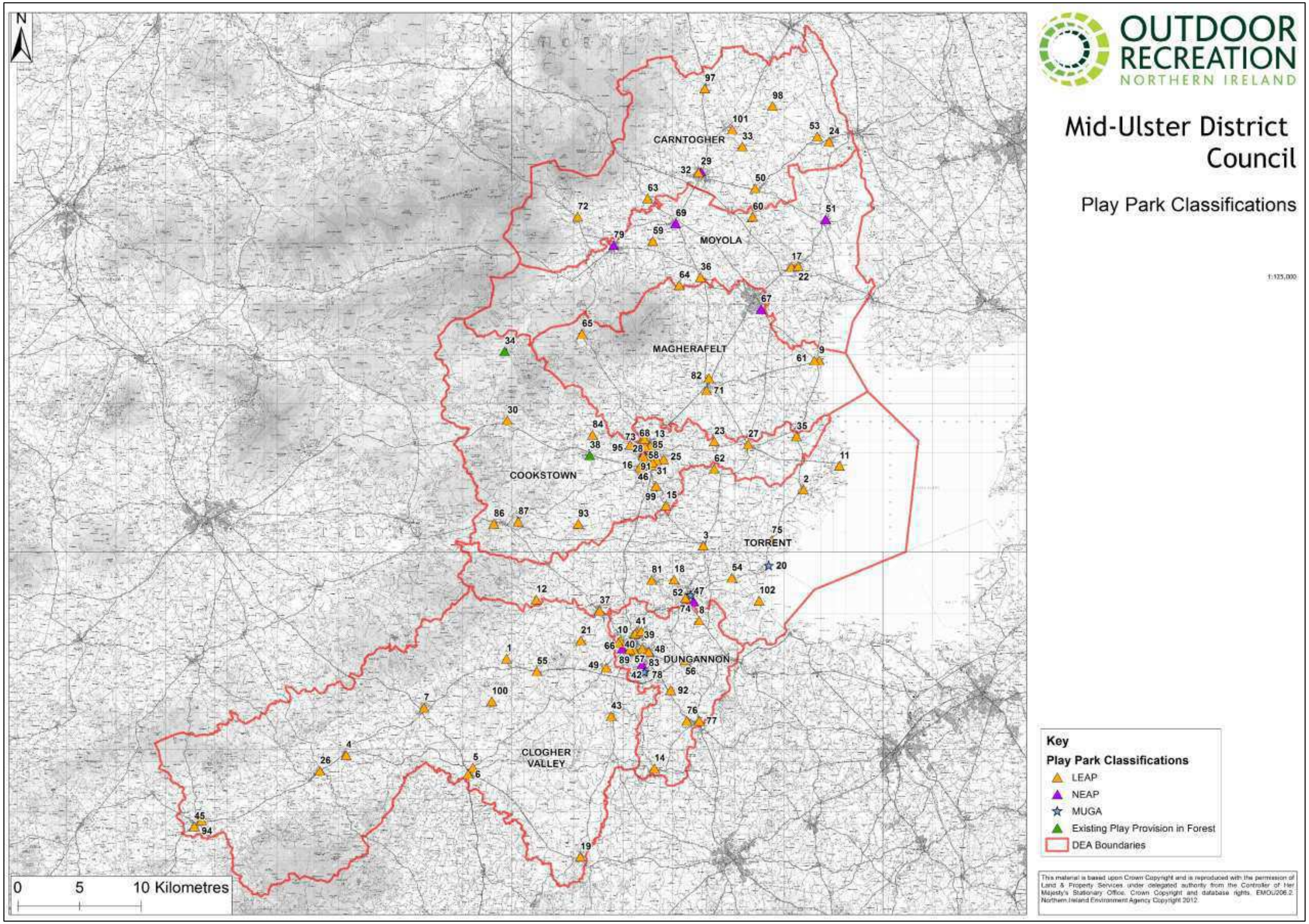


FIGURE 3 PLAY PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

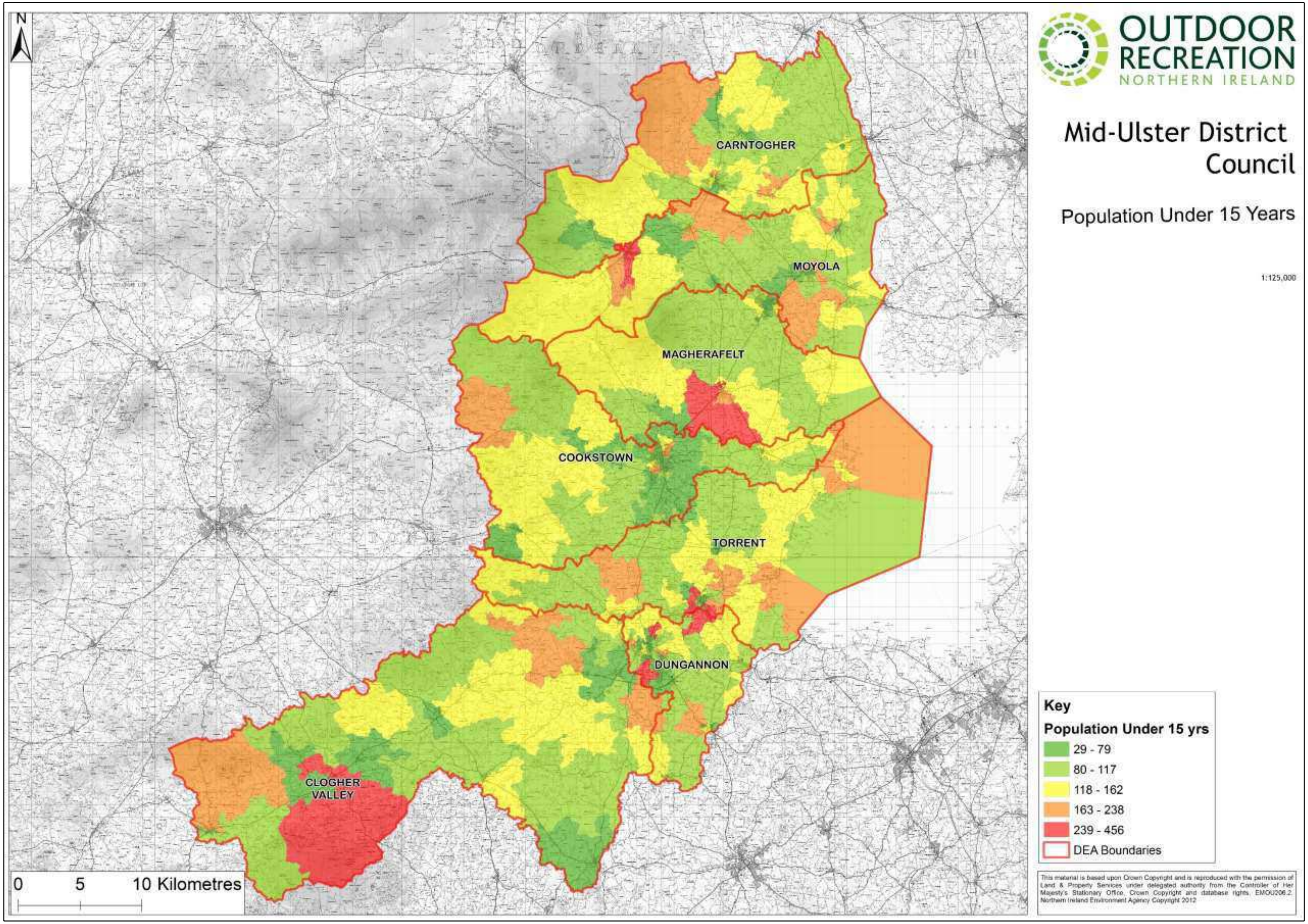


FIGURE 4 POPULATION OF MID ULSTER UNDER 15 YEARS

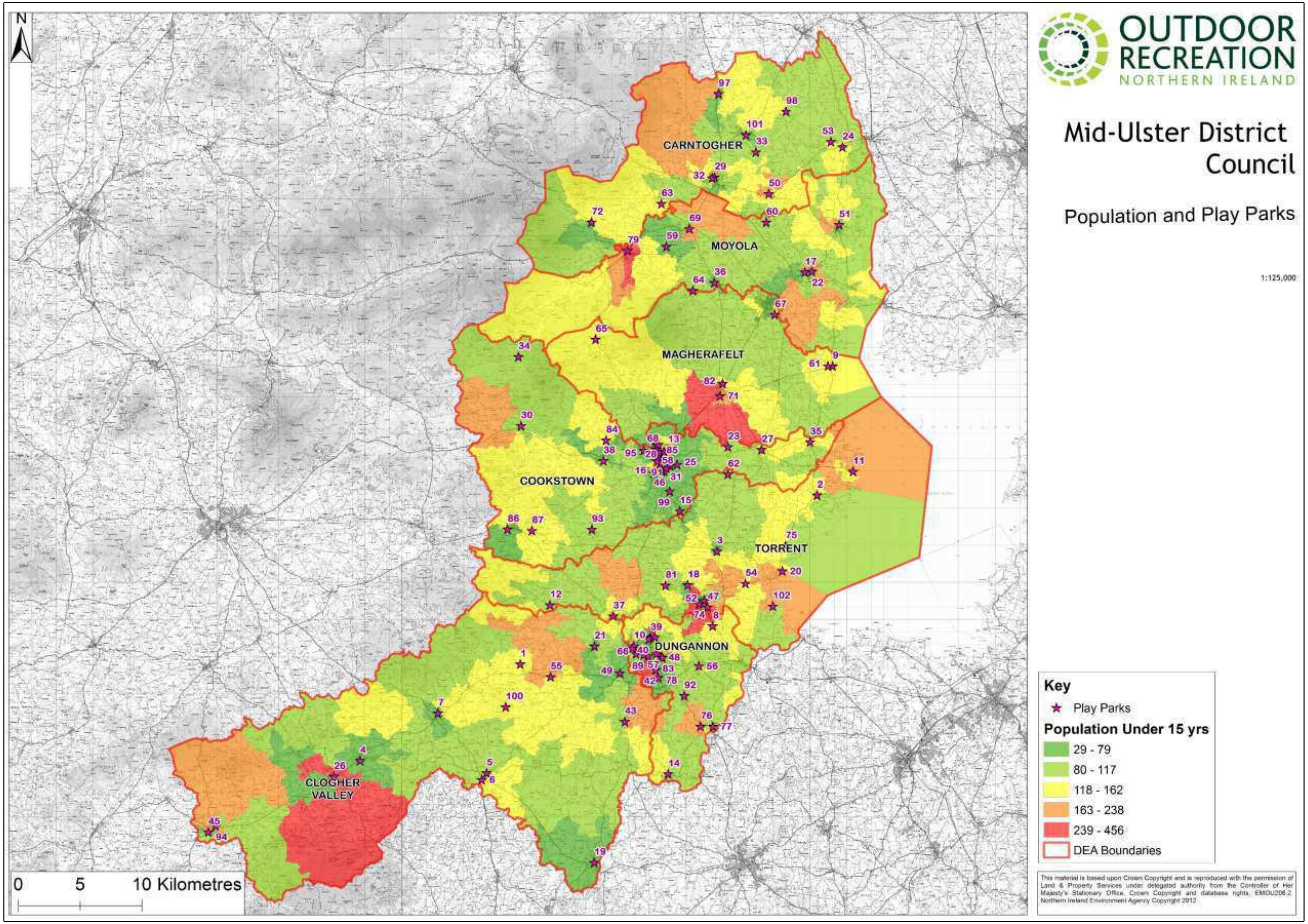


FIGURE 5 POPULATION UNDER 15 YEARS AND PLAY PROVISION LOCATIONS

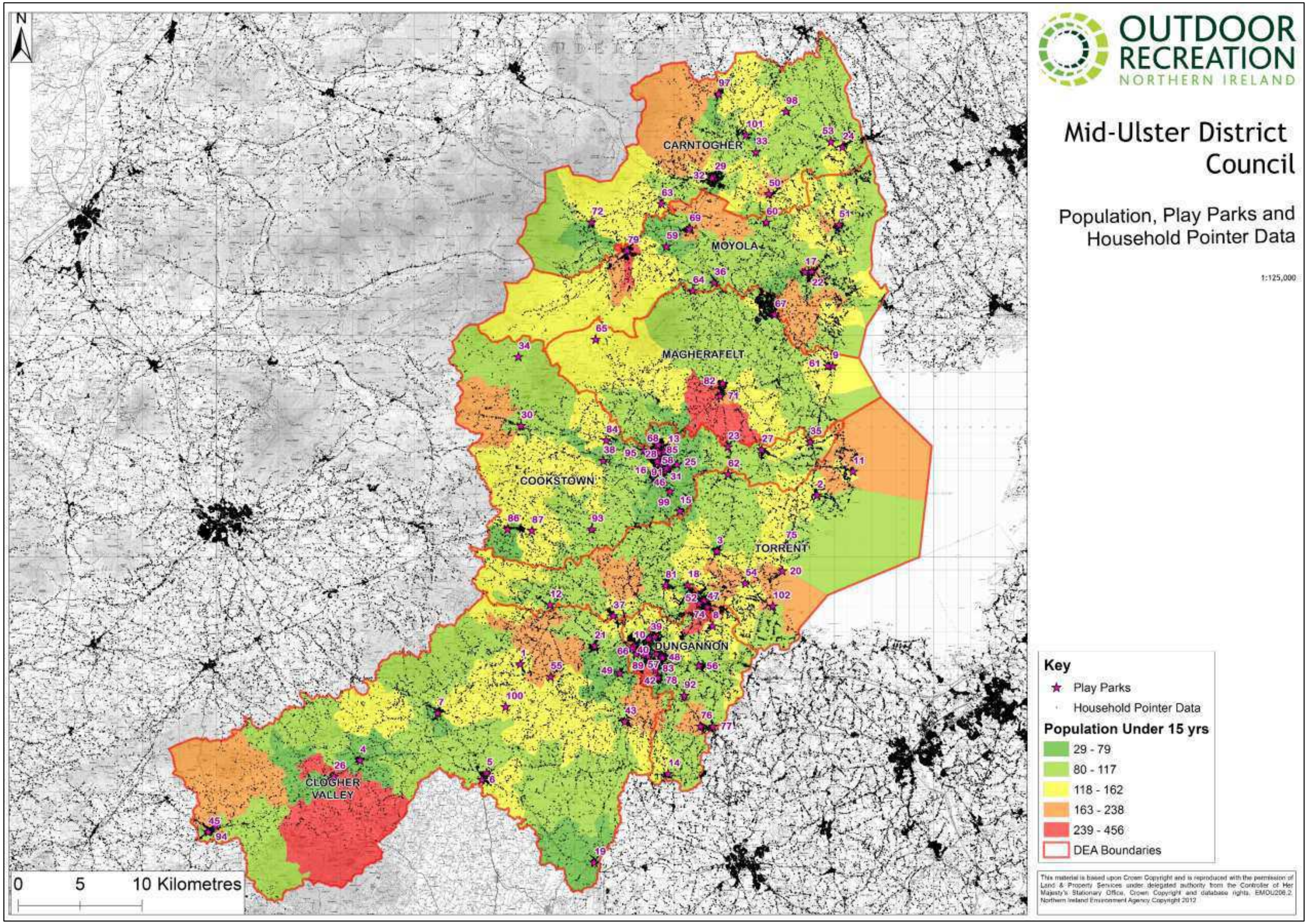


FIGURE 6 POPULATION UNDER 15 YEARS, PLAY PROVISION LOCATIONS AND HOUSEHOLD POINTER DATA

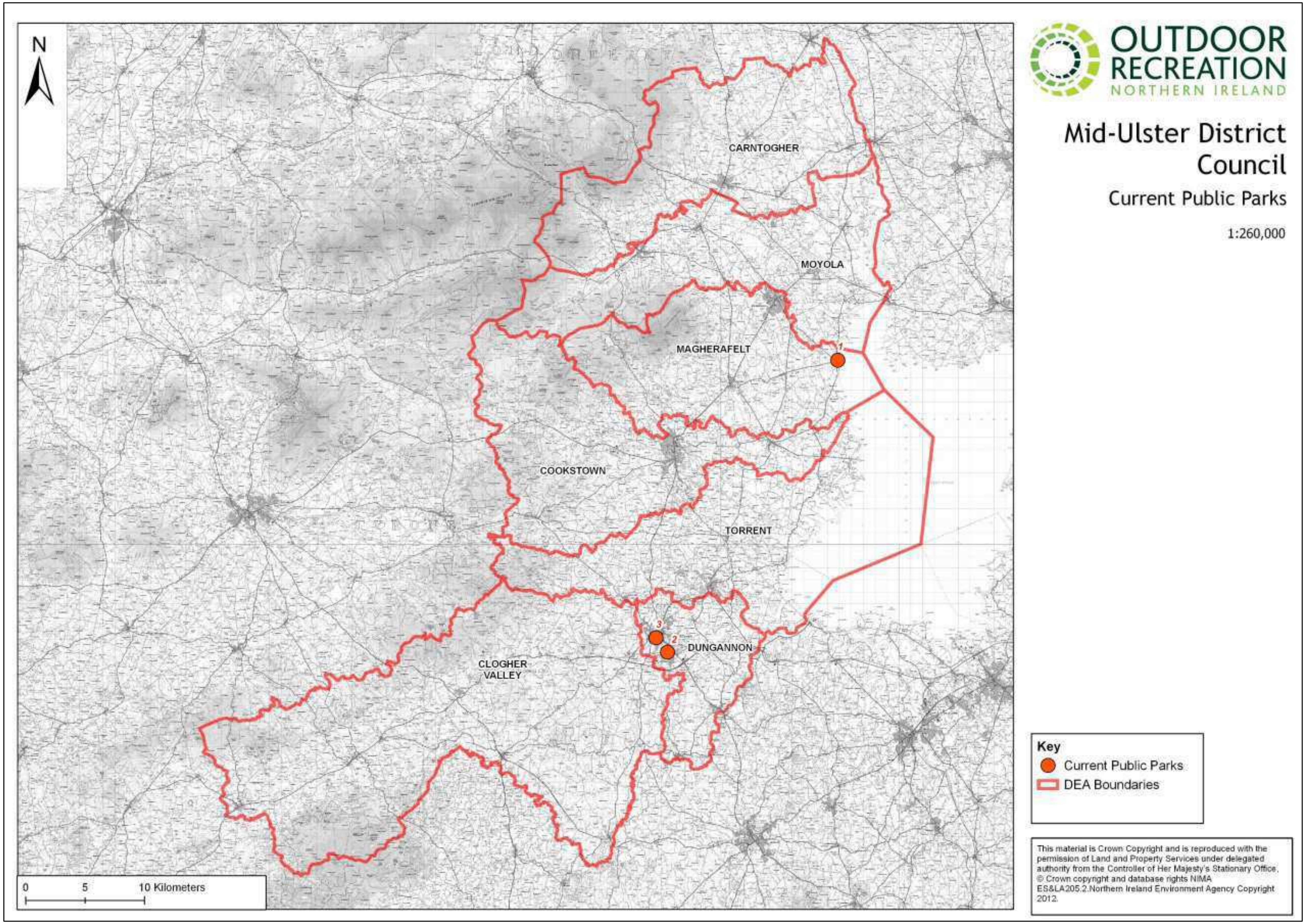


FIGURE 7 CURRENT PUBLIC PARKS

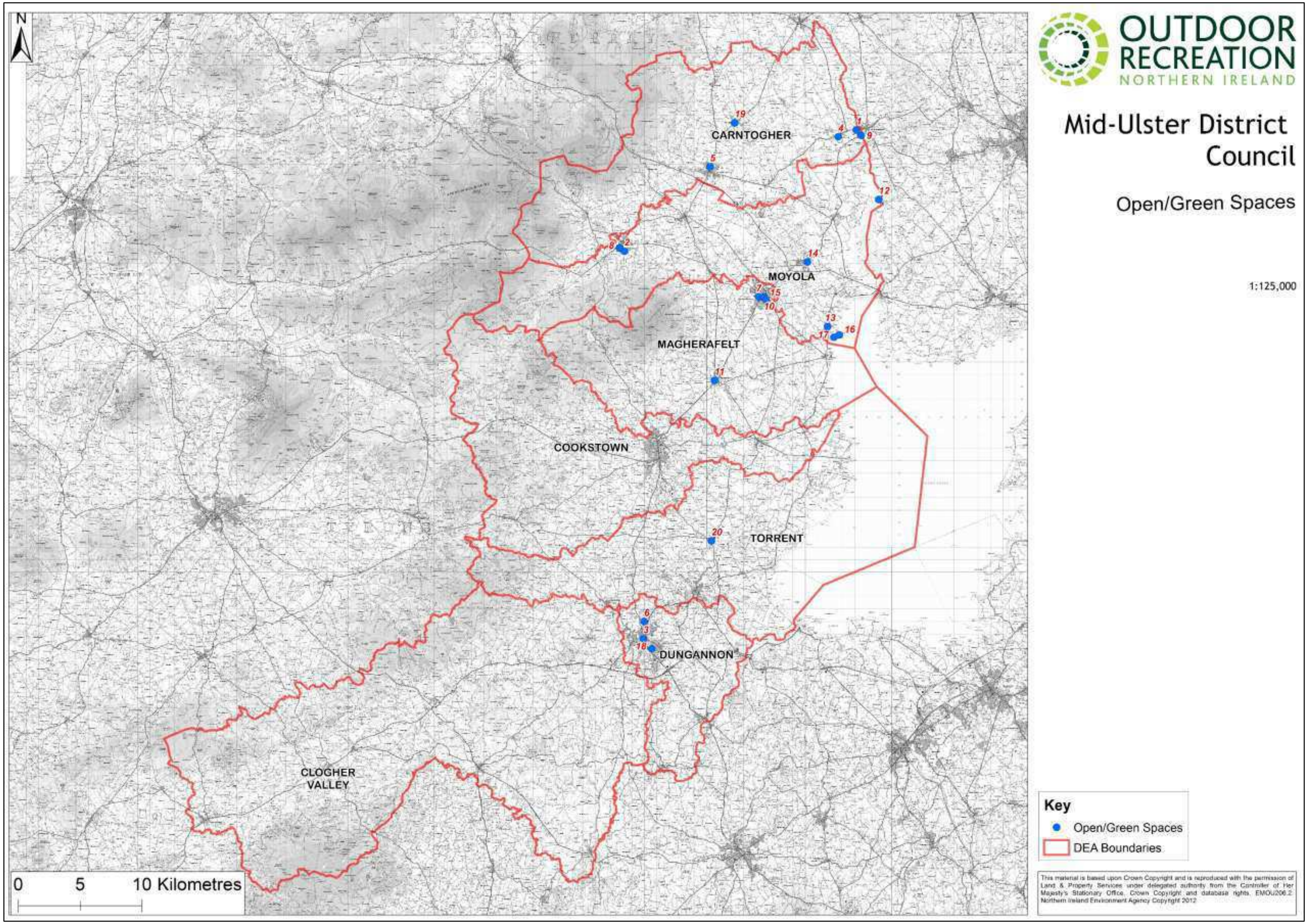


FIGURE 8 OPEN/GREEN SPACE LOCATIONS IN MID ULSTER

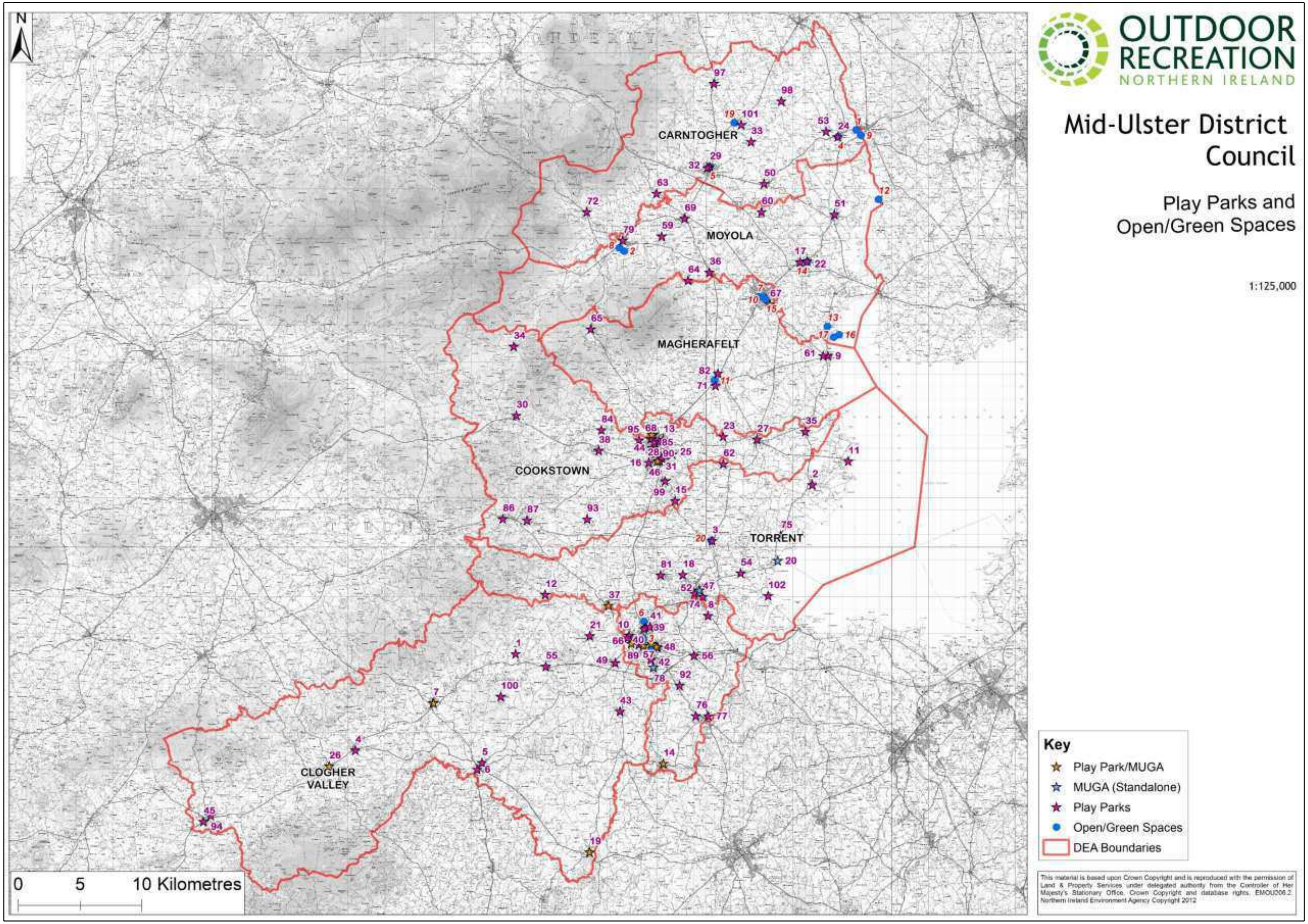


FIGURE 9 PLAY PROVISION AND OPEN/GREEN SPACE LOCATIONS

7.2. Quality of Play Provision

In order to meet the needs of the local population, the play opportunities provided by Mid Ulster District Council need not only be accessible but also maintained to a satisfactory level so they deliver a satisfactory play experience as well as ensuring the safety of the child.

Mid Ulster District Council currently has a team of Park Officers who inspect, maintain and repair play equipment and facilities within the Council area. In addition, Mid Ulster Council recently employed the services of an independent auditor to assess the standard of play provision within the District. Each of the 102 play parks were assessed in terms of the standard of each piece of play equipment, number of inclusive pieces, play surfaces and ancillary items. Each piece was given a score and then an overall mean score provided. Table 9 below provides an overview of the audit:

Overall Results	Play Areas
Total no. of parks with a score of 8+	55
Total no. of parks with a score of 5-7	43
Total no. of parks with a score of 1-4	4
Highest quality scoring parks	Ackinduff Augher Ballynakelly Castledawson Crawfordsburn Drumcoo Green Innishrush Killeen Kilross Lindsayville, Ballyronan Mullaghmore Pomeroy Forest Tamlaght Upperlands
Lowest quality scoring parks	Drumcoo, Killymaddy, Moneyneena
Percentage of inclusive play across the district	13%

TABLE 9 OVERVIEW OF QUALITY AUDIT

The above information has been mapped on Figure 10 showing the location of play parks categorised by their audit score. A full list of scores is detailed in Appendix 1

The audit scores provide an important overview of those facilities which require immediate attention. Indeed those facilities that fall within the lowest band, scoring 1-4, will need to be considered in terms of the quality of equipment they offer the local communities that they serve and indeed if a change of use is required or if these sites should be considered on the basis of their recommended life span.

Play parks scoring 5-7 fall short of the satisfactory quality level indicating a degree of attention and upgrade to prevent them falling into the lower quality level of play provision in Mid Ulster.

Finally play facilities that fall within the uppermost band are those that meet the quality level of play provision that Council aspire that all its facilities should meet. These areas require continued monitoring and maintenance to ensure their standards are retained.

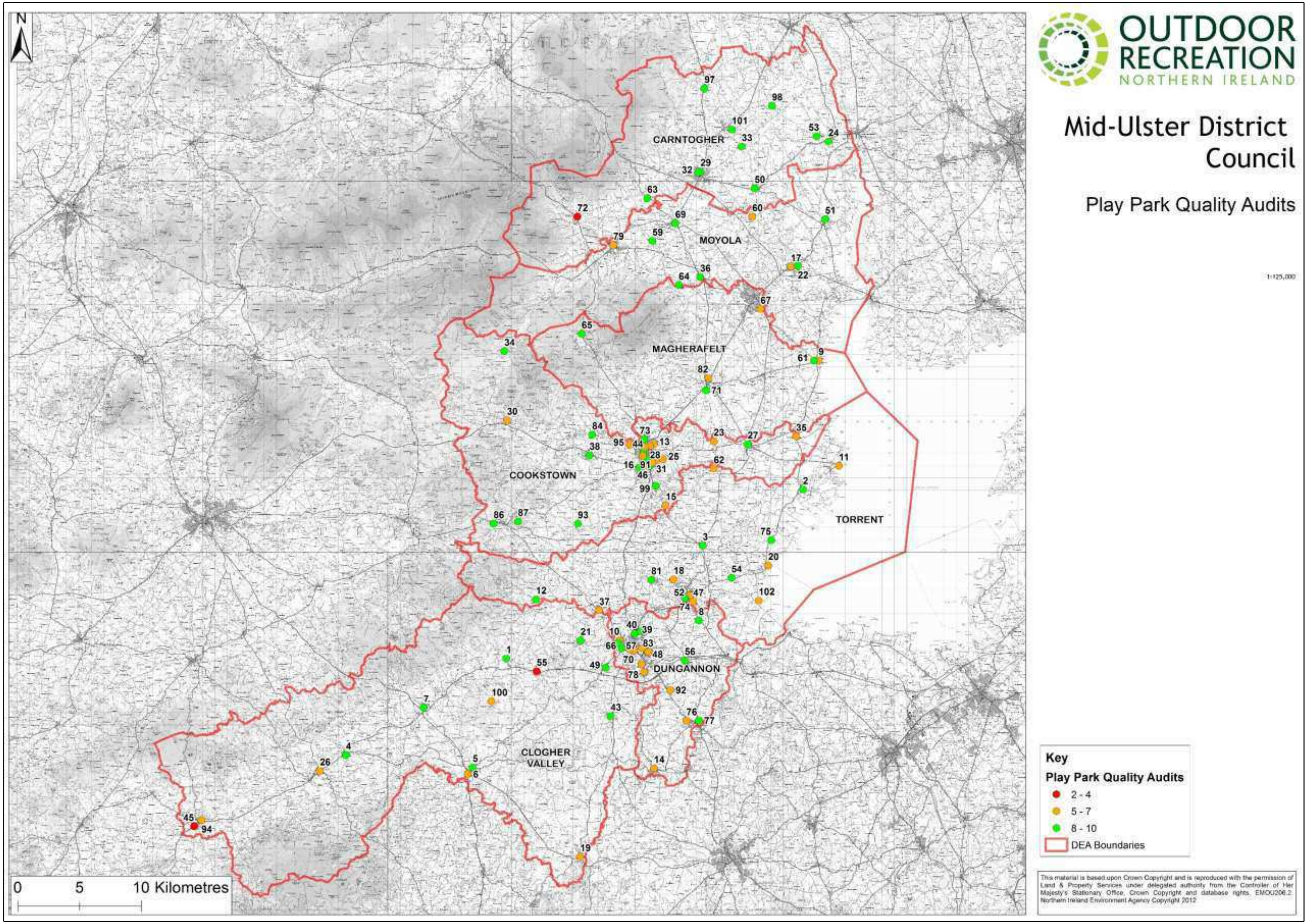


FIGURE 10 PLAY PARK QUALITY AUDIT SCORES

8. Future Park and Play Provision

As detailed in section 7, Mid Ulster Council has utilised four key pieces of research to analyse the current play provision in Mid Ulster:

- Fields In Trust Benchmark Guidelines
- Population data from the 2011 census
- Household pointer data from LPS
- Play Park Quality Inspection Audit

Supporting information was also gathered through consultation and the Mid Ulster Parks and Play and Outdoor Recreation Survey 2017.

This information has assisted in the strategic planning for equipped play provision and provision of open/green space across the 7 DEAs in Mid Ulster. In addition, the suggested actions within this Strategy are proposed in line with the following planning considerations as laid out in the Local Development Plan 2030 - Preferred Options Paper (Mid Ulster District Council, November 2016):

- safeguard existing open space and sites identified for future such provision;

- ensure that areas of open space are provided as an integral part of new residential development and that appropriate arrangements are made for their management and maintenance in perpetuity;

- facilitate appropriate outdoor recreational activities in the countryside that do not negatively impact on the amenity of existing residents;

- ensure that new open space areas and sporting facilities are convenient and accessible for all sections of society, particularly children, older people and those with disabilities;

- achieve high standards of siting, design and landscaping for all new open space areas and sporting facilities;

- ensure that the provision of new open space areas and sporting facilities is in keeping with the principles of environmental conservation and helps sustain and enhance biodiversity.[31]

[31] Local Development Plan 2030 - Preferred Options Paper (Mid Ulster District Council, November 2016

8.1. Activity Hubs

Through analysis of current provision, feedback from the 7 DEA consultation events and action points from village plans, it is apparent there are a number of parks that require immediate attention but also a demand for new facilities to be provided. This is not uncommon, public parks and play parks are an emotive issue and provide a focal point in the community. Furthermore with regards inclusive play, the percentage of all ability equipment fell short to what Council aspires to provide. Just 13% of play within Mid Ulster District Council is classed as inclusive. While the 3 main special schools (1. Glenview Primary, 2. Kilroroan and 3. Sperrinview) have facilities on site (see Figure 11 for locations in relation to public park/play park facilities) the provision for families of both abled bodied and disabled children to enjoy a day out together as one unit is deficient.

In line with the Mid Ulster Council Community Plan, one the 15 outcomes is to 'give our children and young people the best chance in life'[32]. Within this Strategy, it is the aim of Council to address this deficiency and ensure children of all abilities are adequately provided for. Therefore, a matrix (Table 10) has been devised to assess a number of potential sites within Mid Ulster District Council against set criteria regards their suitability for 'District Hubs' and more specifically investigating suitability of sites for an all ability Activity Centre(s).

It is envisaged that 'Activity Centres' will be a visitor-destination style facility with enhanced all ability play, changing provision and facilities. These sites will also offer a range of other outdoor reaction facilities such as walking and cycling trails, water recreation and camping/caravanning.

'District Play Hubs' will offer enhanced NEAP play provision, catering for all age groups within a designated catchment area. District hubs have been considered based on geographic distribution, capacity of site, current status/classification, existing facilities, footfall and access.

2 Activity Centres have been identified for potential development:

- Dungannon Park, Dungannon
- Ballyronan, Magherafelt

5 District Play Hubs have been identified for potential development:

- Fairhill, Churchview, Cookstown
- Gortgonis, Torrent
- Maghera Leisure Centre, Carntogher
- Meadow Bank, Magherafelt
- Roundlake, Clogher Valley

These proposed facilities have been mapped in Figure 12. This map shows the geographic distribution of these locations across the Council area with each DEA benefiting from at least one enhanced facility or a facility bordering their DEA.

[32] Mid Ulster District Council Community Plan – 10 Year Plan for Mid Ulster

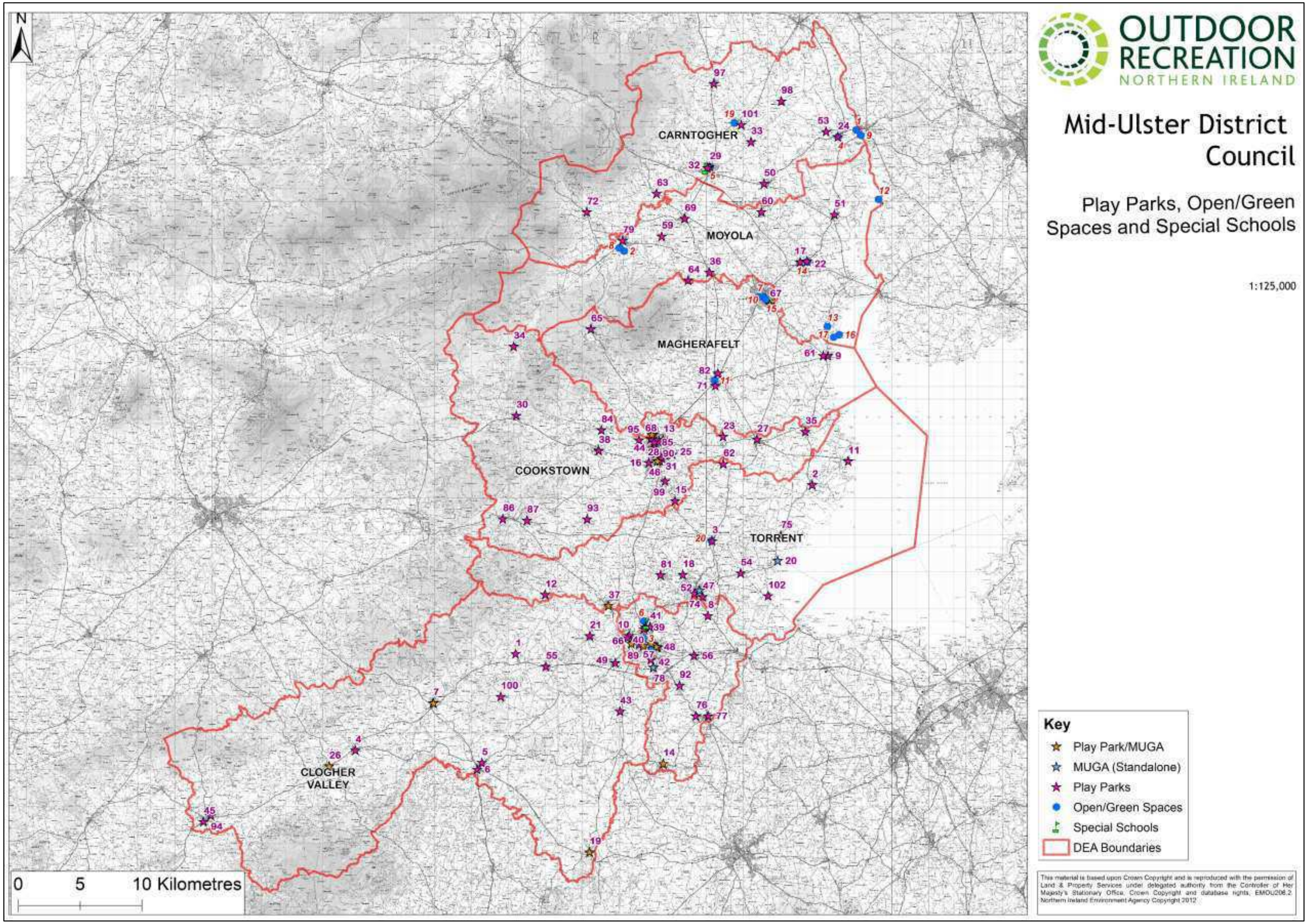


FIGURE 11 LOCATION OF SPECIAL SCHOOLS RELATIVE TO PUBLIC PARK/PLAY PARK FACILITIES

Site Name	Augher	Ballyronan Marina	Ballygawley	Clogher	Dungannon Park	Fairhill, Churchview	Fivemiletown Fairgreen	Gortgonis	Maghera Leisure Centre	Meadow Bank	Roundlake
DEA	**Clogher Valley**	**Moyola**	**Clogher Valley**	**Clogher Valley**	**Dungannon**	**Cookstown**	**Clogher Valley**	**Torrent**	**Carntogher**	**Magherafelt**	**Clogher Valley**
Location											
Size of Site (min 0.5 acre)	×	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	×	✓	×	✓	✓
MUDC Ownership	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Onsite Management/Manned	×	✓	✓	×	✓	×	×	✓	✓	✓	✓
Potential Planning Issues - Absent	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Potential Specialist Planning - Absent	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Risks											
Protected re Antisocial Behaviour	×	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ancillary Structures											
Existing Boundary Fencing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
No further fencing required	✓	×	×	✓	×	✓	×	×	×	✓	×
Gates	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Signs/Seats/Bins	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Protected/Gated/Fenced	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×
Paths & General Surfaces Good	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Parking											
Adequate Parking Proximity/Number	×	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Disabled Parking	×	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Coach/Mini Bus Parking	×	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	×	✓	×	✓	✓
Potential for Extended Parking	×	✓	×	×	✓	✓	×	✓	×	×	✓
On main road for easy visibility/access	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Facilities											
Existing Toilets	×	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	✓
Disabled Toilet	×	✓	✓	×	✓	×	×	✓	✓	✓	✓
Room for Toilet/Disabled Toilet Expansion	×	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	✓
Visitor Services: Coffee shop etc.	×	✓	×	×	✓	×	×	×	×	✓	×
Potential for Visitor Services	×	✓	×	×	✓	×	×	✓	×	✓	✓
Visitor/Tourist Destination	×	✓	×	×	✓	×	×	×	×	×	✓
Flat Access	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Existing Footfall	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Recreation facilities on site e.g. walking trails, cycle trails and water recreation	×	✓	✓	×	✓	×	×	✓	×	×	✓

TABLE 10 PLAY HUB MATRIX

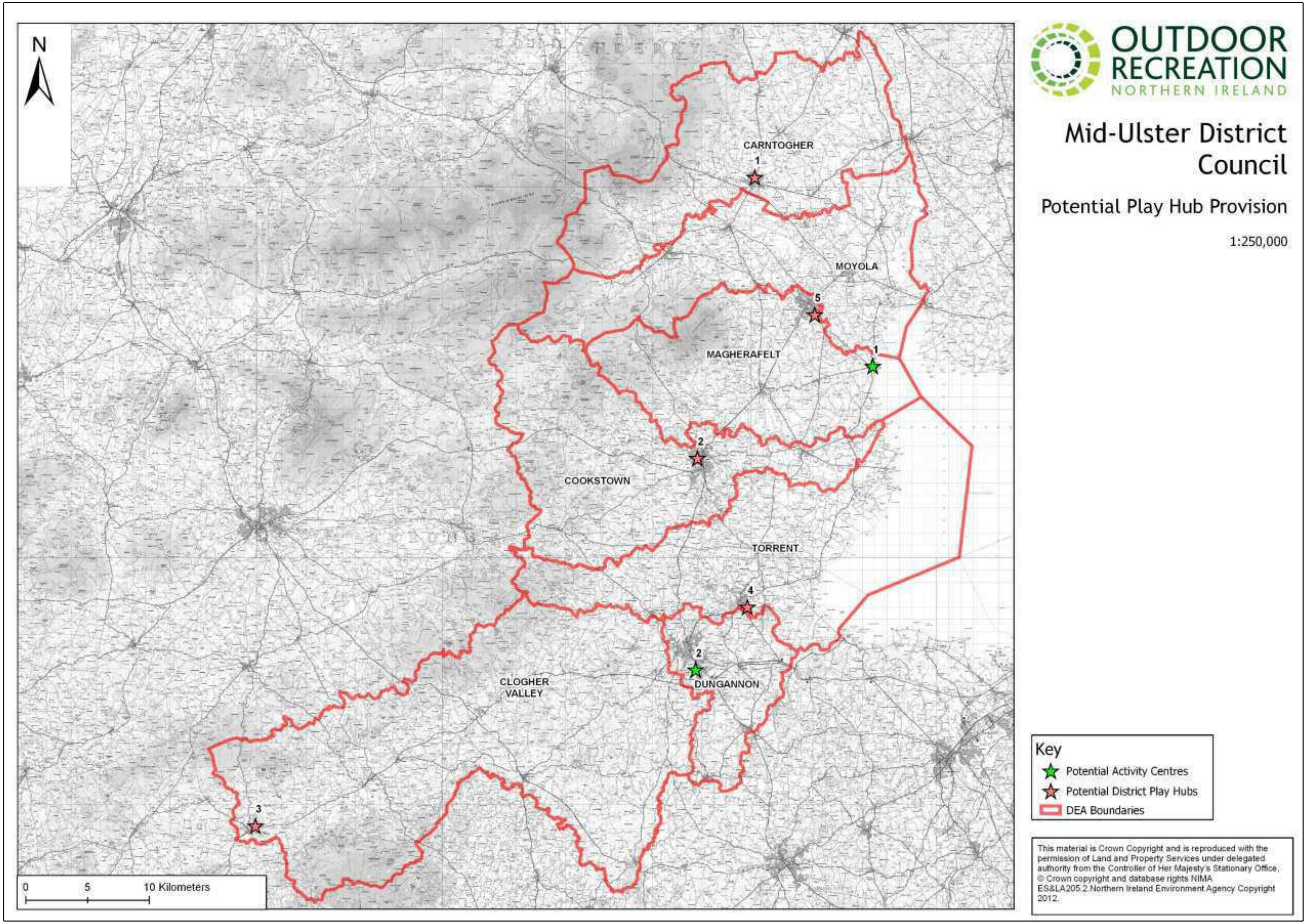


FIGURE 12 MID ULSTER POTENTIAL PLAY HUB PROVISION

8.2. Parks Development

As highlighted in section 7 Mid Ulster has currently 3 public parks offering a wide range of outdoor recreation and visitor facilities. The most notable being Dungannon Park and Ballyronan Marina which also offer water recreation and caravanning and camping. The third location, Railway Park has potential for significant development with proposals for a £1,000,000 project within the strategy period, subject to available funding. These larger park sites attract high footfall and are also well used by the surrounding community. However, there are a number of areas in Mid Ulster that are lacking in open/green space and it is recognised that there is a need for additional public parks particularly in Cookstown and Magherafelt.

Within Cookstown, it is felt that Fairhill has potential to be the flagship park facility with the forthcoming development in Gortgonis offering improved park facilities such as a woodland walk and links to the canal in the neighbouring DEA of Torrent.

Development opportunities in Magherafelt include Polepatrick as well as a potential significant project at Sounding Hill quarry in association with the Trustees of this site. In addition, Council do have a number of open/green space and play sites across the district which offer public park development potential. Table 11 outlines the 14 sites that have been considered for public park development using the Matrix to access their suitability against set criteria. The sites identified are geographic mapped in Figure 13. Any such development will require Master Planning and match funding to progress. While the below sites hold potential for public park development, it should be noted that O'Neill Park, in line with Council's current Capital Projects, is a potential development site for play with suggestions for a LEAP facility to be installed at this location.

Park ID	Park Site	DEA
1	Ballymacombs	Carntogher
2	Castlehill	Dungannon
3	Clady	Carntogher
4	Fairhill	Cookstown
5	Henderson Park	Torrent
6	Hunters Park	Moyola
7	Manor Park	Magherafelt
8	Mill Park	Moyola
9	Moykeeran	Moyola
10	Railway Park	Dungannon
11	Parkview/Riverside	Moyola
12	Roundlake	Clogher Valley
13	Swatragh	Carntogher
14	Windmill Wood	Dungannon

8.3. Bespoke Woodland Parks

In line with the Mid Ulster District Council Outdoor Recreation Strategy (2017) it is recommended that a number of key forest and woodland locations across Mid Ulster undergo development. The majority are important recreation sites that are well used by the community. Other sites hold potential in terms of creating a much-needed recreation and play facility for the community while increasing Mid Ulster Council's recreation offering for the visitor. Therefore, it is suggested that to further add value and improve the visitor experience, a natural play element should be included alongside the enhanced recreation provision. Table 12 below shows a list of the relevant sites across the 7 DEAs and suggests a significant or small woodland play element be introduced with these locations mapped in Figure 14.

Site Name	Ballymacombs	Castlehill	Clady	Fairhill	Henderson Park	Hunters Park	Manor Park	Mill Park	Moykeeran	Railway Park	Parkview Riverside	Roundlake	Swatragh	Windmill Wood	*O'Neill Park (Play only)
Site ID	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	-
DEA	**Carntogher**	**Dungannon**	**Carntogher**	**Cookstown**	**Torrent**	**Moyola**	**Magherafelt**	**Moyola**	**Moyola**	**Dungannon**	**Moyola**	**Clogher Valley**	**Carntogher**	**Dungannon**	**Moyola**
Location															
Size of Site (min 0.5 acre)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×
MUDC Ownership	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Onsite Management/Manned	×	✓	✓	×	×	✓	×	✓	×	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	×
Potential Planning Issues - Absent	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Potential Specialist Planning - Absent	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	×	✓
Risks															
Protected re Antisocial Behaviour	×	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	×
Ancillary Structures															
Existing Boundary Fencing	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
No further fencing required	×	✓	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Gates	✓	✓	×	✓	×	✓	✓	×	×	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	×
Signs/Seats/Bins	×	✓	×	×	×	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	×
Paths & General Surfaces Good	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	×	×
Parking															
Adequate Parking Proximity/Number	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×
Disabled Parking	×	✓	×	✓	×	×	✓	×	×	✓	×	✓	×	×	×
Coach/Mini Bus Parking	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	×	✓	×	×	✓	×	✓	×	✓	×
Potential for Extended Parking	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓
On main road for easy visibility/access	✓	✓	×	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	×
Facilities															
Existing Toilets	×	✓	×	✓	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	✓	×	×	×
Disabled Toilet	×	✓	×	✓	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	✓	×	×	×
Room for Toilet/Disabled Toilet Development	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Visitor Services: Coffee shop etc.	×	✓	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Potential for Visitor Services	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×
Visitor Destination	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×
Flat Access	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Existing Footfall	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×
Recreation facilities on site e.g. walking trails, cycle trails and water recreation	×	✓	×	×	×	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×

TABLE 11 PROPOSED PUBLIC PARK LOCATION

DEA	Small Woodland Play	*Ownership*	Significant Woodland Play	*Ownership*
Carntogher			Derrynoyd Forest (1)	*Forest Service*
Clogher Valley	Knockmany Forest (1)	*Forest Service*	Parkanaur Forest (2)	*Forest Service*
	Brantry Lough and Forest (3)	*Forest Service*		
Cookstown*	Cabin Wood (4)	*Council*	Drum Manor (4)	*Forest Service*
			Pomeroy Forest (3)	*Forest Service*
Dungannon	Windmill Wood (2)	*Council*		
Magherafelt	Inniscarn Forest (5)	*Forest Service*		
	Lissan House (6)	*Lissan House Trust*		
Moyola	Traad Point (7)	*Council*	Drumlamph (5)	*Development Assoc.*

Table 12 Bespoke Woodland Play Locations

**Cookstown – Element of play provision already established at Pomeroy and Drum Manor Forest*

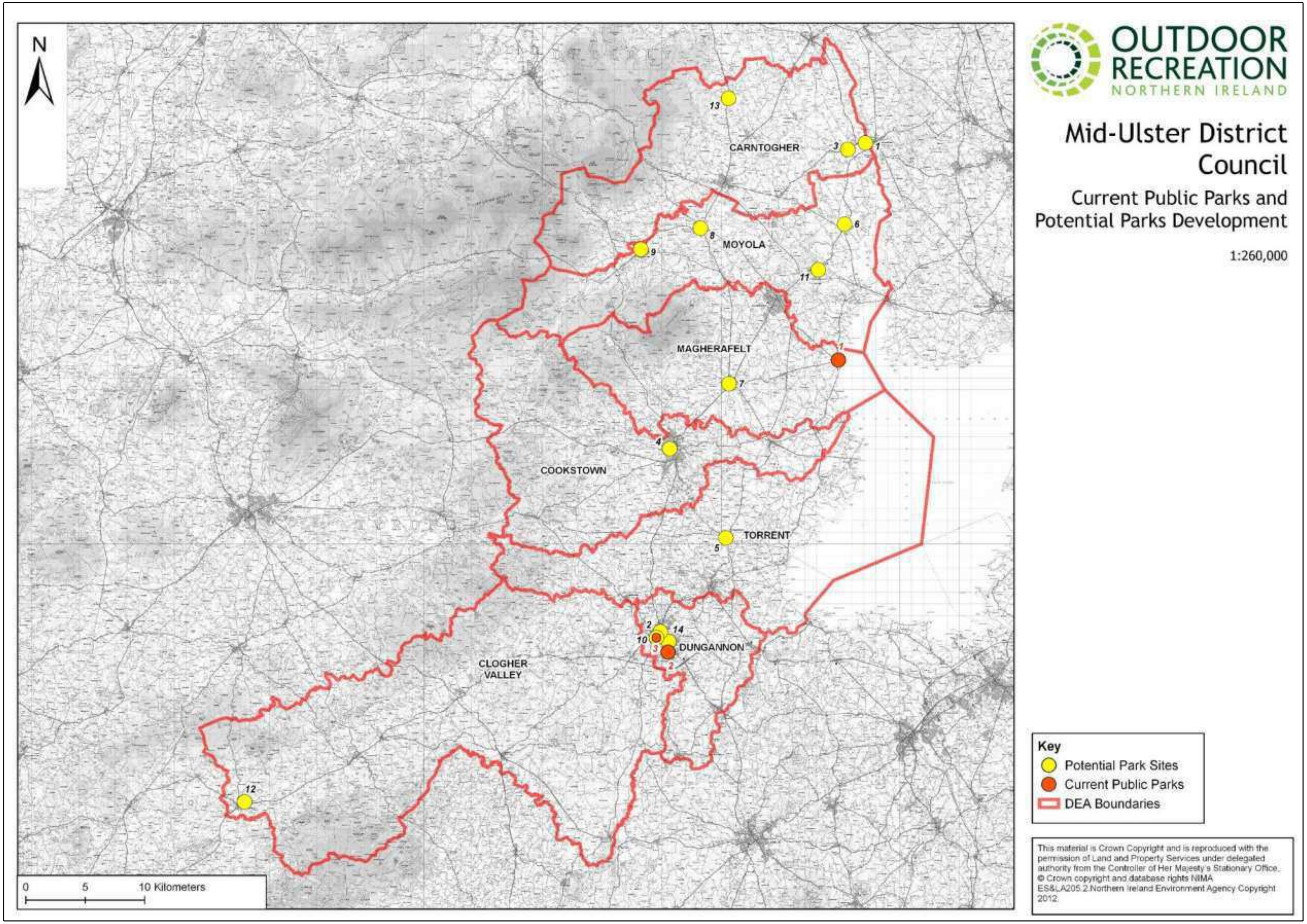


FIGURE 13 POTENTIAL PUBLIC PARK DEVELOPMENT

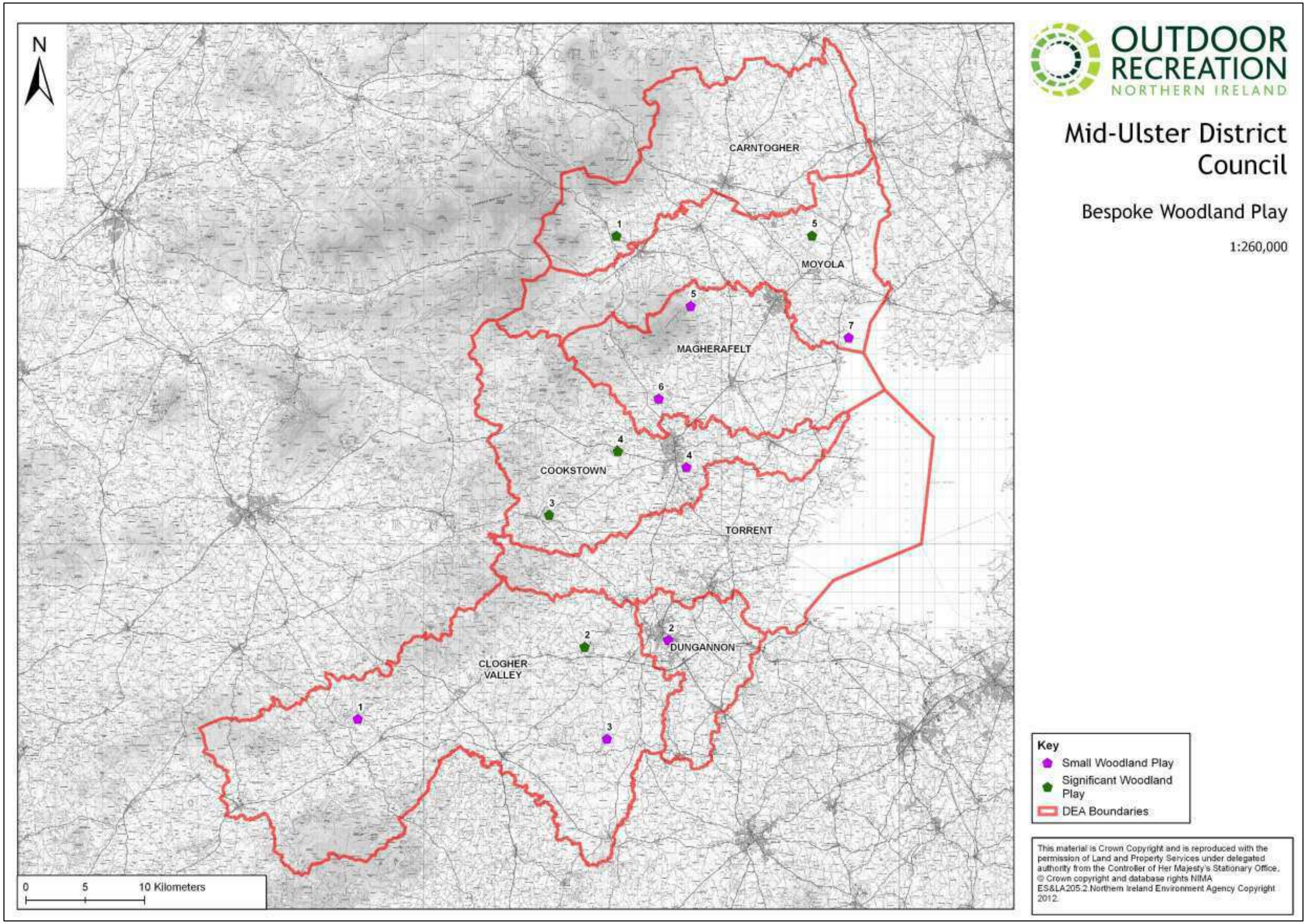


FIGURE 14 MID ULSTER POTENTIAL WOODLAND PLAY PROVISION

8.4. Dungannon

There are 19 public parks/play parks within Dungannon DEA as well as 3 open/green space sites as shown in Figure 15.

According to Mid Ulster District Council Planning Paper Seven – Open Space, Recreation and Leisure, much of Dungannon is deficient in terms of equipped play provision with no play areas easily accessible from the town centre by foot. It was also noted that the residential areas in the south and west of the town were also deficient in play provision.

Deemed as deficient in the number of equipped play areas, the spatial distribution of play provision in Dungannon is not considered to be strategic. Therefore the proposed recommendations have considered the sites surrounding the town centre as well as utilising the open/green spaces which hold potential for future development.

The 4 zones within Dungannon in Figure 15 are shown in detail in the accompanying 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Dungannon'. In this report, maps showing the current provision are mapped against population of 0-15 year olds as well as household pointer data. The recommendations made within Table 10 are then shown to provide a visual of how the recommendations could potentially shape play provision in Dungannon.

Table 13 details the public parks/play parks that fall within the Dungannon DEA boundary along with proposed recommendations. For more detailed analysis, please refer to 'Mid Ulster Maps Report – Dungannon' as necessary.

Table 14 details two potential open/green space sites within Dungannon that could potentially be developed into new play locations. In response to the Mid Ulster District Council Planning Paper Seven – Open Space, Recreation and Leisure, it is suggested that the Castlehill (3) is developed into a public park facility with LEAP which will address the gap of park and play provision within the centre of Dungannon. In addition, in line with Mid Ulster's Outdoor Recreation Strategic Plan 2017, it is suggested that Windmill Wood is further enhanced with regards its outdoor recreation provision. This site holds potential for development of a NEAP as well as a small, bespoke woodland play element site making use of the natural surrounding materials to create animal carvings and other imaginary play pieces.

Table 15 highlights two new potential play locations that have been identified for the DEA of Dungannon. As per Figure 1 & 2 in 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Dungannon', it can be seen that the community of Springfield is not catered for with regards a public park/play facility. In addition, this is an area with a high density of housing and a relatively youthful population. Therefore, it is suggested that Council investigates the potential of suitable land for park/play provision in this catchment area.

Table 16 highlights the proposed parks sites that will receive funding under Rural Development Programme in Dungannon. Some sites are already confirmed while other locations are pending on suitable sites being identified. Where relevant, sites not mapped within this strategy have been labelled as such.

Finally, as part of the wider proposed £1m development plan for Railway Park (subject to available funding), it is suggested that the current play provision at Railway Park has the potential to move within the park boundary, thus facilitating the development of a NEAP in the north west of the town. This would address the relatively youthful population while providing an enhanced facility for the area.

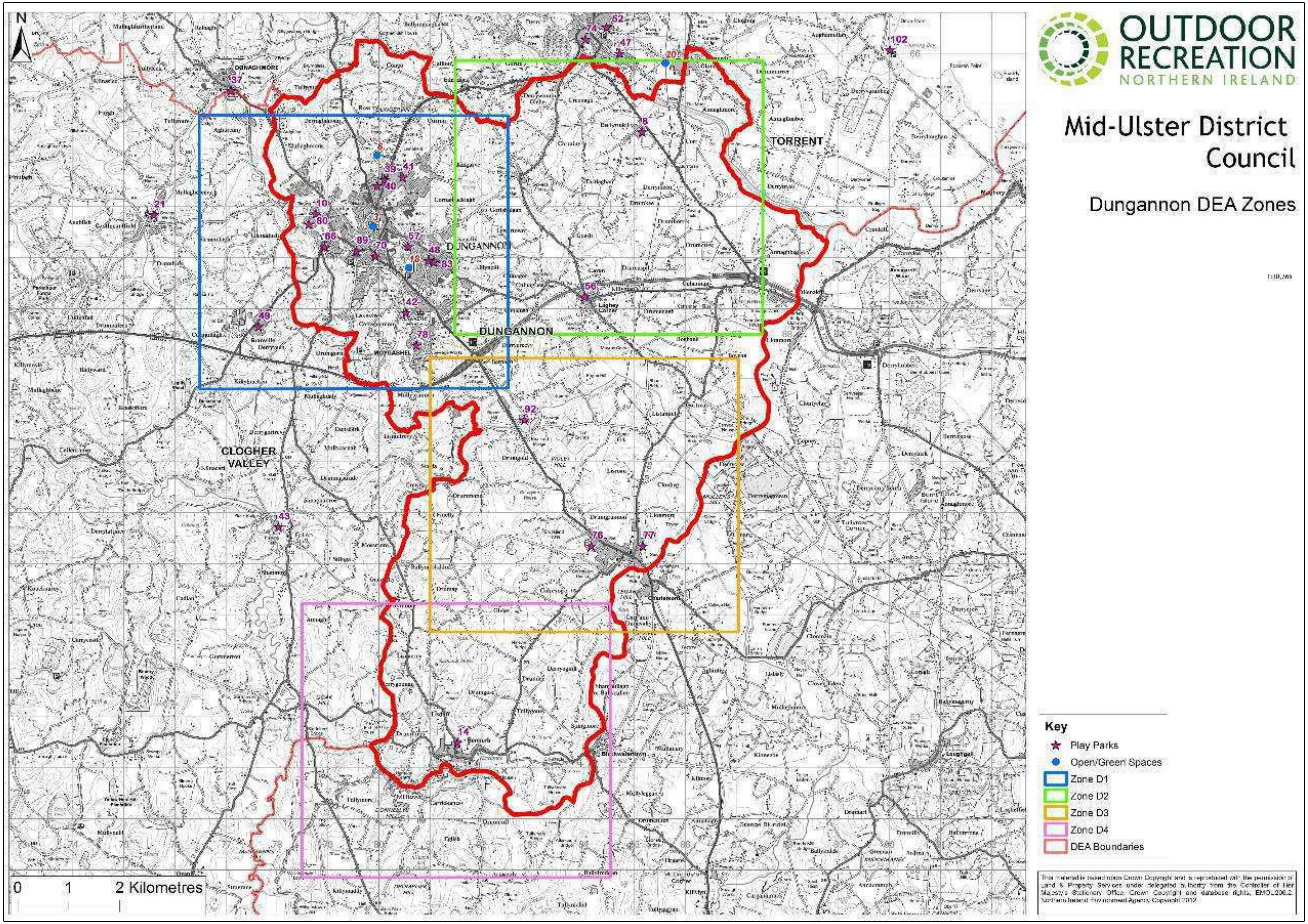


FIGURE 15 DUNGANNON DEA OVERVIEW

Map Zone	Public Park/ Play Park ID	Name of Facility	Quality Score	LEAP/NEAP Current Status	Overview	Indicative Cost	Timing
D1	10	Ballysaggart	6	LEAP	As part of the wider development plan for Railway Park and the potential development of a NEAP, it is suggested the current play provision at Ballysaggart should be reviewed based on its recommended life span. It is felt the enhanced provision at Railway Park would cater for the community once served by Mullaghmore (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Dungannon').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
D1	39	Drumcoo	2	LEAP	The Drumcoo site no longer exists as an equipped area for play. Therefore it is suggested that this site is considered at community consultation with regards a change of use to better serve the surrounding community (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Dungannon).	TBC	TBC
D1	40	Drumcoo Green	10	LEAP	The LEAP at Drumcoo Green holds potential to be developed into a NEAP thus providing the surrounding population with a larger equipped play facility (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Dungannon').	£50,000	5 Years+
D1	41	Dunavon	8.8	LEAP	It is suggested that Dunavon will continue to exist as a LEAP and will be monitored and maintained to ensure it continues to provide high quality play provision (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Dungannon').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
D1	42	Dungannon Park	7.5	NEAP	It is suggested that Dungannon Park is further developed into one of two 'Activity Centres'. These sites aim to offer a visitor destination style facility with enhanced all ability play, changing provision and facilities. Activity Centres offer not only enhanced play but also a range of other outdoor reaction facilities such as walking and cycling trails, water recreation and even camping/caravanning. (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Dungannon').	£250,000 (subject to funding)	5 Years+
D1	48	Gortnasoar	8.8	LEAP	With the suggestion of significant play provision being developed at Windmill Wood, it is felt that the play provision at Gortnasoar should be reviewed based on its recommended life span. However, it is suggested that the MUGA facilities could still be retained (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Dungannon').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
D1	57	Killymerron	5	LEAP	With the suggestion of significant play provision being developed at Windmill Wood (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Dungannon'), it is felt the play provision at Killymerron should be reviewed based on its recommended life span (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Dungannon').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
D1	66	Meadowbank	9.6	NEAP	The NEAP and MUGA facilities at Meadowbank will continue to exist in their current form and will be monitored and maintained to ensure they provide high quality play and recreation (Figure 1 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Dungannon').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
D1	70	Milltown	7.5	LEAP	Milltown will continue to exist as a LEAP with MUGA but given the quality score of play equipment, it is suggested that this site undergoes continued maintenance with a degree of enhancement (Figure 1 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Dungannon').	£25,000	Year 4
D1	78	Moygashel Jacksonville	7.5	MUGA	It is suggested that the MUGA site at Moygashel Jacksonville holds potential for development into a LEAP (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Dungannon').	£50,000	Year 3

D1	80	Mullaghmore	10	LEAP	It is suggested the current play provision at Mullaghmore should be reviewed based on its recommended life span. It is felt the enhanced provision at Railway Park would cater for the community once served by Mullaghmore (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Dungannon').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
D1	83	Northland Village	6.8	LEAP	With the suggestion of significant play provision being developed at Windmill Wood, it is felt that the play provision at Northland Village would not continue in its current form and undergo change of use dependant on community consultation (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Dungannon').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
D1	89	Railway Park	5	LEAP	The current play provision at location 89 has potential to be relocated within the Railway Park boundary, facilitating the development of a NEAP in the north west of the town. This would address the high population of young people and allow Mullaghmore and Ballysaggart to run to be reviewed based on recommended life span (see site 89 on Figure 1 with the potential relocation mapped at site 2 on Figure 2) within the 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Dungannon'. In addition, Council have plans for a £1,000,000 development proposal for Railway Park offering improved visitor experience, infrastructure and events space. (subject to available funding and programming, which may alter current strategic projections in terms of scheduling and indicative costs)	£150,000 £100,000 (£1,000,000 Development subject to available funding)*	Year 2 5 Years+
D2	8	Ballynakelly	10	LEAP	Ballynakelly will continue to exist as a LEAP and will be monitored and maintained to ensure it continues to provide high quality play provision (Figure 3 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Dungannon').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
D2	56	Killyman	9	LEAP	In line with the Rural Development Programme - Village Renewal, it is planned that Killyman will benefit from £38,103 in order to enhance existing play facilities (Figure 3 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Dungannon').	RDP*	Year 1
D3	76	Moy Curran's Brae	7.9	LEAP	Moy Curran's Brae has potential to be developed into a NEAP which would better serve the town. It would serve the area that was once catered for by Moy Oakfield (Figures 4 & 5 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Dungannon').	£50,000	Year 4
D3	77	Moy Oakfield	9.5	LEAP	Given the potential development at Moy Curran's Brae, it is suggested that the site at Moy Oakfield should be reviewed based on its recommended life span, as this NEAP will cater for the whole of the town (Figures 4 & 5 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Dungannon').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
D3	92	Redford	5	LEAP	Redford will continue to exist as a LEAP but given the quality score of play equipment, it is suggested that this site undergoes continued maintenance with a degree of enhancement (Figures 4 & 5 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Dungannon').	£25,000	Year 1
D4	14	Benburb	7.8*	LEAP with MUGA	Benburb will continue to exist as a LEAP with MUGA. External Community funding has provided an upgrade at Benburb not reflected in the score rating.* The site will be monitored and maintained ensure it continues to provide high quality play provision (Figure 6 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Dungannon').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+

TABLE 13 DUNGANNON PUBLIC PARK/PLAY PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

Map Zone	Park/Play Park ID	Facility Name	Quality Score	LEAP/NEAP Status	Overview	Indicative Cost	Timing
D1	3	Castlehill	n/a	Proposed LEAP	It is suggested that the Castlehill site is developed into a LEAP which will therefore address the gap of play provision within the centre of Dungannon as highlighted in the Mid Ulster District Council Planning Paper Seven – Open Space, Recreation and Leisure. (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Dungannon').	£150,000 (subject to funding)	5 Years+
D1	18	Windmill Wood	n/a	Proposed NEAP	It is suggested that Windmill Wood would benefit from a NEAP style play facility made from materials appropriate to the setting (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Dungannon'). There are a number of sites within this location that Council should consider for this development. Windmill Wood also offers potential to be developed into a public park facility for Dungannon.	£150,000 (subject to funding)	5 Years+
Bespoke Woodland Play	Site 2			Small Woodland Play element	It is suggested that Windmill Wood benefit from a small, bespoke, woodland play element (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Dungannon'). It is felt that this would complement the recommendations made in the Outdoor Recreation Strategic Plan, 2017 to enhance the outdoor recreation provision at this site (Table 12 Bespoke Woodland Play Locations).	£25,000 (subject to funding)	5 Years+
D1	6	Drumglass Wood	n/a	n/a	This site is currently not open to the Public as there is no access. It has however potential to be a Conservation project for the area.	TBC	TBC

TABLE 14 DUNGANNON OPEN/GREEN SPACE AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Map Zone	Park/Play Park ID	Facility Name	Quality Score	LEAP/NEAP Status	Overview	Indicative Cost	Timing
D1	1	Springfield	n/a	Proposed LEAP	Given the high density of households combined with a relatively youthful population, it is suggested that Springfield is considered as an area of need with regards play provision. It is advised that Council seek to acquire land in the Springfield catchment area for a potential LEAP (Figure 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Dungannon').	TBC	TBC

TABLE 15 DUNGANNON POTENTIAL NEW PLAY LOCATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Map Zone	Park/Play Park ID	Facility Name	Quality Score	LEAP/NEAP Status	Overview	Indicative Cost	Timing
Site unmapped	n/a	Ballynakelly/Tamnamore	n/a	TBC	In line with the Rural Development Programme - Village Renewal, it is planned that Ballynakelly/ Tamnamore will benefit from £18,000 to develop a new play facility located at the Education Centre.	RDP*	Year 2

TABLE 16 DUNGANNON PROPOSED RDP PARK SITES

Totals							Total
							£325,000

TABLE 17 DUNGANNON INDICATIVE COSTS

**Total excludes RDP expenditure, Railway Park £1m development proposal, contingency @ 10% and those estimated costs occurring after 5 years*

8.5. Cookstown

Serving a mix of urban and rural communities, there are 28 public parks/play parks within Cookstown DEA as shown in Figure 16. With a number of locations easily accessible by foot, Cookstown town centre is adequately provided for with regards play provision. However, given the high degree of overlap with regards play location catchment, the spatial distribution of fixed play sites is not considered to be strategic. In comparison with the rest of the town, it can be seen that the east and north-east areas are lacking in play provision.

Outside the town centre, Cookstown's play provision is comprised of a number of rural locations. Given the large proportion of households located in these settlements and villages, it is felt that the existence of play facilities in these locations hold social and environmental importance. Indeed this thinking is in line with the Mid Ulster Local Development Plan and the acknowledgement that its policies and the recommendations within this Strategy are subject to Rural Proofing. The Northern Ireland Assembly recently embarked on an exercise to enhance the rural proofing process by placing it on a statutory footing. As a result, the Rural Needs Act received Royal Assent on the 9th May 2016 and will commence for Local Council's on 1 June 2017. The Act seeks to safeguard the needs of rural communities, to promote a fair and inclusive rural society by introducing a duty on government and councils to consider the needs of rural dwellers when developing policies and delivering public services. This new legislation, imposes a statutory duty on Mid Ulster Council to consider rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising policies, strategies and plans and designing and delivering public services[33]

The 6 zones within Cookstown in Figure 16 are shown in detail in the accompanying 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Cookstown'. In this report, maps showing the current provision are mapped against population of 0-15 year olds as well as household pointer data. The recommendations made within Table 16 are then shown to provide a visual of how the recommendations could potentially shape play provision in Cookstown.

Table 18 details the public parks/play parks that fall within the Cookstown DEA boundary along with proposed recommendations for each. For more detailed analysis, please refer to 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Cookstown' as necessary.

Table 19 details three new potential play locations that have been identified for the DEA of Cookstown with regards small or significant woodland play. These include Cabin Wood, Pomeroy Forest and Drum Manor Forest. In line with the Mid Ulster District Council Outdoor Recreation Strategy, 2017 it is recommended that a number of key areas including forest sites across Mid Ulster undergo development. These are important recreation sites that are well used by the community while some other locations hold real potential in terms of creating a much-needed facility for the community as well as increasing Mid Ulster Council's recreation offering for the visitor. Therefore, it is suggested that to further enhance these sites and to improve the visitor experience, a natural woodland play element should be included also. As already highlighted, it is envisaged that this would consist of natural animal wood carvings and other imaginary 'play' pieces to add interest and value to the natural surroundings.

---

[33] Local Development Plan 2030 **-** Preferred Options Paper, Mid Ulster District Council (November 2016)

It should be noted that Cookstown is somewhat deficient in open/green space and Council are advised to investigate the potential of developing a public park. The Sports Recreation Grounds opposite the Fairhill site may hold potential and could provide this much needed provision in the Cookstown DEA. The playing fields could be relocated at the Mid Ulster Sports Area (MUSA) to allow for redevelopment of the current playing fields into a public park to include an events space with an enhanced play facility opposite this site. It is estimated that development of Fairhill would cost a minimum of £250,000. Should a significant Public Park/Play Hub development be undertaken at Fairhill Recreational Grounds a further review and suggested rationalisation of sites at Orritor Street, Rathbeg and Millburn could be considered, given the expanded catchment area that a Public Park/Play Hub facility at Fairhill would offer to the surrounding communities.

Finally, Table 20 highlights the proposed parks sites that will receive funding under Rural Development Programme in Cookstown. Some sites are already confirmed while other locations are pending on suitable sites being identified. Where relevant, sites not mapped within this strategy have been labelled as such.

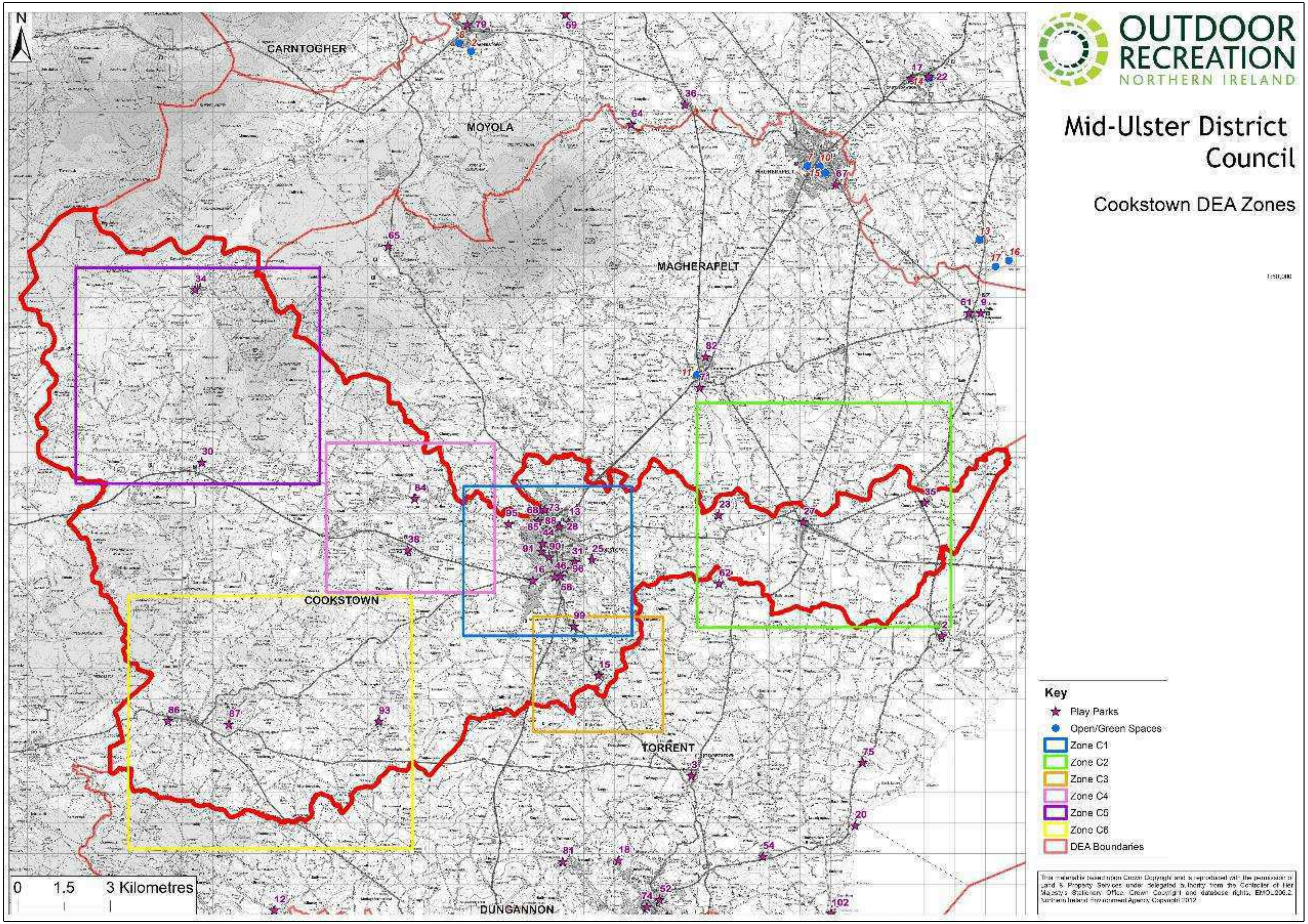


FIGURE 16 COOKSTOWN DEA OVERVIEW

Map Quadrant	Public Park/ Play Park ID	Name of Facility	Quality Score	LEAP/NEAP Status	Overview	Indicative Cost	Timings
C1	13	Beechway	5.8	LEAP	In-keeping with a strategic approach to play provision, it is suggested that the site at Beechway is upgraded to a NEAP in order to serve the larger surrounding area. Taking in site 28 at Coagh Street, this provision would be collectively known as 'Cookstown East'. (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Cookstown').	£50,000	Year 1
C1	16	Blackhill	8.5	LEAP	Blackhill will continue to exist as a LEAP and will be monitored and maintained to ensure it continues to provide high quality play provision. In addition, there is potential for a riverside walk to be developed above Blackhill and an option for the site to benefit from open/greenspace development (Figure 1 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Cookstown').	£25,000	Year 5
C1	25	Clare	6.5	LEAP	It is suggested that the play provision at Clare at Festival Park (25) should be reviewed based on its recommended life span. Given the potential to develop the site at Coolnafranky as a NEAP, it is intended that it will provide for the community (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Cookstown').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
C1	28	Coagh Street	6	LEAP	It is suggested that the limited play provision at Coagh Street should be reviewed based on its recommended life span to consider the upgrade of the larger facility at Beechway (13) to become a NEAP (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Cookstown').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
C1	31	Coolnafranky	5.5	LEAP	The site at Coolnafranky offers potential to be developed into a NEAP. It is intended that this larger facility would be known as 'Cookstown South' and provide for the wider area once served by Stewart Avenue (96) which should be reviewed based on its recommended life span (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Cookstown').	£50,000	Year 1
C1	44	Fairhill	8.5	NEAP	It is proposed that the NEAP status of Fairhill is further enhanced to one of 5 District Play Hubs. District Play Hubs have been considered based on geographic distribution, capacity of site, current status/classification, existing facilities, footfall and access. In addition, with regards parkland, the playing fields at Fairhill offer potential to be developed into a public park, offering much needed open/green space provision within 'Cookstown Central'. Such a development may suggest a revised assessment of facilities within the catchment area. (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Cookstown').	£250,000 (subject to funding)	5 Years+
C1	46	Gortalowry	7.7	LEAP	Gortalowry will be retained alongside Killymoon (58) and will be collectively known as Cookstown South. Given the quality score of play equipment at Gortalowry, it is suggested that this site along with Killymoon undergo continued maintenance with a degree of enhancement (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Cookstown').	£25,000	Year 4
C1	58	Killymoon	8	LEAP	Killymoon will be retained alongside Gortalowry (46) and will be collectively known as Cookstown South. It is suggested that this site along with Gortalowry are enhanced offering equipment for older children and subsequently NEAP coverage (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Cookstown').	£25,000	Year 4
C1	68	Milburn Close	9.3	LEAP	It is suggested that the play provision at Millburn Close (68) should be retained. Given the potential to develop Monrush as a NEAP and the suggested closure of Princess	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+

					Avenue, it is essential to retain a site on either side of the main road. These sites will be known as 'Cookstown North' (Figures 1 & 2, 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Cookstown'). Proposals to develop a Fairhill as a District Play Hub may necessitate a further review.		
C1	73	Monrush	7.1	LEAP	The existing site at Monrush has potential to be developed into a NEAP. Future development could include land north of this site (over 6 acres) offering significant open/greenspace for Cookstown North. Monrush and Millburn sites will have the collective capacity to provide for the wider area once served by Princess Avenue (88) which will be subject to review based on its recommended life span. Monrush has the capacity to provide play primarily for older children (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Cookstown').	£50,000 (Phase 1) £25,000 (Phase2)	Year 3 Year 4
C1	85	Orritor St.	7.2	LEAP	Orritor St. will continue to exist as a LEAP as it falls near to the periphery of Fairhill (44) NEAP catchment area. Proposals to develop a Fairhill as a District Play Hub may necessitate a further review. (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Cookstown').	£25,000	Year 3
C1	88	Princess Avenue	8.1	LEAP	In conjunction with the suggested reclassification of Monrush (73) as a NEAP, Princess Avenue should be reviewed based on its recommended life span. Monrush and Millburn will be collectively known as 'Cookstown North'. While Monrush will cater primarily for older children, it is intended that Millburn will continue to provide play opportunities for younger children. While both facilities are located a short distance from each other, their collective offering will serve the area once provided for by Princess Avenue (81) (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Cookstown').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
C1	90	Rathbeg	8.9	LEAP	Rathbeg will continue to exist as a LEAP as it falls near to the periphery of Fairhill (44) NEAP catchment area. Proposals to develop a Fairhill as a District Play Hub may necessitate a further review. (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Cookstown').	£25,000	Year 5
C1	91	Ratheen	6.4	LEAP	Given the level of current NEAP and LEAP provision in the catchment area Ratheen should be reviewed based on its recommended life span. The area is sufficiently served by Fairhill, Orritor Street and Rathbeg (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Cookstown').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
C1	95	Sperrinview	6	LEAP	It is felt that the site at Sperrinview should be considered for a change of use with the play space to be used as an area for the community as a whole, dependant on community consultation (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Cookstown').	Maintenance Budget	Year 1
C1	96	Stewart Avenue	7	LEAP	It is suggested that the play provision at Stewart Avenue (96) should be reviewed based on its recommended life span as the area it serves will be catered for by the enhanced provision at Coolnafranky (NEAP) (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Cookstown').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
C1	99	Tullywiggan	8.3	LEAP	Tullywiggan will continue to exist as a LEAP. It is suggested that this site is monitored and maintained to ensure it provides high quality play provision. Alternatively, the play provision could be relocated within the MUSA (Mid Ulster Sports Arena). Figure 1 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Cookstown'.	£25,000	Year 5

C2	27	Coagh Park, Coagh	8.3	LEAP	Coagh Park will continue to exist as a LEAP but given the concerns about localised flooding, demarcation between the river and playpark will need to be undertaken with additional protective fencing installed. This site will continue to be monitored and maintained to ensure it provides high quality play provision (Figure 3 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Cookstown').	£25,000	Year 5
C2	35	Derrychrin, Ballinderry	7.2	LEAP	Derrychrin will continue to exist as a LEAP but given the quality score of play equipment, it is suggested that this site undergoes continued maintenance with a degree of enhancement (Figure 3 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Cookstown').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
C3	15	Berkeley Square, T'hogue	7.8	LEAP	The play provision at Berkeley Square will be retained as a LEAP. However, given the quality score it is suggested that this site undergoes continued maintenance with a degree of enhancement in line with the Rural Development Programme. It is planned that Berkeley Square will benefit from £38,103 (Figure 4 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Cookstown').	RDP*	Year 2
C4	38	Drum Manor Forest	8.2	Existing play provision in forest	The current play provision at Drum Manor adds value to those who visit the forest. However, it is recognised that this site does not offer inclusive play options. Therefore, it is suggested that this site is reviewed, monitored and maintained to ensure it continues to provide high quality play while acknowledging the need for an element of inclusive play under the Bespoke Woodland Play as highlighted in Section 8.2 (See Figure 5 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Cookstown').	£30,000	Year 1
C4	84	Orritor	9.2	LEAP	Orritor will continue to exist as a LEAP and will be monitored and maintained to ensure it provides high quality play provision (Figure 5 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Cookstown').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
C5	30	Conway Close	7.8	LEAP	Conway Close will continue to exist as a LEAP but given the quality score of play equipment, it is intended that this site undergoes continued maintenance with a degree of enhancement (Figure 6 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Cookstown').	£25,000	Year 4
C5	34	Davagh Forest	9.5	Existing play provision in forest	Davagh will continue to offer an element of play provision within the Forest and in line with the Outdoor Recreation Strategic Plan 2017, this site will be positioned as a strategic location with regards outdoor recreation. This will further complement the Observatory Building and Camping within the Davagh Forest Hub as detailed within MUDC Capital Programme 2016 – 2020 (Figure 6 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Cookstown').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
C6	86	Parkview, Pomeroy	8.8	LEAP	Parkview at Pomeroy will continue to exist as a LEAP and it is suggested that this site is monitored and maintained to ensure it provides high quality play (Figure 7 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Cookstown').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
C6	87	Pomeroy Forest	10	LEAP	As per the village plans, it is suggested that the level of play in Pomeroy Forest is upgraded to raise the status of play to a NEAP. This suggestion is also line with the Outdoor Recreation Strategy, 2017, which focuses on enhancing the Council's current forestry offering. In addition, it is suggested that better pedestrian and cycling access is developed from Parkview and Orritor to Pomeroy Forest. The car park facilities will benefit from funding under MUDC Capital Programme 2016 – 2020 (Figures 7 & 8, 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Cookstown').	£25,000	5 Years+
C6	93	Rockdale, Rock	8	LEAP	Rockdale will continue to exist as a LEAP. It is suggested that this site is monitored and maintained to ensure it provides high quality play provision. As per the Village Plan, it is	£25,000	Year 4

					acknowledged that this site requires upgrade of its play equipment (Figure 7, 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Cookstown').		

TABLE 18 COOKSTOWN PUBLIC PARK/PLAY PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

Map	Small/Significant Park ID	Facility Name	Quality Score	Proposed Status	Overview	Indicative Cost	Timing
Figure 14 Mid Ulster Potential Woodland Play Provision	Site 4 - Small Woodland Play	Cabin Wood	n/a	Proposed Small Woodland Play	It is suggested that Cabin Wood would benefit from a small, bespoke, woodland play element. It is felt that this would complement the recommendations made within the Mid Ulster District Council Outdoor Recreation Strategy (2017) to enhance the outdoor recreation provision at this site (Figure 14 Mid Ulster Potential Woodland Play Provision).	£25,000 (subject to funding)	5 Years+
Figure 14 Mid Ulster Potential Woodland Play Provision	Site 4 - Significant Woodland Play	Pomeroy Forest	n/a	Proposed Significant Woodland Play	In addition to upgrading the play at Pomeroy to NEAP status, it is suggested that Pomeroy Forest would benefit from a small, bespoke, woodland play element. It is felt that this would complement the recommendations made within the Mid Ulster District Council Outdoor Recreation Strategy (2017), enhancing the outdoor recreation provision at this site (Figure 14 Mid Ulster Potential Woodland Play Provision).	£25,000 (subject to funding)	5 Years+
Figure 14 Mid Ulster Potential Woodland Play Provision	Site 5 - Significant Woodland Play	Drum Manor Forest	n/a	Proposed Significant Woodland Play	It is suggested that Drum Manor would benefit from a significant, bespoke, woodland play element. It is felt that this would complement the recommendations made within the Mid Ulster District Council Outdoor Recreation Strategy (2017) to enhance the outdoor recreation provision at this site (Figure 14 Mid Ulster Potential Woodland Play Provision).	£50,000 (subject to funding)	5 Years+

TABLE 19 SIGNIFICANT AND SMALL BESPOKE WOODLAND PLAY RECOMMENDATIONS

Map Zone	Park/Play Park ID	Facility Name	Quality Score	LEAP/NEAP Status	Overview	Indicative Cost	Timing
C2	23	Churchview, Drumullan	7.5	LEAP	In line with the Rural Development Programme - Village Renewal, it is planned that Churchview will benefit from £38,103 in order to enhance existing play facilities (Figure 3 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Cookstown').	RDP*	Year 2

TABLE 20 COOKSTOWN PROPOSED RDP PARK SITES

Totals						Indicative Cost	Total
							£380,000

TABLE 21 COOKSTOWN INDICATIVE COSTS

**Total excludes RDP expenditure, contingency @ 10% and those estimated costs occurring after 5 years*

8.6. Magherafelt

There are 6 public parks/play parks within Magherafelt DEA as shown in Figure 17. With only one Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP), the centre of Magherafelt is almost entirely deficient in terms of play provision. Therefore, it is suggested that Meadowbank Leisure Centre is further enhanced to one of 5 District Play Hubs. District Play Hubs have been considered on the basis of geographic distribution, capacity of site, current status/classification, existing facilities, footfall and access. This provision would enhance the current fixed play at this site.

While it is acknowledged that the north east of the town is deficient in fixed play provision, it should be noted that the population of 0-15 is relatively low compared to other areas of Magherafelt. However, it is suggested that Council should give consideration toward development at potential sites around Glenburn, Rainey Endowed School and Mid Ulster Hospital. It is felt that land in these areas would address a potentially emerging youthful population as well as serving a number of residential areas.

The 4 zones within Magherafelt in Figure 17 are shown in more detail in the accompanying 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Magherafelt' document. In this report, maps showing the current provision are mapped against population of 0-15 year olds as well as household pointer data. The recommendations made within Table 17 are then shown to provide a visual of how the recommendations could potentially shape play provision in Magherafelt.

Table 22 details the public parks/play parks that fall within the Magherafelt DEA boundary along with proposed recommendations for each. For more detailed analysis, please refer to 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Magherafelt' as necessary.

It should be noted that the centre of the Magherafelt area benefits from a number of open/green spaces which are detailed in Table 23 along with recommendations. Manor Park in Moneymore, is a valuable site with regards its open/green space offering and it is recommended that it should be retained and developed into a public park. While Polepatrick offers the green space for passive leisure in Magherafelt, development opportunities are limited given its proximity to the cemetery. However, the disused 'Sounding Hill' quarry on Tobermore Road could hold development potential and address the under provision of public parks in Magherafelt. Council is therefore advised to initiate discussions with the Trustees of this site. It should be noted that development at the Sounding Hill quarry could result in a development project costing in the region of £1,000,000 - £1,500,000.

Table 24 details recommendations for Woodland Play sites in Magherafelt while Table 25 highlights the proposed parks sites that will receive funding under Rural Development Programme in Magherafelt. Some sites are already confirmed while other locations are pending on suitable sites being identified. Where relevant, sites not mapped within this strategy have been labelled as such.

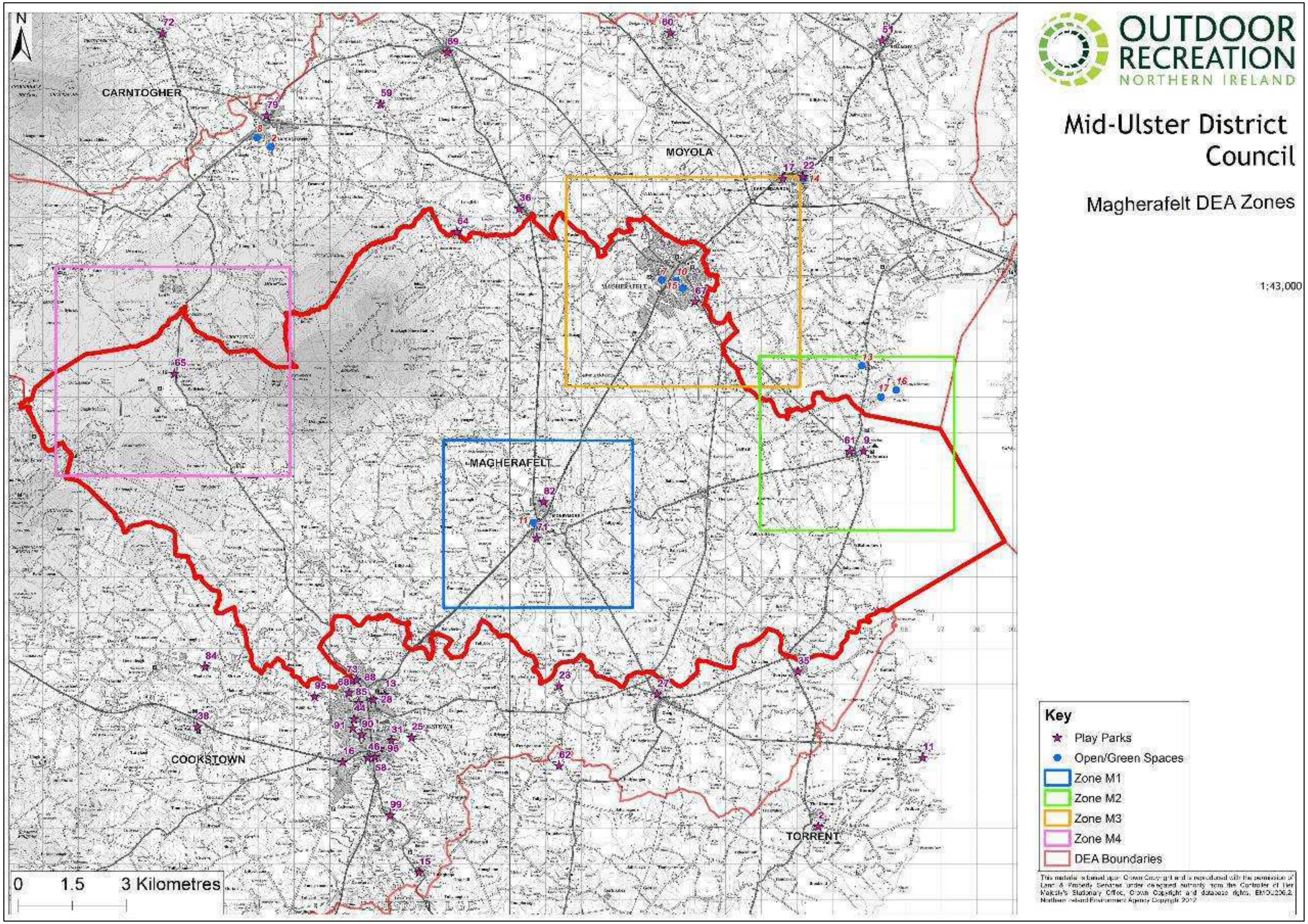


FIGURE 17 MAGHERAFELT DEA OVERVIEW

Map Quadrant	Public Park/ Play Park ID	Name of Facility	Quality Score	LEAP/NEAP Status	Overview	Indicative Cost	Timings
M1	71	Moneymore RC	9.1	LEAP	The LEAP at Moneymore RC will continue to exist as a LEAP and will be monitored and maintained to ensure it provides high quality play provision (Figure 1, 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Magherafelt').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
M1	82	Northland Moneymore	6.1	LEAP	The LEAP at Northland Moneymore will continue to exist as a LEAP and will be monitored and maintained to ensure it provides high quality play provision (Figure 1, 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Magherafelt').	£20,000	Year 1
M2	9	Ballyronan	6.5	LEAP	With several sites having been considered within the play matrix, it is suggested that the facility at Ballyronan is further developed into one of two 'Activity Hubs'. These sites aim to offer a visitor destination style facility with enhanced all ability play, changing provision and facilities. The Activity Hub sites offer not only enhanced play but also a range of other outdoor reaction facilities such as walking and cycling trails, water recreation and even camping/caravanning. This recommendation for Ballyronan is in line with the 'Projects Under Consideration' within the Council Capital Programme 2016 – 2020 (Figure 3, 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Magherafelt').	£250,000 (subject to funding)	5 Years+
M2	61	Lindsayville, Ballyronan	10	LEAP	With the development of an Activity Hub at Ballyronan, Lindsayville Ballyronan should be reviewed based on its recommended life span (Figures 2 & 3, 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Magherafelt').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
M3	67	Meadowbank (Leisure Centre)	7.9	NEAP	It is anticipated that the NEAP at Meadowbank Magherafelt is further enhanced to one of 5 District Play Hubs. District Play Hubs have been considered based on geographic distribution, capacity of site, current status/classification, existing facilities, footfall and access (Figures 4 & 5, 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Magherafelt').	£100,000 (subject to funding)	5 Years+
M4	65	Lough Fea	9.6	LEAP	Lough Fea will continue to exist as a LEAP and will be monitored and maintained to ensure it provided high quality play provision (Figure 6, 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Magherafelt').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+

TABLE 22 MAGHERAFELT PUBLIC PARK/PLAY PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

Map Quadrant	Public Park/ Play Park ID	Name of Facility	Quality Score	LEAP/NEAP Status	Overview	Indicative Cost	Timings
M1	11	Manor Park, Moneymore	n/a	n/a	It is suggested that Manor Park (site 11 open/green space parks) is retained as and further developed into a public park for Moneymore, providing a much-needed facility for this DEA.	£150,000 (subject to funding)	5 Years+
M3	7	Glenburn	n/a	n/a	Glenburn is an open green space with potential for play and community garden/allotment development potential subject to available funding. Glenburn may be considered as an alternative short term objective in Magherafelt subject to available funding.	Maintenance Budget	TBC
M3	10	Greenvale Spires Park	n/a	n/a	Greenvale Spires Park is a disused play site. Future development potential to be considered.	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
M3	15	Sperrin View	n/a	n/a	Sperrinview is a disused play site. Future development potential to be considered.	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+

TABLE 23 MAGHERAFELT OPEN/GREEN SPACE AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Map Zone	Park/Play Park ID	**Facility Name**	**Quality Score**	**LEAP/NEAP Status**	**Overview**	**Indicative Cost**	**Timing**
Bespoke Woodland Play	Site 1	Inniscarn Forest	N/A	Small Woodland Play element	It is suggested that Inniscarn Forest would benefit from a small, bespoke, woodland play element. It is felt that this would complement the recommendations made in the Outdoor Recreation Strategic Plan 2017 to enhance the outdoor recreation provision at this site (Table 12 Bespoke Woodland Play Locations).	£25,000 (subject to funding)	5 Years+
Bespoke Woodland Play	Site 2	Lissan House	N/A	Small Woodland Play element	It is suggested that Lissan House would benefit from a small, bespoke, woodland play element. It is felt that this would complement the recommendations made in the Outdoor Recreation Strategic Plan 2017, to enhance the outdoor recreation provision at this site (Table 12 Bespoke Woodland Play Locations).	£25,000 (subject to funding)	5 Years+

TABLE 24 MAGHERAFELT SMALL BESPOKE WOODLAND PLAY RECOMMENDATIONS

Map Quadrant	Public Park/ Play Park ID	Name of Facility	Quality Score	LEAP/NEAP Status	Overview	Indicative Cost	Timings
Site unmapped	n/a	Loup	n/a	TBC	In line with the Rural Development Programme - Village Renewal, it is planned that Loup will benefit from £38,103.	RDP*	Year 2

TABLE 25 MAGHERAFELT RDP SITES

Totals							Total
							£20,000

TABLE 26 MAGHERAFELT INDICATIVE COSTS

**Total excludes RDP expenditure, contingency @ 10% and those estimated costs occurring after 5 years*

8.7. Carntogher

Carntogher has 11 public parks/play parks as well as 5 open/green space sites as shown in Figure 18.

Overall Carntogher scored well on the quality assessment with all but one facility falling into the upper band during the audit. It is anticipated that the NEAP at Coleraine Road is further enhanced to one of 5 District Play Hubs. District Play Hubs have been considered based on geographic distribution, capacity of site, current status/classification, existing facilities, footfall and access.

Given the planned enhancement at Coleraine Road it is anticipated that the play provision at Crawfordsburn is considered on the basis of its recommended life span with the open/green space site on the Coleraine Road now surplus to requirements - providing council an opportunity for Council to relinquish this site.

Another key development area in Carntogher is Upperlands. Highlighted in the Outdoor Recreation Strategic Plan (2017) as a key recreation site, the community of Upperlands is to benefit from £246,000 under Rural Development Programme - Village Renewal. A proportion of the total spend will be allocated to parks and play namely a MUGA at Alexander Park and a play park at the Linehall Centre.

The 5 zones within Carntogher mapped in Figure 18 are shown in detail in the accompanying 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Carntogher' document. In this report, maps showing the current provision are mapped against population of 0-15 year olds as well as household pointer data. The recommendations made within Table 27 are then shown to provide a visual of how the recommendations could potentially shape play provision in Carntogher.

Table 27 details the public parks/play parks that fall within the Carntogher DEA boundary along with proposed recommendations for each. For more detailed analysis, please refer to 'Mid Ulster Maps Report – Carntogher' as necessary.

Carntogher also has a number of open/green space sites which are detailed in Table 28 along with recommendations. Substantial land at Ballymacombs Road holds potential to re-establish a play facility as well as public park development. The informal green space at Clady also has development potential with regards a public park. The site at Swatragh also lends itself to public park development. The infrastructure as well as the riverside walk would contribute to parkland development based on a site assessment. Finally, it should be noted that the Walled Garden in Maghera should also be considered by Council with regards public park and play development for Carntogher this would complement the Public Realm Programme under MUDC Capital Programme 2016 – 2020 to improve Maghera town centre.

Finally Table 29 details recommendations for potential Woodland Play sites in Carntogher.

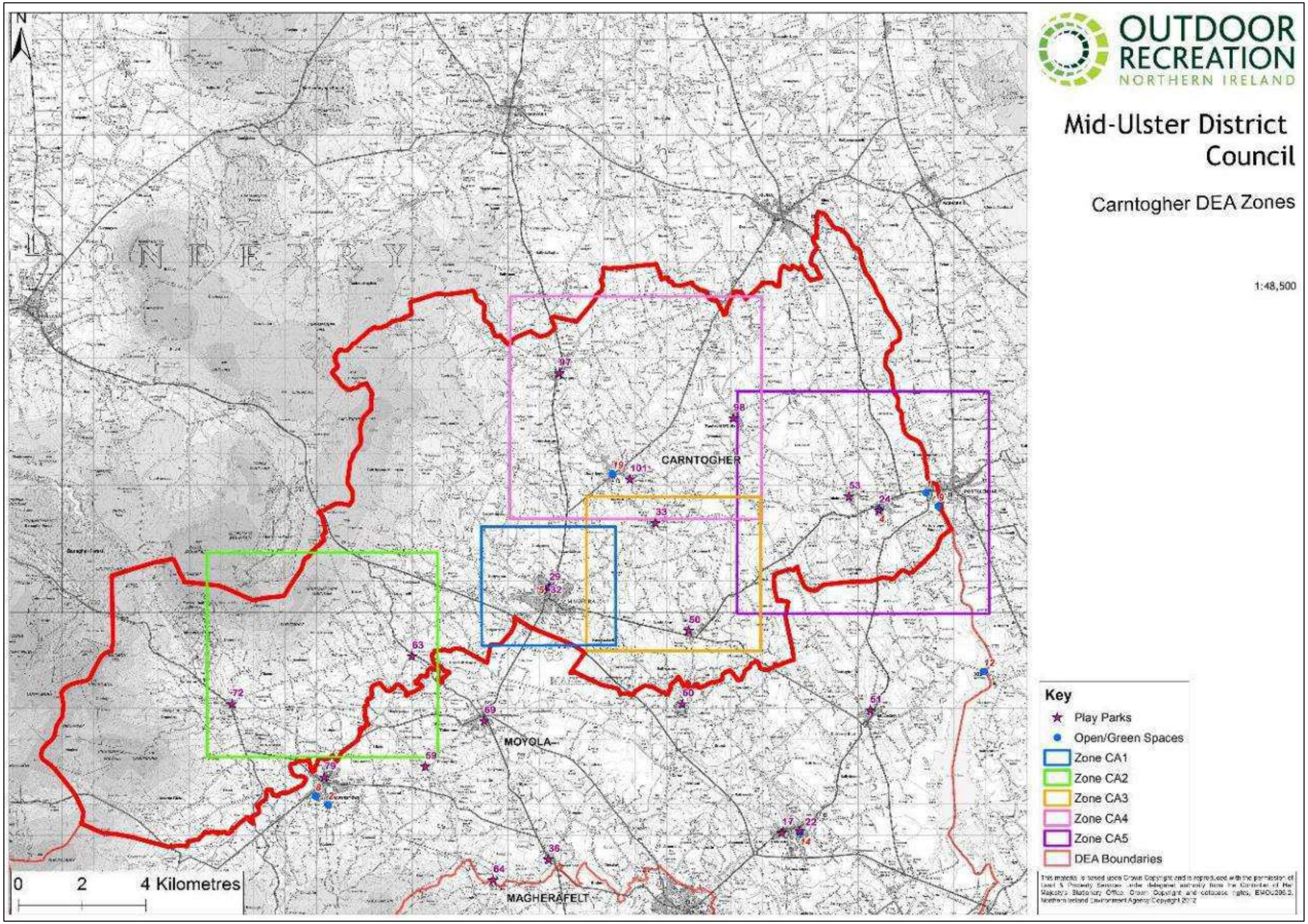


FIGURE 18 CARNTOGHER DEA OVERVIEW

Map Quadrant	Public Park/ Play Park ID	Name of Facility	Quality Score	LEAP/NEAP Status	Overview	Indicative Cost	Timings
CA1	29	Coleraine Road	8.6	NEAP	It is anticipated that the NEAP at Coleraine Road is further enhanced to one of 5 District Play Hubs. Play hubs have been considered based on geographic distribution, capacity of site, current status/classification, existing facilities, footfall and access (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Carntogher').	£100,000 (subject to funding)	5 Years+
CA1	32	Crawfordsburn	10	LEAP	With the site at Coleraine Road undergoing development to become a District Play Hub, it is suggested that Crawfordsburn (32) should be reviewed based on its recommended life span as the new facilities provided at Coleraine Road will serve the catchment area that Crawfordsburn catered for (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Carntogher').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
CA2	63	Lisnamuck	9.3	LEAP	Lisnamuck will continue to exist as a LEAP and will be monitored and maintained to ensure it provides high quality play provision (Figures 3 & 4 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Carntogher').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
CA2	72	Moneyneena	2	LEAP	Given the poor quality rating given to the play at Moneyneena, it is suggested that the fixed play provision is removed and the site used for alternative development dependant on community consultation (Figures 3 & 4 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Carntogher').	Maintenance Budget	Year 1
CA3	33	Culnady	9.3	LEAP	Culnady will continue to exist as a LEAP and will be monitored and maintained to ensure it continues to provide high quality play (Figure 5 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Carntogher').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
CA3	50	Gulladuff	9.7	LEAP	Gulladuff will continue to exist as a LEAP and will be monitored and maintained to ensure it provides high quality play provision. In addition, the site holds potential for the development of a MUGA (Figure 5 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Carntogher').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
CA4	97	Swatragh	8.2	LEAP	In line with the Rural Development Programme - Village Renewal, it is planned that Swatragh will benefit from £38,103. It is suggested that the play provision at Swatragh undergo development to become a NEAP. This recommendation is also in line with the feedback gathered at Consultation as it was felt the provision at this site could be upgraded (Figures 6 & 7 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Carntogher'). In addition, the existing infrastructure as well as the riverside walk at Swatragh adds to the potential for this site to be further developed into a larger public park.	RDP* £140,000 (subject to funding)	Year 2 5 Years+
CA4	98	Tamlaght	10	LEAP	Tamlaght will continue to exist as a LEAP. It is suggested that this site is monitored and maintained to provide high quality play provision (Figures 6 & 7 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Carntogher').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
CA4	101	Upperlands	10	LEAP	The community of Upperlands is to benefit from £246,000 under Rural Development Programme - Village Renewal. £101,000 will be allocated for a MUGA at Alexander Park with £145,000 allocated for play at the Linenhall Centre community centre (not mapped).	RDP*	Year 1

CA5	24	Clady	8.3	LEAP	Clady will continue to exist as a LEAP and will be monitored and maintained to ensure it continues to provide high quality play (Figure 8 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Carntogher').	£25,000	Year 5
CA5	53	Innishrush	10	LEAP	Innishrush will continue to exist as a LEAP and will continue to be monitored and maintained to ensure it provides high quality play provision (Figure 8 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Carntogher').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+

Table 27 Carntogher Public Park/Play Park Recommendations

Map Quadrant	Public Park/ Play Park ID	Name of Facility	Quality Score	LEAP/NEAP Status	Overview	Indicative Cost	Timings
CA1	5	Coleraine Road - Tamney Crescent	n/a	n/a	Given the play hub development at Coleraine Road, Tamney Crescent is considered surplus to requirements.	TBC	TBC
CA4	19	Upperlands	n/a	n/a	It may be possible for Council to relinquish this site or suggest developments for a change of use (Figure 6 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Carntogher').	TBC	TBC
CA5	1	Ballymacombs Road	n/a	n/a	There is potential to reinstate play a LEAP/NEAP facility at Ballymacombs Road as well as developing a public park facility at this site (Figure 8 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Carntogher'). Ballymacombs will also benefit from £38,103 through Rural Development Programme - Village Renewal.	£100,000 (subject to funding) RDP*	5 Years+ Year 2
CA5	4	Clady	n/a	n/a	There is potential to extend development around the existing play site at Clady to create a public park facility (Figure 8 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Carntogher').	£100,000 (subject to funding)	5 Years+
CA5	9	Glenone	n/a	n/a	The site at Glenone is an active green space including Fishing Stands. Public access and angling currently exists at this location. It is anticipated that the Fishing Stands will benefit from funding under MUDC Capital Programme 2016 – 2020 to make structural improvements subject to match funding (Figure 8 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Carntogher').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+

Table 28 Carntogher Open/Green Space and Recommendations

Map Zone	Park/Play Park ID	**Facility Name**	**Quality Score**	**LEAP/NEAP Status**	**Overview**	**Indicative Cost**	**Timing**
Bespoke Woodland Play	Site 1	Derrynoyd Forest	N/A	Significant Woodland Play element	It is suggested that Derrynoyd Forest would benefit from a small, bespoke, woodland play element. It is felt that this would complement the recommendations made in the Outdoor Recreation Strategic Plan (2017) to enhance the outdoor recreation provision at this site (Table 12 Bespoke Woodland Play Locations).	£50,000 (subject to funding)	5 Years+

Table 29 Carntogher Significant and Small Bespoke Woodland Play Recommendations

Totals							Total
							£25,000*

Table 30 Carntogher Indicative Costs

**Total excludes RDP expenditure, contingency @ 10% and those estimated costs occurring after 5 years*

8.8. Moyola

Play provision within Moyola DEA is located in the main towns and villages. With 9 play locations and 7 open/green space sites, this DEA boasts 3 NEAP facilities as shown in Figure 19. The NEAP at Hunters Park is one of the most established Parks in Mid Ulster and dates back to the 1950s. With a significant community footprint, this site continues to be an important location not only in terms of play but also offering an appropriate setting for an Eco-Park development similar to that at Aughnacloy. Hunters Park could also assist in the relocation of the allotments from the Seamus Heaney HomePlace offering a number of additional plots at this site. Hunters Park would require improved access and lighting to facilitate this potential development.

It is planned that Mill Park Tobermore will receive £38,103 from the Rural Development Programme - Village Renewal. It is envisaged this funding will extend the existing play facility with the addition of low level lighting at the site also. Mill Park provides opportunity for development of an open/green space to become a public park that is suitable for walking through an improved path network, landscaping, an events area as well as basic facilities.

The parkland surrounding the Moykeeran site in Draperstown also provides an opportunity for the community to benefit from a public park facility with enhanced walking provision through landscaping, lighting and maintenance of paths. This path network could hold potential for walkers and runners alike and even provide pockets of natural play for younger user groups. With increased recreation potential, there would be a requirement for improved visitor facilities including car park, toilets etc. In the interim, the current play facilities will continue to exist within their current form, with some enhancement to improve the quality score.

The 6 zones within Moyola mapped in Figure 19 are shown in detail in the accompanying ‘Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Moyola’. In this report, maps showing the current provision are mapped against population of 0-15 year olds as well as household pointer data. The recommendations made within Table 31 are then shown to provide a visual of how the recommendations could potentially shape play provision in Moyola.

Table 31 Moyola Public Park/Play Park Recommendations details the public parks/play parks that fall within the Moyola DEA boundary along with proposed recommendations for each. For more detailed analysis, please refer to ‘Mid Ulster Maps Report – Moyola’ as necessary.

Table 32 also details the open/green space sites within Moyola and associated recommendations.

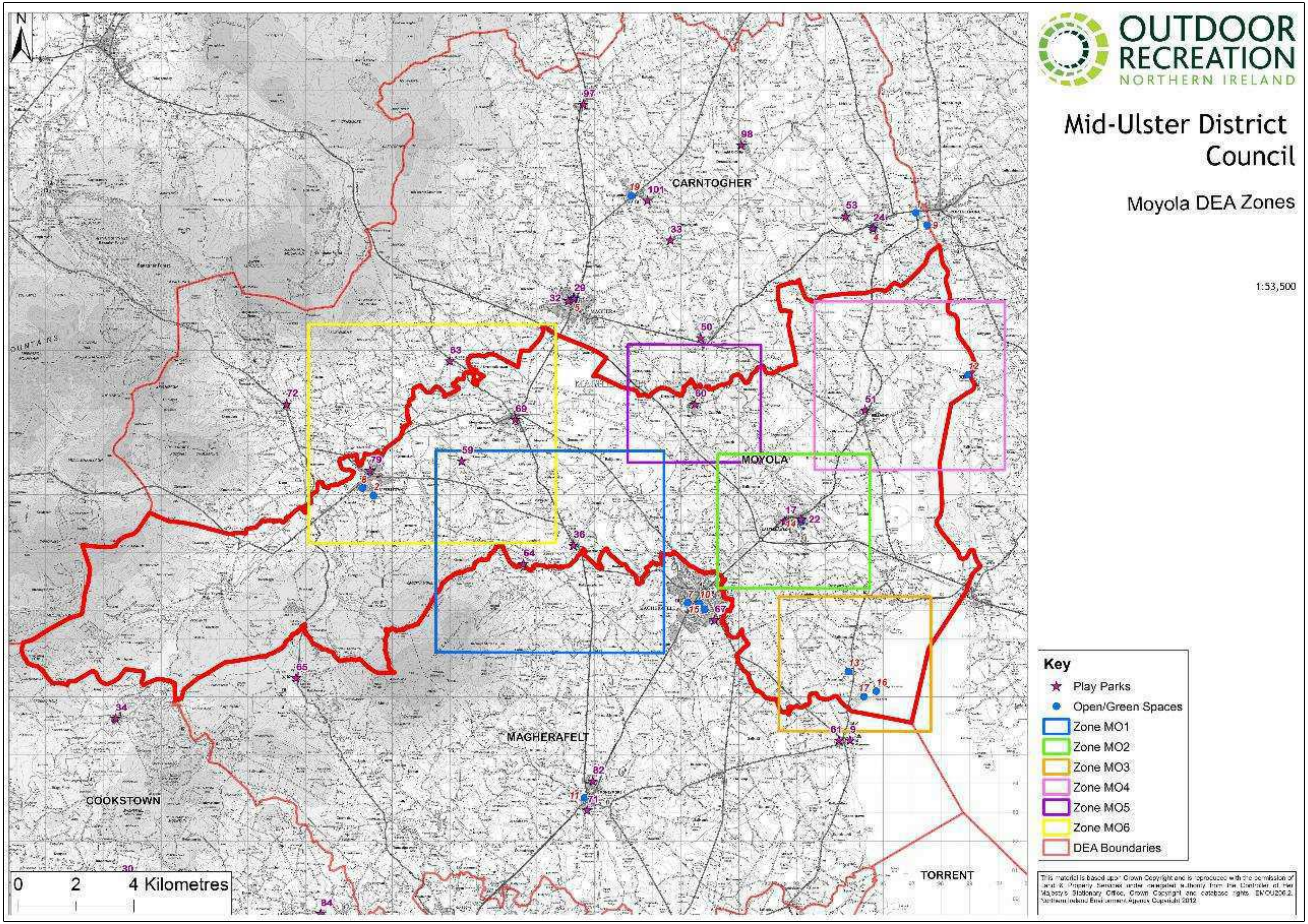


Figure 19 Moyola DEA Overview

Map Quadrant	Public Park/ Play Park ID	Name of Facility	Quality Score	LEAP/NEAP Status	Overview	Indicative Cost	Timings
MO1	36	Desertmartin	8.9	LEAP	Desertmartin will continue to exist as a LEAP and will be monitored and maintained to ensure it provides high quality play provision (Figure 1 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Moyola').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
MO1	59	Kilross	10	LEAP	Kilross will continue to exist as a LEAP and will be monitored and maintained to ensure it provides high quality play provision (Figure 1 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Moyola').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
MO1	64	Longfield	9	LEAP	Longfield will continue to exist as a LEAP. However, a review of current stock is required. This site will be monitored and maintained to ensure it provides high quality play provision (Figure 1 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Moyola').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
MO2	17	Boyne Row	5	LEAP	Boyne Row will continue to exist as a LEAP but given the quality score of play equipment it is suggested that this site undergoes continued maintenance with a degree of enhancement (Figure 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Moyola').	£25,000	Year 1
MO2	22	Castledawson	10	LEAP	Castledawson will continue to exist as a LEAP and will be monitored and maintained to ensure it provides high quality play provision (Figure 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Moyola').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
MO4	51	Hunters Park	9.2	NEAP	The play provision at Hunters Park will be retained in its current form with a degree of enhancement. However, it is suggested that this site undergoes further development with regards it's open/ green space as detailed in the table below (Figure 5 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Moyola').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
MO5	60	Knockloughrim	6.3	LEAP	Knockloughrim will continue to exist as a LEAP but given the quality score of play equipment, it is suggested that this site undergoes continued maintenance with a degree of enhancement (Figure 6 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Moyola').	£25,000	Year 1
MO6	69	Mill Park	9.4	NEAP	In line with the Rural Development Programme - Village Renewal, it is planned that Tobermore will benefit from £38,103 in order to extend the existing play facility with the addition of low level lighting also. Mill Park also provides opportunity for development of its open/green space to become a public park that is suitable for walking through an improved path network, landscaping, an events area as well as basic facilities (Figure 7 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Moyola').	RDP* £100,000 (subject to funding)	Year 1 5 Years+
MO6	79	Moykeeran	7.2	NEAP	Moykeeran offers potential for parkland development with works including landscaping, lighting and maintenance of existing paths. The land at the top of the pathway could be used for a pump track with possible exercise equipment along the path network for runners or alternatively pockets of natural play. With increased recreation potential, there would also be a requirement for improved facilities including a car park, toilets etc. In the interim, the current play facilities will continue to exist within their current form, with some enhancement to improve the quality score (Figure 7 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Moyola').	£100,000 (subject to funding)	5 Years+

TABLE 31 MOYOLA PUBLIC PARK/PLAY PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

Map Quadrant	Public Park/ Play Park ID	Name of Facility	Quality Score	LEAP/NEAP Status	Overview	Indicative Cost	Timings
MO6	2	Cahore Road	n/a	n/a	The open space at Cahore Road has potential for recreation/community development.	n/a	TBC
MO6	8	Glenelly Villas	n/a	n/a	Glenelly Villas is a disused play site has potential for recreation/community development.	n/a	TBC
MO4	51	Hunters Park	9.2	NEAP	Hunters Park provides an appropriate setting for an Eco-Park (similar to that provided at Aughnacloy). Enhanced access and lighting would also be incorporated into the suggested works at this site as well as relocating the allotments from the Seamus Heaney HomePlace (Figure 5 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Moyola').	£125,000 (subject to funding)	5 Years+
MO4	12	Newferry Slipway	n/a	n/a	This is an active public slipway. There is development potential at this site including the linear riverside link to Glenone.	TBC	TBC
MO3	13	O'Neill Park	n/a	LEAP	In line with Council's current Capital Projects, O'Neill Park is a potential development site for a LEAP facility. No current provision currently exists on site. Funding of £50,000 planned for this location under MUDC Capital Programme 2016 – 2020 (Figures 3 & 4 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Moyola').	£50,000 (subject to funding)	5 Years+
MO2	14	Parkview/Riverside - Castledawson	n/a	n/a	Playing fields and allotments are located at this site. A former Community House and play site are also situated close by which are currently under NIHE ownership. Mid Ulster Council is currently seeking a transfer of land and facility from NIHE to Council (Figure 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Moyola'). .	£150,000 (subject to funding)	5 Years+
MO3	16	Tradd Point	n/a	n/a	Current Capital development project with potential (Figures 3 & 4 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Moyola').	TBC	TBC
MO3	17	Tradd House	n/a	n/a	Current Capital development project with potential (Figures 3 & 4 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Moyola').	TBC	TBC

TABLE 32 MOYOLA OPEN/GREEN SPACE AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Map Zone	Park/Play Park ID	**Facility Name**	**Quality Score**	**LEAP/NEAP Status**	**Overview**	**Indicative Cost**	**Timing**
Bespoke Woodland Play	Site 1	Traad Point	N/A	Small Woodland Play element	It is suggested that Traad Point would benefit from a small, bespoke, woodland play element. It is felt that this would complement the recommendations made in the Outdoor Recreation Strategic Plan 2017, to enhance the outdoor recreation provision at this site (Table 12 Bespoke Woodland Play Locations).	£25,000 (subject to funding)	5 Years+
Bespoke Woodland Play	Site 1	Drumlamph Forest	N/A	Small Woodland Play element	It is suggested that Drumlamph Forest would benefit from a small, bespoke, woodland play element. It is felt that this would complement the recommendations made in the Outdoor Recreation Strategic Plan 2017, to enhance the outdoor recreation provision at this site (Table 12 Bespoke Woodland Play Locations).	£50,000 (subject to funding)	5 Years+

TABLE 33 MOYOLA SIGNIFICANT AND SMALL BESPOKE WOODLAND PLAY RECOMMENDATIONS

Totals							Total
							£75,000*

TABLE 34 MOYOLA INDICATIVE COSTS

**Total excludes RDP expenditure, contingency @ 10% and those estimated costs occurring after 5 years*

8.9. Torrent

Torrent benefits from a number of Lough shore public park/play park sites as well as some key in-land locations. Currently a capital development project namely, Gortgonis will incorporate improvements to play provision through further enhancement to one of 5 Play Hubs within the District. As previously stated, play hubs have been considered based on geographic distribution, capacity of site, current status/classification, existing facilities, footfall and access (Figure 1 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Torrent').

In line with Village Plans for the Torrent DEA, there is a development schedule for Henderson Park with the development of a NEAP/LEAP to be included. This development also holds potential for the relocation of the play provision at Stewartstown to a larger site within Henderson Park.

The 6 zones within Torrent are mapped in Figure 20 and are shown in detail in the accompanying 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Torrent' document. In this report, maps showing the current provision are mapped against population of 0-15 year olds as well as household pointer data. The recommendations made within Table 35 are then shown to provide a visual of how the recommendations could potentially shape play provision in Torrent.

Table 35 details the public parks/play parks that fall within the Torrent DEA boundary along with proposed recommendations for each. For more detailed analysis, please refer to 'Mid Ulster Maps Report – Torrent' as necessary.

Table 36 outlines the open/green space recommendations for Torrent, namely Henderson Park while Table 37 details recommendations for potential Woodland Play sites in Torrent.

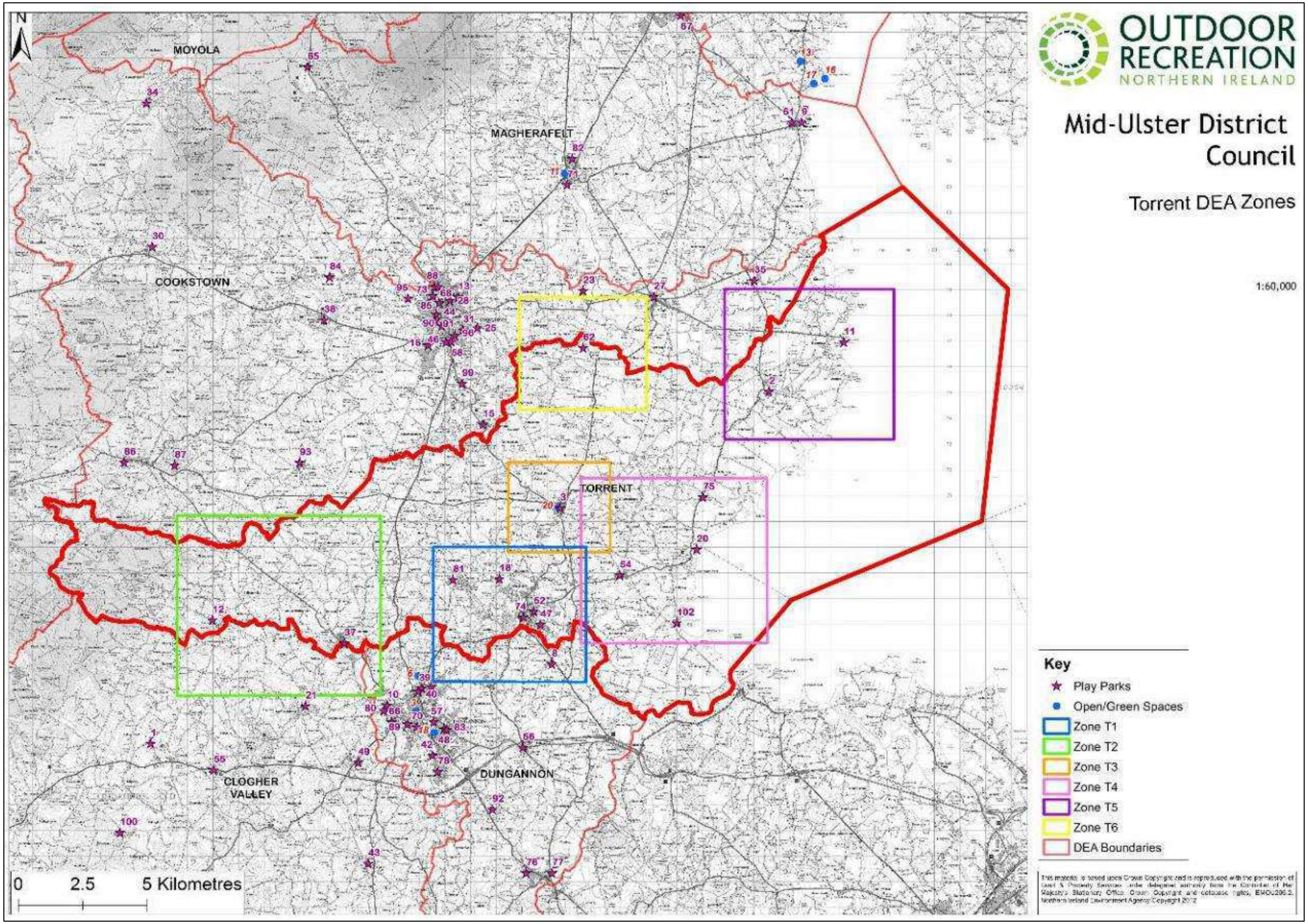


FIGURE 20 TORRENT DEA OVERVIEW

Map Quadrant	Public Park/ Play Park ID	Name of Facility	Quality Score	LEAP/NEAP Status	Overview	Indicative Cost	Timings
T1	18	Brackaville	6.8	LEAP	Brackaville will continue to exist as a LEAP but given the quality score of play equipment it is suggested that this site undergoes continued maintenance with a degree of enhancement (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Torrent').	£25,000	Year 2
T1	47	Gortgonis	7.2	NEAP	Given the future development plans for Gortgonis, it is suggested that Gortgonis is further enhanced to one of 5 play hubs within the District. Play Hubs have been considered based on geographic distribution, capacity of site, current status/classification, existing facilities, footfall and access (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Torrent').	£100,000 (subject to funding)	5 Years+
T1	52	Innishmore	6	MUGA	It is suggested that Innishmore undergoes a change of use from a MUGA to a LEAP to better serve the surrounding community (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Torrent'). This project is subject to funding via Gortgonis Community Hub Development Project.	£40,000 (subject funding via Gortgonis Community Hub Development Project)*	Year 2
T1	74	Mountcairn Coalisland	9	LEAP	Mountcairn will continue to exist as a LEAP and will be monitored and maintained to ensure it provides high quality play provision (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Torrent').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
T1	81	Newmills	9.7	LEAP	Newmills will continue to exist as a LEAP and will continue to be monitored and maintained to ensure it provides high quality play provision (Figures 1 & 2 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Torrent').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
T2	12	Beechline, Galbally	8.3	LEAP	Beechline, Galbally will continue to exist as a LEAP and will be monitored and maintained to ensure it continues to provide high quality play provision (Figure 3 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Torrent').	£25,000	Year 5
T2	37	Donaghmore	6.7	LEAP	Donaghmore will continue to exist as a LEAP with MUGA but given the quality score of play equipment, it is suggested that this site undergoes continued maintenance with a degree of enhancement (Figure 3 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Torrent').	£25,000	Year 2
T3	3	Ardstewart, Stewartstown	9	LEAP	There at two options available for the play provision at Ardstewart - the site will continue to exist as a LEAP. Alternatively, the current site could be reviewed based on its recommended life span with development of a new play location at Henderson Park (Figures 4 & 5 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Torrent').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
T4	20	Castlebay, Brocagh	7.5	MUGA	In line with the Rural Development Programme - Village Renewal, it is planned that Brocagh will benefit from £38,103 (Figure 6 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Torrent').	RDP*	Year 2
T4	54	Killeen	10	LEAP	Killeen will continue to exist as a LEAP and will be monitored and maintained to ensure it provides high quality play provision (Figure 6 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Torrent').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+

T4	75	Mourneview, Carnan	8.3	LEAP	Mourneview will continue to exist as a LEAP and will be monitored and maintained to ensure it provides high quality play provision (Figure 6 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Torrent').	£25,000	Year 5
T4	102	Washingbay	7.4	LEAP	Washing Bay will continue to exist as a LEAP but given the quality score of play equipment, it is suggested that this site undergoes continued maintenance with a degree of enhancement (Figure 6 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Torrent').	£25,000	Year 3
T5	2	Ardboe	9.7	LEAP	In line with village plans, it is anticipated that the fixed play provision at Ardboe is relocated to a more central location within the neighbouring housing development. Until such time, the Ardboe site will be monitored and maintained to ensure it continues to provide high quality of play provision (Figure 7 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Torrent').	£50,000	5 Years+
T5	11	Battery Harbour	7.2	LEAP	Battery Harbour will continue to exist as a LEAP but given the quality score of play equipment, it is suggested that this site undergoes continued maintenance with a degree of enhancement (Figure 7 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Torrent').	£25,000	Year 3
T6	62	Lisnahall	6.7	LEAP	Lisnahall will continue to exist as a LEAP but given the quality score of play equipment, it is suggested that this site undergo continued maintenance and enhancement (Figure 8 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Torrent').	£25,000	Year 2
Site unmapped	n/a	Annaghmore/Clonoe	n/a	TBC	In line with the Rural Development Programme - Village Renewal, it is planned that Annaghmore/Clonoe will benefit from £38,103.	RDP*	Year 2

TABLE 35 TORRENT PUBLIC PARK/PLAY PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

Map Quadrant	Public Park/ Play Park ID	Name of Facility	Quality Score	LEAP/NEAP Status	Overview	Indicative Cost	Timings
T3	20	Henderson Park	n/a	n/a	Henderson Park will benefit from £38,103 through the Rural Development Programme - Village Renewal. The village plan outlined a development schedule for Henderson Park with the development of a NEAP/LEAP to be included. This development also holds potential for the relocation of the play provision at Stewartstown to a larger site within Henderson Park. There is also future potential to extend development around the play site to create a public park facility at Henderson Park.	RDP* £50,000 (subject to funding)	Year 2 5 Years+

TABLE 36 TORRENT OPEN/GREEN SPACE AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Map	Small/Significant Park ID	Facility Name	**Quality Score**	**Proposed Status**	**Overview**	**Indicative Cost**	**Timing**
Bespoke Woodland Play	Site 1	Cookstown (Drumcairne) Forest	N/A	Small Woodland Play element	It is suggested that Cookstown (Drumcairne) Forest would benefit from a small, bespoke, woodland play element. It is felt that this would complement the recommendations made in the Outdoor Recreation Strategic Plan (2017) to enhance the outdoor recreation provision at this site (Table 12 Bespoke Woodland Play Locations).	£25,000 (subject to funding)	5 Years+

TABLE 37 TORRENT SMALL BESPOKE WOODLAND PLAY RECOMMENDATIONS

Totals							Total
							£175,000*

Table 38 Torrent Indicative Costs

**Total excludes RDP expenditure, Innishmore £40k funded proposal, contingency @ 10% and those estimated costs occurring after 5 years*

8.10. Clogher Valley

Due to its size and scale, play provision within Clogher Valley is widely dispersed with Granville and Eglish in the east of the DEA and Fivemiletown Fairgreen at the very western edge. However, this DEA currently benefits from a substantial amount of funding from the Rural Development Fund under the Village Renewal measure, improving facilities for its rural communities

Furthermore, in line with the strategic approach to play provision in Mid Ulster, it is suggested that the site at The Roundlake is upgraded to one of the five District Play Hubs. As previously stated, play hubs have been considered based on geographic distribution, capacity of site, current status/classification, existing facilities, footfall and access in comparison with other sites within the DEA and indeed Mid Ulster as a whole. Other sites in Clogher Valley were considered for this provision within the play matrix including Ballygawley. However, it is suggested that Augher and Ballygawley (through RDP) as well as Clogher and Fivemiletown should benefit from enhanced play facilities ensuring equal provision across these villages. In addition, due to the importance of the Roundlake, it is felt that this site should be developed further raising its status to a public park facility for Clogher Valley. It is estimated that development of the Roundlake site would cost in the region of £200,000.

The 7 zones within Clogher Valley are mapped in Figure 21 and are shown in detail in the accompanying 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Clogher Valley' document. In this report, maps showing the current provision are mapped against population of 0-15 year olds as well as household pointer data. The recommendations made within Table 39 are also shown providing a visual of how the recommendations could potentially shape play provision in Clogher Valley.

Table 39 details the public parks/play parks that fall within the Clogher Valley DEA boundary along with proposed recommendations for each while Table 40 outlines the proposals for significant and small bespoke woodland play within Clogher Valley Forests. For more detailed analysis, please refer to 'Mid Ulster Maps Report – Clogher Valley' as necessary.

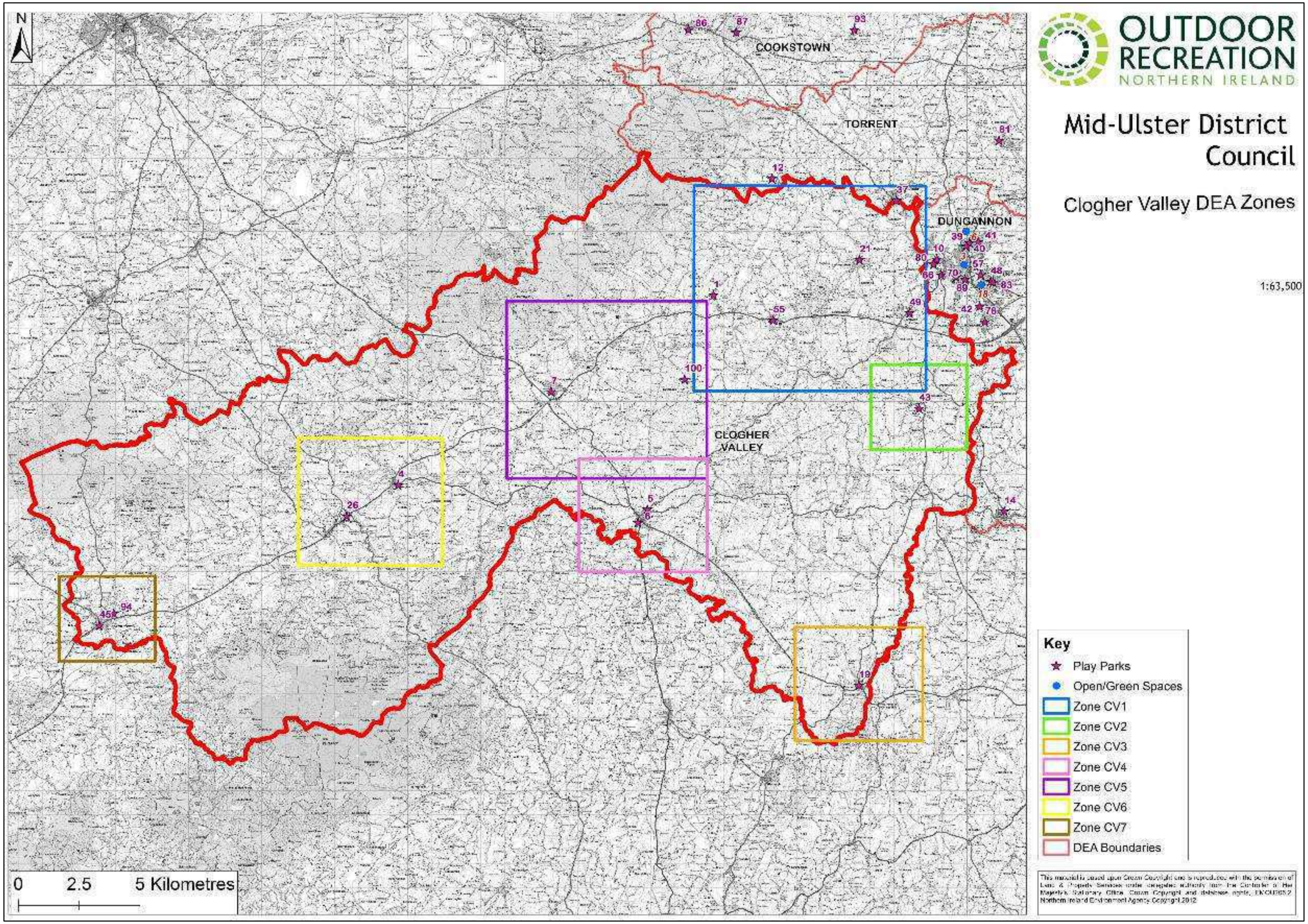


FIGURE 21 CLOGHER VALLEY DEA OVERVIEW

Map Quadrant	Public Park/ Play Park ID	Name of Facility	Quality Score	LEAP/NEAP Status	Overview	Indicative Cost	Timings
CV1	1	Ackinduff	10	LEAP	Ackinduff will continue to exist as a LEAP and will be monitored and maintained to ensure it continues to provide high quality play provision (Figures 1 & 2, 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Clogher Valley').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
CV1	21	Castlecaulfield	8.3	LEAP	In line with the Rural Development Programme - Village Renewal, it is planned that Castlecaulfield will benefit from £17,000 (Figures 1 & 2, 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Clogher Valley').	RDP*	Year 2
CV1	49	Granville	9.7	LEAP	In line with the Rural Development Programme - Village Renewal, it is planned that Granville will benefit from £38,103 in order to enhance existing play facilities (Figures 1 & 2, 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Clogher Valley').	RDP*	Year 1
CV1	55	Killymaddy	2	LEAP	Once a Tourist Information Centre (TIC) site, a small area of play was provided at Killymaddy. However with the TIC no longer on site and given the poor quality rating of play at Killymaddy, it is suggested that the fixed play provision is removed and the site undergoes a change of use. It is acknowledged that this proposal should be considered at community consultation (Figures 1 & 2, 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Clogher Valley').	Maintenance Budget	Year 1
CV2	43	Eglish	8.8	LEAP	In line with the Rural Development Programme - Village Renewal, it is planned that Eglish will benefit from £17,000 in order to enhance existing play facilities within the village (Figure 3 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Clogher Valley').	RDP*	Year 1
CV3	19	Caledon	6.8	LEAP	In line with the Rural Development Programme - Village Renewal, it is planned that Caledon will benefit from £38,103 in order to enhance existing play facilities (Figure 4 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Clogher Valley').	RDP*	Year 1
CV4	5	Aughnacloy	8.6	LEAP	The site at Aughnacloy offers potential to be developed into a NEAP close to where the playing fields are located (an Eco Park and sports changing facilities are already located here) Figures 5 & 6, 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Clogher Valley'.	£50,000	Year 5
CV4	6	Aughnacloy - Coronation Park	7.3	LEAP	Given the potential development within Aughnacloy, it is suggested that Coronation Park should be reviewed based on its recommended life span as the potential NEAP will cater for the wider community in Aughnacloy (Figures 5 & 6, 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Clogher Valley').	Maintenance Budget	5 Years+
CV5	7	Ballygawley	8.5	LEAP	In line with the Rural Development Programme – Village Renewal, it is planned that Ballygawley will benefit from £51,000 in order to enhance existing play, extension to existing perimeter and carry out resurfacing. This will address the high density of households surrounding the Ballygawley site. It is suggested that this location is further developed into a NEAP (Figures 7 & 8 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Clogher Valley').	RDP*	Year 1
CV5	100	U.S. Grants	7.5	LEAP	Given the quality score of equipment at U.S. Grants, it is suggested that this site undergoes continued maintenance with a degree of enhancement (Figures 7 & 8 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Clogher Valley').	£25,000	Year 4

CV6	4	Augher	10	LEAP	In line with the Rural Development Programme - Village Renewal, it is planned that Augher will benefit from £38,103 in order to enhance existing play (Figures 9 & 10 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Clogher Valley').	RDP*	Year 1
CV6	26	Clogher	7	LEAP	Clogher will be enhanced from a LEAP with MUGA to a NEAP with MUGA to better serve those aged between 0-15 years (Figures 9 & 10 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Clogher Valley'). While capacity is limited at the Clogher site, it is recognised that Council may need to investigate additional land in the area in order to adequately cater for the youthful population.	£50,000	Year 3
CV7	45	Fivemiletown Fairgreen	4.6	LEAP	In line with the Rural Development Programme - Village Renewal, it is planned that Fivemiletown Fairgreen will benefit from £160,000 in order to enhance the current LEAP to a NEAP (Figure 11 & 12 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Clogher Valley').	RDP*	Year 1
CV7	94	Roundlake, Fivemiletown	5.5	LEAP	It is anticipated that the LEAP status of Roundlake is further enhanced to one of 5 play hubs within the District. Play Hubs have been considered based on geographic distribution, capacity of site, current status/classification, existing facilities, footfall and access (Figures 11 & 12 'Public Parks and Play Strategic Plan – Map Report Clogher Valley'). In addition, it is suggested that the Roundlake undergoes additional development to increase its status to a public park for the DEA of Clogher Valley.	£100,000 (subject to funding) £100,000	5 Years+ 5 Years+

TABLE 39 CLOGHER VALLEY PUBLIC PARK/PLAY PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

Map Zone	Park/Play Park ID	**Facility Name**	**Quality Score**	**LEAP/NEAP Status**	**Overview**	**Indicative Cost**	**Timing**
Bespoke Woodland Play	Site 1	Knockmany Forest	N/A	Small Woodland Play element	It is suggested that Knockmany Forest would benefit from a small, bespoke, woodland play element. It is felt that this would complement the recommendations made in the Outdoor Recreation Strategic Plan (2017) to enhance the outdoor recreation provision at this site (Table 12 Bespoke Woodland Play Locations).	£25,000 (subject to funding)	5 Years+
Bespoke Woodland Play	Site 2	Brantry Lough and Forest	N/A	Small Woodland Play element	It is suggested that Brantry Lough and Forest would benefit from a small, bespoke, woodland play element. It is felt that this would complement the recommendations made in the Outdoor Recreation Strategic Plan (2017) to enhance the outdoor recreation provision at this site (Table 12 Bespoke Woodland Play Locations).	5 Years+ (subject to funding)	5 Years+
Bespoke Woodland Play	Site 3	Parkanaur	N/A	Significant Woodland Play element	It is suggested that Parkanaur would benefit from a significant, bespoke, woodland play element. It is felt that this would complement the recommendations made in the Outdoor Recreation Strategic Plan (2017) to enhance the outdoor recreation provision at this site (Table 12 Bespoke Woodland Play Locations).	£50,000 (subject to funding)	5 Years+

TABLE 40 CLOGHER VALLEY SIGNIFICANT AND SMALL BESPOKE WOODLAND PLAY RECOMMENDATIONS

Totals							Total
							£125,000*

TABLE 41 CLOGHER VALLEY INDICATIVE COSTS

**Total excludes RDP expenditure, contingency @ 10% and those estimated costs occurring after 5 years*

9. Case Studies

9.1. Nature Play at Tollymore and Castlewellan

Aim:

The project at Castlewellan was developed to help deliver a strategic vision for the redevelopment of Castlewellan Forest Park positioning it as a key outdoor recreation and activity tourism venue. Designed for four to eleven year olds, 'Animal Wood' in Castlewellan Forest Park and the 'Big Deer' in Tollymore Forest Park are aimed at bringing each park's natural and built heritage to life whilst providing a safe environment for children to play and interact with the outdoors.

Background:

These developments represent a shift away from traditional catalogue play parks which aim to help encourage an important 'early years connection' with nature and woodland environments resulting in a host of health benefits from physical development to mental and emotional well-being.

'Animal Wood' incorporates a short path with wild woodland animals including a badger and its den, a red squirrel and a giant spider. In addition, it boasts a wooden play structure with a tower in the image of The Moorish Tower where children can enjoy the climbing wall, fireman's pole and rope-bridge over to a hollow tree stump slide and Red Kite nest. In Tollymore, the aptly named 'Big Deer' includes a giant timber Fallow Deer, castle turret, folly tower and hollow tree all connected through a series of rope-bridges, tunnels, spider webs, basket swings and slides.

Result:

Both these new play facilities were managed by Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland having secured funding through the NGO Challenge Fund (Forest Service Northern Ireland) administered by NI Environment Link alongside Down District Council. This example shows how a shared vision and effective partnerships between Forest Service Northern Ireland, Down District Council and Outdoor Recreation NI help develop and shape a wealth of recreation facilities across Northern Ireland.

Estimated costs:

£80,000 (across both projects)

Figure 22 Animal Wood at Castlewellan Forest Park

Figure 23 'Big Deer' at Tollymore Forest Park

9.2. Diversity Park at Flowerfields – Portstewart

Aim:

In September 2013, the Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council opened Diversity Park in Portstewart. Taking on board the views and needs of consumers and stakeholders in the delivery of Council Services, the decision to develop an all-ability play park suitable for children and young people of all ages was taken.

Background:

Council undertook several research methods, reviewed relevant legislation as well as Council's current Disability Action Plan. The consultation with relevant agencies including governing bodies and a local special school proved to be invaluable in assessing the needs of those with disabilities within the Borough. While Council recognised its playparks included inclusive pieces of equipment, it acknowledged its stock did not address some of the sensory needs highlighted through the consultation process. Further research and analysis of a number of sites within the Borough was carried out within the Council's estate led to Flowerfields Arts Centre being chosen as the preferred

Result:

Council opted to develop a new park with landscaping and sensory paths to provide a suitable inclusive spectrum of sensory experiences for both disabled and non-disabled children. In addition, and of equal importance, Council installed a number of disabled toilets as well a fully equipped changing area to allow all children and young people to avail of (visitor) services in an equal manner as outlined in Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

In the very short time it has been open, Diversity Park has aimed to change how diversity is seen. It is a site that facilitates all who use it and by being inclusive it is not exclusive to those with special or complex needs – the elderly grandparent within the family group, a parent with young child in a buggy, a wheelchair using partner or a group of students with learning difficulties are all accommodated, everyone is welcome and catered for at this facility.

Estimated costs:

£250,000


FIGURE 25 SENSORY APPARATUS AT FLOWERFIELDS


FIGURE 24 PLAY EQUIPMENT AT FLOWERFIELDS

9.3. National Trust – Mount Stewart

Aim:

The ‘Magic Ink Pot’ aims to provide natural play in a setting in which families can play and learn. Children develop an affinity with nature and let their imagination run wild with balance beams, stepping logs, traversing beams, tree cave, squirrel run, see-saw / teeter-totter, and sea dragon climbing frame.

Background:

Natural play at Mount Stewart has taken on an extra dimension with the structures based around the stories penned by Lady Londonderry. Edith, Lady Londonderry wrote these stories for her children combining ideas from fairy tales and Irish legends. She called it “The Magic Inkpot” after a well-known object in the house. In the book, the inkpot is transformed into Dagda Mor, the ancient Irish King of the fairies and takes two of the children, Mairi and Robin on exciting and marvellous adventures. Dagda Mor is always there to intervene in times of trouble, but the children are also protected by the Stewart Dragon, magically brought to life from the Londonderry coat of arms.

Result:

It is clear to see that the materials used at Mount Stewart are not only in-keeping with its environment within the woodland but it offers challenging, natural play which combined with creative storytelling, inspires children to develop their imaginations which is important in children’s cognitive development.

Estimated Costs: Work carried out in-house by National Trust and volunteers.

FIGURE 26 WOODEN CHARACTER CARVINGS FROM THE 'MAGIC INK POT'

FIGURE 27 BALANCE BEAMS AND WOOD CARVINGS AT MOUNT STEWART

FIGURE 28 UPTURNED TREES AND STORY CHAIR FROM THE 'MAGIC INK POT' AT MOUNT STEWART

9.4. National Trust – Bishops Play Trail

Aim:

Part of the Downhill Demesne at Bishop's Gate, this relatively new play development is aimed to entertain the kids during family walks.

Background:

The trail was built mainly from Downhill's resources with the National Trust team at Downhill taking the opportunity to use what they already had on the Estate. As part of their woodland management plan they began thinning out selected trees. This helped encourage greater growth of specialist trees and provide a healthier woodland thus benefiting both projects. Woodchip for the ground was provided by chipping fallen tree branches from across the estate.

Result:

Tackling the spider's web, climbing the causeway stones and challenging the walking see-saw are just some of the adventures on offer at the Bishop's Trail. The Trail is accessible all year round and everyone is encouraged to give it a go, young and old alike. It also links in the National Trust 50 things to do before 11 ¾ activities.

Estimated Costs: Work carried out in-house by National Trust

FIGURE 29 NATURAL SIGNAGE AT BISHOPS PLAY TRAIL

FIGURE 30 BALANCE BEAMS AT BISHOPS PLAY TRAIL

FIGURE 31 NATURAL CARVINGS AT BISHOPS PLAY TRAIL

FIGURE 32 NATURAL CLIMBING STRUCTURES AT BISHOPS PLAY TRAIL

10. Funding

A number of funding schemes have been investigated including Ulster Garden Villages, Land Fill Tax funding (including Ulster Wildlife, Biffa and Groundwork NI) and Everybody Active 20:20 – Outdoor Spaces. Council's non-charitable status however means it does not meet the criteria for the aforementioned schemes. However, Council in association with its community groups and associations may be eligible for Big Lottery and Heritage Lottery funding. In addition, a number of villages highlighted within the Strategy are already benefiting from RDP funding and it is worth noting that some of the development highlighted within this works programme may be eligible for support from RDP in the future.

10.1. Big Lottery

The 'People and Communities' programme is designed to support projects that work with local people to bring about positive changes in a community. Projects must meet the three key themes of –

- **People-led**: local people are meaningfully involved in development, design and delivery
- **Strengths-based**: supports people and communities to build on knowledge, skills and experience they already have to make the changes they want
- **Connected**: projects demonstrate a good understanding of other activities and services in the community and how the project complements these.

Grants range from £30,000 to £500,000 for projects lasting 2-5 years. Grants for small scale capital projects is capped at £100,000 but up to 100% of costs.

Eligible applicants are voluntary or community groups such as a charity, co-operative, social enterprise or community interest company. Partnerships are also eligible where the lead partner is one of the above.

The programme is open for applications all year round. To apply, applicants must phone and discuss the project with a Project Officer. Only if the project is deemed to 'ready' will the applicant be invited to submit an application form. A decision is typically given within 4 months.

For more information see - https://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/peopleandcommunities

10.2. Heritage Lottery Fund

10.2.1. Our Heritage

The Our Heritage open programme is for any type of project related to national, regional or local heritage in the UK.

Under Our Heritage, HLF accept applications from not-for-profit organisations, private owners of heritage and partnerships. If individuals or for-profit organisations are involved, the public benefit from the project must be greater than any private gain.

Grants of £10,000 to £100,000 are available at up to 100%. There are no application deadlines for this programme; applications can be made at any time and are turned around within 8 weeks.

More information is available at: https://www.hlf.org.uk/looking-funding/our-grant-programmes

10.2.2. Heritage Grants

The Heritage Grants open programme is for any type of project related to the national, regional or local heritage in the UK. Under this programme, HLF fund applications from not-for-profit organisations; and partnerships led by not-for-profit organisations.

The application process is in two rounds with success at stage 2 involving substantial development work.

Funding is available from £100,000 up to £2 million or £5 million.

For those applying for grants of less than £1million, applicants must provide at least 5% of the development costs and 5% of the delivery phase costs

For those applying for grants of more than £1million, applicants must provide at least 10% of the development costs and 10% of the delivery phase costs

More information is available at: https://www.hlf.org.uk/looking-funding/our-grant-programmes

10.2.3. Parks and Places

The Parks for People programme is for projects related to historic parks and cemeteries in the UK.

Under this programme, HLF fund applications from not-for-profit organisations and partnerships led by not-for-profit organisations.

The application process is in two rounds with success at stage 2 involving substantial development work. Funding is available from £100,000 up to £5 million.

For those applying for grants of less than £1million, applicants must provide at least 5% of the development costs and 5% of the delivery phase costs

For those applying for grants of more than £1million, applicants must provide at least 10% of the development costs and 10% of the delivery phase costs

More information is available at: https://www.hlf.org.uk/looking-funding/our-grant-programmes

10.3. Rural Development Programme (2014-2020)

The Rural Development Programme (RDP) is jointly funded through the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) and is administered in Northern Ireland by DAERA. It supports a range of projects with the aim of developing the economic potential of rural areas.

10.3.1. Basic Services Scheme

The Basic Services Scheme supports capital investments which provide access to basic services or improvements in social infrastructure to improve the welfare and access of those living in rural areas which are an integral part of and in line with the Council Community Plan.

Capital grants available range from £5,000 to £250,000 up to 75%. Confirmation of match funding must be in place at the time of application with 5% from Council, 5% from the applicant and 15% other.

The following should be taken into consideration –

- to be eligible to apply, applicants must attend a pre-application workshop followed by submission of an Expression of Interest (EoI) form.
- if the EoI is successful, application will be asked to submit full application in addition to a business plan
- all procurement must be carried out at time of full application
- projects must relate directly to the MUDC's Community Plan
- projects with a total cost exceeding £250,000 require a greenbook economic appraisal
- evidence in form of a written letter from Planning Service for projects where planning permission is not required
- Mid Ulster Council submitted an EOI for Davagh Forest under 1st call

Decisions are circulated 90 days after deadline closes.

Applicants must attend mandatory workshops, the first round of which have already taken place in Mid Ulster see http://www.midulstercouncil.org/Business/Rural-Development/Funding-Workshops. It is anticipated there will be a 2nd call available.

10.3.2. Village Renewal Scheme Summary

At the time of report writing this scheme was still under development by Mid Ulster Rural Development Partnership (a recently formed Local Action Group). Full details of the Village Renewal Scheme have still to be confirmed but the following applies –

- the Scheme will provide financial support for the renewal of rural villages through village plans – this infers that any project which is included or specifically mentioned within the Village Plan will be eligible for funding through this scheme
- potential projects must fit with the Council's Community Plan – which this project does
- the purchase or lease of land is not eligible
- only local authorities (i.e. Councils) in partnership with local community associations are eligible to apply
- the maximum grant available is likely to be £200,000 at 75% for capital grants
- match funding of £25% must be provided by the Council
- there will be a call for Expressions of Interest with those successful asked to submit a full application with business case completed and all procurement carried out

For more information, contact Eamon Gallogly

T:028 8676 4714

E: eamon.gallogly@midulstercouncil.org

11. Revenue Resourcing

Resourcing the Strategy with appropriate staff is fundamental to its future delivery and ultimate success. Given that suggested Activity Centres, District Play Hubs and New Public Park proposals are heavily dependent on sourcing external funding streams and are scheduled beyond the initial five year delivery programme, immediate staff resources are not a requirement. Suggested staff requirements have been correlated as an indicator in relation to potential revenue costs and could be factored into development projects on a rolling basis

(Appendix 3).

12. Recommendations

12.1. Strategic

This Strategy has afforded the opportunity to review in detail public parks, play and open/green spaces sites across Mid Ulster. While the legacy Councils were committed to providing high quality play and public park provision, on reviewing the District as a whole, it has become apparent that this provision is no longer adequate in serving the population of Mid Ulster. A more strategic approach has led to the following recommendations which should be implemented over the life of the Strategy from 2017 -2022. These include:

- Consultation – It is recommended that Council place consultation with the community at the centre of any proposed future development regards the recommendations for Activity Centres and District Play development as well as those sites considered on the basis of their recommended life span, change of use, enhancement, upgrade, relocation, new park development and woodland play provision. It is felt the proposals for the Activity Centres and District Play should undergo a thorough public consultation process with input from children and young people as well as representation from those with a disability. The establishment of a Steering Group made up of members of the community, Special Education representation as well as relevant agencies would be beneficial and is recommended (including but not limited to Disability Action, MENCAP, RNIB, Guide Dogs NI). In addition, it is felt that a Statistical Disabilities Analysis of children within Northern Ireland and more specifically Mid Ulster would further determine all-ability, facility need.

- Inclusive Play – As highlighted in the Mid Ulster Local Development Plan 2030 **-** Preferred Options Paper (Mid Ulster District Council, November 2016), planning must: "ensure that new open space areas and sporting facilities are convenient and accessible for all sections of society, particularly children, older people and those with disabilities". Should Council embark on the process of developing two Activity Centres, it is recommended that these facilities are designed for the groups in need, with consideration being given to the young and those with disabilities. These all ability facilities will not only provide for the community of Mid Ulster but will also enhance the offering for the visitor. Development of the activity centres would be subject to sourcing funding and projected as a 5year + programme. (Development programmes and time scales may vary subject to available funding streams).

- Public Park Development – With a lack of open/green space in some DEA's (e.g. Cookstown, Magherafelt and Moyola), it is suggested that Mid Ulster Council consider developing 14 of its current park sites and its open/green space sites into public parks as well as including a play element in its Forests. Potential new public park sites include: Ballymacombs - Carntogher, Castlehill - Dungannon, Clady - Carntogher, Fairhill - Cookstown, Henderson Park - Torrent, Hunters Park - Moyola, Manor Park - Magherafelt, Mill Park - Moyola, Moykeeran - Moyola, Railway Park - Dungannon, Parkview/Riverside - Moyola, Roundlake - Clogher Valley, Swatragh - Carntogher and Windmill Wood - Dungannon. Council have a £1m development proposal for Railway Park, deliverable within the strategy period subject to funding. Development of Public Parks would be subject to sourcing funding and projected as a 5year + programme. (Development programmes and time scales may vary subject to available funding streams).

- Woodland Play – With a high concentration of woodland and forests across Mid Ulster, it is proposed that a Woodland Play element be developed in some of the key forest sites. This will add value to these locations for the local community and will help support visitor numbers. 8 Small Woodland Play sites and 5 Significant Woodland Play sites have been identified. The 8 Small Woodland Play site identified are: Knockmany Forest, Windmill Wood, Brantry Lough and Forest, Cabin Wood, Inniscarn Forest, Lissan House, Traad Point and Drumcairne Forest. The Significant Woodland Play sites identified include: Derrynoyd Forest, Parkanaur Forest, Pomeroy Forest, Drum Manor Forest and Drumlamph Forest. Development of Woodland Play would be subject to sourcing funding and projected as a 5year + programme. (Development programmes and time scales may vary subject to available funding streams).

- Public Parks and Play Strategy complemented by other Council Strategies – As highlighted above, this Strategy should be considered alongside other relevant Council Strategies including the Outdoor Recreation Strategy, Tourism Strategy and Sports Facility Strategy to ensure the recommendations in each achieve their full potential.

- Harness Community Relationships – The consultation process highlighted that Mid Ulster has strong community involvement with a number of groups developing recreational facilities for their own communities and successfully funding these programmes through relevant grants. One of the 5 themes in the Mid Ulster Council Community Plan is: '*Vibrant and Safe Communities - promote and develop shared space across the area and make more use of existing facilities'.* Therefore, it is recommended that where gaps in provision exist, that Council work alongside the community including established community groups and associations as well as local sports clubs and other bodies such as schools and Forest Service.

- Assessments and Audits – While Quality Inspections take place on an annual basis, it is suggested that a Play Value Assessment takes place alongside the forthcoming Quality Audit. Play Value assessments consider the range of play types and the experiences that children derive from the equipment as well as locational and environmental factors and access issues. A Play Value Assessment will be instrumental when determining the enhancements, upgrades and relocations of play sites.

- Risk-Benefit Approach to Play – When considering future play development in Mid Ulster it is suggested that a Risk-Benefit Approach is adapted. The benefits of challenging play have been highlighted in previous sections but this is a relatively new way of thinking when developing fixed play. Health and safety considerations in the past have meant that play provision is somewhat lacking in challenging play which offers essential developmental skills. However, Council needs to consider that providing a high standard of play means that children and young people are challenged, whilst minimising unnecessary danger through a common-sense approach.

- Land availability – Land availability is at a premium across Mid Ulster, especially in the DEA of Magherafelt. However, this Strategy acknowledges the lack of provision of open/green space in Magherafelt and it is suggested that Council focus its efforts on investigating possible areas for development at Glenburn and work with other statutory bodies to identify potential sites e.g. Education Authority and Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

- Residential Planning – In line with Council's Preferred Options Paper, it is suggested that Council adopt a strengthened policy approach to ensure that the loss of open space is prevented unless it can be demonstrated that redevelopment would bring substantial community benefit that outweighs the loss of the open space. This strengthened approach takes account of the Regional Development Strategy, SPSS and the Local Development Plan objectives where the relevant criteria are met.

- Manned/Staff provision – Park sites that have a staffing element are proven to suffer reduced levels of anti-social behaviour and vandalism. While additional staff resources are not an immediate requirement, suggested staff requirements within the Strategy have been correlated as an indicator in relation to potential revenue costs and should be factored into development projects on a rolling basis. While the development of Activity Centres, District Play and new Public Park proposals are heavily dependent on sourcing external funding streams and are also scheduled beyond the initial five year delivery programme, should the number of these larger facilities develop or increase, staffing will need to be reviewed.

12.2. Product Development:

The Strategy has identified a range of actions that have been attributed estimated costs in order to deliver. Timescales have been indicated were possible subject to available funding streams.

Development	DEA	Park Site	Action	Year	Indicative Cost
Activity Centre Development (2)					
	Magherafelt	Ballyronan	Activity Centre	5 Years+	£250,000 (subject to funding)
	Dungannon	Dungannon Park	Activity Centre	5 Years+	£250,000 (subject to funding)
District Play Development (5)					
	Torrent	Gortgonis	District Play	5 Years+	£100,000 (subject to funding)
	Clogher Valley	Roundlake	District Play	5 Years+	£100,000 (subject to funding)
	Cookstown	Fairhill	District Play	5 Years+	£100,000 (subject to funding)
	Carntogher	Coleraine Road	District Play	5 Years+	£100,000 (subject to funding)
	Magherafelt	Meadowbank	District Play	5 Years+	£100,000 (subject to funding)
Removed (1)					
	Dungannon	Drumcoo		-	-

Recommended Life Span (12)					
	Clogher Valley	Aughnacloy - Coronation Park	Recommended Life Span	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Dungannon	Ballysaggart	Recommended Life Span	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Cookstown	Clare	Recommended Life Span	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Cookstown	Coagh Street	Recommended Life Span	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Dungannon	Killymerron	Recommended Life Span	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Cookstown	Ratheen	Recommended Life Span	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Cookstown	Stewart Avenue	Recommended Life Span	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Carntogher	Crawfordsburn	Recommended Life Span	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Dungannon	Gortnasoar	Recommended Life Span	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Magherafelt	Lindsayville – Ballyronan	Recommended Life Span	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Dungannon	Moy Oakfield	Recommended Life Span	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Dungannon	Mullaghmore	Recommended Life Span	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget

Development programmes and time scales may vary subject to available funding streams.

Change of Use/Remove (3)					
	Clogher Valley	Killymaddy	Remove	Year 1	Maintenance Budget
	Carntogher	Moneyneena	Remove	Year 1	Maintenance Budget
	Cookstown	Sperrin View	Remove	Year 1	Maintenance Budget
	Dungannon	Northland Village	Change of Use	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Torrent	Innishmore	Change of use MUGA to LEAP. Subject to funding via Gortgonis Community Hub Development Project	Year 2	£40,000

Maintenance/ Enhancements (47)					
	Moyola	Boyne Row	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Year 1	£25,000
	Moyola	Knockloughrim	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Year 1	£25,000
	Magherafelt	Northland Moneymore	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Year 1	£20,000
	Dungannon	Redford	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Year 1	£25,000
	Torrent	Brackaville	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Year 2	£25,000
	Torrent	Donaghmore	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Year 2	£25,000
	Torrent	Lisnahall, Ardtrea	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Year 2	£25,000
	Torrent	Battery Harbour	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Year 3	£25,000
	Cookstown	Orritor St.	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Year 3	£25,000
	Torrent	Washingbay	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Year 3	£25,000
	Cookstown	Conway Close	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Year 4	£25,000
	Cookstown	Gortalowry	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Year 4	£25,000
	Cookstown	Killymoon	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Year 4	£25,000
	Cookstown	Rockdale, Rock	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Year 4	£25,000
	Clogher Valley	U.S. Grants	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Year 4	£25,000
	Dungannon	Milltown	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Year 4	£25,000
	Torrent	Beechline, Galbally	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Year 5	£25,000
	Cookstown	Blackhill	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Year 5	£25,000
	Carntogher	Clady	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Year 5	£25,000
	Cookstown	Coagh Park, Coagh	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Year 5	£25,000
	Cookstown	Rathbeg	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Year 5	£25,000
	Torrent	Mourneview, Carnan	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Year 5	£25,000
	Cookstown	Tullywiggan	Maintenance/ Enhancement	Year 5	£25,000

	Clogher Valley	Ackinduff	Maintenance	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Dungannon	Ballynakelly	Maintenance	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Dungannon	Benburb	Maintenance	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Moyola	Castledawson	Maintenance	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Carntogher	Culnady	Maintenance	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Cookstown	Davagh Forest	Maintenance	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Moyola	Desertmartin	Maintenance	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Cookstown	Derrychrin, Ballinderry	Maintenance	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Dungannon	Dunavon	Maintenance	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Carntogher	Gulladuff	Maintenance	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Moyola	Hunters Park	Maintenance	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Carntogher	Innishrush	Maintenance	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Torrent	Killeen	Maintenance	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Moyola	Kilross	Maintenance	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Carntogher	Lisnamuck	Maintenance	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Moyola	Longfield	Maintenance	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Magherafelt	Lough Fea	Maintenance	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Dungannon	Meadowbank	Maintenance	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Cookstown	Milburn Close	Maintenance	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Magherafelt	Moneymore RC	Maintenance	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Torrent	Mountcairn Coalisland	Maintenance	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Torrent	Newmills	Maintenance	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Cookstown	Orritor	Maintenance	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Cookstown	Parkview, Pomeroy	Maintenance	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget
	Carntogher	Tamlaght	Maintenance	5 Years+	Maintenance Budget

Upgrades (12)					
	Cookstown	Coolnafranky	Upgrade	Year 1	£50,000
	Cookstown	Beechway	Upgrade	Year 1	£50,000
	Cookstown	Drum Manor Forest	Upgrade to provide inclusive play options	Year 1	£30,000
	Dungannon	Railway	Upgrade Subject to development plan funding	Year 2	£100, 000
	Clogher Valley	Clogher	Upgrade	Year 3	£50,000
	Cookstown	Monrush Phase 1	Upgrade	Year 3	£50,000
	Dungannon	Moygashel Jacksonville	Upgrade MUGA to include LEAP	Year 3	£50,000
	Dungannon	Moy Curran's Brae	Upgrade	Year 4	£50,000
	Cookstown	Monrush Phase 2	Upgrade	Year 4	£25,000
	Clogher Valley	Aughnacloy	Upgrade	Year 5	£50,000
	Dungannon	Drumcoo Green	Upgrade	5 Years+	£50,000
	Cookstown	Pomeroy Forest	Upgrade	5 Years+	£25,000
Relocation (2)					
	Dungannon	Railway Park	Relocation Subject to development plan funding	Year 2	£50,000
	Torrent	Ardboe	Relocation	5 Years+	£50,000

Park Development	DEA	Park Site	Action	Year	Indicative Cost
RDP Funded (19)					
	Clogher Valley	Caledon	RDP Funded	Year 1	£38,103
	Clogher Valley	Fivemiletown Fairgreen	RDP Funded	Year 1	£160,000
	Clogher Valley	Ballygawley	RDP Funded	Year 1	£51,000
	Clogher Valley	Eglish	RDP Funded	Year 1	£17,000
	Dungannon	Killyman	RDP Funded	Year 1	£38,103
	Clogher Valley	Granville	RDP Funded	Year 1	£38,103
	Clogher Valley	Augher	RDP Funded	Year 1	£38,103
	Carntogher	Upperlands	RDP Funded	Year 1	£145,000 Play park £101,000 MUGA
	Moyola	Mill Park Tobermore	RDP Proposal subject to match funding	Year 1 5 Years+	£38,103 New Public Park
	Clogher Valley	Castlecaulfield	RDP Funded	Year 2	£17,000
	Cookstown	Berkeley Square, T'hogue	RDP Funded	Year 2	£38,103
	Carntogher	Swatragh	RDP Proposal subject to match funding	Year 2 5 Years+	£38,103 New Public Park
	Carntogher	Ballymacombs	RDP Funded	Year 2	£38,103
	Torrent	Henderson Park	RDP Funded	Year 2	£38,103
	Magherafelt	LOUP	RDP Funded	Year 2	£38,103
	Dungannon	Ballynakelly	RDP Funded	Year 2	£18,000
	Torrent	Annaghmore/Clonoe	RDP Funded	Year 2	£38,103
	Torrent	Castlebay, Brocagh	RDP Funded	Year 2	£38,103
	Cookstown	Churchview, Drumullan	RDP Funded	Year 2	£38,103

Woodland Park Development					
Small Woodland Parks (8)	Clogher Valley	Knockmany Forest	Small Woodland Park (subject to funding)	5 Years+	£25,000
	Clogher Valley	Brantry Lough and Forest	Small Woodland Park (subject to funding)	5 Years+	£25,000
	Dungannon	Windmill Wood	Small Woodland Park (subject to funding)	5 Years+	£25,000
	Moyola	Traad Point	Small Woodland Park (subject to funding)	5 Years+	£25,000
	Cookstown	Cabin Wood	Small Woodland Park (subject to funding)	5 Years+	£25,000
	Magherafelt	Inniscarn Forest	Small Woodland Park (subject to funding)	5 Years+	£25,000
	Magherafelt	Lissan House	Small Woodland Park (subject to funding)	5 Years+	£25,000
	Torrent	Drumcairne Forest	Small Woodland Park (subject to funding)	5 Years+	£25,000
Significant Woodland Parks (5)					
	Moyola	Drumlamph Forest	Significant Woodland Park (subject to funding)	5 Years+	£50,000
	Carntogher	Derrynoyd Forest	Significant Woodland Park (subject to funding)	5 Years+	£50,000
	Clogher Valley	Parkanaur Forest	Significant Woodland Park (subject to funding)	5 Years+	£50,000
	Cookstown	Pomeroy Forest	Significant Woodland Park (subject to funding)	5 Years+	£25,000
	Cookstown	Drum Manor Forest	Significant Woodland Park (subject to funding)	5 Years+	£50,000

Development programmes and time scales may vary subject to available funding streams.

Park Development	DEA	Park Site	Action	Year	Indicative Cost
New Park Sites (15* O'Neill Play only)					
	Moyola	O'Neill Park*	Park Development (subject to funding)	5 Years+	£50,000
	Magherafelt	Manor Park	Park Development (subject to funding)	5 Years+	£150,000
	Moyola	Mill Park	Park Development (subject to funding)	5 Years+	£100,000
	Carntogher	Swatragh	Park Development (subject to funding)	5 Years+	£140,000
	Carntogher	Ballymacombs	Park Development (subject to funding)	5 Years+	£100,000
	Moyola	Parkview/Riverside	Park Development (subject to funding)	5 Years+	£150,000
	Clogher Valley	Roundlake, Fivemiletown	Park Development (subject to funding)	5 Years+	£100,000
	Carntogher	Clady	Park Development (subject to funding)	5 Years+	£100,000
	Cookstown	Fairhill	Park Development (subject to funding)	5 Years+	£250,000
	Dungannon	Windmill Wood	Park Development (subject to funding)	5 Years+	£150,000
	Dungannon	Castlehill	Park Development (subject to funding)	5 Years+	£150,000
	Moyola	Hunters Park	Park Development (subject to funding)	5 Years+	£125,000
	Moyola	Moykeeran	Park Development (subject to funding)	5 Years+	£100,000
	Dungannon	Railway Park £1,000,000 Project Proposal	Park Development (subject to funding)	5 Years+	£100,000
	Torrent	Henderson Park	Park Development (subject to funding)	5 Years+	£50,000

Development programmes and time scales may vary subject to available funding streams.

APPENDIX 1

District Electoral Area (DEA)	Play Park ID Number	Public Park/Play Park	LEAP or NEAP Status	Quality Score
Clogher Valley	1	Ackinduff	LEAP	10
Torrent	2	Ardboe	LEAP	9.7
Torrent	3	Ardstewart, Stewartstown	LEAP	9
Clogher Valley	4	Augher	LEAP	10
Clogher Valley	5	Aughnacloy	LEAP	8.6
Clogher Valley	6	Aughnacloy - Coronation Park	LEAP	7.3
Clogher Valley	7	Ballygawley	LEAP	8.5
Dungannon	8	Ballynakelly	LEAP	10
Magherafelt	9	Ballyronan Marina	LEAP	6.5
Dungannon	10	Ballysaggart	LEAP	6
Torrent	11	Battery Harbour	LEAP	7.2
Torrent	12	Beechline, Galbally	LEAP	8.3
Cookstown	13	Beechway	LEAP	5.8
Dungannon	14	Benburb	LEAP	7.8
Cookstown	15	Berkeley Square, T'hogue	LEAP	7.8
Cookstown	16	Blackhill	LEAP	8.5
Moyola	17	Boyne Row	LEAP	5
Torrent	18	Brackaville	LEAP	6.8
Clogher Valley	19	Caledon	LEAP	6.8
Torrent	20	Castlebay, Brocagh	MUGA/LEAP	7.5
Clogher Valley	21	Castlecaulfield	LEAP	8.3
Moyola	22	Castledawson	LEAP	10
Cookstown	23	Churchview, Drumullan	LEAP	7.5
Carntogher	24	Clady	LEAP	8.3
Cookstown	25	Clare	LEAP	6.5
Clogher Valley	26	Clogher	LEAP	7
Cookstown	27	Coagh Park, Coagh	LEAP	8.3
Cookstown	28	Coagh Street	LEAP	6
Carntogher	29	Coleraine Road	NEAP	8.6
Cookstown	30	Conway Close	LEAP	7.8
Cookstown	31	Coolnafranky	LEAP	5.5
Carntogher	32	Crawfordsburn	LEAP	10
Carntogher	33	Culnady	LEAP	9.3
Cookstown	34	Davagh Forest	Existing play provision in forest	9.5
Cookstown	35	Derrychrin, Ballinderry	LEAP	7.2
Moyola	36	Desertmartin	LEAP	8.9
Torrent	37	Donaghmore	LEAP	6.7
Cookstown	38	Drum Manor Forest	NEAP	8.2
Dungannon	39	Drumcoo	LEAP	2
Dungannon	40	Drumcoo Green	LEAP	10
Dungannon	41	Dunavon	LEAP	8.8
Dungannon	42	Dungannon Park	NEAP	7.5

Clogher Valley	43	Eglish	LEAP	8.8
Cookstown	44	Fairhill	NEAP	8.5
Clogher Valley	45	Fivemiletown Fairgreen	LEAP	4.6
Cookstown	46	Gortalowry	LEAP	7.7
Torrent	47	Gortgonis	NEAP	7.2
Dungannon	48	Gortnasoar	LEAP	8.8
Clogher Valley	49	Granville	LEAP	9.7
Carntogher	50	Gulladuff	LEAP	9.7
Moyola	51	Hunters Park	NEAP	9.2
Torrent	52	Innishmore	MUGA	6
Carntogher	53	Innishrush	LEAP	10
Torrent	54	Killeen	LEAP	10
Clogher Valley	55	Killymaddy	LEAP	2
Dungannon	56	Killyman	LEAP	9
Drumcoo	57	Killymerron	LEAP	5
Cookstown	58	Killymoon	LEAP	8
Moyola	59	Kilross	LEAP	10
Moyola	60	Knockloughrim	LEAP	6.3
Magherafelt	61	Lindsayville, Ballyronan	LEAP	10
Torrent	62	Lisnahall, Ardtrea	LEAP	6.7
Carntogher	63	Lisnamuck	LEAP	9.3
Moyola	64	Longfield	LEAP	9
Magherafelt	65	Lough Fea	LEAP	9.6
Dungannon	66	Meadowbank	NEAP	9.6
Magherafelt	67	Meadowbank (leisure centre)	NEAP	7.9
Cookstown	68	Milburn Close	LEAP	9.3
Moyola	69	Mill Park Tobermore	NEAP	9.4
Dungannon	70	Milltown	LEAP	7.5
Magherafelt	71	Moneymore RC	LEAP	9.1
Carntogher	72	Moneyneena	LEAP	2
Cookstown	73	Monrush	LEAP	7.1
Torrent	74	Mountcairn Coalisland	LEAP	9
Torrent	75	Mourneview, Carnan	LEAP	8.3
Dungannon	76	Moy Curran's Brae	LEAP	7.9
Dungannon	77	Moy Oakfield	LEAP	9.5
Dungannon	78	Moygashel Jacksonville	MUGA	7.5
Moyola	79	Moykeeran	NEAP	7.2
Dungannon	80	Mullaghmore	LEAP	10
Torrent	81	Newmills	LEAP	9.7
Magherafelt	82	Northland Moneymore	LEAP	6.1
Dungannon	83	Northland Village	LEAP	6.8
Cookstown	84	Orritor	LEAP	9.2
Cookstown	85	Orritor St.	LEAP	7.2
Cookstown	86	Parkview, Pomeroy	LEAP	8.8
Cookstown	87	Pomeroy Forest	LEAP	10
Cookstown	88	Princess Avenue	LEAP	8.1
Dungannon	89	Railway	LEAP	5
Cookstown	90	Rathbeg	LEAP	8.8
Cookstown	91	Ratheen	LEAP	6.4

Dungannon	92	Redford	LEAP	5
Cookstown	93	Rockdale, Rock	LEAP	8
Clogher Valley	94	Roundlake, Fivemiletown	LEAP	5.5
Cookstown	95	Sperrinview	LEAP	6
Cookstown	96	Stewart Avenue	LEAP	7
Carntogher	97	Swatragh	LEAP	8.2
Carntogher	98	Tamlaght	LEAP	10
Cookstown	99	Tullywiggan	LEAP	8.3
Clogher Valley	100	U.S. Grants	LEAP	7.5
Carntogher	101	Upperlands	LEAP	10
Torrent	102	Washingbay	LEAP	7.4

TABLE 42 PLAY PROVISION CLASSIFICATION

APPENDIX 2

Details of the seven pubic consultation events:

- 23rd January, Cookstown Leisure Centre	Cookstown DEA
- 31st January, Maghera Leisure Centre	Carntogher DEA
- 31st January, Seamus Heaney Homeplace, Bellaghy	Moyola DEA
- 2nd February, Dungannon Park	Dungannon DEA
- 2nd February, Cornmill Centre, Coalisland	Torrent DEA
- 6th February, Ballygawley BADA Community Hall,	Clogher Valley DEA
- 8th February, Meadowbank Sports Arena	Magherafelt DEA

Additional Members Workshops

- **31st July Dungannon Park**
  Dungannon Torrent and Cloghervalley DEA's

- **2nd August Meadowbank Leisure Centre**
  Cookstown, Carntogher, Moyola and Magherafelt DEA's

APPENDIX 3

Revenue Resourcing Activity Centres

Activity Centre	Site	Contract	Gross Cost to Council
	Ballyronan Marina	1x 15hr per week post	£11,645
District Play Hub	**Site**	**Contract**	**Gross Cost to Council**
	Fairhill	1 x 37hr per week post	£28,571
	Fairhill	1 x 25hr per week posts	£19,414
	Roundlake	1x 25hr per week post	£19,414
			£79,044

Revenue Resourcing New Public Park and Play sites

Public Park	Site	Contract	Gross Cost to Council
	Ballymacombs	1 x 7hr per week post	£4,784
	Parkview/Riverside	1 x 7hr per week post	£4,784
			£9,568
Total Gross Cost			**£88,612**

Activity Centres

One part-time time staff post at Ballyronan Marina, one full-time and one part-time posts at Fairhill and one part-time post at The Roundlake are proposed in order to support existing part-time resources at these proposed hub sites. It is suggested that the newly appointed staff at Fairhill will be based at the central public park site (Cookstown Central) and also provide supervisory services to all of the proposed NEAPs in Cookstown North, Cookstown South and Cookstown East and also the LEAP at Blackhill. Current staff provision at Dungannon Park, Gortgonis, Maghera Leisure Centre and Meadowbank Magherafelt will manage the hub provision at these sites, without any additional cost.

New Public Park and Play sites

Council currently has a number of play park Caretaker roles in place at Clady, Hunters, Moykeeran, Swatragh, Manor Park and Upperlands. It is envisaged that this resource would assist in the management of the public park proposals at these sites. Therefore it is anticipated that two similar posts would be created for Ballymacombs and Parkview/Riverside

APPENDIX 4

Questionnaire and Questionnaire Results

Outdoor Recreation NI has recently been engaged by Mid Ulster Council to develop a Parks and Play Strategy and an Outdoor Recreation Strategy for the Mid Ulster area.

The Strategic Plans will provide direction for the Council in managing and developing parks and play facilities, programs, infrastructure, resources and investment over the next three-year period that reflects the Corporate Priorities of the Council and also the needs of the community.

Outdoor Recreation NI has developed this short survey to gain your views on the current provision and opportunities for development.

The survey should take no longer than 10 minutes.

All responses are completely confidential and will remain anonymous. Please rest assured that any information made available will be combined in aggregate to give a view of the park and play and outdoor recreation provision in Mid Ulster.

Section 1 Most frequented park

Q1. In which village/town of Mid Ulster do you live?

Q2. Do you use public parks/play parks in Mid Ulster? (please note this excludes National Trust properties including Springhill and Wellbrook Beeting Mill)

Yes

No

(if no please state why from the options below. Thank respondent and close)

Filtered question

Q6. Why do you not use public parks/play parks in Mid Ulster?

Have no need to go to a park

No personal transport to travel to park

No public transport available to park

No safe off road route to walk to park

Presence of anti-social behaviour within the park

Poor facilities (toilets, parking, bins, café)

Lack of inclusion (limited or non-existent facilities for special needs)

Lack of facilities for those with limited mobility

Q3. If yes (at Q1b), please can you state which park/play park you use **most often**? (If you cannot locate the park you require from the drop down list please state name or street name)

Q4. How often would you use this park/play park?

Everyday

A few times/week

Once/week

Few times/month

Once/month

Few times per year

Q5. Who do you normally visit this park/play park with?

Partner/Spouse

Family/Children

Friends

Group/Club (Formal e.g. Running or cycling club, formal/arranged event)

Group/Club (Informal e.g. Members of a club arrange to go and run/cycle of their own accord)

Just myself

Q7. How far approximately is this park/play park from your home? (miles)

Less than 0.5 mile

0.5 <1 mile

1< 1.5 miles

1.5<2 miles

3-5 miles

5 miles+

Q8. How do you travel to this park/play park?

Walk

Bike

Car

Public Transport

Mini Bus (Club/Group)

Other (please state)

Q9. What is your **primary** reason for visiting this park? (choose 1)

To get the children outdoors for half an hour

Have a fun day out with the family

To enjoy a stroll/get some fresh air

Take the dog for a walk

Exercise

Q10. What do you do at this park/play park?

Make use of playpark facilities

Running

Walking

Cycling

Water sports

Sports club/training

Nature/wildlife observation

Have a picnic

Attend an event

Other (please state)

Q11. On a scale of 1-5 (1 meaning Poor and 5 meaning Excellent) how would you **rate** this park/play park on each of the following (include a DK and n/a option for each):

Provision of play equipment

Provision of toilets

Provision of parking

Provision of bins

Provision of dog Bins

Café

Provision of off road family cycle trails

Accessible paths for those with limited mobility/wheelchair user

Access to green space (for walking or running)

Provision of events

Feeling safe

Cleanliness/well maintained

Ambience

Q12. On a scale of 1-5 (1 being not important at all and 5 very important), how **important** are the following in relation to this park/play park (include a DK option for each):

Provision of play equipment

Provision of toilets

Provision of parking

Provision of bins

Provision of dog Bins

Café

Provision of off road family cycle trails

Accessible paths for those with limited mobility/wheelchair user

Access to green space (for walking or running)

Provision of events

Feeling safe

Cleanliness/well maintained

Ambience

Section 2 Favourite Park

Q13. Please can you state which park/play park is your favourite park? (If you cannot locate the park you require from the drop down list please state name or street name)

Q14. How often would you use this park/play park?

Everyday

A few times/week

Once/week

Few times/month

Once/month

Few times per year

Q15. Who do you normally visit this park/play park with?

Partner/Spouse

Family/Children

Friends

Group/Club (Formal e.g. Running or cycling club, formal/arranged event)

Group/Club (Informal e.g. Members of a club arrange to go and run/cycle of their own accord)

Just myself

Q16. How far approximately is this park/play park from your home? (miles)

Less than 0.5 mile

0.5 <1 mile

1< 1.5 miles

1.5<2 miles

3-5 miles

5 miles+

Q17. How do you travel to this park/play park?

Walk

Bike

Car

Public Transport

Mini Bus (Club/Group)

Other (please state)

Q18. What is your **primary** reason for visiting this park? (choose 1)

To get the children outdoors for half an hour

Have a fun day out with the family

To enjoy a stroll/get some fresh air

Take the dog for a walk

Exercise

Q19. What do you do at this park/play park?

Make use of playpark facilities

Running

Walking

Cycling

Water sports

Sports club/training

Nature/wildlife observation

Have a picnic

Attend an event

Other (please state)

Q20. On a scale of 1-5 (1 meaning Poor and 5 meaning Excellent) how would you rate this park/play park on each of the following (include a DK and n/a option for each):

Provision of play equipment

Provision of toilets

Provision of parking

Provision of bins

Provision of dog Bins

Café

Provision of off road family cycle trails

Accessible paths for those with limited mobility/wheelchair user

Access to green space (for walking or running)

Provision of events

Feeling safe

Cleanliness/well maintained

Ambience

Q21. On a scale of 1-5 (1 being not important at all and 5 very important), how important are the following in relation to this park/play park (include a DK option for each):

Provision of play equipment

Provision of facilities:

Provision of toilets

Provision of parking

Provision of bins

Provision of dog Bins

Café

Provision of off road family cycle trails

Accessible paths for those with limited mobility/wheelchair user

Access to green space (for walking or running)

Provision of events

Feeling safe

Cleanliness/well maintained

Ambience

Section 3 Other Parks

Q22. Which park/play park outside the Council district have you visited in the last 12 months? (please chose from options below)

Loughgall Country Park, Loughgall

Castle Archdale Country Park, Fermanagh

Carnfunnock Country Park, Larne

The Peoples Park, Ballymena

Wallace Park, Lisburn

Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park, Belfast

Stormont Park, Belfast

Other (please state)

Q23. Who did you visit this park/play park with?

Partner/Spouse

Family/Children

Friends

Group/Club (Formal e.g. Running or cycling club, formal/arranged event)

Group/Club (Informal e.g. Members of a club arrange to go and run/cycle of their own accord)

Just myself

Q24. What was your **primary** reason for visiting this park/play park? (choose 1)

It was somewhere different to go

Good range of play facilities for all ages

Provided a 'day out' for the family

Good visitor service facilities e.g. Visitor Centre, café, toilets etc.

Well maintained

Themed park/play park visitor attraction

Q25. What did do you do at this park/play park?

Make use of playpark facilities

Walking

Cycling

Water sports

Nature/wildlife observation

Have a picnic

Attend an event

Other (please state)

Section 4 Playpark Facilities:

Q26. Please can you state **again** which park/play park is your **favourite** park in Mid Ulster? (If you cannot locate the park you require from the drop down list please state name or street name)

Q27. Did you have children accompanying you who used the play park?

Yes (go to Q28)

No (go to section 5)

Q28. What age were the children who used this play park?

Children under 4yrs

Children 5-8yrs

Children 9-12yrs

Children 13yrs and over

Q29. On a scale of 1-5 (1 meaning Poor and 5 meaning Excellent) how would you rate this park/play park on each of the following (include a DK and n/a option for each):

Provision of play equipment

Provision of toilets

Provision of parking

Provision of bins

Provision of dog Bins

Café

Provision of off road family cycle trails

Accessible paths for those with limited mobility/wheelchair user

Access to green space (for walking or running)

Provision of events

Feeling safe

Cleanliness/well maintained

Ambience

Q30. On a scale of 1-5 (1 being not important at all and 5 very important), how important are the following in relation to this park/play park (include a DK option for each):

Provision of play equipment

Provision of facilities:

Provision of toilets

Provision of parking

Provision of bins

Provision of dog Bins

Café

Provision of off road family cycle trails

Accessible paths for those with limited mobility/wheelchair user

Access to green space (for walking or running)

Provision of events

Feeling safe

Cleanliness/well maintained

Ambience

Q31. How could this playpark be improved? (please state)

Section 5: Future Provision

Q32. What other outdoor recreation facilities would you like to see in your local public park/play park in Mid Ulster (You can choose more than one option)

Walking Trails

Park Run

Park Walk

Bike Trails/Pump Track

Water sports (including Angling)

Improved play facilities

Alternative play facilities e.g.

- Nature Play (the provision of a play opportunity using something from the natural environment rather than a purpose-built piece of equipment. For example, the use of a tree trunk as a climbing frame or balance beam. The piece is usually modified to provide safer access)
- Wild Play (opportunistic play with the visitor using something they would expect to encounter in the environment e.g. climb a tree)

Other (please state)

None

Q33. How far would you travel from your home address if the above was provided in a public park in Mid Ulster

0-10 miles
11-20 miles
21-30 miles
31 - 40 miles

Section 6: Additional Comments

Q34. Please provide any further comments or observations you feel are important to the future development of outdoor recreation and parks and play provision in Mid Ulster.

Section 7: Demographics

Q35. Please select your age bracket

- Under 16
- 16 - 25
- 26 -35
- 36 -45
- 46 - 55
- Over 55

Q36. Please select your gender

- Male
- Female

Q37. Can you please tell me which of the following best describes your working status

Working full time

Working part time

Parent or carer

Self employed

Unemployed

In full time education

Retired

Not working due to illness or disability

Q38. What is your approximate total annual income in your household (before tax)

Under 10,000

£10,000 – £20,000

£21,000 - £30,000

£31,000 - £50,000

£51,000 - £75,000

£76,000 or more

Q39. Please state the number of children in your household in the age brackets below (if relevant)

Under 4 years

5-8 years

9-12 years

13 years and over

Q40. Do one of your children have a disability?

Yes

No

Q41. What age is the child who has a disability?

0-4 years

5-8 years

9-12 years

13 years and over

Q42. What is their disability?

Physical

Hearing

Sight

Learning

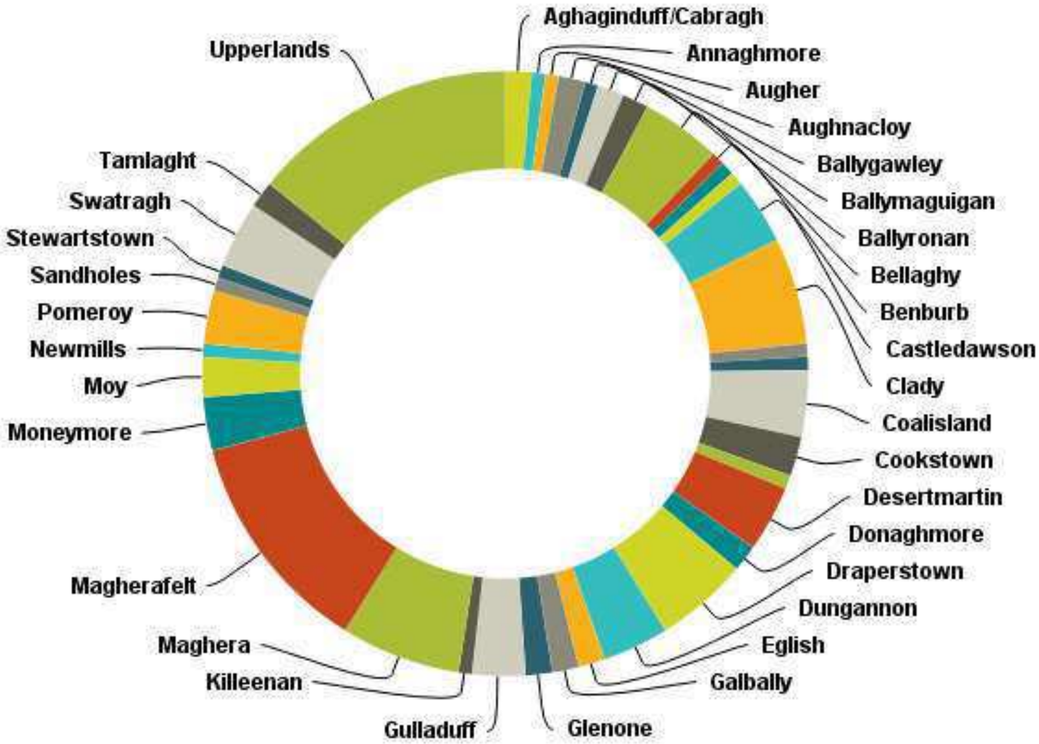
Mental Health

Hidden

Other (please specify)

Q1 In which village/town of Mid Ulster do you live?

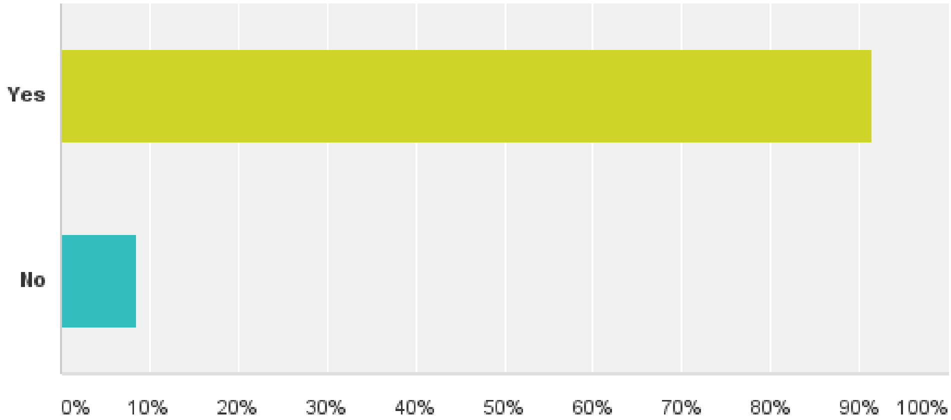
Answered: 141 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
Aghaginduff/Cabragh	1.42%	2
Annaghmore	0.71%	1
Augher	0.71%	1
Aughnacloy	1.42%	2
Ballygawley	0.71%	1
Ballymaguigan	1.42%	2
Ballyronan	1.42%	2
Bellaghy	4.26%	6
Benburb	0.71%	1
Brockagh/Mountjoy	0.71%	1
Caledon	0.71%	1
Castledawson	3.55%	5
Clady	5.67%	8
Clogher	0.71%	1
Coagh	0.71%	1
Coalisland	3.55%	5
Cookstown	2.13%	3
Creagh	0.71%	1
Desertmartin	3.55%	5
Donaghmore	1.42%	2
Draperstown	4.96%	7
Dungannon	3.55%	5
Eglish	1.42%	2
Galbally	1.42%	2
Glenone	1.42%	2
Gulladuff	2.84%	4
Killeenan	0.71%	1
Maghera	6.38%	9
Magherafelt	12.06%	17
Moneymore	2.84%	4
Moy	2.13%	3
Newmills	0.71%	1
Pomeroy	2.84%	4
Sandholes	0.71%	1
Stewartstown	0.71%	1
Swatragh	3.55%	5
Tamlaght	1.42%	2
Upperlands	14.18%	20
Total		141

Q2 Do you use public parks/play parks in Mid Ulster?

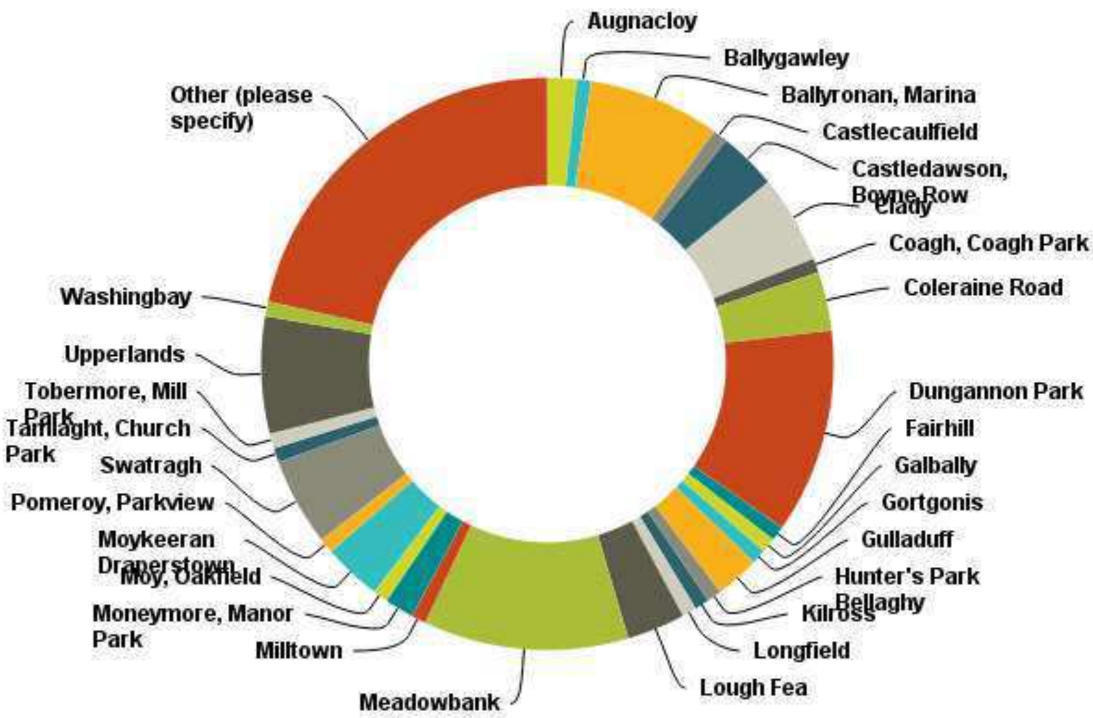
Answered: 141 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	91.49%	129
No	8.51%	12
Total		141

Q3 Please can you state which park/play park you use most often? (If you cannot locate the park you require from the drop down list please state name or street name under 'Other' at bottom of the drop down list).

Answered: 121 Skipped: 20



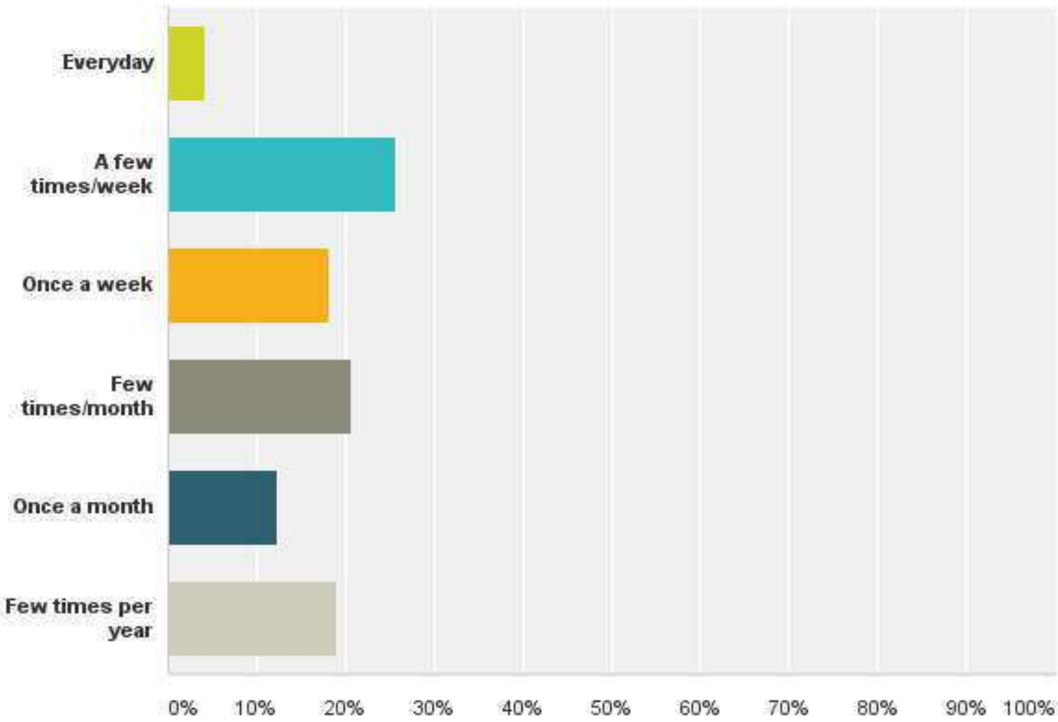
Answer Choices		Responses	
Augnacloy		1.65%	2
Ballygawley		0.83%	1
Ballyronan, Marina		7.44%	9
Castlecaulfield		0.83%	1
Castledawson, Boyne Row		3.31%	4
Clady		4.96%	6
Coagh, Coagh Park		0.83%	1
Coleraine Road		3.31%	4
Dungannon Park		11.57%	14
Fairhill		0.83%	1
Galbally		0.83%	1
Gortgonis		0.83%	1
Gulladuff		2.48%	3
Hunter's Park Bellaghy		0.83%	1
Kilross		0.83%	1
Longfield		0.83%	1
Lough Fea		3.31%	4
Meadowbank		11.57%	14
Milltown		0.83%	1
Moneymore, Manor Park		1.65%	2
Moy, Oakfield		0.83%	1
Moykeeran Draperstown		3.31%	4
Pomeroy, Parkview		0.83%	1
Swatragh		4.96%	6
Tamlaght, Church Park		0.83%	1
Tobermore, Mill Park		0.83%	1
Upperlands		6.61%	8
Washingbay		0.83%	1
Other (please specify)	Responses	21.49%	26

OTHER PARKS/PLAY PARKS

Drum Manor - 3; Polepatrick, Magherafelt -3; and Maghera – 3; Maghera Leisure Centre – 2; Pomeroy Forest – 2; Glenone – 2. Other singular mentions: Kilrea; Antrim; Killylea, County Armagh; Moorside Villas; Maghera Rec; Glenmore Walk; Gortgonis; Knockmany; Moneymore; U.S. Grant homeplace; Drumnaph; Windmill Wood.

Q4 How often would you use this park/play park?

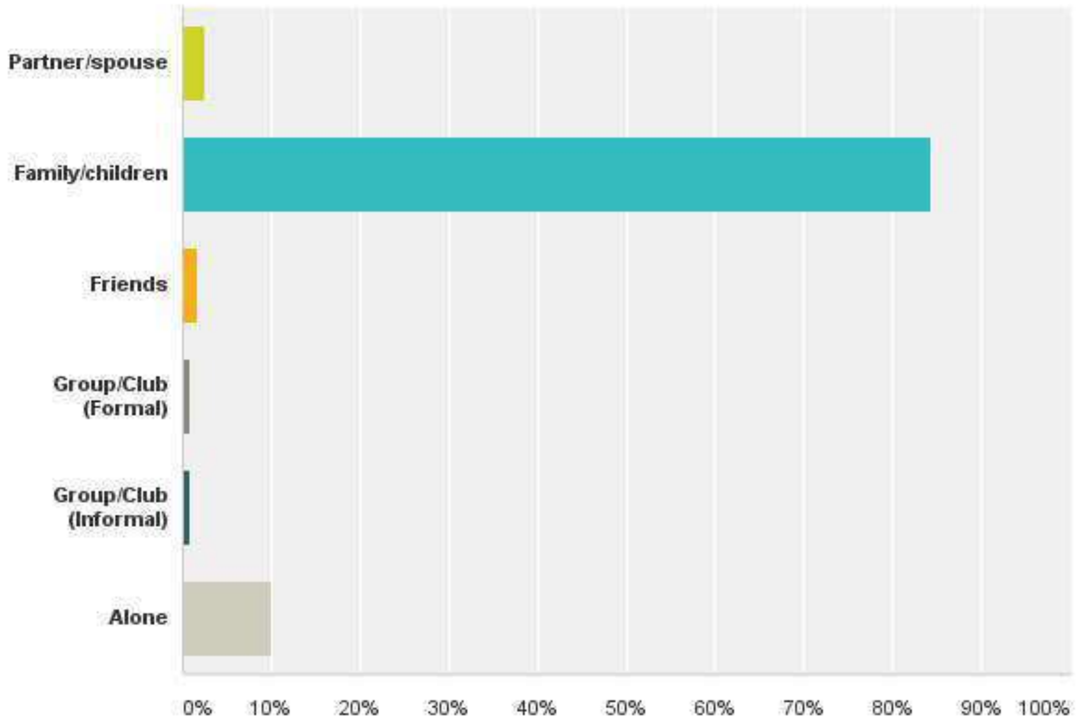
Answered: 121 Skipped: 20



Answer Choices	Responses	
Everyday	4.13%	5
A few times/week	25.62%	31
Once a week	18.18%	22
Few times/month	20.66%	25
Once a month	12.40%	15
Few times per year	19.01%	23
Total Respondents: 121		

Q5 Who do you normally visit this park/play park with?

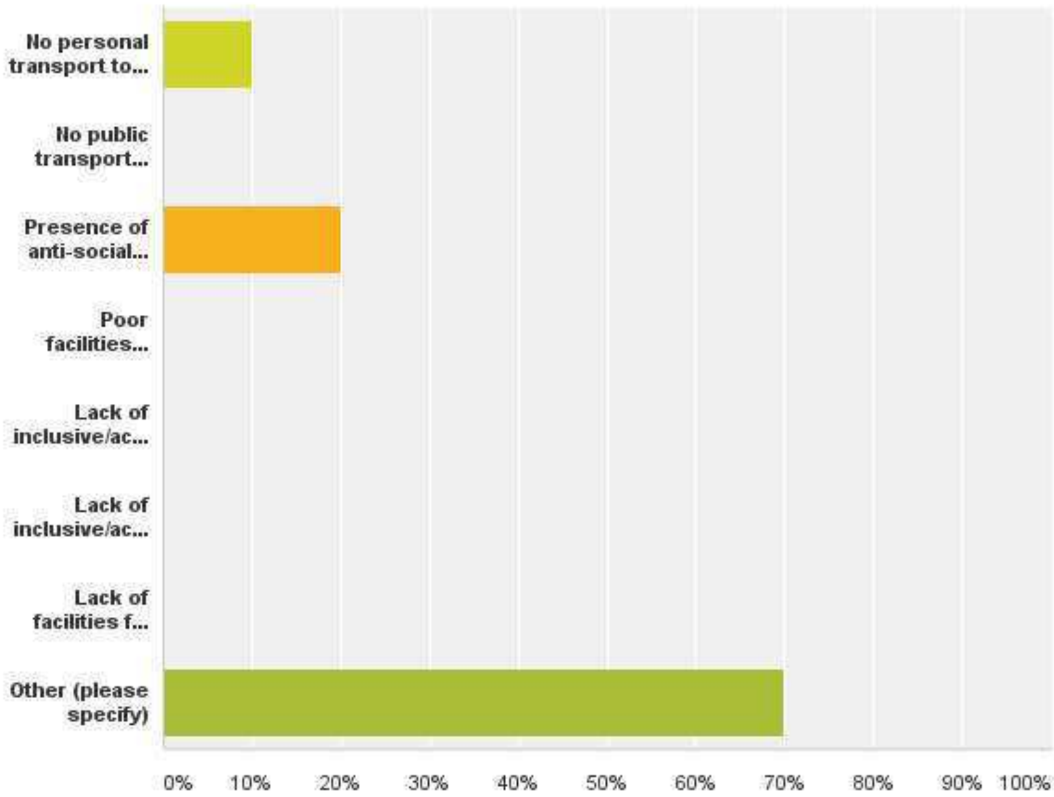
Answered: 121 Skipped: 20



Answer Choices	Responses	
Partner/spouse	2.48%	3
Family/children	84.30%	102
Friends	1.65%	2
Group/Club (Formal)	0.83%	1
Group/Club (Informal)	0.83%	1
Alone	9.92%	12
Total		121

Q6 What is your primary reason for not using public parks/play parks in Mid Ulster?

Answered: 10 Skipped: 131



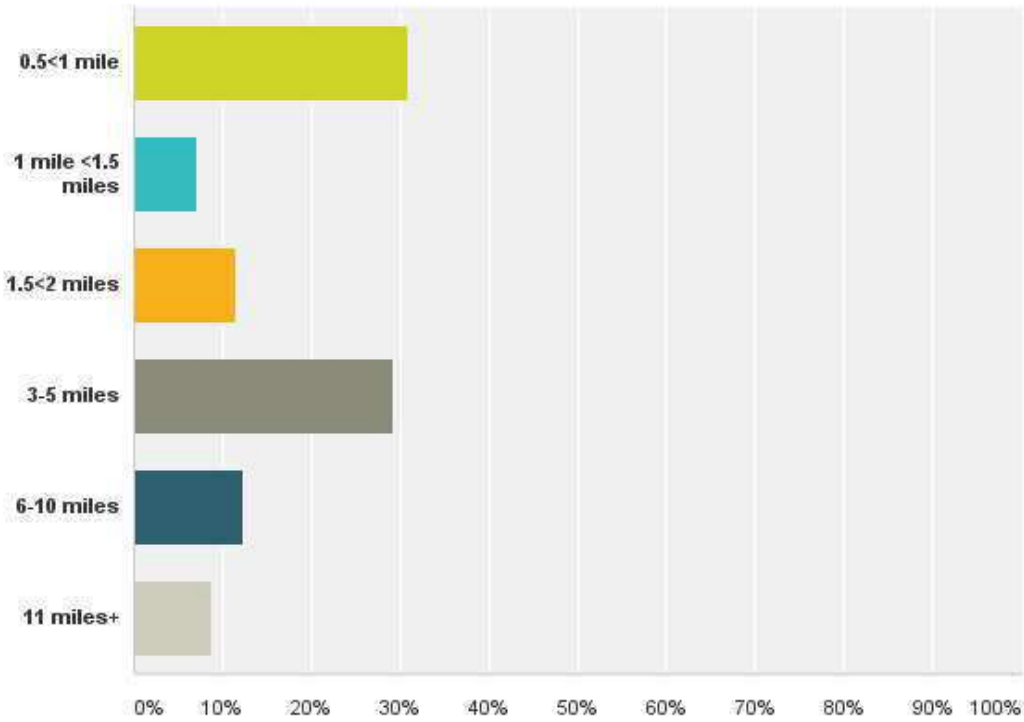
Answer Choices	Responses	
No personal transport to travel to park	10.00%	1
No public transport available to park	0.00%	0
Presence of anti-social behaviour within the park	20.00%	2
Poor facilities (toilets, parking, bins, café)	0.00%	0
Lack of inclusive/accessible play (limited or non-existent play facilities and changing for people with a disability - Physical, hearing, sight, learning, mental health or hidden)	0.00%	0
Lack of inclusive/accessible toilet/changing facilities (facilities for those people with a disability - Physical, hearing, sight, learning, mental health or hidden)	0.00%	0
Lack of facilities for those with limited mobility	0.00%	0
Other (please specify) Responses	70.00%	7
Total Respondents: 10		

OTHER REASONS

Outdated equipment – 1; Distance – 1; Lack of parkland - 1; Nothing of interest/no reason to – 3.

Q7 How far approximately is this park/play park from your home? (miles)

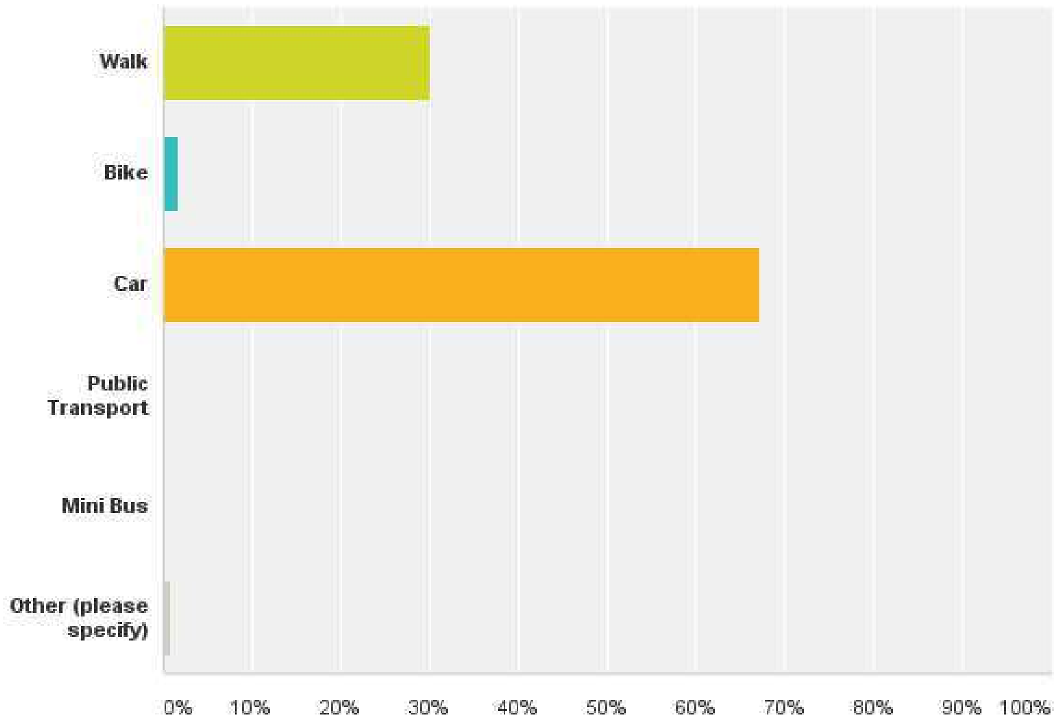
Answered: 113 Skipped: 28



Answer Choices	Responses	
0.5<1 mile	30.97%	35
1 mile <1.5 miles	7.08%	8
1.5<2 miles	11.50%	13
3-5 miles	29.20%	33
6-10 miles	12.39%	14
11 miles+	8.85%	10
Total		113

Q8 How do you travel to this park/play park

Answered: 113 Skipped: 28



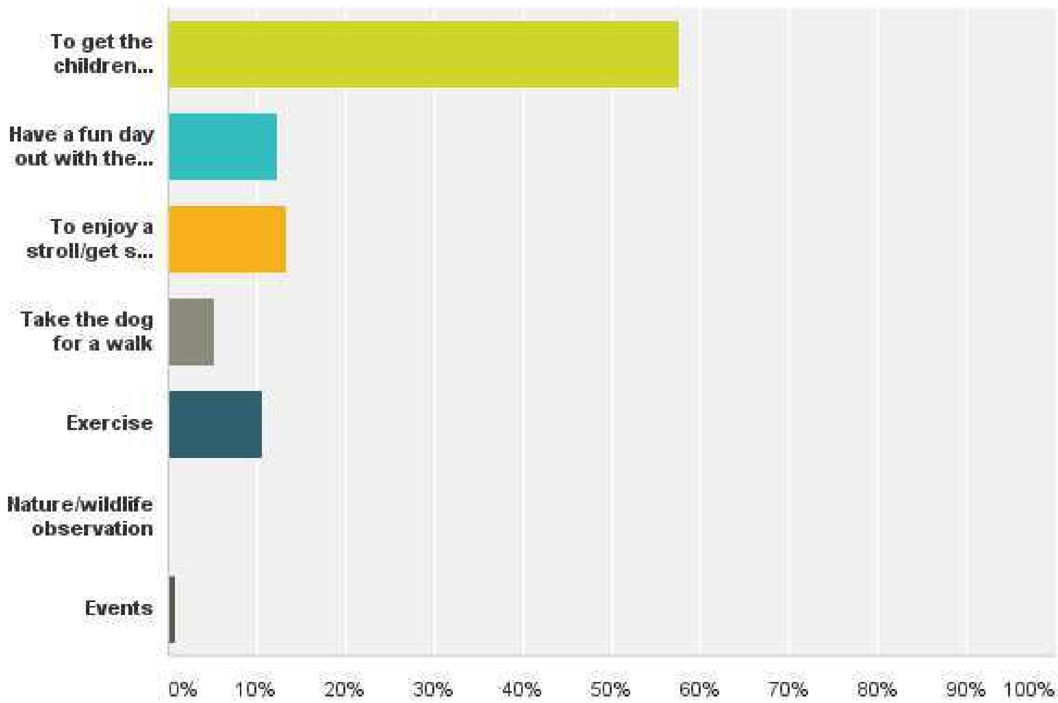
Answer Choices		Responses	
Walk		30.09%	34
Bike		1.77%	2
Car		67.26%	76
Public Transport		0.00%	0
Mini Bus		0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	Responses	0.88%	1
Total			113

OTHER RESPONSES

The other response indicated that they walk but that the route was not ideal

Q9 What is your primary reason for visiting this park/play park?

Answered: 113 Skipped: 28



Answer Choices	Responses	
To get the children outdoors for half an hour	57.52%	65
Have a fun day out with the family	12.39%	14
To enjoy a stroll/get some fresh air	13.27%	15
Take the dog for a walk	5.31%	6
Exercise	10.62%	12
Nature/wildlife observation	0.00%	0
Events	0.88%	1
Total		113

ADDITIONAL COMMENTARY

Also, to kill time between school runs.

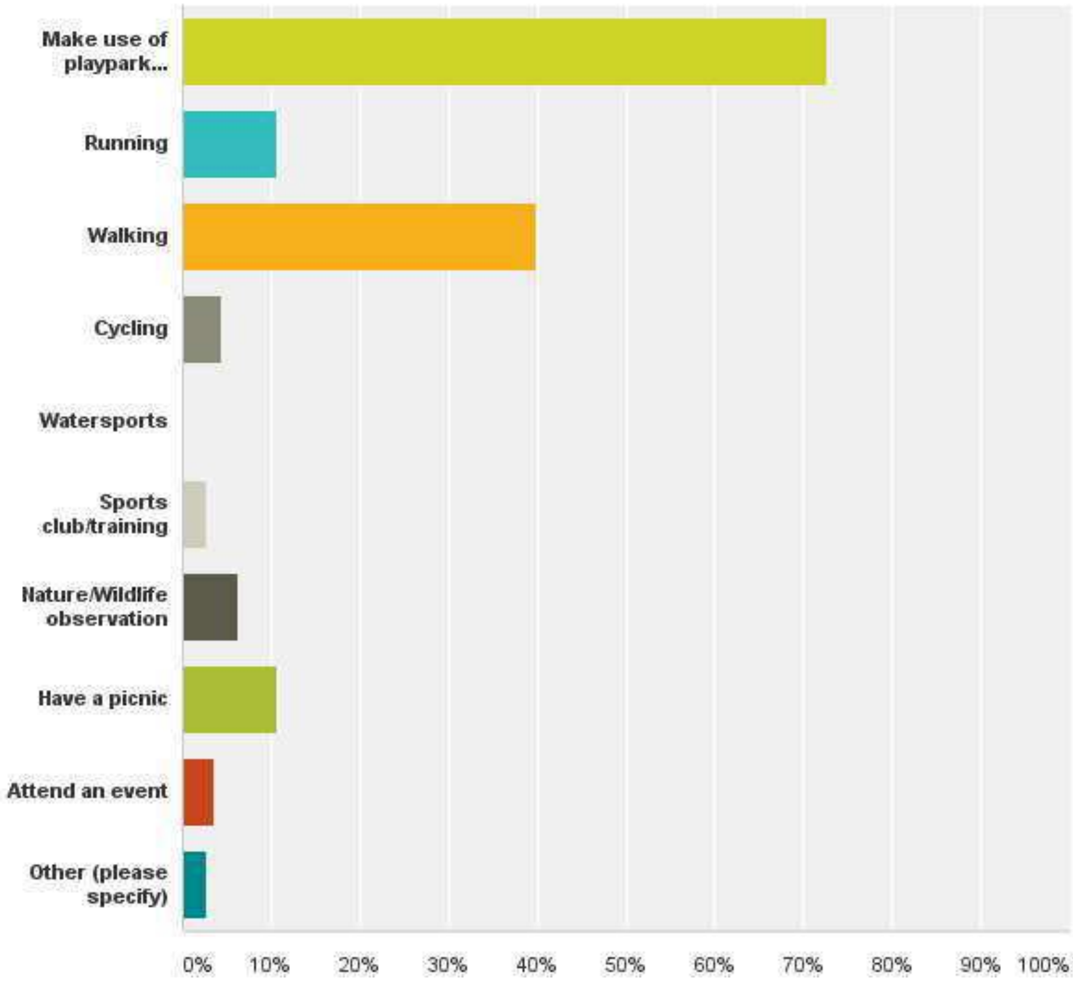
The closest play park for the children.

With my granddaughter.

To walk my disabled child.

Q10 What do you do at this park/play park?

Answered: 113 Skipped: 28



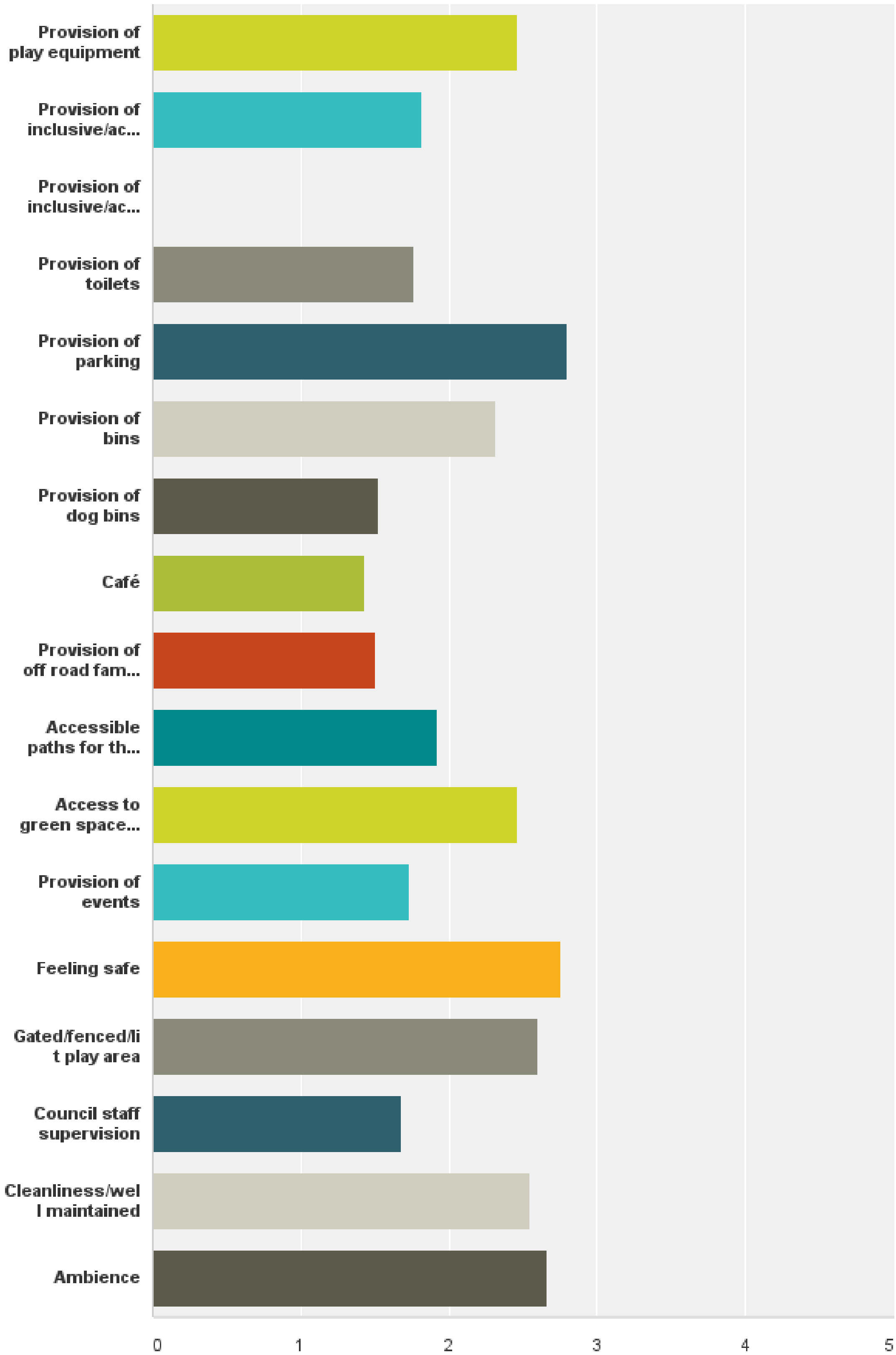
Answer Choices		Responses	
Make use of playpark facilities		72.57%	82
Running		10.62%	12
Walking		39.82%	45
Cycling		4.42%	5
Watersports		0.00%	0
Sports club/training		2.65%	3
Nature/Wildlife observation		6.19%	7
Have a picnic		10.62%	12
Attend an event		3.54%	4
Other (please specify)	Responses	2.65%	3
Total Respondents: 113			

OTHER ACTIVITIES

It is perfect for walking laps and we can choose to bring our young nephews to enjoy the river and small maze. Let the children play on the only 2 swings that are there. Just sit for a while nothing, there is for children with special needs to do.

Q11 On a scale of 1-5 (1 meaning Poor and 5 meaning Excellent) how would you rate this park/play park on each of the following?

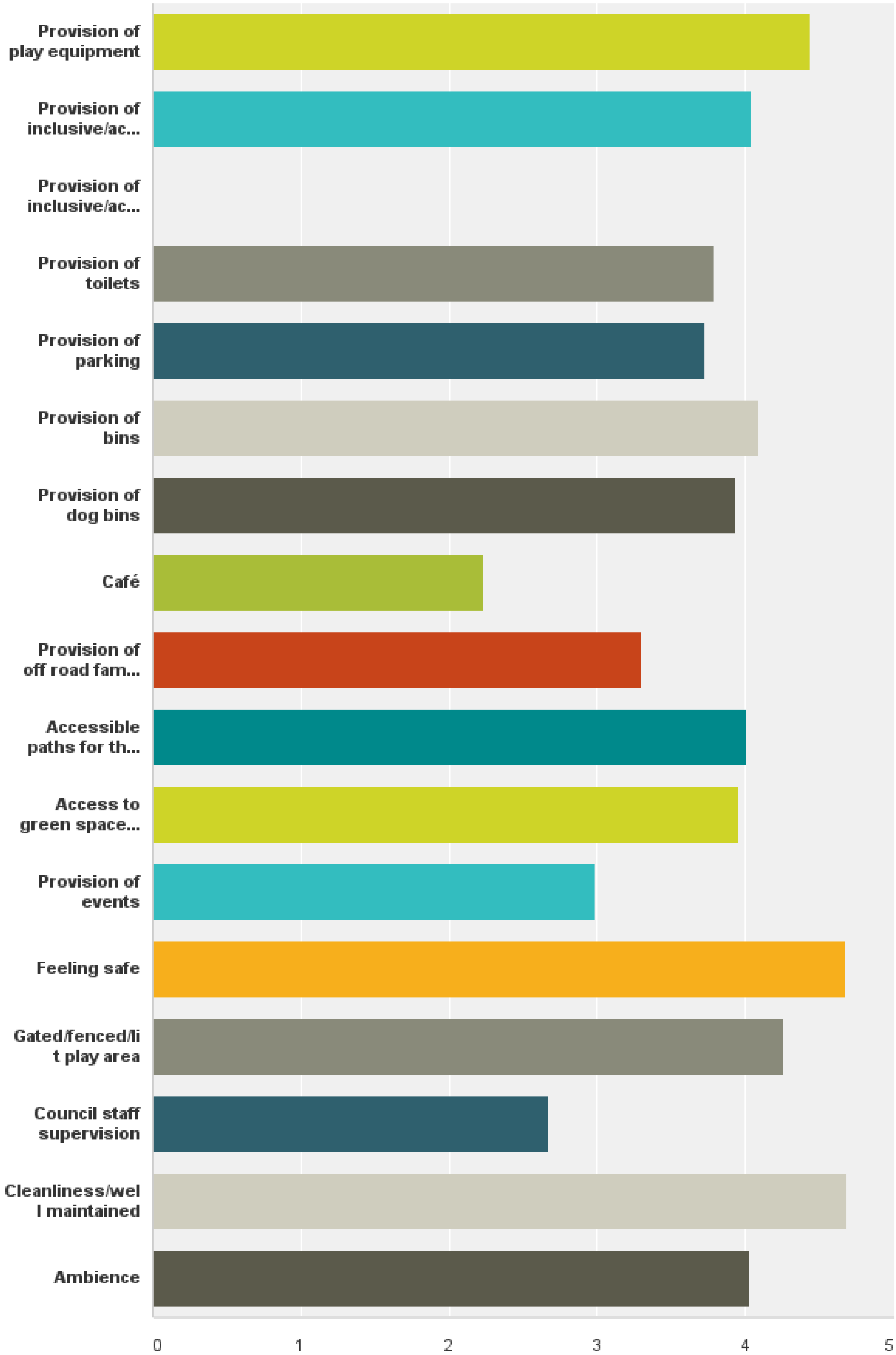
Answered: 99   Skipped: 42



	Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Very Good	Excellent	N/A	Total	Weighted Average
Provision of play equipment	25.25% 25	27.27% 27	21.21% 21	16.16% 16	5.05% 5	5.05% 5	99	2.46
Provision of inclusive/accessible play equipment (play facilities and changing for people with a disability - Physical, hearing, sight, learning, mental health or hidden)	54.55% 54	14.14% 14	10.10% 10	11.11% 11	2.02% 2	8.08% 8	99	1.82
Provision of inclusive/accessible toilet/changing facilities (facilities for people with a disability - Physical, hearing, sight, learning, mental health or hidden)	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0	0.00
Provision of toilets	53.54% 53	12.12% 12	13.13% 13	5.05% 5	3.03% 3	13.13% 13	99	1.76
Provision of parking	18.18% 18	20.20% 20	33.33% 33	15.15% 15	11.11% 11	2.02% 2	99	2.80
Provision of bins	19.19% 19	40.40% 40	29.29% 29	6.06% 6	3.03% 3	2.02% 2	99	2.32
Provision of dog bins	49.49% 49	19.19% 19	7.07% 7	1.01% 1	1.01% 1	22.22% 22	99	1.52
Café	48.48% 48	8.08% 8	4.04% 4	1.01% 1	2.02% 2	36.36% 36	99	1.43
Provision of off road family cycle trails	57.58% 57	6.06% 6	2.02% 2	2.02% 2	5.05% 5	27.27% 27	99	1.50
Accessible paths for those with limited mobility/wheelchair user	45.45% 45	15.15% 15	16.16% 16	2.02% 2	6.06% 6	15.15% 15	99	1.92
Access to green space (for walking or running)	24.24% 24	27.27% 27	19.19% 19	11.11% 11	8.08% 8	10.10% 10	99	2.46
Provision of events	44.44% 44	13.13% 13	9.09% 9	6.06% 6	1.01% 1	26.26% 26	99	1.73
Feeling safe	14.14% 14	28.28% 28	32.32% 32	18.18% 18	7.07% 7	0.00% 0	99	2.76
Gated/fenced/lit play area	23.23% 23	21.21% 21	29.29% 29	13.13% 13	8.08% 8	5.05% 5	99	2.60
Council staff supervision	41.41% 41	17.17% 17	10.10% 10	1.01% 1	2.02% 2	28.28% 28	99	1.68
Cleanliness/well maintained	18.18% 18	33.33% 33	27.27% 27	15.15% 15	5.05% 5	1.01% 1	99	2.55
Ambience	19.19% 19	30.30% 30	19.19% 19	18.18% 18	9.09% 9	4.04% 4	99	2.66

Q12 On a scale of 1-5 (1 meaning Poor and 5 meaning Excellent) how important are each of the following at this park/play park?

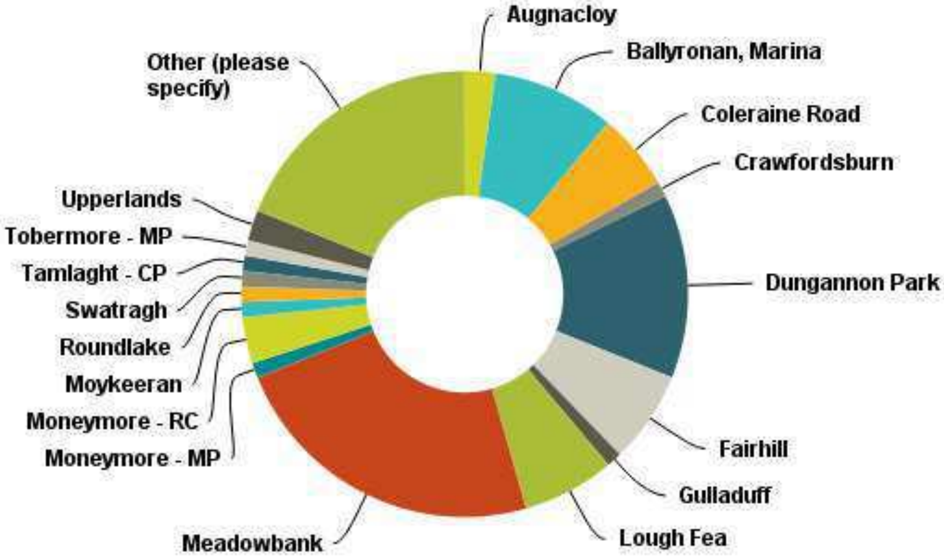
Answered: 99   Skipped: 42



	Not important at all	Slightly important	Important	Very important	Extremely important	N/A	Total	Weighted Average
Provision of play equipment	2.02% 2	2.02% 2	11.11% 11	18.18% 18	63.64% 63	3.03% 3	99	4.44
Provision of inclusive/accessible play equipment (play facilities and changing for people with a disability - Physical, hearing, sight, learning, mental health or hidden)	2.02% 2	6.06% 6	21.21% 21	21.21% 21	43.43% 43	6.06% 6	99	4.04
Provision of inclusive/accessible toilet/changing facilities (facilities for people with a disability - Physical, hearing, sight, learning, mental health or hidden)	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0	0.00
Provision of toilets	7.07% 7	11.11% 11	17.17% 17	22.22% 22	40.40% 40	2.02% 2	99	3.79
Provision of parking	1.01% 1	12.12% 12	30.30% 30	24.24% 24	31.31% 31	1.01% 1	99	3.73
Provision of bins	1.01% 1	4.04% 4	19.19% 19	35.35% 35	39.39% 39	1.01% 1	99	4.09
Provision of dog bins	2.02% 2	2.02% 2	28.28% 28	29.29% 29	32.32% 32	6.06% 6	99	3.94
Café	36.36% 36	22.22% 22	14.14% 14	11.11% 11	7.07% 7	9.09% 9	99	2.23
Provision of off road family cycle trails	9.09% 9	12.12% 12	30.30% 30	16.16% 16	20.20% 20	12.12% 12	99	3.30
Accessible paths for those with limited mobility/wheelchair user	4.04% 4	2.02% 2	25.25% 25	21.21% 21	42.42% 42	5.05% 5	99	4.01
Access to green space (for walking or running)	3.03% 3	5.05% 5	25.25% 25	20.20% 20	40.40% 40	6.06% 6	99	3.96
Provision of events	14.14% 14	16.16% 16	25.25% 25	19.19% 19	12.12% 12	13.13% 13	99	2.99
Feeling safe	0.00% 0	1.01% 1	6.06% 6	16.16% 16	75.76% 75	1.01% 1	99	4.68
Gated/fenced/lit play area	2.02% 2	3.03% 3	16.16% 16	22.22% 22	53.54% 53	3.03% 3	99	4.26
Council staff supervision	17.17% 17	27.27% 27	26.26% 26	11.11% 11	10.10% 10	8.08% 8	99	2.67
Cleanliness/well maintained	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	3.03% 3	24.24% 24	70.71% 70	2.02% 2	99	4.69
Ambience	1.01% 1	3.03% 3	29.29% 29	21.21% 21	41.41% 41	4.04% 4	99	4.03

Q13 Please can you state which park/play park is your favourite park/playpark in Mid Ulster? (If you cannot locate the park you require from the drop down list please state name or street name under 'Other' at bottom of the drop down list).

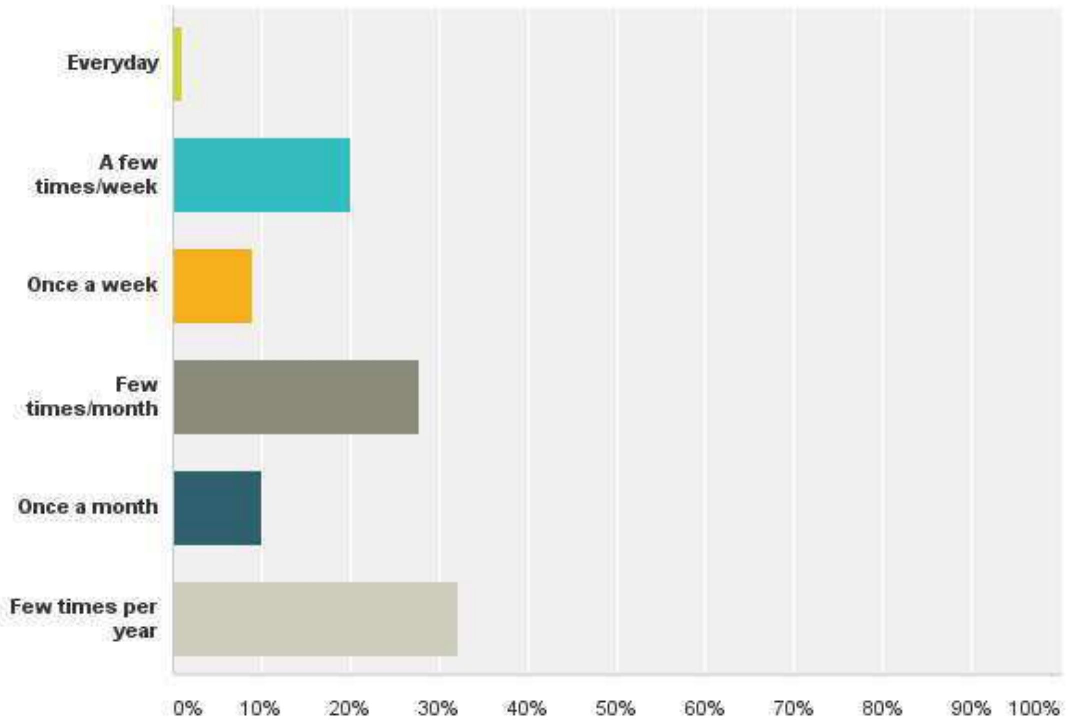
Answered: 90 Skipped: 51



Answer Choices		Responses	
Augnacloy		2.22%	2
Ballyronan, Marina		8.89%	8
Coleraine Road		5.56%	5
Crawfordsburn		1.11%	1
Dungannon Park		13.33%	12
Fairhill		6.67%	6
Gulladuff		1.11%	1
Lough Fea		6.67%	6
Meadowbank		23.33%	21
Moneymore, Manor Park		1.11%	1
Moneymore, Recreation Centre		3.33%	3
Moykeeran Draperstown		1.11%	1
Roundlake Fivemiltown		1.11%	1
Swatragh		1.11%	1
Tamlaght, Church Park		1.11%	1
Tobermore, Mill Park		1.11%	1
Upperlands		2.22%	2
Other (please specify)	Responses	18.89%	17
Total			90

Q14 Thinking about your favourite park/playpark, how often would you use this park/play park?

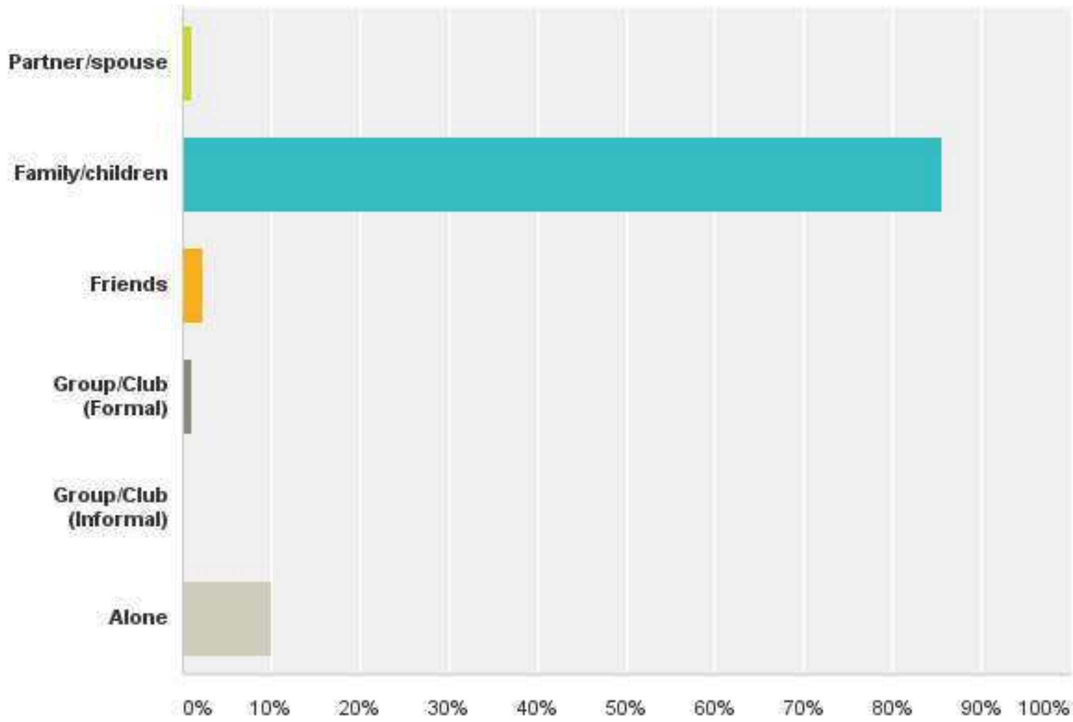
Answered: 90   Skipped: 51



Answer Choices	Responses	
Everyday	1.11%	1
A few times/week	20.00%	18
Once a week	8.89%	8
Few times/month	27.78%	25
Once a month	10.00%	9
Few times per year	32.22%	29
Total		90

Q15 Who do you normally visit this park/play park with?

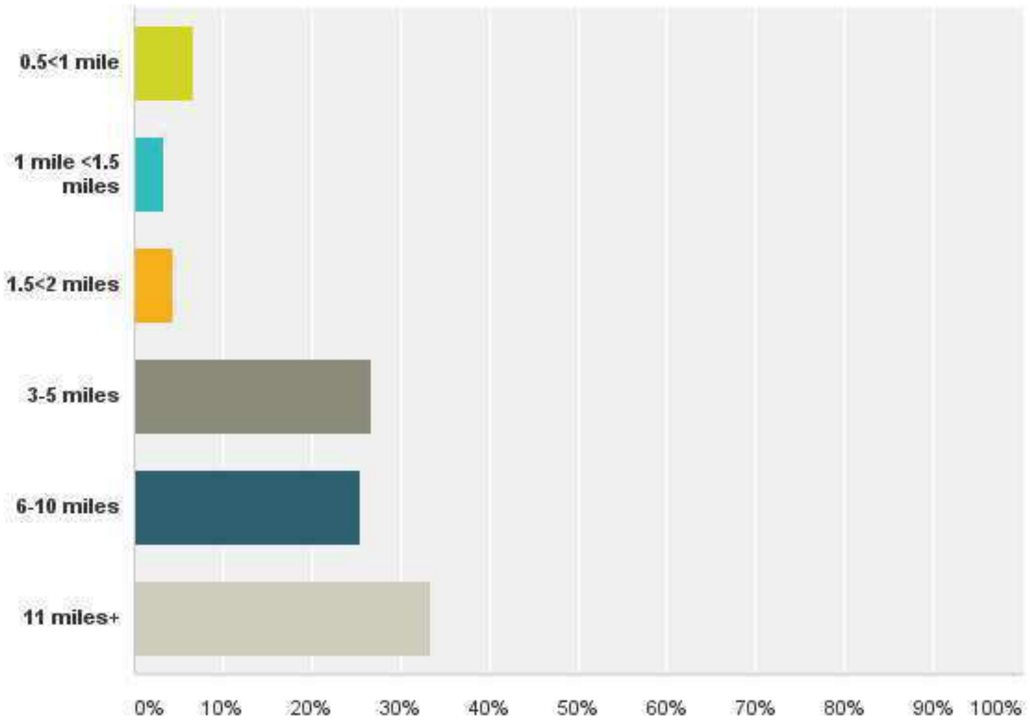
Answered: 90 Skipped: 51



Answer Choices	Responses	
Partner/spouse	1.11%	1
Family/children	85.56%	77
Friends	2.22%	2
Group/Club (Formal)	1.11%	1
Group/Club (Informal)	0.00%	0
Alone	10.00%	9
Total		90

Q16 How far approximately is this park/play park from your home? (miles)

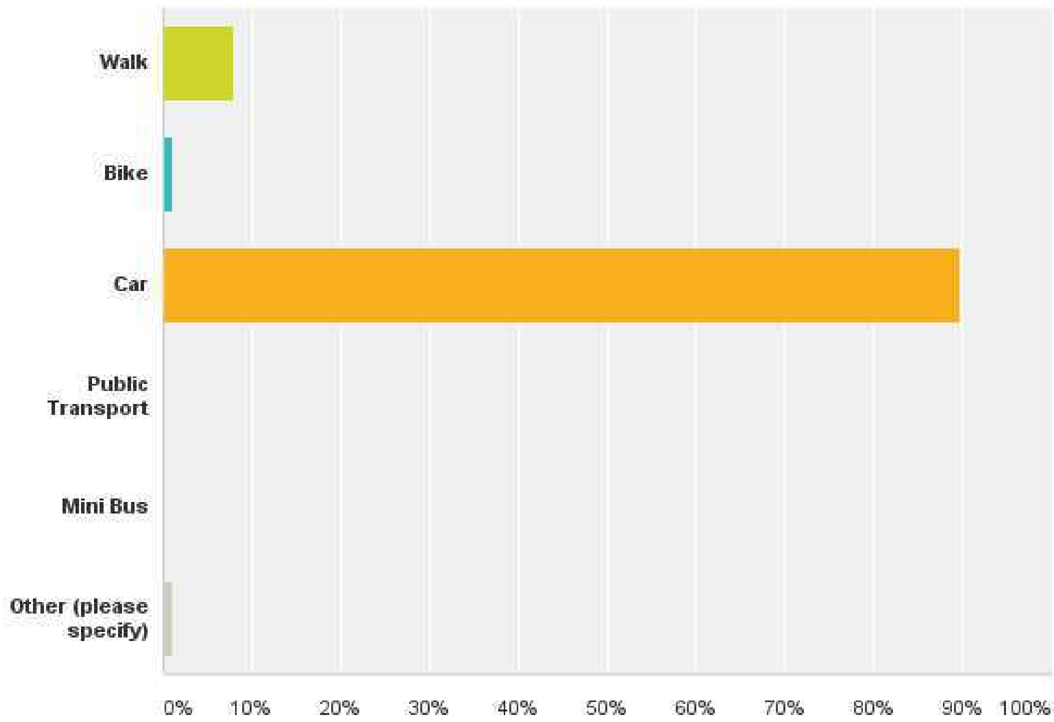
Answered: 90 Skipped: 51



Answer Choices	Responses	
0.5<1 mile	6.67%	6
1 mile <1.5 miles	3.33%	3
1.5<2 miles	4.44%	4
3-5 miles	26.67%	24
6-10 miles	25.56%	23
11 miles+	33.33%	30
Total		90

Q17 How do you travel to this park/play park

Answered: 88   Skipped: 53



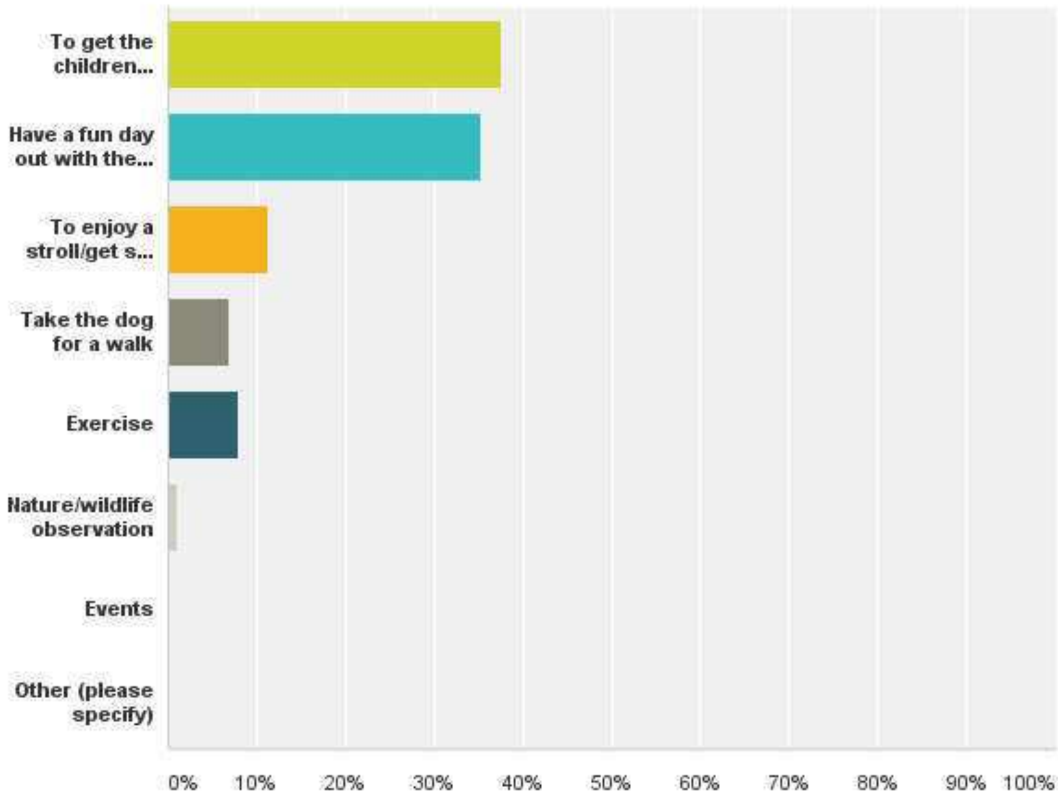
Answer Choices		Responses	
Walk		7.95%	7
Bike		1.14%	1
Car		89.77%	79
Public Transport		0.00%	0
Mini Bus		0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	Responses	1.14%	1
Total			88

OTHER COMMENTS

Irrelevant as it highlights only a lack of a good local park.

Q18 What is your primary reason for visiting this park/play park?

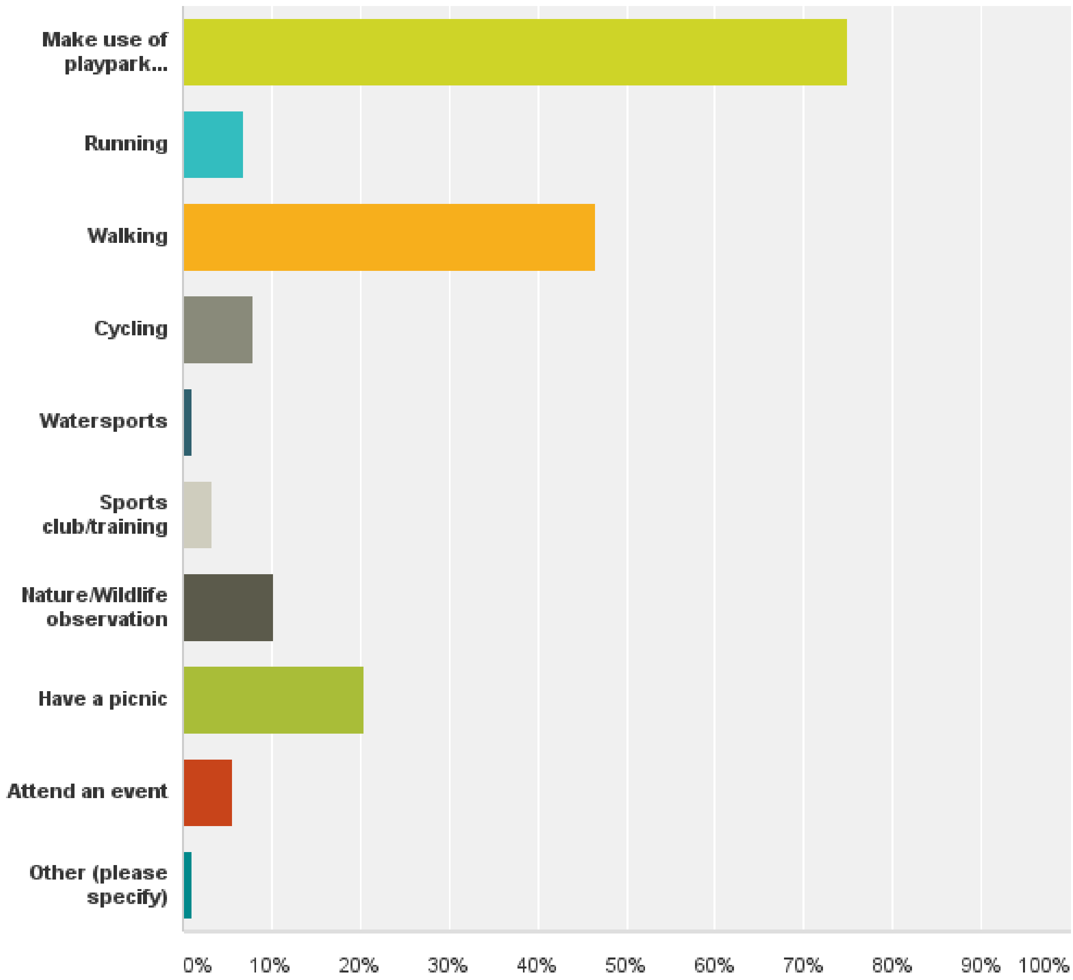
Answered: 88 Skipped: 53



Answer Choices		Responses	
To get the children outdoors for half an hour		37.50%	33
Have a fun day out with the family		35.23%	31
To enjoy a stroll/get some fresh air		11.36%	10
Take the dog for a walk		6.82%	6
Exercise		7.95%	7
Nature/wildlife observation		1.14%	1
Events		0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	Responses	0.00%	0
Total			88

Q19 What do you do at this park/play park?

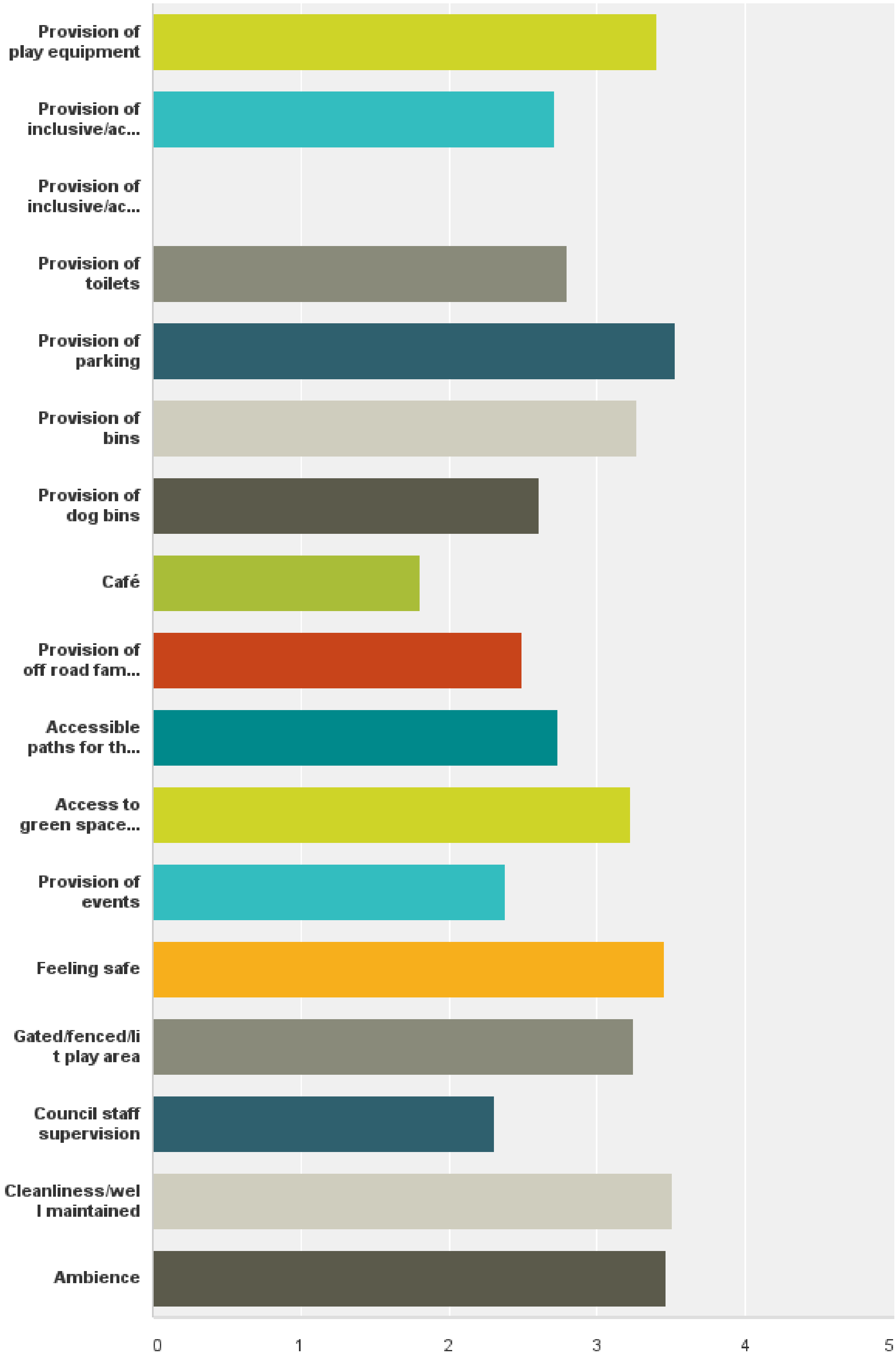
Answered: 88 Skipped: 53



Answer Choices	Responses	
Make use of playpark facilities	75.00%	66
Running	6.82%	6
Walking	46.59%	41
Cycling	7.95%	7
Watersports	1.14%	1
Sports club/training	3.41%	3
Nature/Wildlife observation	10.23%	9
Have a picnic	20.45%	18
Attend an event	5.68%	5
Other (please specify) Responses	1.14%	1
Total Respondents: 88		

Q20 On a scale of 1-5 (1 meaning Poor and 5 meaning Excellent) how would you rate your favourite park/play park on each of the following

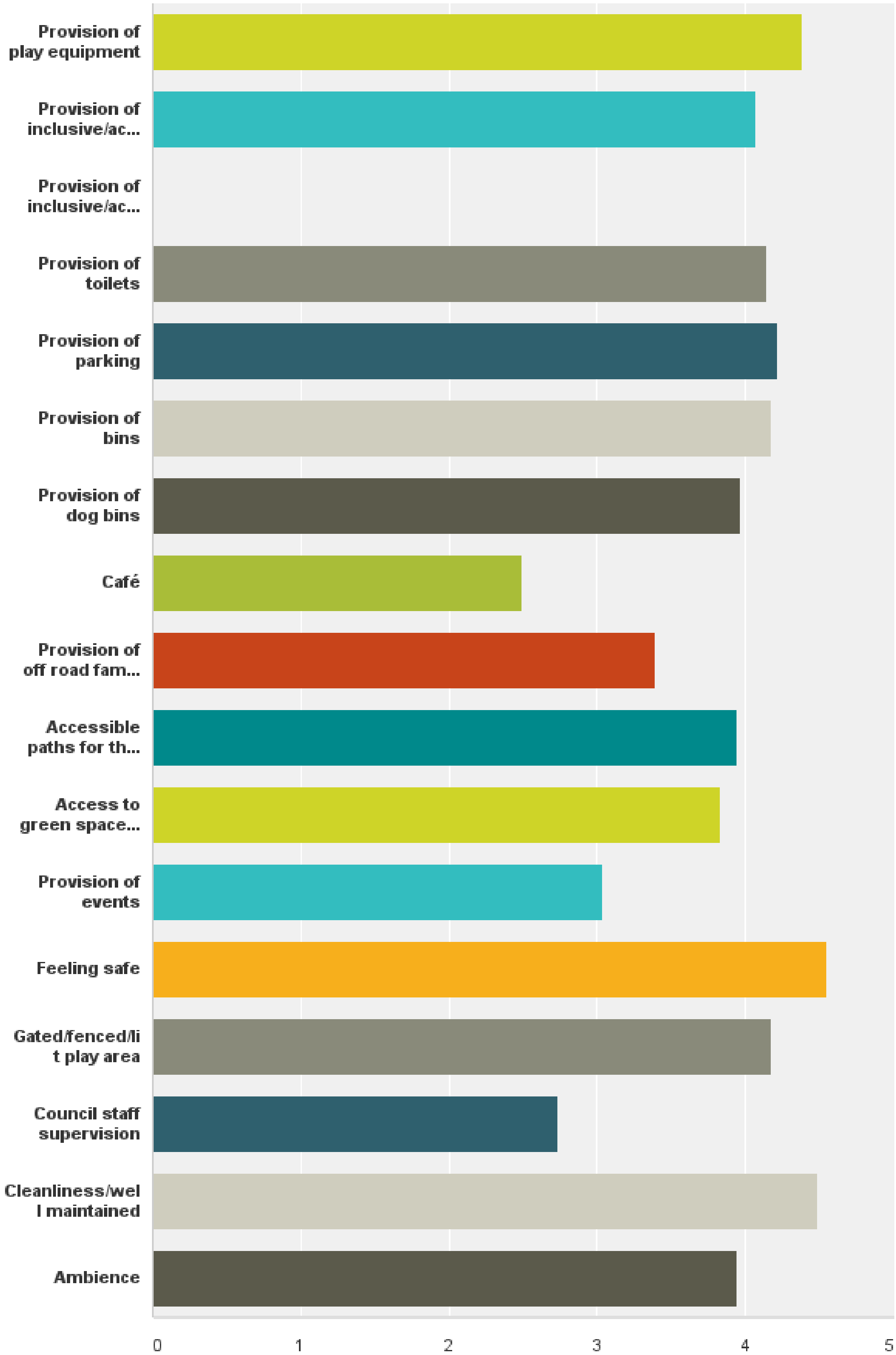
Answered: 78   Skipped: 63



	Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Very Good	Excellent	N/A	Total	Weighted Average
Provision of play equipment	8.97% 7	15.38% 12	23.08% 18	25.64% 20	23.08% 18	3.85% 3	78	3.40
Provision of inclusive/accessible play equipment (play facilities and changing for people with a disability - Physical, hearing, sight, learning, mental health or hidden)	24.36% 19	17.95% 14	24.36% 19	11.54% 9	14.10% 11	7.69% 6	78	2.71
Provision of inclusive/accessible toilet/changing facilities (facilities for people with a disability - Physical, hearing, sight, learning, mental health or hidden)	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0	0.00
Provision of toilets	25.64% 20	8.97% 7	26.92% 21	16.67% 13	12.82% 10	8.97% 7	78	2.80
Provision of parking	5.13% 4	11.54% 9	33.33% 26	23.08% 18	25.64% 20	1.28% 1	78	3.53
Provision of bins	1.28% 1	20.51% 16	43.59% 34	16.67% 13	16.67% 13	1.28% 1	78	3.27
Provision of dog bins	16.67% 13	20.51% 16	25.64% 20	7.69% 6	7.69% 6	21.79% 17	78	2.61
Café	33.33% 26	7.69% 6	7.69% 6	3.85% 3	2.56% 2	44.87% 35	78	1.81
Provision of off road family cycle trails	28.21% 22	11.54% 9	11.54% 9	6.41% 5	12.82% 10	29.49% 23	78	2.49
Accessible paths for those with limited mobility/wheelchair user	20.51% 16	17.95% 14	23.08% 18	12.82% 10	11.54% 9	14.10% 11	78	2.73
Access to green space (for walking or running)	15.38% 12	11.54% 9	21.79% 17	19.23% 15	21.79% 17	10.26% 8	78	3.23
Provision of events	21.79% 17	23.08% 18	20.51% 16	3.85% 3	7.69% 6	23.08% 18	78	2.38
Feeling safe	2.56% 2	17.95% 14	34.62% 27	19.23% 15	24.36% 19	1.28% 1	78	3.45
Gated/fenced/lit play area	11.54% 9	20.51% 16	21.79% 17	16.67% 13	25.64% 20	3.85% 3	78	3.25
Council staff supervision	24.36% 19	24.36% 19	14.10% 11	5.13% 4	7.69% 6	24.36% 19	78	2.31
Cleanliness/well maintained	2.56% 2	12.82% 10	32.05% 25	32.05% 25	17.95% 14	2.56% 2	78	3.51
Ambience	3.85% 3	12.82% 10	33.33% 26	28.21% 22	19.23% 15	2.56% 2	78	3.47

Q21 On a scale of 1-5 (1 meaning Poor and 5 meaning Excellent) how important to you are each of the following at your favourite park/play park?

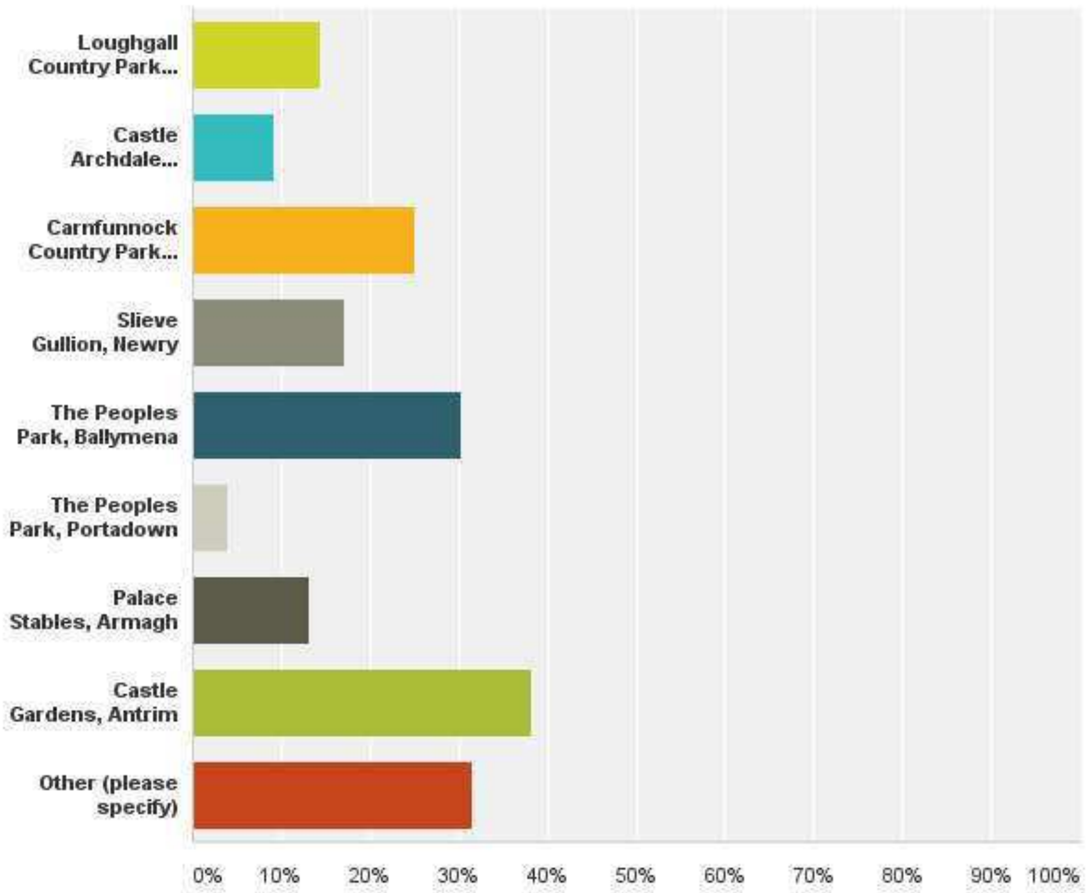
Answered: 78   Skipped: 63



	Not important at all	Slightly important	Important	Very important	Extremely important	N/A	Total	Weighted Average
Provision of play equipment	2.56% 2	5.13% 4	7.69% 6	19.23% 15	62.82% 49	2.56% 2	78	4.3
Provision of inclusive/accessible play equipment (play facilities and changing for people with a disability - Physical, hearing, sight, learning, mental health or hidden)	2.56% 2	5.13% 4	15.38% 12	33.33% 26	39.74% 31	3.85% 3	78	4.0
Provision of inclusive/accessible toilet/changing facilities (facilities for people with a disability - Physical, hearing, sight, learning, mental health or hidden)	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0	0.0
Provision of toilets	3.85% 3	1.28% 1	17.95% 14	29.49% 23	46.15% 36	1.28% 1	78	4.1
Provision of parking	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	19.23% 15	38.46% 30	41.03% 32	1.28% 1	78	4.2
Provision of bins	0.00% 0	2.56% 2	17.95% 14	35.90% 28	41.03% 32	2.56% 2	78	4.1
Provision of dog bins	0.00% 0	5.13% 4	24.36% 19	32.05% 25	32.05% 25	6.41% 5	78	3.9
Café	26.92% 21	19.23% 15	21.79% 17	8.97% 7	10.26% 8	12.82% 10	78	2.5
Provision of off road family cycle trails	7.69% 6	14.10% 11	28.21% 22	16.67% 13	24.36% 19	8.97% 7	78	3.3
Accessible paths for those with limited mobility/wheelchair user	1.28% 1	5.13% 4	26.92% 21	24.36% 19	35.90% 28	6.41% 5	78	3.9
Access to green space (for walking or running)	1.28% 1	3.85% 3	35.90% 28	24.36% 19	30.77% 24	3.85% 3	78	3.8
Provision of events	14.10% 11	15.38% 12	32.05% 25	11.54% 9	17.95% 14	8.97% 7	78	3.0
Feeling safe	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	11.54% 9	21.79% 17	65.38% 51	1.28% 1	78	4.5
Gated/fenced/lit play area	2.56% 2	6.41% 5	14.10% 11	21.79% 17	52.56% 41	2.56% 2	78	4.1
Council staff supervision	19.23% 15	17.95% 14	30.77% 24	10.26% 8	11.54% 9	10.26% 8	78	2.7
Cleanliness/well maintained	1.28% 1	1.28% 1	8.97% 7	23.08% 18	64.10% 50	1.28% 1	78	4.4
Ambience	2.56% 2	0.00% 0	34.62% 27	23.08% 18	37.18% 29	2.56% 2	78	3.9

Q22 Which park(s)/play park(s) outside the Council district have you visited in the last 12 months?

Answered: 76 Skipped: 65



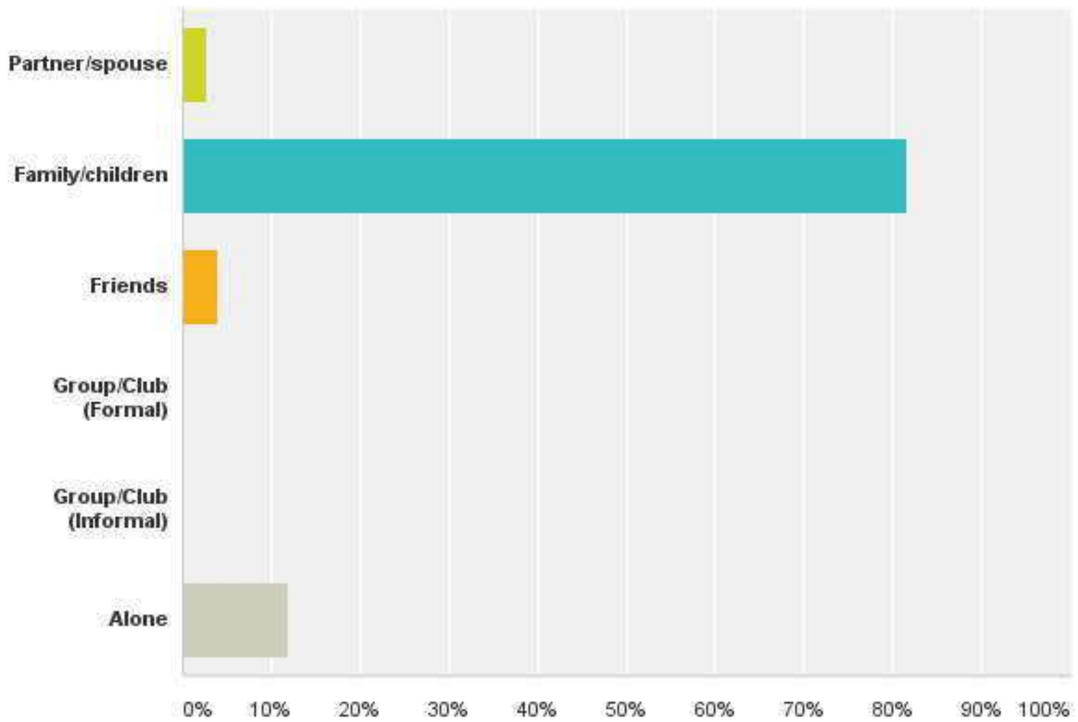
Answer Choices		Responses	
Loughgall Country Park, Loughgall		14.47%	11
Castle Archdale Country Park, Fermanagh		9.21%	7
Carnfunnock Country Park, Larne		25.00%	19
Slieve Gullion, Newry		17.11%	13
The Peoples Park, Ballymena		30.26%	23
The Peoples Park, Portadown		3.95%	3
Palace Stables, Armagh		13.16%	10
Castle Gardens, Antrim		38.16%	29
Other (please specify)	Responses	31.58%	24
Total Respondents: 76			

OTHER PARKS

No parks outside District – 7; Peatlands Park – 2; Singular mentions: Ballycastle; Victoria Park; Banagher Dam; Cranfield Play Parks; Lurgan; Craigavon Lakes; Portrush; Claudy; Kilrea; Roe Valley Country Park; Ballymoney; Ardress; Navan; Portglenone; Marine Gardens Carrickfergus; Flower Arts Centre Portstewart.

Q23 Who did you visit this park/play park with?

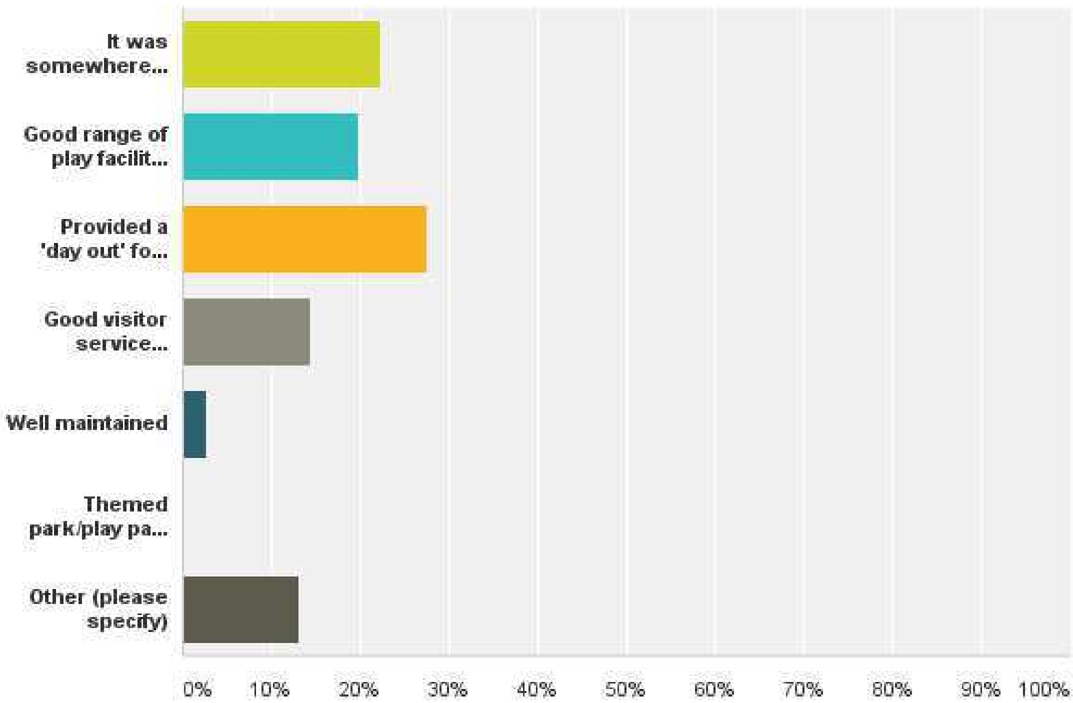
Answered: 76 Skipped: 65



Answer Choices	Responses	
Partner/spouse	2.63%	2
Family/children	81.58%	62
Friends	3.95%	3
Group/Club (Formal)	0.00%	0
Group/Club (Informal)	0.00%	0
Alone	11.84%	9
Total		76

Q24 What was your primary reason for visiting this park(s)/play park(s)?

Answered: 76 Skipped: 65



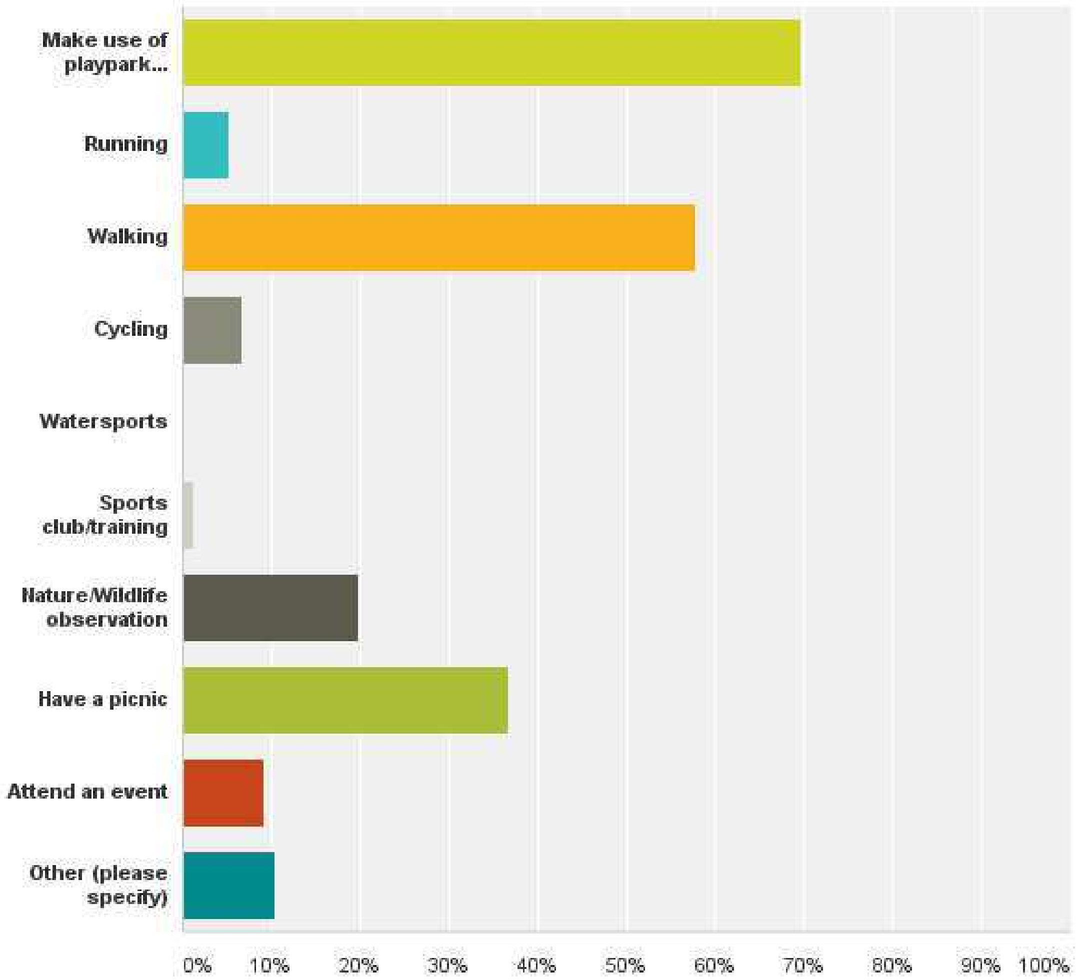
Answer Choices		Responses	
It was somewhere different to go		22.37%	17
Good range of play facilities for all ages		19.74%	15
Provided a 'day out' for all the family		27.63%	21
Good visitor service facilities e.g. Visitor Centre, café, toilets etc.		14.47%	11
Well maintained		2.63%	2
Themed park/play park visitor attraction		0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	Responses	13.16%	10
Total			76

OTHER RESPONSES

Not applicable – 6; Nature and natural unkempt features – 2. Singular responses: event such as Park Run; Close to home; changing facilities for disabled person.

Q25 What did do you do at this park/play park?

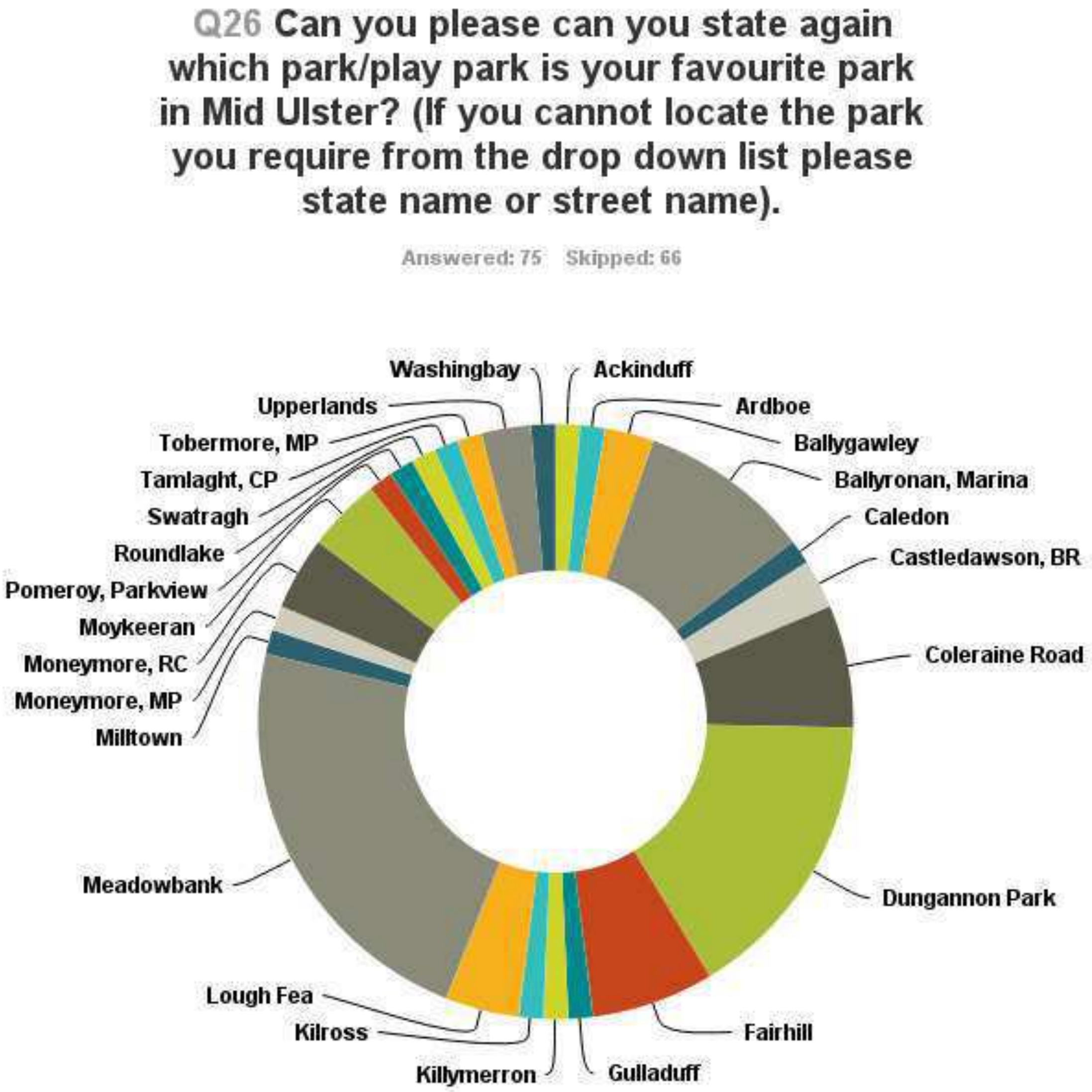
Answered: 76 Skipped: 65



Answer Choices		Responses	
Make use of playpark facilities		69.74%	53
Running		5.26%	4
Walking		57.89%	44
Cycling		6.58%	5
Watersports		0.00%	0
Sports club/training		1.32%	1
Nature/Wildlife observation		19.74%	15
Have a picnic		36.84%	28
Attend an event		9.21%	7
Other (please specify)	Responses	10.53%	8
Total Respondents: 76			

OTHER RESPONSES

Nothing – 5; walked the dog -2; Singular response - It has full range of disabled facilities and inclusive play for my disabled daughter to play with others with no disabilities together, it has also got sensory garden and disabled picnic tables for wheelchair use.



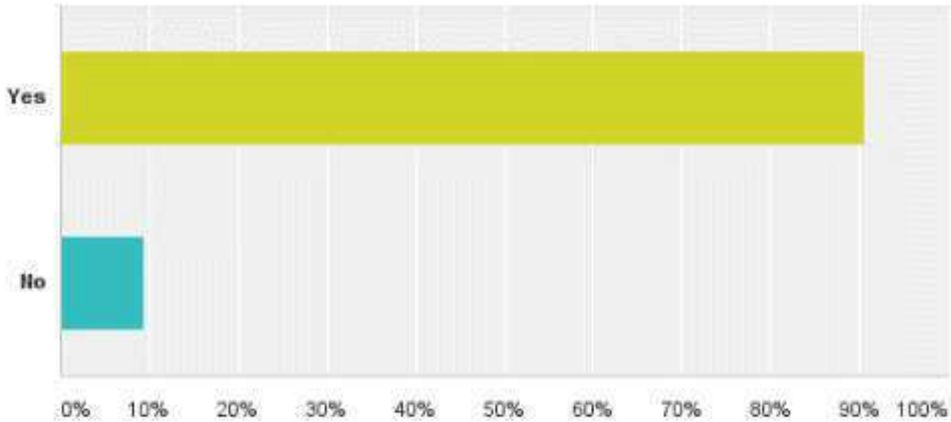
Answer Choices	Responses	
Ackinduff	1.33%	1
Ardboe	1.33%	1
Ballygawley	2.67%	2
Ballyronan, Marina	9.33%	7
Caledon	1.33%	1
Castledawson, Boyne Row	2.67%	2
Coleraine Road	6.67%	5
Dungannon Park	16.00%	12
Fairhill	6.67%	5
Gulladuff	1.33%	1
Killymerron	1.33%	1
Kilross	1.33%	1
Lough Fea	4.00%	3
Meadowbank	22.67%	17
Milltown	1.33%	1
Moneymore, Manor Park	1.33%	1
Moneymore, Recreation Centre	4.00%	3
Moykeeran	4.00%	3
Pomeroy, Parkview	1.33%	1
Roundlake	1.33%	1
Swatragh	1.33%	1
Tamlaght, Church Park	1.33%	1
Tobermore, Mill Park	1.33%	1
Upperlands	2.67%	2
Washingbay	1.33%	1
Total		75

OTHER PARKS/PLAY PARKS

Drum Manor - 3; Pomeroy Forest – 2. Other singular mentions: Glenmore Walk; Maghera; Maghera Leisure Centre.

Q27 Did you have children accompanying you who used the play park?

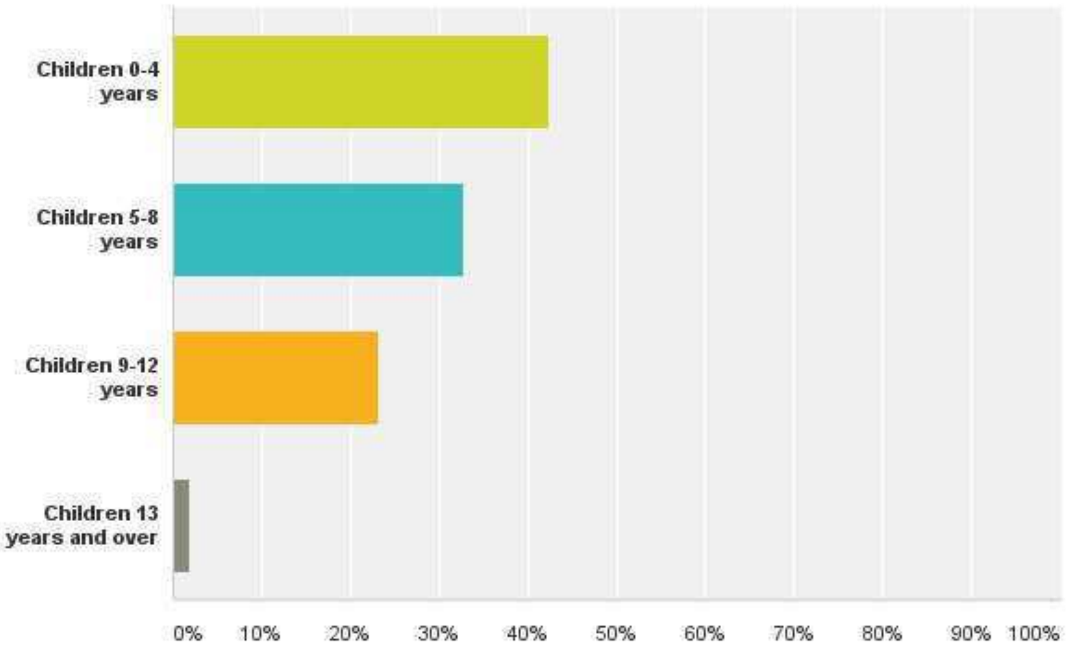
Answered: 75 Skipped: 66



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	90.67%	68
No	9.33%	7
Total		75

Q28 What age were the children who use this play park?

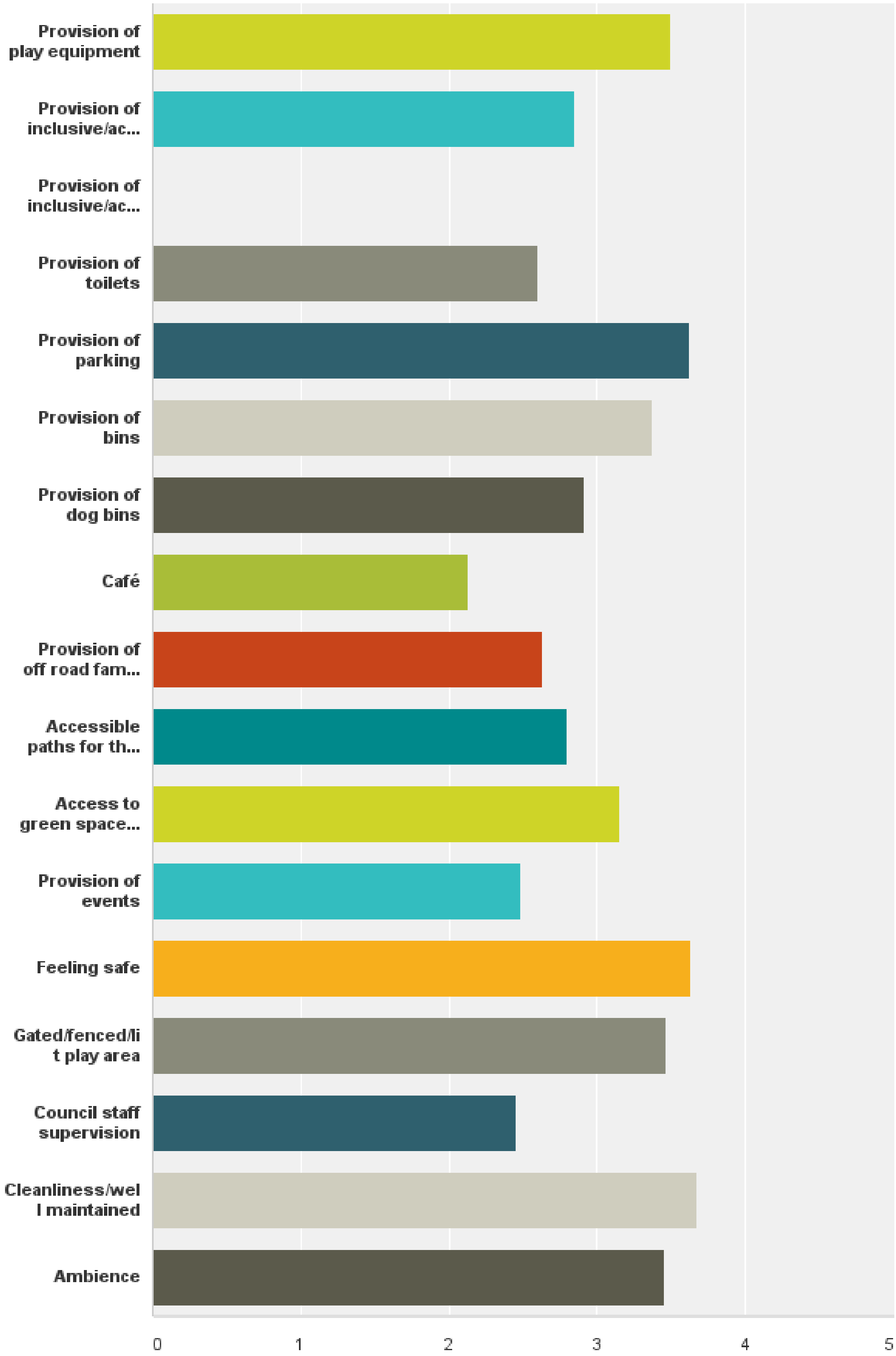
Answered: 52   Skipped: 89



Answer Choices	Responses	
Children 0-4 years	42.31%	22
Children 5-8 years	32.69%	17
Children 9-12 years	23.08%	12
Children 13 years and over	1.92%	1
Total		52

Q29 On a scale of 1-5 (1 meaning Poor and 5 meaning Excellent) how would you rate this play park on each of the following

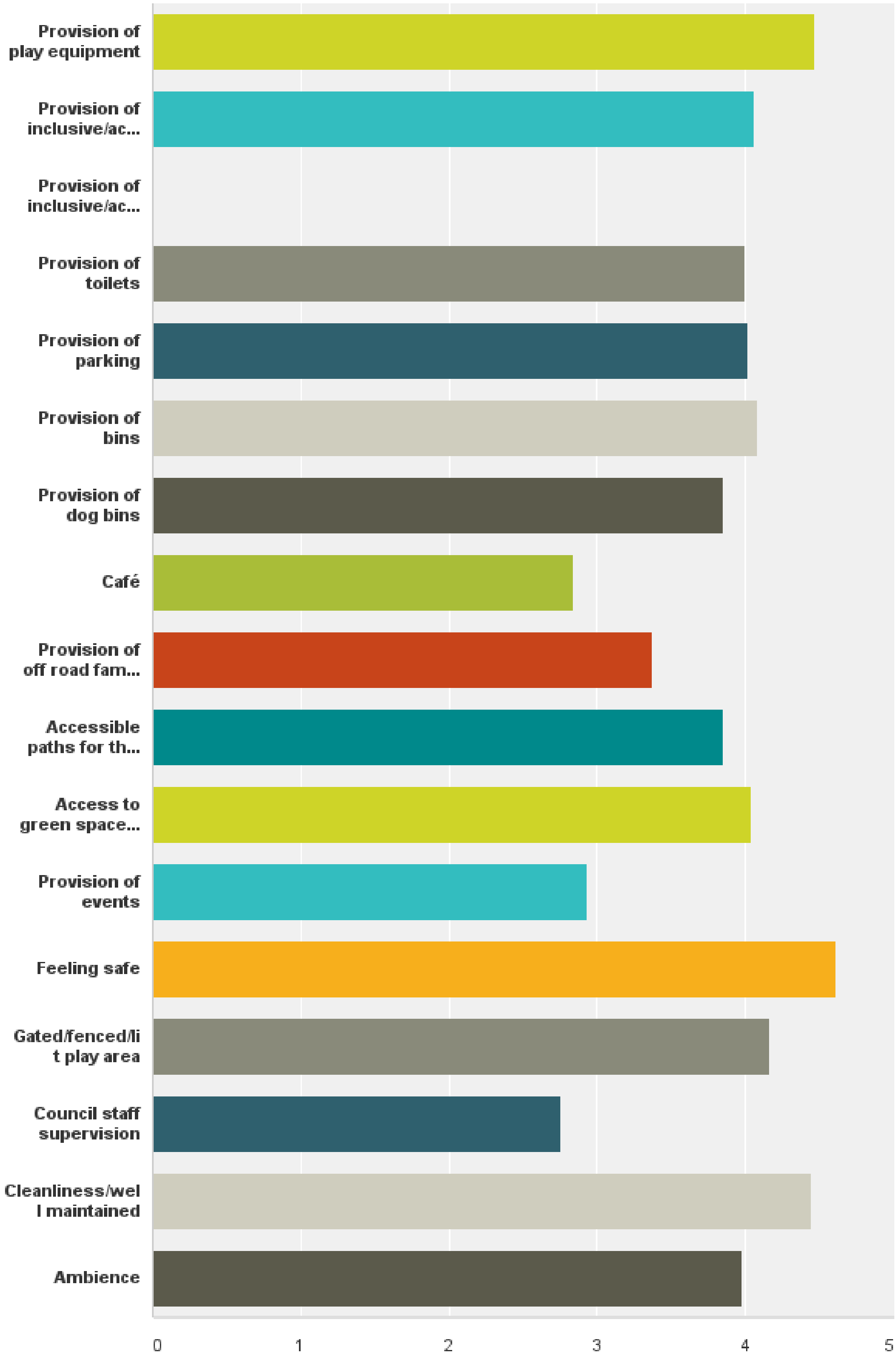
Answered: 52 Skipped: 89



	Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Very Good	Excellent	N/A	Total	Weighted Average
Provision of play equipment	9.62% 5	13.46% 7	19.23% 10	32.69% 17	25.00% 13	0.00% 0	52	3.50
Provision of inclusive/accessible play equipment (play facilities and changing for people with a disability - Physical, hearing, sight, learning, mental health or hidden)	28.85% 15	9.62% 5	13.46% 7	23.08% 12	15.38% 8	9.62% 5	52	2.85
Provision of inclusive/accessible toilet/changing facilities (facilities for people with a disability - Physical, hearing, sight, learning, mental health or hidden)	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0	0.00
Provision of toilets	34.62% 18	11.54% 6	21.15% 11	15.38% 8	13.46% 7	3.85% 2	52	2.60
Provision of parking	7.69% 4	9.62% 5	19.23% 10	40.38% 21	23.08% 12	0.00% 0	52	3.62
Provision of bins	7.69% 4	13.46% 7	26.92% 14	38.46% 20	13.46% 7	0.00% 0	52	3.37
Provision of dog bins	11.54% 6	17.31% 9	30.77% 16	13.46% 7	9.62% 5	17.31% 9	52	2.91
Café	28.85% 15	9.62% 5	13.46% 7	5.77% 3	3.85% 2	38.46% 20	52	2.13
Provision of off road family cycle trails	30.77% 16	3.85% 2	17.31% 9	13.46% 7	11.54% 6	23.08% 12	52	2.63
Accessible paths for those with limited mobility/wheelchair user	21.15% 11	15.38% 8	23.08% 12	13.46% 7	13.46% 7	13.46% 7	52	2.80
Access to green space (for walking or running)	17.31% 9	3.85% 2	28.85% 15	25.00% 13	13.46% 7	11.54% 6	52	3.15
Provision of events	26.92% 14	9.62% 5	25.00% 13	7.69% 4	7.69% 4	23.08% 12	52	2.48
Feeling safe	3.85% 2	7.69% 4	30.77% 16	34.62% 18	21.15% 11	1.92% 1	52	3.63
Gated/fenced/lit play area	9.62% 5	9.62% 5	25.00% 13	32.69% 17	21.15% 11	1.92% 1	52	3.47
Council staff supervision	19.23% 10	21.15% 11	19.23% 10	7.69% 4	5.77% 3	26.92% 14	52	2.45
Council staff supervision	19.23% 10	21.15% 11	19.23% 10	7.69% 4	5.77% 3	26.92% 14	52	2.45
Cleanliness/well maintained	3.85% 2	9.62% 5	21.15% 11	46.15% 24	19.23% 10	0.00% 0	52	3.67
Ambience	5.77% 3	11.54% 6	30.77% 16	28.85% 15	19.23% 10	3.85% 2	52	3.46

Q30 On a scale of 1-5 (1 meaning Poor and 5 meaning Excellent) how important are each of the following at this play park?

Answered: 52 Skipped: 89



	Not important at all	Slightly important	Important	Very important	Extremely important	N/A	Total	Weighted Average
Provision of play equipment	1.92% 1	3.85% 2	5.77% 3	21.15% 11	65.38% 34	1.92% 1	52	4.47
Provision of inclusive/accessible play equipment (play facilities and changing for people with a disability - Physical, hearing, sight, learning, mental health or hidden)	1.92% 1	3.85% 2	21.15% 11	26.92% 14	40.38% 21	5.77% 3	52	4.06
Provision of inclusive/accessible toilet/changing facilities (facilities for people with a disability - Physical, hearing, sight, learning, mental health or hidden)	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0	0.00
Provision of toilets	1.92% 1	5.77% 3	19.23% 10	32.69% 17	36.54% 19	3.85% 2	52	4.00
Provision of parking	0.00% 0	3.85% 2	23.08% 12	38.46% 20	32.69% 17	1.92% 1	52	4.02
Provision of bins	0.00% 0	1.92% 1	17.31% 9	48.08% 25	28.85% 15	3.85% 2	52	4.08
Provision of dog bins	1.92% 1	5.77% 3	23.08% 12	32.69% 17	26.92% 14	9.62% 5	52	3.85
Café	15.38% 8	21.15% 11	21.15% 11	15.38% 8	11.54% 6	15.38% 8	52	2.84
Provision of off road family cycle trails	9.62% 5	13.46% 7	21.15% 11	23.08% 12	21.15% 11	11.54% 6	52	3.37
Accessible paths for those with limited mobility/wheelchair user	1.92% 1	5.77% 3	30.77% 16	19.23% 10	34.62% 18	7.69% 4	52	3.85
Access to green space (for walking or running)	0.00% 0	3.85% 2	21.15% 11	34.62% 18	32.69% 17	7.69% 4	52	4.04
Provision of events	15.38% 8	13.46% 7	30.77% 16	11.54% 6	13.46% 7	15.38% 8	52	2.93
Feeling safe	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	9.62% 5	19.23% 10	69.23% 36	1.92% 1	52	4.61
Gated/fenced/lit play area	1.92% 1	5.77% 3	13.46% 7	30.77% 16	46.15% 24	1.92% 1	52	4.16
Council staff supervision	19.23% 10	17.31% 9	28.85% 15	11.54% 6	11.54% 6	11.54% 6	52	2.76
Cleanliness/well maintained	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	15.38% 8	23.08% 12	59.62% 31	1.92% 1	52	4.45
Ambience	3.85% 2	0.00% 0	25.00% 13	32.69% 17	34.62% 18	3.85% 2	52	3.98

Q31 How could this play park be improved?

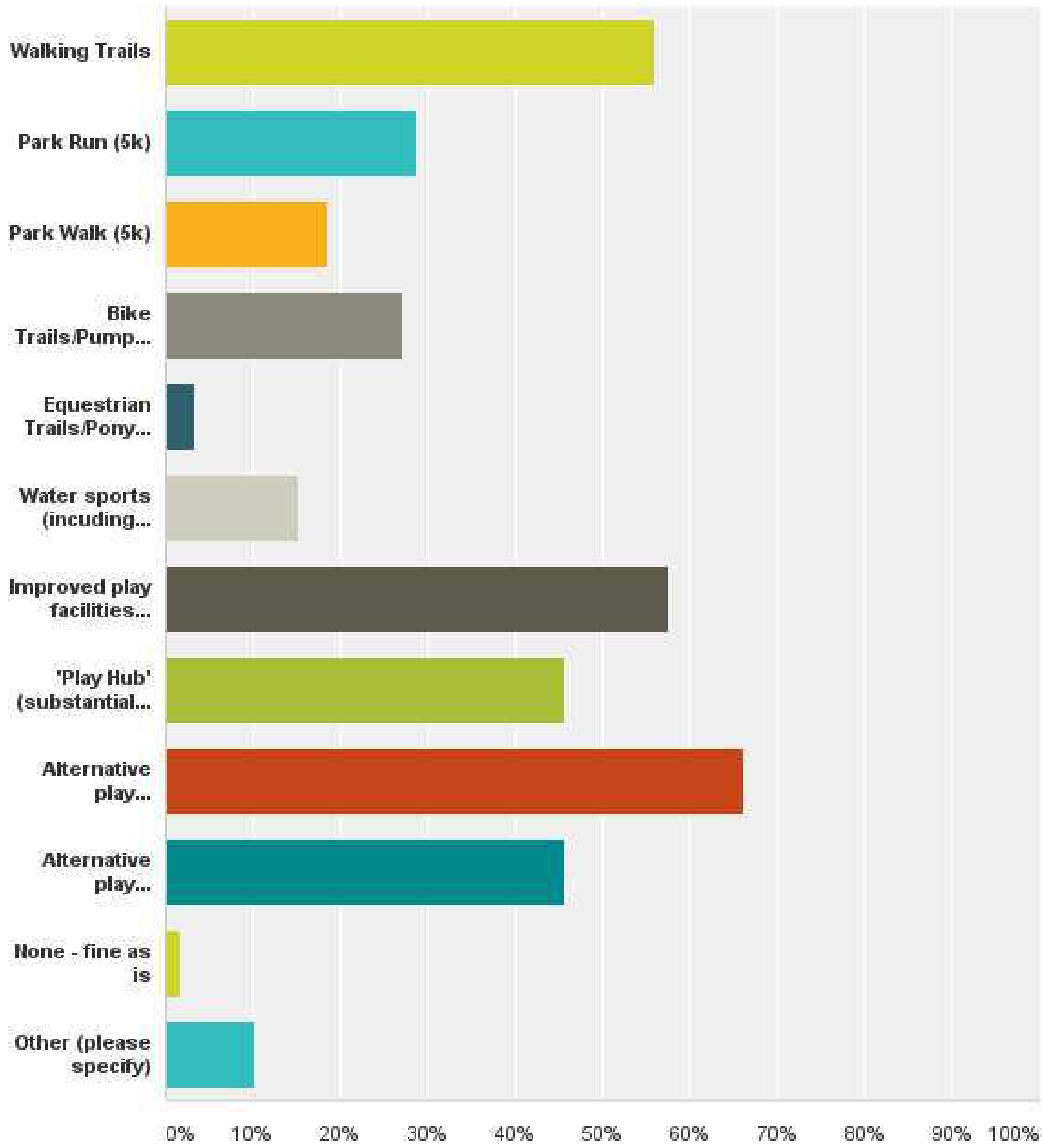
Response Number	Verbatim Response
1	*It is quite good I think improvements needed to be focused and made instead to parks that aren't good in the likes of smaller villages like mine Upperlands*
2	*Couldn't*
3	*It could be covered so it could be used all year round as we do not have the weather in this country for parks in general. There should also be more provision in Upperlands.*
4	*It's a disgrace that drum manor play park is not meeting the needs of disabled children in this community.*
5	*It couldn't I just wish we didn't have to travel so far to this standard of park and we had something more local for our children to play in more regularly*
6	*Improved????? How about planning on putting a park onsite please? There are 2 useable swings for older children. I had to answer N/A for most of the questions as there is no park to answer the questions too!!! Personally, i think it's a disgrace what the children in and around Caledon have! As a mum of quite a large family of a big age range i know my kids, as are other children from the 3 schools in Caledon are missing out!*
7	*Excellent playground but could have more equipment for toddler age range*
8	*cycling routes toilets changing rooms Events better equipment Ball well swing rope More for older children*
9	*More lamps (evening time) safety*
10	*It's fine as it is*
11	*More play facilities. Play area fenced in. Seats for adults when children playing.*
12	*More challenging equipment for age 10 plus. E.g. Sandwell play park in West Bromwich, Lake Windermere play park. There is no green space, cycle paths areas to walk, picnic tables. No opportunity for a day out in the area - apart from to the local cemetery. No thanks*
13	*Tables for picnic*
14	*More seating*
15	*More walks*
16	*Better lighting*
17	*Extra trails orienteering tracks water sports*
18	*The green area is always saturated when it rains. Park green therefore can experience limited use.* *Park is not lit at night which could limit potential use in evening for at least 4months of the yr.*
19	*n/a*
20	*Put in a play park.*
21	*More parking better toilets*
22	*Dungannon park - the grass gets very muddy between the play spaces. There are a few very steep/sudden steps off the soft areas that could hurt someone (esp. if you're standing watching you could tumble off - at the edge of the large climbing frame especially). There also is a lack of facilities for children between toddlers and those 6/7+ who can use the larger equipment.*
23	*Improved play park facilities*
24	*Toilets*
25	*More facilities for infants*

26	*Made bigger. More use of the green space beside it*
27	*Space for family fun*
28	*Moneymore main park needs to protected more between anti-social behaviour and children trying to cross what is an extremely dangerous fast road and the park being locked it's not an accessible place to let the children go to*
29	*We need more than one park in Magherafelt. We need adventure type parks made with wood and rope etc., not all metal. The park is closed on bank holidays and at other times when we would be likely to use it.*
30	*Made much larger to accommodate for the population of Cookstown the same goes for Coagh park.*
31	*Better parking. Kids can run out straight to carpark which is very busy*
32	*made bigger*
33	*Gravel carpark beside play park extended and tarmacked. Toilet provision.*
34	*MADE BIGGER*
35	*It seems unwelcoming of the Protestant/ unionist community. The staff are cold, suspicious and uninterested. It appears to run NYA small group of people that run the Maria centre for themselves. It needs new staff and managers.*
36	*More seats and modern equipment*
37	*More walking trails nearby*
38	*more equipment, facilities, paths and disabled access*
39	*Meadowbank is quite good which I have answered these questions for. Castledawson park is very small and quite basic*
40	*None*
41	*Water safety for children events*
42	*It's very good*
43	*I don't think it needs to be improved however better provision in smaller villages would be better*
44	*Supervised play*
45	*I would love a park with this mix of play equipment, green space and shared walking/cycling paths nearer my home in Maghera.*
46	*Keep working with local groups and clubs and let them input into the development of the park.* *Too many parks are over manicured, Windmill wood is great for both kids and adults.*
47	*This park is excellent compared to our local park it's a shame our local park isn't better. We need a more central to the village of Upperlands rather than just the residents of Alexander park. The park in Alexander park is treat like it is owned by the residents of that estate as it is so close to the estate and is not very welcoming to those from outside the estate and those from outside the village would certainly not go down there to use it. Our village for being rural has a big intake of children in Ampertaine and also little amps and there are also children nearby in Culnady, St John's Swatragh, crossroads, Maghera and Kilrea. I would love to see a mutual park in the centre of the village near the main Kilrea road open and welcoming to all as the coffee shop is also near that road and walks around nearby dams so people could make more of a day out*
48	*No dogs allowed in this or any parks or play parks in Mid Ulster. Instead introduce dog walking fields, secured/fenced in so those without dogs can get peace to actually enjoy our parks*
49	*Further development*

50	*N/A*
51	*Replicated elsewhere in the District!*
52	*Knock it down and rebuild a fully inclusive play park. Add changing places toilet to Meadowbank building. Or find new location in Magherafelt for a fully inclusive play park with green area for picnics/ walking too.*

Q32 What other outdoor recreation facilities would you like to see in your local public park/play park in Mid Ulster (You can choose more than one option)

Answered: 59 Skipped: 82



199

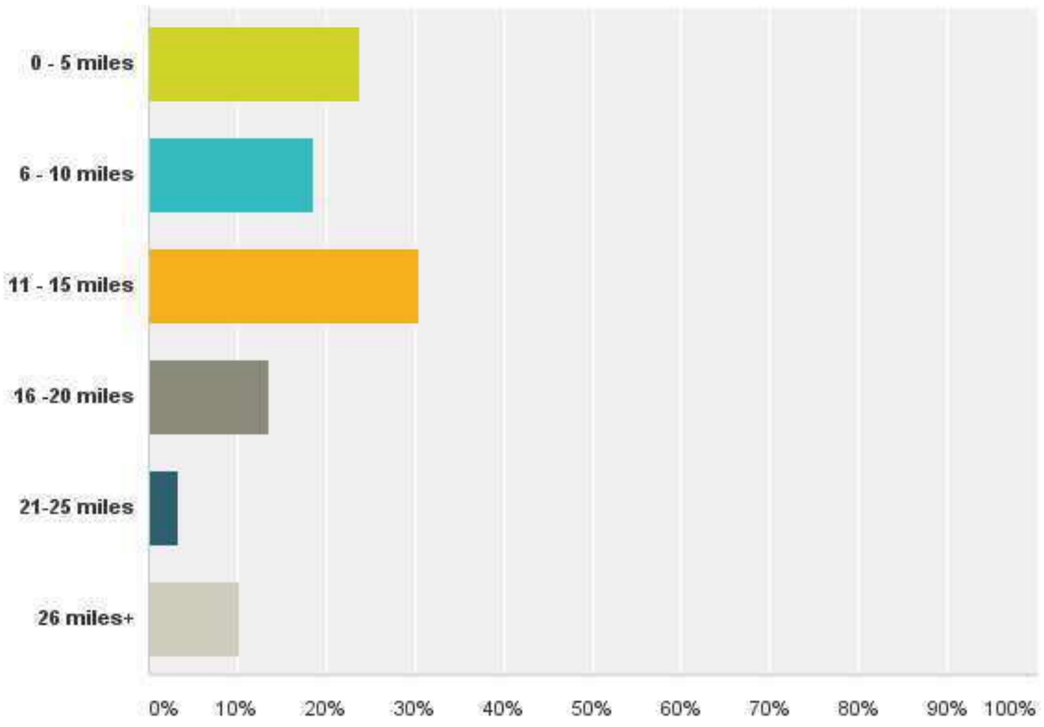
Answer Choices		Responses	
Walking Trails		55.93%	33
Park Run (5k)		28.81%	17
Park Walk (5k)		18.64%	11
Bike Trails/Pump Track		27.12%	16
Equestrian Trails/Pony Trekking Trails		3.39%	2
Water sports (incuding Angling)		15.25%	9
Improved play facilities (better swings, slides etc)		57.63%	34
'Play Hub' (substantial, equipped play resource catering for all age groups and abilities on a single site with in a designated catchment area)		45.76%	27
Alternative play facilities: Nature Play (the provision of a play opportunity using something from the natural environment rather than a purpose-built piece of equipment. For example, the use of a tree trunk as a climbing frame or balance beam. The piece is usually modified to provide safer access)		66.10%	39
Alternative play facilities: Wild Play (opportunistic play with the visitor using something they would expect to encounter in the environment e.g. climb a tree)		45.76%	27
None - fine as is		1.69%	1
Other (please specify)	Responses	10.17%	6
Total Respondents: 59			

OTHER RESPONSES

Add inclusive play – 2; Singular mentions: build a playpark; green gym for adults; refurbish Swatragh; build toilets at Clady.

Q33 How far would you travel from your home address if the above was provided in a public park in mid Ulster? (miles)

Answered: 59 Skipped: 82



Answer Choices	Responses	
0 - 5 miles	23.73%	14
6 - 10 miles	18.64%	11
11 - 15 miles	30.51%	18
16 -20 miles	13.56%	8
21-25 miles	3.39%	2
26 miles+	10.17%	6
Total		59

Q34 Finally, please provide any further comments or observations you feel are important to the future development of outdoor recreation and parks and play provision in Mid Ulster.

Response Number	Verbatim Response
1	*We need more money spent on a proper park for our village of Upperlands. I have 3 children of varying age ranges and we don't have a fit for purpose park for them. I feel our village of Upperlands and children are forgotten although we are a smaller village we have a lot of children locally with nowhere to go and nothing to do in their village which isn't fair, they should get the same chances as others regardless of where they live. I hope our council can start to invest in a proper park facility and events etc. in our village and small villages like ours as I have to drive for miles for a park facility to suit them all and therefore can't take them to the park as much as they want to go. I hope to see a cap and less investment in already good standard parks and more in developing the same or similar for all children.*
2	*The park in Upperlands is awful that's why we visit so little as the children from that estate feel they have ownership of it and sometimes you don't feel very welcome we need a park for all the children of the village and outside it, it's not fair that only alexander park has their own park, we need a better bigger park that all can use on neutral ground in the village. I hope something can be done as this is a big issue locally and lots of people have this same opinion. Meadowbank etc. does not need any more money spent on it we need money in rural parks now to make a fit for purpose park in our village for all to use and events shouldn't always have to be held in just Meadowbank they should be spread about the smaller villages too so everyone gets a chance to attend something local and other people can come into each other's villages.*
3	*I feel that the questionnaire is a bit leading and not enough focus put on where you would like future provision being placed. The questions I answered were about parks I used and if I liked them or not. I did not feel that I was able to contribute to the debate that Upperlands is held within a high deprivation area and has a vast walkable area and space for a play park for old and young. This could also be used for allotments and wheelchair friendly picnic tables.*
4	*These areas need to be able to meet the diverse needs of all children and family and include play equipment for children with special needs.*
5	*Our nearest park is Upperlands and it is in one of the housing estates which I don't think is fair to those who don't live in that estate, we need a larger fit for purpose park that all people around the village and outside of the village can comfortably use. We have to travel quite a distance to allow our children to use good standard and variety park facilities like Meadowbank and would like to see that our Council can now focus and invest in the more rural parks outside of the council area to improve them and make them fit for purpose for all the local children.*
6	*We NEED a playpark for our children in Caledon! There are 2 useable swings (which can only be used by older children), what is there has been there for over 30 years! We need something for our children!!*
7	*Feedback from tourists to the area commented on lack of cycleways.*

8	*I think we need to improve our parks in our local areas so we can get children outside into parks away from electronic games etc. and get fresh air have fun and meet their friends Also football pitches for older boys and girls to play football hurling rugby etc.*
9	*Would love to see a running track at the Marina.*
10	*More run/ walk tracks.*
11	*I generally use my local roads to walk my dog.*
12	*Events at weekends as we are always trying to go somewhere to entertain our children.*
13	*There are no safe walking routes on the roads around Moneymore, in fact the volume of traffic in the village itself means that it is difficult for a pensioner like me to get to the Manor Park.*
14	*Provision for open spaces is really poor in our local area. The new sports facilities at Meadowbank and Greenvale are outstanding, but there is nowhere close to go for a safe walk, bike ride with family.* *Current play parks are only suitable for up to 9 years of age. We need some beautiful outdoor space for our community with challenging play equipment. Polepatrick cemetery but not an option for my family - feels totally disrespectful.*
15	*None.*
16	*The area of Slaughtneil / Carntogher has a great centre in An Carn and the Drumlamph Woodland Trust but no play area which would be very popular.*
17	*More areas for walking / cycling (kids) in Magherafelt.*
18	*A play park for Sandholes village.*
19	*A green way for walking and cycling.*
20	*More adventures. Make orienteering available to all.*
21	*Most of the timber structure within the park is coming out of its build for purpose state. There are two bridges for viewing water and they are in need of attention.*
22	*N/A.*
23	*More walkways.*
24	*Look at options around water for water sports etc.*
25	*Overall quality is good. Moy park seems totally underused and a bit lonely at times. Dungannon park is brilliant, a bit of an upgrade to the play are would make it perfect!*
26	*Please improve the basic facilities at Knockmany Forest Park to that we continue to safely use them as a running group and as a family with young children. Thank you.*
27	*Nicer green space with events like Antrim castle garden.*
28	*Parkrun is great for any community and should be helped.*
29	*Bigger selection of swings slides or climbing frames for older children.*
30	*'Open space' parks are needed for walking/ running/picnics etc. in each locality*
31	*Stop anti-social behavious at kids play area it's a disgrace.*
32	*We need more than one park in Magherafelt. We need a park that is not located as an afterthought within a car park. We need other facilities around the park. We need equipment created from natural resources such as wood and rope in an adventure playground style, not metal equipment. We need a facility that is open on bank holidays and at other times when we would like to use it, not closed because council staff are off.*

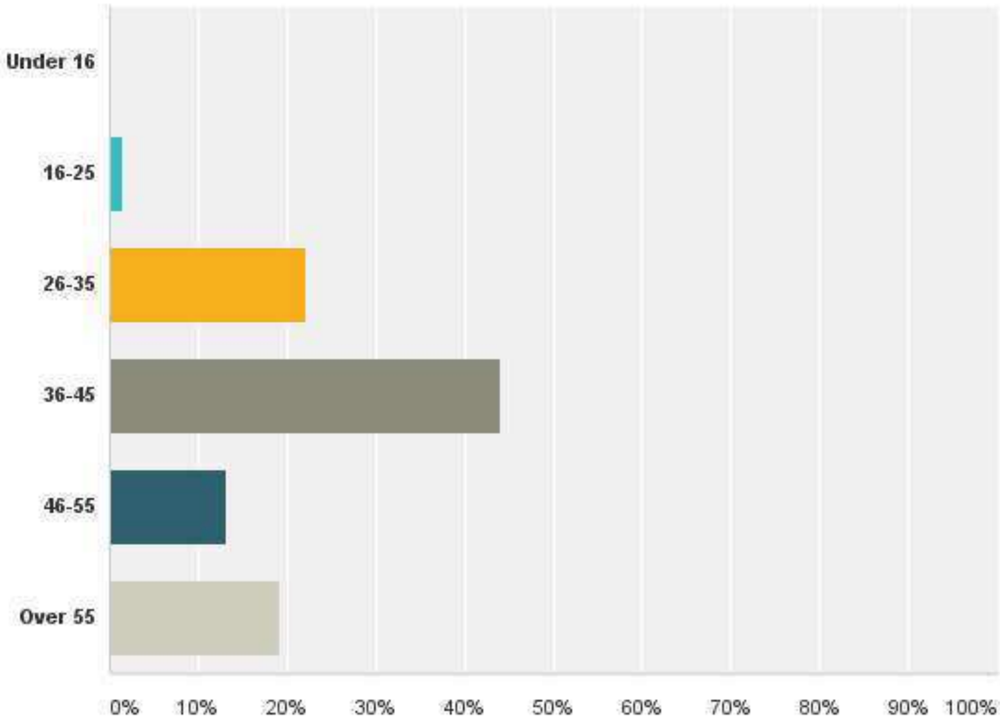
33	*The Parks in the Dungannon area tend to be very well kept and are a great asset for the MUD area to develop further.*
34	*To attract tourists, we need modernised play parks that are open to everyone and not situated in housing estates. If we had modernised play parks and green gyms families would be much healthier and it would suit all those on low incomes, but need to be locked at night time to prevent anti-social behaviour with floral decorations and plants like what we see in other countries.*
35	*More equipment.*
36	*Play areas should be enclosed for safety.*
37	*Parks must be clean and free for rubbish.*
38	*Toilet provision is very important and cafe.*
39	*Swatragh playpark has been neglected for years and has been 'improved' in bits and pieces but it stands out, in contrast to places like Kilrea, Moneymore and Maghera that have seen very significant investment and vision!! and Maghera.*
40	*No mention of Davagh Forest Park in this survey.*
41	
42	*Just 4 swings in any play area is inadequate.*
43	*More open green spaces and forests with walking trails is needed closer to Bellaghy and Castledawson area.*
44	*More local play areas without leaving that area.*
45	*Castledawson park needs updated and improved. There are virtually no safe walk trails in Castledawson.*
46	*Upperlands needs a park most villages have a park in a central location.*
47	*Encouraging children to be active in the environment is critical to protecting our environment and our children health.*
48	*A play park in Upperlands would be excellent.*
49	*Simple basic equipment is what our children look for a good swing a slippy slide etc.*
50	*Upperlands needs a better park safer away from main road.*
51	*The town of Maghera is sorely missing green space and walking/cycling/running paths.*
52	*Kids need to be challenged and not wrapped in cotton wool. They need to learn to assess and manage risk at an early age.*
53	*Our local park in Upperlands is no good; it is not open and accessible to all. We need a park more central to the village of Upperlands rather than just the residents of Alexander park. The park in Alexander Park is treat like it is owned by the residents of that estate as it is so close to the estate and is not very welcoming to those from outside the estate and even less welcoming to those from outside the village would certainly not go down there to use it. Our village for being rural has a big intake of children in Ampertaine and also little amps approximately 170 kids not all of whom live in that estate and there are also children nearby in Culnady, St. John's Swatragh, Crossroads, Maghera and Kilrea. I would love to see a mutual park in the centre of the village near the main Kilrea road open and welcoming to all as the coffee shop is also near that road and walks around nearby dams so people could make more of a day out, I hope the council can take all this feedback on board as every child and parent from inside and outside the village should be provided with a neutral park that they can freely use and mix with other children regardless of background.*

54	*Please, please return play equipment of some shape or form to Glenone Park, located at the junction of Clady Road and Ballymacombs Rd. Even swings would be great as a start. This small settlement had seen a significant rise in population with the development of The Orchards, housing development, yet incrementally over the years all the play equipment had been removed. For the sake of the significant of young children living in close proximity to this park please put something back into it so they can play e.g. mounded grass, puzzles or roads painted on the pavers so kids can be entertained on foot or on small bikes. Also, please ban dogs from Glenone Park and all other parks in Mid Ulster, they are a safety hazard to children & adults and foul over pitches, grass play areas, and footpaths which is disgusting.*
55	*None*
56	*Clady park would be nice if it was well maintained.*
57	*I would like to see my other local play park in Glenone being restored to somewhere families can take their children to. I played there as a child and would love my child to have this opportunity. There is currently only an open space where a park once was. It was used by so many was slowly got less and less play equipment over years until none at all. Now a football pitch is only functional thing. Now council workers waste time blowing leaves and cutting grass.*
58	*In regard to the park in Glenone, which is very close to my house, it used to be a well-equipped play park with a skateboard rink. The rink and all the equipment has incrementally been removed over 20 years, so all that is left is a bricked surface, with no equipment whatsoever. This is the only public green space in the small settlement of Glenone, which currently has a large housing development under construction (with no green space, thanks to the Developer manipulating to avoid Planning Policy Statement 8 reqirements!), namely the Orchards (where there is a high number of young families). In addition to the car park and playing field in this park, it needs either gated children's play equipment reinstated, even the most basic equipment would be welcomed. Gated because the previous equipment was vandalised by teenagers in the past, particularly on a Friday night when they gathered to get a bus to a teenage disco. If at present the council cannot afford a full equipped play park, natural play equipment (logs, balance beam, contoured surface) would even be an improvement. Come on new council, get your act together and give this park the TLC it has missed for so many years (once people came from all over the Magherafelt District to use the park - now council workers brush up leaves and trim trees in a space devoid of anything for children to play on/with, which just seems such a waste). On a wider note, and no doubt this will be controversial, I do not think dogs (either on or off leads) should be permitted in ANY park due to the danger to children and dog fouling. Council should provide dedicated agricultural fields/areas for those who have to walk their dogs, clearly signed, so the rest of us know to avoid these areas. Our parks, forests and woods in the District (including Glenone Woods) have been taken over by dogs making them an unattractive location for everyone else to walk- this is extremely unfair as I pay my rates and do not feel safe using a local amenity to walk and am forced to walk on public roads following a number of dog attacks in Glenone Wood/Molloys Ford. Let's look after the people and children of the Borough NOT the give the dogs priority.*

59	*Inclusive play too providing equality for disabled children is a priority in any and all future public spending.*

Q35 Please select your age bracket

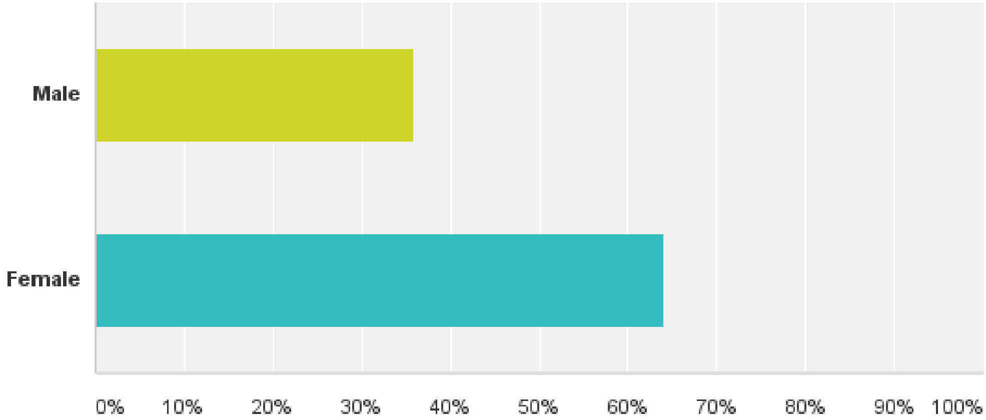
Answered: 68 Skipped: 73



Answer Choices	Responses	
Under 16	0.00%	0
16-25	1.47%	1
26-35	22.06%	15
36-45	44.12%	30
46-55	13.24%	9
Over 55	19.12%	13
Total		68

Q36 Please select your gender

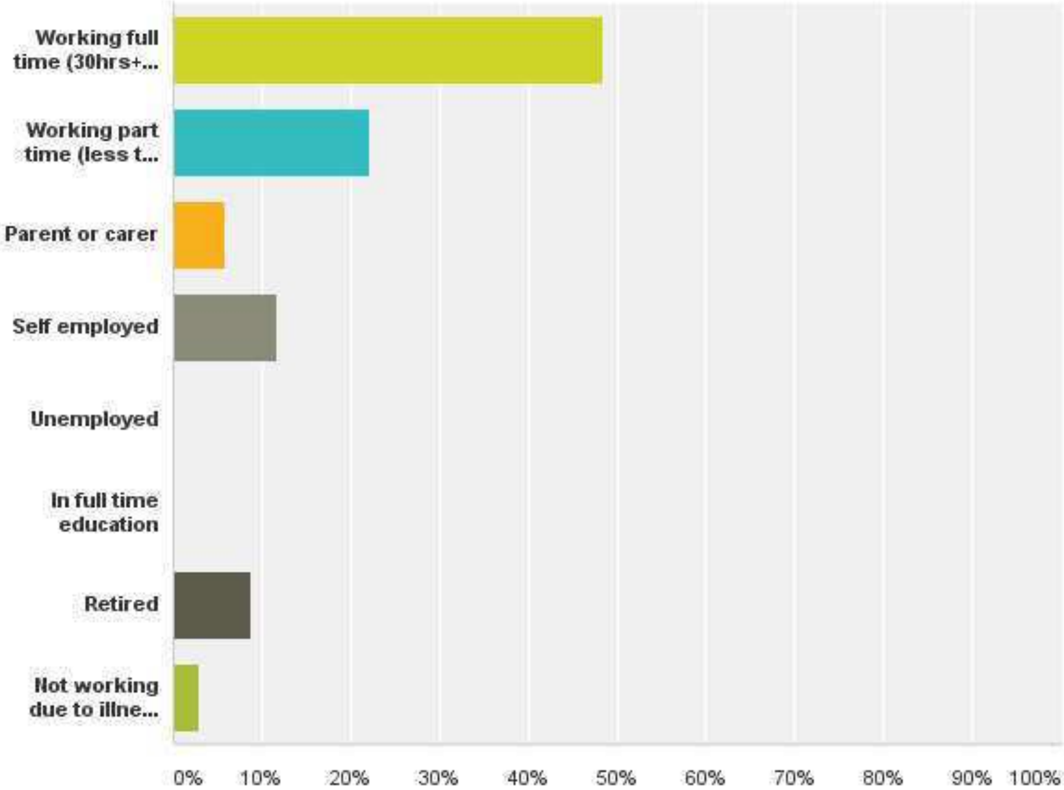
Answered: 67 Skipped: 74



Answer Choices	Responses	
Male	35.82%	24
Female	64.18%	43
Total		67

Q37 Can you please tell me which of the following best describes your working status?

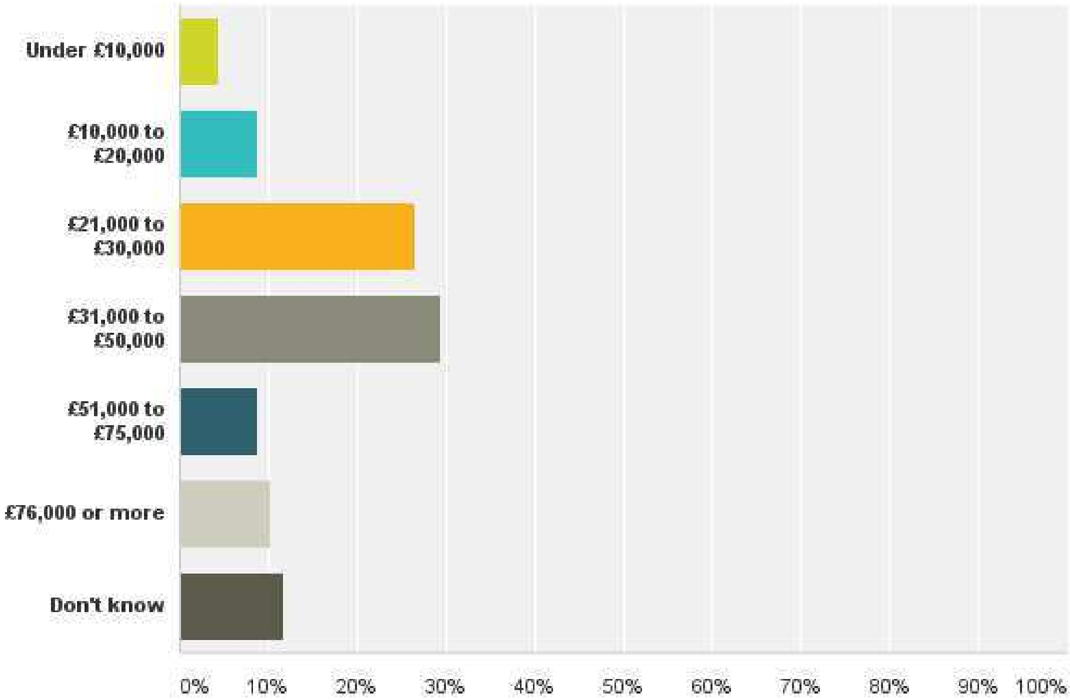
Answered: 68 Skipped: 73



Answer Choices	Responses	
Working full time (30hrs+ per week)	48.53%	33
Working part time (less than 30hrs per week)	22.06%	15
Parent or carer	5.88%	4
Self employed	11.76%	8
Unemployed	0.00%	0
In full time education	0.00%	0
Retired	8.82%	6
Not working due to illness or disability	2.94%	2
Total		68

Q38 What is your approximate total annual income in your household (before tax)?

Answered: 68 Skipped: 73



Answer Choices	Responses	
Under £10,000	4.41%	3
£10,000 to £20,000	8.82%	6
£21,000 to £30,000	26.47%	18
£31,000 to £50,000	29.41%	20
£51,000 to £75,000	8.82%	6
£76,000 or more	10.29%	7
Don't know	11.76%	8
Total		68

Q39

Export

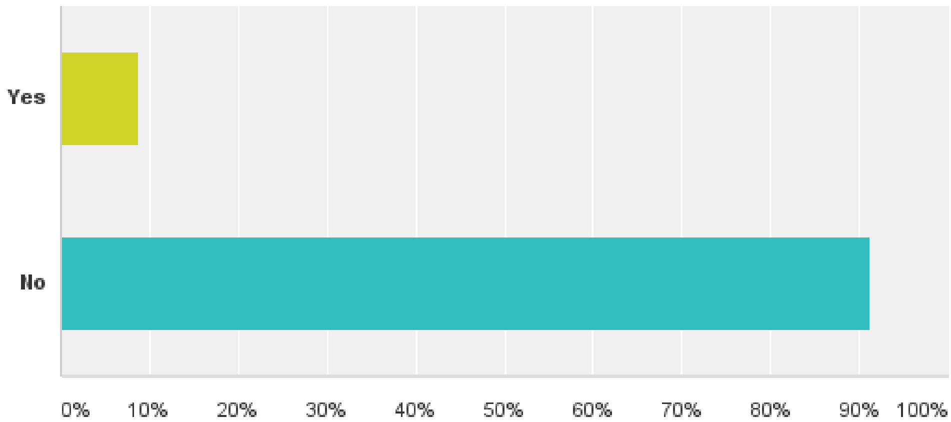
Please state the number of the children in your household in the age brackets below (if relevant)

Answered: 68 Skipped: 73

Answer Choices		Responses	
Under 4 years	Responses	64.71%	44
5-8 years	Responses	58.82%	40
9-12 years	Responses	39.71%	27
13 years and over	Responses	47.06%	32

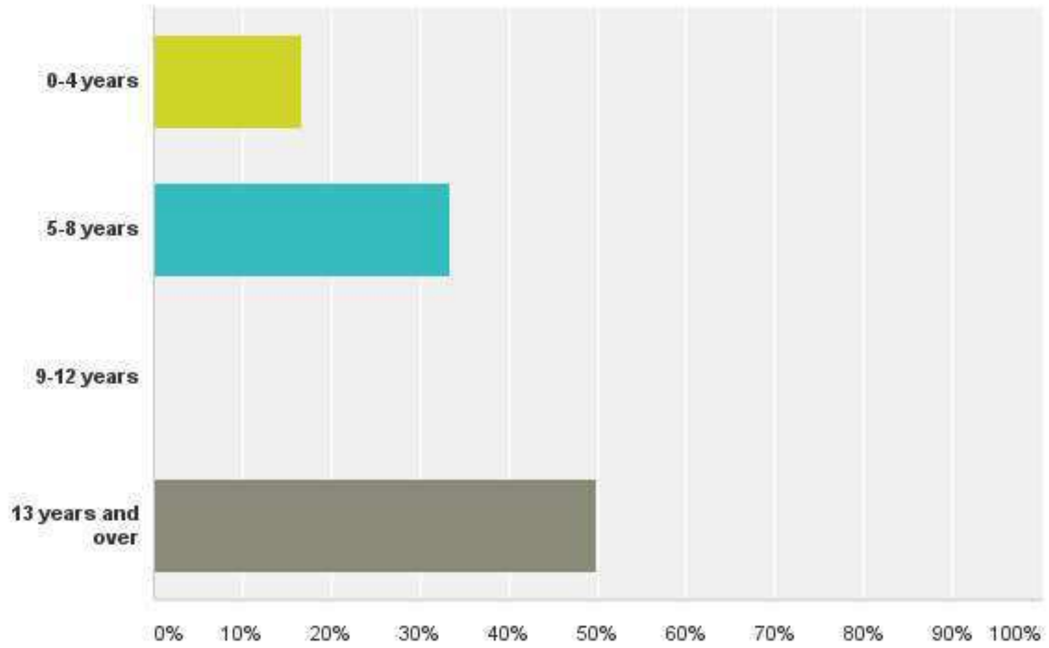
Q40 Do one of your children have a disability?

Answered: 68 Skipped: 73



Q41 What age is the child who has a disability?

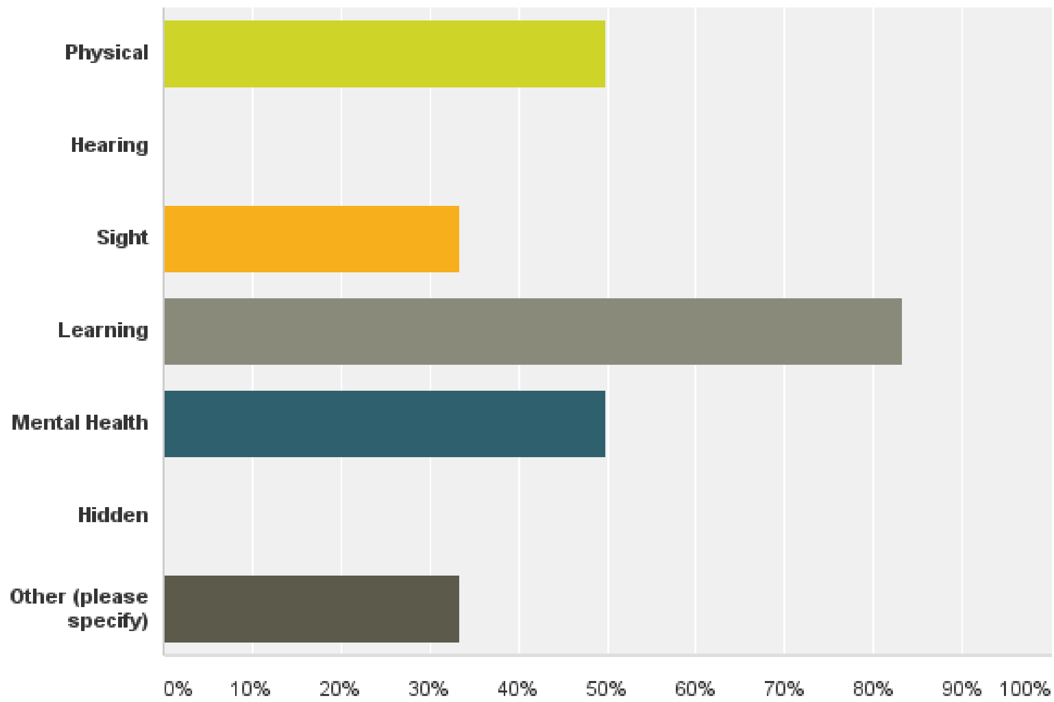
Answered: 6 Skipped: 135



Answer Choices	Responses	
0-4 years	16.67%	1
5-8 years	33.33%	2
9-12 years	0.00%	0
13 years and over	50.00%	3
Total		6

Q42 What is their disability?

Answered: 6 Skipped: 135



Answer Choices		Responses	
Physical		50.00%	3
Hearing		0.00%	0
Sight		33.33%	2
Learning		83.33%	5
Mental Health		50.00%	3
Hidden		0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	Responses	33.33%	2
Total Respondents: 6			

OTHER RESPONSES

Add inclusive play – 2; Singular mentions: build a playpark; green gym for adults; refurbish Swatragh; build toilets at Clady.

- Cerebral palsy and blind. Benefits from sensory garden smells, sounds and movement in a wheelchair swing etc.
- Autism

APPENDIX 5

45 villages in the Mid Ulster area have had Village Community Plans completed.

The table below provide an overview of each of the village plans in relation to the current and future opportunities for outdoor recreation and play development.

45 villages in the Mid Ulster area have had Village Community Plans completed.

The table below provide an overview of each of the village plans in relation to the current and future opportunities for outdoor recreation and play development.

Village Plan	Current status	Future potential
Annaghmore (Clonoe) **Dungannon**	• Insufficient community provision and existing facilities are oversubscribed • New signage required - The area has a rich heritage and has potential to attract visitors • Insufficient range of activities to help Older People stay healthy and active. Need to increase access to transport for older people • Insufficient recreational facilities for women and families	• Development of off-road cycle tracks, walkways, sensory garden, allotments, additional sporting area • Signage would improve information for visitors and define Clonoe as a definite destination • Develop a range of events and activities in Clonoe Community Centre to encourage an active lifestyle. Make better use of community transport scheme • Range of events and activities in Clonoe Community Centre: Play park at football pitch grounds
Ardboe **Cookstown**	• Green in Lakeview is being used for bonfire • Existing play park needs updates • Eco projects and ecotourism potential not developed • No centre community greenspace • Lack of provision for the elderly • Loss of tourism potential from key sites	• Develop green as potential play for older children • Update existing play park to include disability and older children • Develop eco-tourism with the help of RSPB and site on the shores of the Lough at Brookend through nature walks • Develop a community greenspace as centre point of the village • Establish older person's group that will run activities including a walking group

	• Ardboe Cross no toilets, car parking, security	• Develop a Lough Shore mini guide to support the wider tourism development of water and land based recreation – charter boating, fishing, walking, cycling, wildlife, birdwatching trails. • Develop toilets and car parking at Abbey.
Augher **Clogher Valley**	• Footpaths in poor condition around the village • Upgrade sections of walkway along the river • Basic facilities at Knockmany need improved • New social housing developments are being planned for the village	• Footpaths need to be maintained on a regular basis and replaced where there are problems • Conduct survey on the walkway along River Blackwater and identify areas where work is needed • Investment needed at Knockmany to bring facility up to standard for local people and visitors. • Ensure social housing schemes complement area
Aughnacloy **Clougher Valley**	• Current play park needs upgrading • Orange Hall requires additional provision to meet need of young people	• Upgrading of play park to provide new play equipment and safety surface • Provision of a playpark outside the Orange Hall to service the rural community of the Bawn.
Ballinascreen **(Ballinascreen, Moneyneany, Straw and Sixtowns)** **Moyola**	• Community Park for Moneyneena had been earlier identified • No safe place to go off road walking or running in Straw and the 'Big bridges' • No play park in Straw • Development of Derrynoyd Forest and Rural College • Tourism potential is not utilised	• Investigate further • Provision of safe off-road walking and cycling track – Old railway line considered a possibility. • Develop a play park in the area • Look at options to revive the facility and its surroundings • Natural assets in the local areas need to be developed and promoted
Ballinderry **Cookstown**	• Lack of suitable and appropriate play areas • Loss of tourism potential from key sites of Ballinderry River and Cott Lane (fishing, walking, etc)	• Need to upgrade play park facilities • Creation of a Tourism Strategy for the Loughshore area

	• Angling facilities inadequate • Canoeing facilities inadequate	• Development of Cot Lane and Gortmoss Walkway and better signage at Cott Lane • Information boards at key sites • Develop a walkway along the Ballinderry River • Angling infrastructure needs improved • Develop a canoe trail along the Ballinderry River
Ballygawley **Dungannon**	• Lighting around walkway at playing field is a major concern particularly in dark evenings • Walkway is prone to flooding at times	• Erect floodlights around walkway • Install proper drainage along pathway
Ballymaguigan **Moyola**	• Good Tourism potential • Lack of footpaths and cycle lanes • No children's play park	• Development of soccer pitch to include walkway and running track • Health and wellbeing activities – sports activities and walks cross country • New Cross Community play park at TRAAD point.
Ballyronan **Magherafelt**	• Pathway from Ballyronan to Ballinderry required • Tourism potential of Lough and Marina need to be maximised	• Plan to develop between legacy Councils to be resurrected • Tourism Strategy/Marketing Plan needed for the area
Bellaghy **Moyola**	• Inadequate access from Bawn to Church of Ireland • Inadequate signage • No heritage trail linking Seamus Heaney landmarks noted in his poetry • More health and well-being projects required • Wetlands underused	• Development and link Bawn by path to Church of Ireland • New signage of heritage sites e. Lough Beg, Toners Bog • Develop Seamus Heaney Trail • Develop cross country walks and walking group • Development of famous wetlands

Benburb **Dungannon**	• Upgrade to playground required • Family walking and cycling trails needed • Need to develop community facilities • Require a safer environment for the children and eldery • Improved infrastructure at Benburb Playing Fields • To improve spaces for people	• Redevelop Benburb playing fields using funding secured from Big Lottery 'Space & Place' • Develop walking and cycling routes in Benburb Valley Park along Ulster Canal Greenway • Develop a community fishing hub at River Black Water • Develop a park ranger service to manage the eco system in Benburb Valley and River Blackwater • Car park development at recreational area • To develop a Good Relations Programme for Benburb Playing Fields
Brocagh **Torrent**	• Boats cannot access the quay because of sandbars • Need to develop permissive paths and Greenway • Exploit Heritage Sites • Little opportunity for older people to stay healthy and active as well as no recreational facilities for women and families • Develop play park and 3G games area	• Contract to dredge channel into the quay and maintain on an annual basis • Develop off-road cycle tracks to allow young people and families to walk and cycle safely between shops, school and Brocagh Community Centre • Develop tours, walks and events for visitors to the area • Develop range of events and activities in Brocagh Community Centre to encourage active lifestyle • Develop play park, site to be confirmed
Broughderg **Cookstown**	• Maximization of use of Davagh Forest and increased visitor services and experience	• Provision of: - Bird watching facilities - Development of Forest Garden / Nature Trail (link schools) - More walking trails, geared towards families, challenging and non-challenging - Angling Facilities, stock river, salmon spawn/sea trout - Incorporate disability access where possible - Showers / changing area

	• Need for evening classes/activities for community	- camping facility / glamping pods - Brick built BBQ facilities (Island in middle of carpark suggested for picnic are / tables) - Activities / Equipment for older children outside of play park, e.g. Zip lines - Seating in/near play park - Cycle rental / repair (consistent times) - GPS App of Forest developed (dependent on broadband) • Sessions on natural local environment, heritage, astronomy (link to tourism opportunities)
Bush **Dungannon**	• Significant development in village for necessary footpaths. Potential for a settlement mini Greenway with pedestrian/cycle path around the village • Lack of recreational amenities – play park, MUGA facilities need upgraded	• Footpath link to Dungannon/Tamnamore/Clairefields required • Play park required (pending site availability)
Caledon **Clogher Valley**	• State of footpaths in the village need improvements • Caledon has a wealth of natural resources which could be promoted as a valuable rural tourism tool. The Blackwater River, and Ulster Canal, represent a vital part of Caledon's fabric and are a valuable resource to the village and its heritage – Glaslough/Caledon walkway and famine wall project • Upgrade need to play park facilities	• Paving flags on Main Street need repaired – footpath require on Carricklane with lighting and signage • Opportunities to promote natural resource tourism – potential for Greenway/Riverside/Outdoor Gym/Cross Border walk way project – needs ongoing maintenance needed to check over growth on riverbank – picnic area spruce-up, - dog fouling provision of scoop-bag and waste bin • Play park in state of neglect and needs to be re-vamped to meet growing need for the village
Churchtown/Lissan **Magherafelt**	• No play provision in the area for the wider community. Play area in Lissan House closed due to vandalism and insurance • Lissan House and grounds is a key asset – yet little evidence of buy in from the local community	• Play area required • Establish a Working Group with reps from Lissan House Trust and Community. Local needs analysis to be undertaken. • Learning journey to other successful community/heritage projects

	• Limited disability access for anglers and ramblers at Lough Fea • Valuable local assets are under developed, under-promoted and under-utilised due to access and wider knowledge • Inadequate infrastructure support	• Increase accessibility at Lough Fea • Project development and feasibility associated with Lissan House, Lough Fea and Slieve Gallion • Accommodation provision within the area to be further investigated (including B&B, bunk barns, bothys glamping etc)
Clady **Carntogher**	• Lack of footpath from Fisherman's Walk to Portglenone. Lacking facilities also. • Opportunity for walkway/Greenway circuit from Clady -Innishrush-Glenone-Clady. Highway to Health route • Council playing fields at Ballymacombs well used but lack of facilities including play park	• Development of river walkways and Bann (walk from Bann Bridge to Molloy's Ford) • Walkway to be investigated • Potential for 3G pitch at playing fields, play park, access to water and toilets
Clogher **Clogher Valley**	• Footpaths in poor condition around the village • Basic facilities at Fardross Forest need improved • The caravan park brings a lot of visitors to the Clogher Valley area and needs to be promoted • New social housing developments are planned for the village • Play park in Clogher requires upgrading	• Footpaths need to be maintained and replaced where there are problems • Investment needed at Fardross to bring facility up to standard for local people and visitors • Encourage maintenance of the caravan park and encourage greater usage through MUDC tourism information • Ensure social housing schemes are in-keeping with local developments and that the local community can access • Identify sources of funding for upgrade or refurbishment of play facilities
Coagh **Cookstown**	• Maximisation of the area's natural resources in developing a rural tourism product to support the local village economy	• Develop walks including Hanover House to the old mill, linking up with Ballinderry along the River and creating a

	• Inadequate angling facilities • Safety concerns in play park – low fencing, swing gate given proximity to river, when river floods it leaves waste deposits • Need for safe route for walking trails to encourage health and well being	circuit from Hanover House to the football club and back into Coagh along the Ballinderry Road (CP) • Improve existing infrastructure • Identification of potential routes and liaison with local landowners • Develop names and signage for walks • Liaise with Rivers Agency re provision of angling facilities in Ballinderry River • Liaise with local angling club to confirm requirements regarding use of anglers' huts • Play park fencing and upgrade of facilities to include disability friendly equipment • Development of an all-weather walking track around the perimeter of the Sports Centre grounds
Culnady, Innisrush and Tamlaght **Carntogher**	• Stone bridge linking Innisrush to Clade needs maintained and enhanced as part of a walking trail • River walk along Clady River consistently floods • Lack of opportunities for activities within the three villages and limited provision of space for development of activities • Existing play facilities in the 3 villages need upgrading.	• Develop points of interest board for users of the walk • Walk needs better protected to allow users full access • Develop green space for recreational walking and cycling. Potential for creation of allotments. Dedicated space for Mother and Toddler provision • Upgrading of the play facilities
Desertmartin **Moyola**	• Iniscarn Forest has minimal development but has high potential for tourism. • There are few health and well-being projects outside mainstream sports • Elderly isolated • Loss of tourism potential from Slieve Gallion and surrounding Sperrins	• Development of Iniscarn Forest. • Establish community allotments, walkway circuit (CP) • Establish walking group • Develop a walking trail from Lough Fea to Slieve Gallion

Drummullan **Cookstown**	• Maximise potential of the area's natural resources in developing a rural tourism product to support the local village economy • Increasing interest in walking and cycling in the area - need for safe routes	• Develop walking routes identifying local beauty sports/historical places of interest e.g. Ballinderry River/St Patrick's Well/The Drummullan Giant – link to Springhill • Tourism signage and interpretation developed • Develop floodlit walkway around football pitch • Development of footpath to link up two rural roads providing a safe walk (CP) • Support plans for Greenway Development and connect Drummullan
Edendork **Dungannon**	• Cullion Lake under developed in terms of local wetland/heritage/ecosystem resource • No footpath provision off the Coalisland Road	• Potential development as local amenity/educational resource with access pathways and signage • Lobby DfI for provision of adequate foot paving off the main Coalisland Road
Eglish **Clogher Valley**	• Existing play park is well used • Very few areas for open recreation in the village	• Upgrade existing play park and minor planting • Identify potential Greenways and walking routes in the area
Fivemiletown **Clogher Valley**	• The Round Lake is a major asset • The play park is well used but needs to be improved/updated • Heritage Tourism product in the area is good but could be developed	• Ensure Round Lake is maintained on a regular basis • Additional equipment would be welcomed • Look towards enhancing tourism product in the area to include Brantry Lough/ Brantry Woods/Cowans House
Galbally and Cappagh **Torrent**	• The reservoir is an asset that should be enhanced and developed • The area has many natural resources which should be enhanced as potential tourism products	• Carry out feasibility study on potential development at Cappagh Reservoir in relation to environmental and tourism potential • Carry out scoping exercise of local natural resources with tourism potential

Granville **Clogher Valley**	• The council football pitch in the area is a valuable asset but is not kept up to a reasonable standard • The current play park needs repair and updating	• Ensure pitch is maintained throughout the year • Update of play park
Gulladuff / Termoneeny **Carntogher**	• Need for safer routes for walking and cycling • Not enough green space and play park provision around housing estates • Lack of developed walkways - Scullions Cross/chapel walk and others • Cycling/running/walking clubs - St Brigid's Cross making - Gymnastics-additional activities to GAA	• Improvements to roadways, footpaths and roadside verges. • The creation of a cycle lane network, specifically from the Termoneeny centre to Gulladuff village. • Look at the potential for developing off road cycling. • Not enough green space and play park provision around housing estates • Developing walkways - Scullions Cross/chapel walk, Dreenan Road and others • Continue to develop social and sporting activities within Lavey/TCA
Killeeshill and Ackinduff **Clogher Valley**	• Little or poor play provision for children in the area	• Update existing play park and investigate potential new play park at the community centre
Killyman **Dungannon**	• Footpaths in the village are wholly inadequate - Significant development in the village without necessary footpaths • Potential for a settlement mini Greenway with pedestrian/cycle path around the village • Street lighting needs to be improved – some areas are poorly lit and places with no lighting • Lack of Recreational amenities – Play park, MUGA facilities need upgraded	• Lobby DfI for provision of adequate foot paving – need a footpath link to Dungannon / Tamnamore, Clairefields, safe routes to schools initiative. • Need a dropped kerb at Cavanagh Rd • Tamnamore Rd • Enhance the provision children's play park – potential to open-up the 3G facility at the local school for wider community use.

	• Utilise existing village assets such as the MUGA at local school	• Liaise with school to explore potential for usage of MUGA outside of core time and school facilities for community use.
Moortown Torrent	• HLF Landscape Partnership produced a three part report including cross country walking and heritage trails with key points within the village • Lack of suitable and appropriate play areas • No secure outdoor recreational space for young people • Loss of tourism potential from key sites of Airfield, The Battery Harbour and the Old Cross • Lack of water based recreation	• Information sharing with key agencies and Council Tourism Strategy. Join up all initiatives to ensure a strategic approach to planning • Need to upgrade play park facilities – provision for teenagers • Create secure outdoor recreation space at the Youth centre • Exploit the area's water and land base outdoor recreation, charter boating, fishing, walking, cycling wildlife, birdwatching trails – links to Kinturk centre • Progress ORNI report on water based recreation at the Battery Harbour
Moygashel Dungannon	• Entrance to Dungannon Park at Moygashel end isn't aesthetically pleasing	• Tidy up entrance and ensure it is maintained. Need to maintain and enhance the area at Bleach Field that links the village to Dungannon Park
Newmills Torrent	• Limited play space for families and children • Provide opportunity for local people to walk and cycle safely on an off-road path. Develop permissive paths and Greenway to aqueduct •	• Development of off-road cycle tracks
Orritor Cookstown	• Instilling a greater sense of pride in the local area as well as helping contribute to the health and well-being of local residents	• Play area/MUGA developed
Pomeroy Cookstown	• Maximising the use of Pomeroy Forest	• Extension and development of pathways, signage and information boards, picnic tables • Install toilet facilities with open access for playpark use • Additional bins installed

		• Car parking needed beside play park • Develop access path and lighting linking the forest entrance at front and rear back to the village • Suitable area for various outdoor activities • Develop campsite facilities /glamping • Safe access route between Queen Elizabeth II Primary school and the Forest (CP) • Re develop old forestry school building and out building as a multi-use shared assets of the community • Redevelop old forestry school building and out buildings as a multi-use shared assets of the community e.g. toilets and accommodation for forest users
Sandholes **Cookstown**	• No play provision in the area despite increasing number of under 16 year olds • Local recreation assets under developed, promoted and under utilised	• Develop play facility at Church Hall for wider community use • Develop river walkways along the Tullylagan River • Develop access to Tullylagan House and gardens
Stewartstown **Torrent**	• Almost ¼ of population have a limiting long term illness, health problem of disability • Few opportunities for walking and cycling • Henderson Park play facility not catering for children 10+ years • Local recreation assets under developed, promoted and under utilised	• Develop play facilities at GAA pitch • Develop walking routes at Drumcairne Forest • Map walking and cycling routes around the Village • NCN route at Drumcairne • Walking routes at Drumcairne • Consider new play facility for 10+ years at Henderson Park • Link both areas together and create a shared space 'village green' • Develop access trail to Crieve Lough and erect interpretation panels, signage etc • Explore feasibility of improving Stuart Hall • Develop walking, cycling and play infrastructure at Drumcairne Forest

Swatragh **Carntogher**	• Play park equipment in need of an upgrade. Play equipment for children with physical disabilities is required. • Playing fields at park in poor condition • Railings at play park entrance need repaired • River Walkway cycle route/nature walk along the river. Extend cycle lane throughout the village to connect with Maghera • Activities for older people required	• Play park upgrade and additional piece of equipment for those with disabilities. • Upgrade playing fields to an 'All Weather Surface' • Railings to be repaired in line with Health and Safety standards • Informal walkway could be developed between Swatragh and Upperlands – a substantial amount of works required including installation of stiles and crossings • Undertake consultation to establish level of interest in walking group.
The Loup **Cookstown**	• Lack of footpath linkage between key sites in village • Need for safe walking routes • Need for safe route for walking trails to encourage health and well-being • Young population but no play/games area	• Develop footpaths and lighting from Primary School and village to Loup GAC sports and community facilities Extend footpath on Loup Road on to end of 40mph zone • Develop all weather path around football pitch as this is already lit • Development of an all-weather walking track around the perimeter of the Football pitch as lighting already in place • Investigate funding opportunities for development – Football area suggested as possible site to include tennis/outdoor games. •
The Rock & Slatequarry **Cookstown**	• There is demand for access and improvement to The Church Moss as a safe walking route • Upgrading of play park • Road Safety Issues	• Maintenance and extension of walkway at Church Moss (problem with Japanese Knotweed) needs removed • Play park at Rockdale Close requires upgrade of play equipment for younger and older children • Tullyodonnell Bridge and footpath (extremely dangerous for school children using this route between school, chapel and

	• Lack of youth provision, leisure facilities • Lack of organized activity for those over 50 – issues around rural and social isolation	football pitch) - extend existing path and lighting, footbridge on the outside of bridge. • Lights and kerbing on Rockdale Road • Engage young people in community activity, sports etc - assess need for youth club and link key agencies. • Feasibility study to assess local need. Proactively link with other areas and initiatives – Pomeroy, Agewell project, outreach provision.
Tamnamore Ballinakelly Dungannon	• Lack of play facilities	• New play park at Education Centre
Tobermore Moyola	• Requirement for youth facilities	• Need to investigate provision of recreational facilities with MUDC and play park upgrade.
Tullyhogue Cookstown	• Opportunity to enhance village environment • Current play provision is small • Valuable local assets are under promoted and under-utilised such as Tullyhogue Fort	• Develop footpaths to Tullyhogue Fort • Opportunity to upgrade the play area for the community including security fencing, parking, signage and change of entrance • Project development and feasibility associated with access to Tullyhogue Fort and associated walkways and trails
Upperlands Carntogher	• Amphitheatre area opposite the enterprise centre has become run down and derelict • Existing play facility (Alexander Park) in Upperlands need upgrading and installation of new equipment. Not enough facilities for younger children. Access to the play facility also needs to be improved • Lack of recreational space in the village	• Redevelopment of the amphitheatre area as a park and recreational space for the village with links to the pathways along the river and redevelopment of the civic space entrance area • Upgrading of play park with suitable facilities – refurbished recently but some equipment too high (monkey bars) • Look at potential to develop all weather pitch at Alexander Park with green surface

	• People of the village need to be presented with a range of options to participate in healthy and physical activity • The village's strong heritage and valuable built fabric must be retained and respected • Natural resources in the area that are not being used could be promoted as a valuable rural tourism tool. The village's natural resources need to be capitalised upon.	• Identify accessible routes for walk/cycle paths. Develop waymarked walking routes, allotments, walking clubs – possible linkages with Dams project • Develop a scheme for the development of the Beetling Dams as a natural asset providing green accessible space, water based activities, walking and fishing • Phased project required. Phase 1 to involve the completion of a feasibility study and development plan, phase 2 – securing the necessary funding and phase 3 – implementation of the Plan.
Washing Bay **Torrent**	• Need to develop small scale capital infrastructure to retain and attract visitors • Lack of accessible and useable Walkways is an issue especially for families potentially linking with other areas - Coalisland etc • The Wetlands are a local resource that should be enhanced and developed • The bogland area at Washingbay need preserved to ensure longevity • The nature walk is an asset that needs to be kept clear and clean for visitors • The beach area at Washingbay is in need of developing and linking in with pathway • • Footpaths to and from community buildings are either non-existent or of poor quality	• Pathways, street lighting street lighting, softening of hard areas, flower beds, community gardening, green, camping site redevelopment, cycle store, hire of boats, quayside and beach development • Create a fully accessible and safe walkway for residents which will potentially link in current pitch at Derrylaughan with nature walk and canal / river and Greenways • Investigate better ways to enhance the wetland features including better access to the Lough • Initiate a scheme to preserve the existing bogland • Clear shrubbery and tidy nature walk area and develop an appropriate management plan for same • Develop sandy beach and open up to link in with existing pathway • Identify priority areas that need addressed to include Washingbay Road to football field Prioritizing footways for high risk areas.

Report on	The Woodland Trust Application to Landfill Communities Fund for Cabin Wood
Date of Meeting	Thursday 13th September 2018
Reporting Officer	Head of Parks
Contact Officer	Anne Reid

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 support The Woodland Trust's application to Landfill Communities Fund for Discover Cabin Wood project.
2.0	**Background**
2.1	In 2001 The Woodland Trust entered into a 99 year lease with MUDC regarding the land at Cabin Wood. The woodland is cared for and managed by The Woodland Trust. The access lane and small carpark remain in the ownership and maintenance of MUDC.
2.2	The site is 6.5 hectares, approx. 16.2 acres, and is located 1 km from Cookstown centre. This woodland located on the urban fringe provides free unlimited access for a wide range of user groups to take part in outdoor recreation for health and well-being. The site is open all year round and is home to a diverse range of habitats, such as Kingfisher, bats, deer and otters. The site attracts approx. 156,000 visits annually.
2.3	The Woodland Trust has compiled an application form to The Landfill Communities Fund requesting funding to upgrade the path infrastructure and improve the visitor experience of Cabin Wood.
3.0	**Main Report**
3.1	In early 2018 The Woodland Trust complied an application to The Landfill Communities Fund for the Discover Cabin Wood project. This project has received 7 letters of support, from local politicians, local primary schools, local conservation groups and Sport NI.
3.2	The project will include: - improving the path network around the wood - installing new fencing - upgrading the entrance to the sit - Installation of interpretation panels - Signage - Benches - Invasive species control - Volunteer workshops - Planting

	- Woodland restructure
3.3	The funding application request is for £47,123.00, this is 100% of the project costs.
4.0	**Other Considerations**
4.1	**Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications**
	Financial: There are no financial direct costs to MUDC.
	Human: Existing staff resource available to assist The Woodland Trust as necessary.
	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	Approval is sought to support the application, subject to ENTRUST approval and monies becoming available.
6.0	**Documents Attached & References**
6.1	None.

Report on	Brantry Forest Development Proposal
Date of Meeting	Thursday 13th September 2018
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 approval for development proposal at Brantry Forest, Caledon in partnership with DEARA and Forest Service NI.
2.0	**Background**
2.1	In June 2013, Outdoor Recreation NI was commissioned by Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council to complete a Forest Recreation Audit for nine forests within the legacy Council area. This study included the investigation of development potential for Brantry Wood Caledon. The purpose of the audit was to identify current provision of and opportunities for outdoor recreation and outline recommendations relating to future development, investment and management of these forests. This study was included into a wider audit undertaken and subsequently adopted by Mid Ulster District Council in 2015. Development of Brantry Forest is also included in the Council's draft Outdoor Recreation Strategy.
2.2	Caledon Forest is a collective name for a number of Drumlin forests in south Tyrone. It consists of one main block of forest, along with other smaller plantation blocks. The woodland blocks are commonly known as: Scroggys, Greceans, Cumber Glen, Yellow Horn Hill, Derryhaig, Dunmacmay Curlagh, Dromore, Ballagh, Derrycourtney, Knockginney and Kilgowney.
2.3	It is 179 hectares in size and the main forest block is situated approximately 6 miles east of the village of Aughnacloy. It is also referred to as Brantry Forest. Initial development plans identified in the 2013 audit suggested the provision of walking trails and the upgrade of the hunting or game keepers lodge into a visitor service facility. As part of a legacy council capital programme, supported by landfill tax funding the game keepers lodge and site was leased from Forest Service and renovated in 2012. The suggested development of walking trails along with any further development proposals with Forest Service NI did not progress towards a second stage.

3.0	**Main Report**
3.1	Brantry Forest is used by locals for walking, running and dog walking. Brantry Lough which is adjacent to the main forest block is used for angling as well. There is a large car park present adjacent to Brantry Lough, along with a slipway and a jetty. Lough Macronan situated within the forest block is also used for angling purposes and has some fishing stands present, although these have fallen into disrepair.
3.2	There is a car park to facilitate access to Caledon Forest on the Brantry Road. This car park would allow parking for approximately 15 cars. The game keepers lodge is adjacent to this car park. There are currently no formal outdoor recreation activities taking place in this forest at present. Shooting and walking both happen on an informal basis. The shooting rights to the main sections of the forest are owned by private individuals. FSNI own the shooting rights to five out of 24 pockets of forest that make up Caledon Forest.
3.3	Brantry Forest was identified as a priority two development proposal by the Forest Recreation audit in 2013. The audit suggested the creation of trails on existing forest roads, the refurbishment of game keepers lodge to a visitor facility and the provision of picnic, barbeque and seating facilities and associated visitor infrastructure.
3.4	The following SWOT analysis details the strengths and weaknesses in Brantry Forest and the opportunities and threats that have the potential to influence the future development of tourism and recreation. These were identified through fieldwork, consultation and desk research undertaken at the time of the audit in 2013. The current position remains relatedly unchanged in terms of access however some opportunities and improvements have been achieved in relation to potential funding streams and the Game Keepers Lodge and the visitor facilities it provides.

STRENGTHS	**WEAKNESSES**
- Strong community support for the development of the forest. - Could be used to develop multi-use trails – walking and off road cycling. - Basic infrastructures present to be built upon – forest roads, car park and Hunting/Game Keepers Lodge.	- Little investment to date - Limited natural features within the forest - Nothing to attract visitors to the forest - Very basic activities and attractions - Basic facilities present with no services - Signage non existent

THREATS
- No Licence Agreement in place between Council and FSNI - Perceived lack of investment within the forest to date - Lack of open, and suitable funding streams to take forward any proposed developments.
OPPORTUNITIES
- To develop the forest in partnership, for example FSNI and DAERA - Could be used to develop multi-use trails – walking and off road cycling - Create a ‘welcome’ for visitors to the forest - Create visitor facility to entice visitors to the forest at the Hunting/Game Keepers Lodge and bespoke play facilities. - Install picnicing and bin facilities - Link Caledon Forest to Brantry Lough through a waymarked trail

	- Potential for activity tourism in partnership with DEARA - Installation of appropriate waymarking and interpretation
3.5	**Recommendations for Future Development** The development potential of Brantry Forest, Caledon provides an opportunity to provide a valued local resource. Simple improvements such as waymarked trails can make a marked difference to the recreational value of the forest, for a relatively modest investment. The presence of the asset in the form of the recently restored Game keepers Lodge could also be capitalised upon in order to increase the recreational value of the forest. Developing new facilities and activities is recommended, given that existing activities are informal and are concentrated on adjacent land, and that on site facilities are limited. The existing car park could be upgraded and expanded if necessary. The overall development of Brantry Forest, Caledon should include the provision of bespoke childrens play experiences, visitor welcome signage, interpretation, waymarked multi-use trails suitable for passive leisure walking and off road cycling, the consideration of provision of picnic/barbecue facilities, as well as further development of the Game Keepers Lodge for community use. A potential funding opportunity exists this financial year (2018/19) through Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation framework. The scope of the project would be £250,000 (Excl VAT) with a possible split of 80% provided by DEARA and a MUDC contribution of 20%. This has yet to be verified and agreed. Mid Ulster District Council will be required to develop a Licence Agreement with Forest Service NI to enable development of the forest to proceed and engage appropriate ICT and contractors to progress the development proposal.
4.0	**Other Considerations**
4.1	**Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications**
	Financial: Development of Brantry Forest is included in the Council's draft Outdoor Recreation Strategy which is referenced in the Council's Capital works programme. Match funding requirement of 20% (£50k) from MUDC capital programme (yet to be finalised.
	Human: Existing staff resource available to assist proposal development supported by internal Capital Programmes function and external ICT.
	Risk Management: In conjunction with Council policies and procedures.

4.2	**Screening & Impact Assessments**
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: In conjunction with Council policies and procedures.
	Rural Needs Implications: In conjunction with Council policies and procedures associated to rural proofing.
5.0	**Recommendation(s)**
5.1	Establish a Licence Agreement/Lease with FSNI for Council approval.
5.2	Engage with DEARA to seek and draw down funding package.
5.3	Approval to seek through P&R committee match capital funding contribution, 20% of total project costs (estimated £50k)
5.4	Permission is sought to proceed with development of the proposal and undertake procurement and completion of a tender exercise for the project subject to the confirmation of funding from DEARA.
5.5	Approval to engage with the community and seek to develop community partnership proposals and agreement for sustainable management solutions.
6.0	**Documents Attached & References**
6.1	Appendix 1 Brantry Forest map
6.2	Appendix 2 Game Keepers Lodge Renovation

Brantry Wood, Caledon Forest, Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council

N

0 25 50 100 150 Meters

Dual Track Cycle / Walking Route (Forest Road)

Vehicular Access

Forest Road

Forest

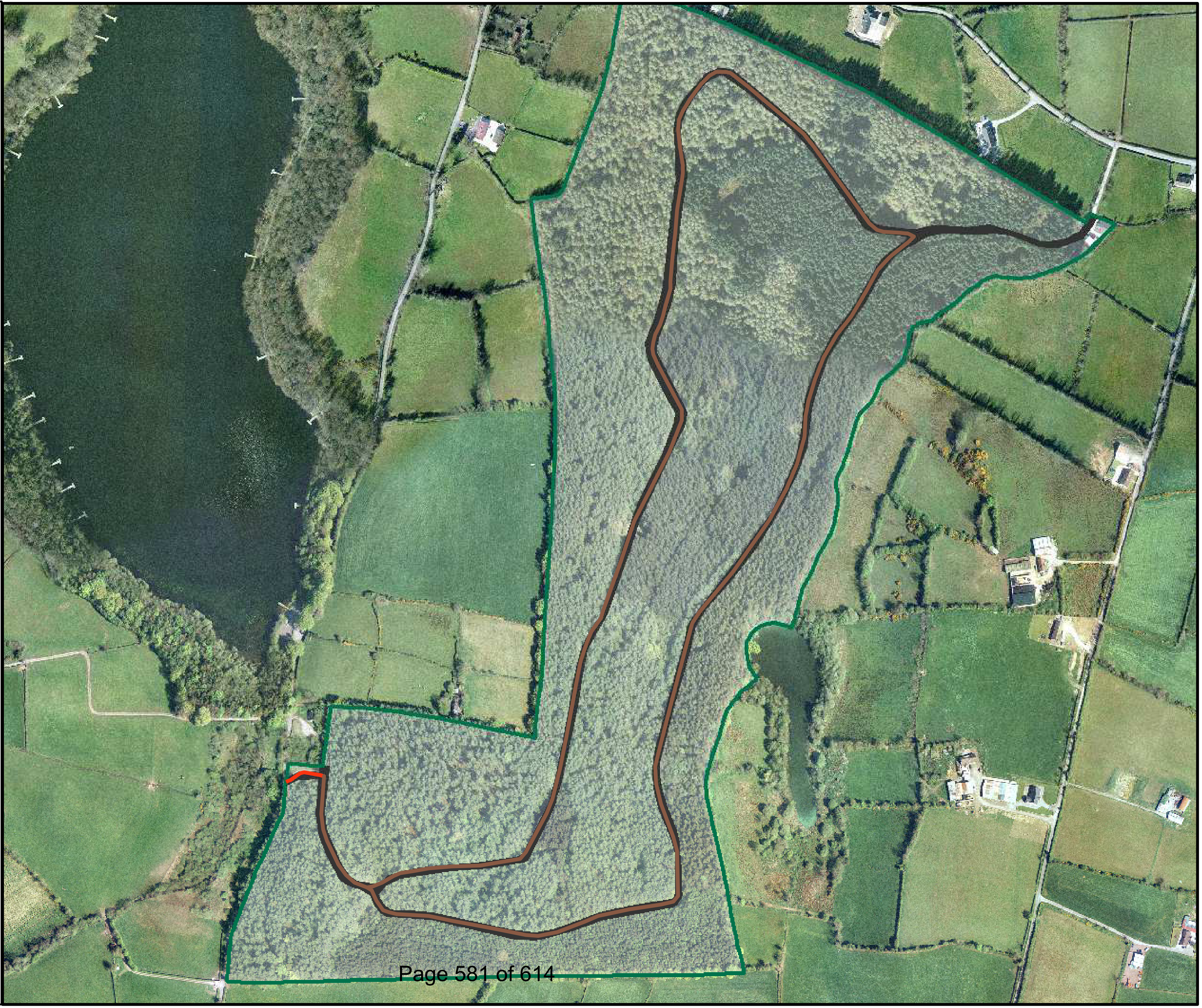
Department of
Agriculture and Rural Development

An Roinn
Talmhaíochta agus Forbartha Tuaithe

Fairms an Kintra Fordérin

FOREST SERVICE

19/09/11 KW [F/fmu/learmount/tails]



Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Wednesday 4 July 2018 in the Council Offices, Burn Road, Cookstown

Members Present	Councillor McNamee, Chair
	Councillors Burton (7.15 pm), Clarke, Cuddy, Doris, Elattar, Forde, McAleer, McEldowney, McFlynn, Molloy, Monteith, Wilson
Officers in Attendance	Ms Campbell, Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation Mr McCreesh, Director of Business and Communities Mr Browne, Head of Tourism Mr Hill, Head of Parks Ms Linney, Head of Community Development Mr McCance, Head of Culture and Arts Ms McKeown, Head of Economic Development Mr McShane, Acting Head of Leisure Miss Thompson, Committee Services Officer

The meeting commenced at 7.02 pm.

D138/18 Apologies

Councillor G Shiels.

D139/18 Declaration of Interests

The Chair reminded members of their responsibility with regard to declarations of interest and advised any declarations could be taken throughout the meeting.

Councillor McEldowney declared an interest in Washingbay Wetlands Trust.

Councillor Molloy declared an interest in Square Wheels Cycling Club.

Councillor Clarke declared an interest in Broughderg Area Development Association.

Councillor Monteith declared an interest in Comhaltas Uladh.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee declared an interest in Cookstown INF.

D140/18 Chair's Business

The Chair, Councillor McNamee commended Carol Doey and all involved with the success of Cookstown Summer Carnival on 29 June 2018. Councillor McNamee stated that this was the first Road Closure Order for an event outside of Council and that all had worked well.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee stated that concerns had been raised at the Environment Committee in relation to making community groups aware of the requirements of making a Road Closure Order for an event.

The Head of Tourism advised that a community group newssheet is sent by email/posted to 1000 groups in the District. This newssheet provides information on the legislative requirements and timescales for making a Road Closure Order for an event, the Officer stated that there was also up to date information available on Council's website and that officers have been assisting groups to ensure the journey through legislation is smooth.

Matters for Decision

D141/18 Strategic Business Case for the proposed development of Railway Park and Ballysaggart Lough

The Head of Parks presented previously circulated report which sought approval to progress proposed developments at Railway Park and Ballysaggart Lough.

Councillor Molloy proposed that Council proceed to appoint a suitably qualified and experienced Integrated Consultancy Team (ICT) to develop an outline business case and design options for Phase 1 of the Railway Park development proposal and asked what the timescale was for appointing the ICT.

The Head of Parks stated that timescale for appointing the ICT would be in the region of three months.

Councillor Monteith seconded Councillor Molloy's proposal but had some concern in relation to appointing consultants to prepare a business case which was being internally funded. The Councillor stated that Council had very skilled officers and questioned the need to appoint further consultants.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation agreed that Council did have skilled officers but that the appointment of consultants for this phase of the development was to prepare the technical design options of what will go into the park which was specialised and that Council had not considered in detail at this stage. The Director stated that Council wanted to progress development of Railway Park as there were other issues preventing progress at Ballysaggart Lough.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee stated it appeared to be necessary to appoint the ICT in order to progress development of Railway Park.

Councillor Monteith reiterated his concerns and proposed that a report be brought back to committee detailing the amount of money spent on consultants by budget holders responsible to the Development Committee over the lifetime of Mid Ulster District Council.

Councillor Cuddy seconded Councillor Monteith's proposal and asked if there were any opportunities for external funding for the development of Railway Park.

Councillor Cuddy also referred to the creation of a link between Railway Park and Dungannon Park and hoped this had not been forgotten about.

The Head of Parks stated that opportunities to progress links between the two parks were always being sought and that progress in development of Railway Park may help in achieving this. The officer stated that Phase 1 was the most expensive of the three elements of Railway Park development and that there was a desire to make progress but that funding was not readily available however any future funding opportunities would be pursued.

Councillor Cuddy stated that in order to satisfy external funders professional costs are usually increased.

Councillor Wilson felt that the figures in relation to amount spent on consultants may be distorted as officers may not have the expertise needed and that the Development sections within Council were fully stretched. Councillor Wilson stated he did not think officers would seek to bring consultants in unless they were needed.

Councillor Monteith stated he believed the amount of money spent on consultants will be substantial and that Council needs to consider whether it would be cheaper to employ a number of people with the necessary skills.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council –

- To approve the appointment of a suitably qualified and experienced Integrated Consultancy Team (ICT) to develop an outline business case and design options for Phase 1 of the Railway Park development proposal.
- To prepare report detailing the amount of money spent on consultants by budget holders responsible to the Development Committee over the lifetime of Mid Ulster District Council.

Councillor Burton entered the meeting at 7.15 pm.

D142/18 Washingbay Wetlands Park Development Plan

The Head of Parks presented previously circulated report which sought approval for Washingbay Development Plan and financial contribution to project costs.

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council –

- To give endorsement to the Washing Bay Masterplan as presented by Muintir na Mointeach and Lough Neagh Landscape Partnership on 9 May 2018 (appendix 1 to report).
- That a request be made to Policy and Resources Committee to allocate £25,000 to Project 1 (Walkway with park lighting) through the Council's Capital Programme.

- That Council act as lead partner on Project 1 to manage design, procurement and delivery aspects of the scheme with the appointment of an ICT design team.
- To allocate £1,000 to Lough Neagh Landscape Partnership for Project 2 (Lough Neagh Access Project) Technical Design Stage (RIBA Stage 4) for submission to Mid Ulster Rural Development Programme Lough Neagh Cooperation Programme.
- To approve SLA amendment between Council and Muintir na Mointeach to include extension of inspection/maintenance responsibilities associated with the improved infrastructure.
- To seek Permissive Path Agreement with Derrylaughan GAC for creation of additional public path to provide loop trail at Washingbay Wetlands Park.

D143/18 Visitor Signage at Lough Fea

The Head of Parks presented previously circulated report which advised of upgrade to current visitor information signage and user data collection methods at Lough Fea.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee stated he used the pathway around Lough Fea regularly and would be against cyclists also using the pathway as some parts of the path were narrow and that the addition of cyclists would create a dangerous environment. Councillor McNamee stated there was a need to consult with users and local community groups before proceeding to allow cyclists to use the pathway.

Councillor McFlynn stated she agreed with the Chair's comments and that to introduce cyclists to the pathway could be a disaster waiting to happen. Councillor McFlynn referred to Davagh Forest and that Council created two separate trails at that location, one for walkers and another for cyclists.

Councillor Clarke agreed with the previous comments and stated that the pathway at Lough Fea lends itself to walking and that part of the attraction is that cyclists will not be encountered whilst using the path. Councillor Clarke stated that consultation with users and community groups was important before moving forward.

Councillor Wilson stated that he also used the path at Lough Fea and that any cyclists which he had observed did not create a problem as they cannot get the whole way around the pathway.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee suggested that Council undertake consultation with users of pathway at Lough Fea and local community groups before proceeding to permit cyclists use of the path.

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to consult with users and local community groups in relation to the proposed dual use trail options for both walkers and cyclists at Lough Fea.

**D144/18	Economic Development Report**

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

- **Revitalisation Projects**

  Proposed by Councillor Molloy
  Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to prepare and submit 'shelf ready' applications to DfC for Magherafelt, Dungannon and Cookstown revitalisation projects during 2018/19. If projects are successful in attaining funding from DfC, then approval is given to provide 20% match funding from Council's capital budget, of approximately £58,000.

- **Broadband Working Group**

Councillor Clarke proposed option 2 (10 Members) to serve on the Broadband Working Group.

Councillor Molloy seconded Councillor Clarke's proposal.

Councillor Wilson proposed option 1 (5 Members) to serve on the Broadband Working Group on the proviso that if a member was unable to attend a meeting that a substitute could attend in their place.

Councillor Cuddy seconded Councillor Wilson's proposal.

Members voted on Councillor Wilson's proposal –

For – 6
Against – 6

The Chair, Councillor McNamee used his casting vote to vote against Councillor Wilson's proposal.

Members voted on Councillor Clarke's proposal –

For – 6
Against – 6

The Chair, Councillor McNamee used his casting vote to vote for Councillor Clarke's proposal.

Members were reminded to submit their nominations to the Head of Economic Development by 20 July 2018.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to nominate ten members to serve on the Broadband Working Group. Nominations based on the D'hondt system (5 SF, 2 DUP, 2 UUP, 1 SDLP).

Councillor Monteith referred to another working group being set up without a time limit, the Councillor advised that Council's Constitution states that working groups should be time limited but that this does not happen and that working groups end up becoming permanent.

Councillor Molloy stated he took the point of Councillor Monteith and that it should be within the terms of reference of the working group to have a time limit for its existence.

The Director of Business and Communities advised that a terms of reference would be drafted for consideration at the first meeting of the Broadband Working Group and brought back to the Committee for approval.

- **Mid Ulster Mail Business Awards**

The Head of Economic Development advised that two categories remained available for sponsorship namely SME Business of the Year and Best Retailer. The officer advised that Johnston Press have confirmed they will launch and host the Awards in the Clogher Valley area, if Council sponsors an award category.

Councillor Wilson proposed that Council sponsor the SME Business of the Year category.

Councillor Molloy seconded Councillor Wilson's proposal.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to sponsor the SME Business of the Year award category in the Mid Ulster Business Awards at a cost of £1,750 + vat, subject to the Awards being both launched and hosted in the Clogher Valley area, and the additional promotional work as outlined by Johnston Press in Appendix 1 to the report being carried out.

- **Village Renewal Projects**

Councillors Clarke, Forde, McAleer, McEldowney and Wilson declared an interest in this item.

In response to Councillor Forde's question the Head of Economic Development advised that each of the six areas has a village plan and projects can be identified quickly from that and agreed with local village representatives to enable works to be tendered and delivered soon thereafter.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve reallocation of £87,978 underspend to date, and any further underspend in subsequent procurement processes, to the six villages detailed below up to a value of £240,000, which have not been allocated funding.

- Knockloughrim/Curran - £40,000
- Tamlaght, Culnady and Innishrush - £40,000
- Dunnamore, Gortacladdy, Killeenan - £40,000
- Ballymaguigan/Creagh - £40,000
- Washingbay/Killeen - £40,000
- Tullyhogue/Tullywiggan/Donaghey - £40,000

- **Fibre Broadband to Rural Northern Ireland**

Report on Fibre Broadband to Northern Ireland noted.

- **Council ESF Match Funded Programmes 2018-2022**

Update report on ESF match funded programmes noted.

- **GDPR Business Seminar – 16 May 2018**

GDPR Seminar Update noted.

D145/18 Community Development Report

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

- **Good Relations and Community Festivals rolling grant award**

Proposed by Councillor Forde
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the grant award recommendations under the Community Local Festivals grants (£9,150) and Good Relations Grant (£2,905) as outlined at appendix 1 of report.

- **Peace IV Partnership**

Councillors Doris, McNamee and Wilson declared an interest in this item.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Forde and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the Peace IV Partnership recommendations as set out in report.

- **Decade of Anniversaries (DOA)**

Councillor Clarke declared an interest in this item.

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the Decade of Anniversaries grant recommendations as outlined in appendix 3 of report.

- **Tender for the Mid Ulster General Advice contract**

Councillor Wilson proposed to proceed to go to tender for the Mid Ulster General Advice contract.

Councillor McEldowney asked if the current provider (Citizens Advice Mid Ulster – CAMU) was doing what they were supposed to be doing as every other advice office was inundated with people who had been to CAMU beforehand.

The Head of Community Development advised that CAMU were meeting the targets set by Council and that these are start to end targets. The officer advised that there had been some issues with CAMU not taking on every appeal but that this matter had been rectified. The officer stated that if Members were aware of problems with the service being provided these should be brought to the attention of officers.

In response to Councillor Monteith's question the Head of Community Development stated that CAMU had provided clarification on what appeals they were taking on and that Council was providing guidance to CAMU.

Councillor Doris stated that the point raised by Councillor McEldowney was important, that CAMU were constantly getting funding from Council and that problems needed to be addressed.

Councillor Molloy stated he was aware of a number of people who had come to him in which their payments could have been enhanced.

Councillor Monteith stated he knew of two cases in which people had been advised by CAMU that their appeal would not be successful and on this advice they had withdrawn their appeal. Councillor Monteith stated that as doctor's notes etc were only available on the day of an appeal it was impossible for CAMU to judge whether or not appeals would be successful beforehand.

Councillor McAleer stated that people can access doctor's notes before an appeal but that they need to pay for this.

Councillor McFlynn seconded Councillor Wilson's proposal.

Councillor Elattar asked if this tender would have the same conditions or if these would be changed.

The Head of Community Development stated that the tender being advertised will be an open competition, that the conditions of the tender can be reviewed and brought before Members for consideration.

Councillor Cuddy asked if the service being provided was the same across all offices or if one office in particular was not performing.

The Head of Community Development stated that the main CAMU offices have to maintain the same opening hours and similar with secondary offices; however outreach varied based on need.

The Director of Business and Communities stated that due to the introduction of the likes of PIP the landscape across the District had changed since 2015 and that it was important that the service being provided works for everyone.

Councillor Monteith stated that specialist advice was lacking in rural areas and that expertise was needed. The Councillor felt that general advice services should be able to sign post to the most appropriate body for support.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council –

- To proceed to tender for the Mid Ulster Advice Contract.
- That the specification and conditions of the proposed Mid Ulster Advice Contract be brought before Members for consideration.

- **Community Development Update**

Noted.

D146/18 Regional and Minority Language Bursary Scheme

The Head of Culture of Arts presented previously circulated report which sought approval for –

- Regional and Minority Language Bursary Scheme Allocation to be awarded to successful applicants for 2018-2019.
- Delivery of Irish Language Activity Funding Programmes 2018-2019 across Mid Ulster District Council.

The Head of Culture and Arts advised of typographical error in report and that recommendation in relation to allocation for Irish Language Activity should read £55,918 as per main body of report.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that –

- Regional and Minority Language bursaries be approved for the 146 successful applicants identified with a total amount allocated of £30,000.
- Irish Language Activity be approved for 20 groups with a total allocation of £55,918.

D147/18 Learning Journey to The Boyne Valley for 40 Tourism Cluster Group Members and Lead Officers

The Head of Tourism presented previously circulated report which outlined plans to develop a one day Learning Journey to the Boyne Valley on 26 September with Tourism Cluster Business members and lead tourism officers. The report also informed Members of a cluster business opportunity to promote Mid Ulster District Council's tourism offering.

Proposed by Councillor Burton
Seconded by Councillor Forde and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council –

- To support the Boyne Valley Learning Journey proposal.
- To invite the competitors and family members from the Commonwealth Clay Pigeon Shooting Competition event, which is being held at Aughnacloy and Galbally to a Mid Ulster District tourism promotional event at the Hill of The O'Neill on 12 September.

D148/18 Loan of Council Equipment to External Groups or Organisations

The Head of Tourism presented previously circulated report which provided update in relation to Council's previously agreed policy and procedure in relation to Lending Council equipment to non-profit groups.

The Head of Tourism advised that from April to June this year there had been 25 instances when equipment had been loaned.

Councillor Clarke asked if the equipment that was being loaned out was coming back to Council in good condition.

The Head of Tourism advised that when equipment is being loaned out it is checked before it is borrowed and again when it is returned for any damage by the same person. The officer advised that there had been one instance when equipment had been damaged and that the group who borrowed that equipment paid for its repair.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Burton and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to lend/hire items of specific equipment (as per appendix 4 of report) to non-profit groups, subject to the third party agreeing to and complying with Council's terms and conditions which include the payment of a £50 refundable deposit, providing evidence in the requisite form of appropriate public liability insurance with an indemnity limit of £5 million and an indemnity to principal clause, and an appropriately authorised representative of the group completing all authorised documentation in advance of the equipment being lent/hired with all documentation to be completed and submitted no later than 14 days before the third party intends to take possession of the equipment.

D149/18 Project Coordinating Officer for the Sperrins

The Head of Tourism presented previously circulated report which sought approval for budget to employ a Project Officer and Administration Assistant to coordinate and implement the Sperrin Future Search Action Plans on behalf of the four local Councils within the Sperrins area.

In response to Councillor Clarke's question the Director of Business and Communities advised that the thematic groups are continuing to work together and that an action plan is in place which Council is committed to. The Director stated that the challenge now was to get a resource in place to deliver the action plan and that the report details the mechanism for doing this. The Director advised that so far funding was not available to fund these posts but that Councils were sharing the cost equally between them.

Councillor Clarke stated that the fact Councils were making a commitment may present opportunities for funding in the future.

Councillor Burton asked if the employment of officers would go beyond this Council term.

The Director of Business and Communities advised that the terms of employment had yet to be worked up, that the posts would be time bound but this could not be specified at the moment. The Director stated that the Sperrins had never had a coordinated approach from Councils before now and that the post being proposed would be a demanding position.

Councillor Burton stated that Council already have a number of staff working in tourism and asked if the project coordinating officer post was that specific that staff already employed would not have the necessary skills.

The Director of Business and Communities advised that internal staff from across the four Councils would be able to apply for the position.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to provide funding (2018/19 - £6937, 2019/20 - £16273) to appoint a Project Coordinating Officer and Administration Assistant.

Matters for Information

D150/18 Minutes of Development Committee held on Thursday 14 June 2018

Members noted minutes of Development Committee held on Thursday 14 June 2018.

D151/18 Culture and Arts Progress Report

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on progress across Culture and Arts Services and to highlight events that took place in the last quarter. The report also highlighted specific events and activities within the Culture and Arts Service which are currently being developed by the officer team and will take place in the future.

D152/18 US Grant Ancestral Homestead Grading

Members noted previously circulated report which advised of the grading application for US Grant Homestead.

D153/18 Visitor Information Centres Mystery Shopper 100% Achievement

Members noted previously circulated report which advised of both Cookstown and Dungannon Visitor Information Centres receiving 100% in Tourism Northern Ireland's Mystery Shopper reports.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee stated that to achieve a 100% score was a credit to all involved.

Councillor Clarke stated that the 100% score was a great achievement which did not come about by chance.

D154/18 Corporate Events

Members noted previously circulated report which advised of forthcoming corporate events taking place during August and September 2018.

D155/18 WorldHost Ambassador Training – Lake Torrent, Coalisland

Members noted previously circulated report which outlined the WorldHost Ambassador initiative for Coalisland in preparation for the World Superbike Championships in Spring/Summer 2019.

Councillor Doris welcomed the WorldHost Ambassador Training for Coalisland.

D156/18 Big Ted's Party 2018

Members noted previously circulated report which advised of the annual Big Ted's Party Event at US Grant Homestead from 4-8 June 2018.

D157/18 Upskilled and Ready for Business

Members noted previously circulated report which advised of the recent business engagement initiative "Upskilled and Ready for Business" aimed at realising the skills needs of the local tourism and hospitality industry in Mid Ulster.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Burton and

Resolved In accordance with Section 42, Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 that Members of the public be asked to withdraw from the meeting whilst Members consider items D158/18 and D1/18.

Matters for Decision
D158/18 Maghera Town Centre Forum – Proposed Membership
D159/18 Cyclical Replacement Plan for Leisure Fitness Equipment

Matters for Information
D160/18 Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on 14 June 2018

D161/18 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7 pm and concluded at 8.03 pm.

CHAIR ______________________

DATE ______________________

Report on	(1) Tourism Ireland Indian Tour Operator Fam Trip (2) Strategic Events Update
Date of Meeting	13th September 2018
Reporting Officer	Michael Browne
Contact Officer	Tourism & Events Staff

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

1.0	**Purpose of Report**
1.1	To inform Council of the recent visit by nine Tour Operators from India to the district on Monday 13th August, 2018
1.2	To provide Members with an update on key activities as detailed above.
2.0	**Background**
2.1	**Indian Tour Operators** Nine Tour operators visited the region on 13th August as part of a fam trip to NI coordinated by Tourism Ireland and Tourism NI.
2.2	**Strategic Events** Strategic Events need to continually develop and grow, maintaining not only our existing visitors but also attract new visitors. Growth is achieved through our event evaluations and listening to our customer's needs.
3.0	**Main Report**
3.1	**Tourism Ireland Indian Tour Operator Fam Trip** The Chair of Mid Ulster Council welcomed nine tour operators from India on a Tourism Ireland fam trip to the region on 13th August 2018. The group visited Ballyscullion Park where they enjoyed a private house tour and lunch with Richard & Roslyn Mulholland. The group then travelled through the district to Corick House Hotel for dinner and an overnight stay. Tourism staff greeted the group in the afternoon with packs of information on the district and a briefing on the region and tourism product in the area.

The Chair of the Council met the group later for dinner and while welcoming them to the district, stressed the links the Dungannon area has with India through Sister Nivedita, born Margaret Elizabeth Noble in 1867 who spent her early life in Dungannon, before leaving for India in 1898.

A force ahead of her time, she worked tirelessly to bring about improvements in the lives of Indian women, trying to bridge gaps between caste distinctions in Indian society. Many of the group were very familiar with Sr Nivedita and her work with the poor in India and fully appreciated this linkage with Mid Ulster.

Follow up information on Sr Nivedita and her links with Dungannon and in particular Ranfurly House has been disseminated to the group. Full information on the tourism product of the region plus film footage including the Seamus Heaney Liam Neeson film has also been circulated with the group.
Feedback on this visit from the group and Tourism NI who coordinated the itinerary for Tourism Ireland has been overwhelmingly positive.

3.2 **Strategic Events**

Talfeta Festival

The first ever Tafelta Festival took place in Magherafelt Town Centre from 10 – 12 August. The idea for the festival came from the hospitality trade in the town following the success of last year's Magherafelt Christmas Market. The 2-day music and entertainment event was organised by Mid Ulster District Council in partnership with Magherafelt Town Centre Forum and local hospitality businesses.

From Monday 6 – Friday 10 August, Beyond Skin delivered an Orchestra of Change Makers Project in the Bridewell where young people aged 11 - 18 learned about performing, producing and choreographing a musical piece that was showcased in the Bridewell on Saturday 11 August at 2pm.

On Saturday 11th August free family entertainment took place in the town centre from 12pm – 4pm including face painting, balloon modelling, street entertainment and a street art workshop where children participated with graffiti and chalk art. Drop in arts and craft workshops will also take place during the same time in Bank of Ireland.

Meadowlane Shopping Centre was the focus of family entertainment on Sunday 12th August including face painting, balloon modelling and walkabout characters.
A number of Hospitality businesses also took part in the festival putting on various promotions and entertainment over the weekend.
The event was very well received by the local community and provides an opportunity to build on and develop more entertainment and activities for next year.

Lumarina

This free 2-day event took place on Friday 17 and Saturday 18 August. The weather on the Friday reduced the numbers from the previous years, however the

attendees on the Saturday stayed longer at the event to enjoy the range of entertainment. Approximately 4000 attended this event.
The caravan site was almost at capacity, enhancing the overnight visitor number to the Marina and the Mid Ulster Area. This events continue to developed, attracting both repeat visitors and new visitors to the event.

Tales and Trails

The annual signature event for Maghera will take place in Maghera Walled Garden on Saturday 08 September from 11am until 4pm. This year's theme is Peter Rabbit, The event is free and is targeted at families. The expected audience, weather dependent is 3,000. A park and ride service will operate from the former Maghera High School Site.

A programme of entertainment has been arranged around this year's theme, to include 10 interactive stations around the garden, a live children's theatre show, storytelling under the oak trees, sports day games, face painting, messy play and the peter rabbit film on a large screen are among many of the exciting activities planned. A range of hot and cold food including a Barbeque, ice cream, sweet treats and tea and coffee will also be available.

Magherafelt Craft Collective

Following Magherafelt Christmas Market in 2017 officers were approached by a local business who had participated in the Craft Marquee at the market about the possibility of setting up a group to support local craft businesses in Magherafelt.

She had felt that as most of the businesses participating in the Craft marquee were local and the range of products and the local talent should be supported.
A meeting was arranged in February 2018 and 25 local craft businesses were invited to attend. This meeting was facilitated in the Bridewell by Officers for Tourism, Arts & Culture and Economic Development. There was a very strong desire to work together and form a collective of some sort and run various events and markets to showcase the local craft available in the local area.

Progress to Date:

- Craft Collective currently has 76 members
- Surveys carried out to ascertain views of members about how to progress
- 4 Makers Markets held in The Bridewell (31 March, 15 June, 4 August & 25 August)
- Monthly meetings held to develop Craft Collective
- Discussions about setting up a Community Interest Company to formally establish the Collective and ultimately leading to a retail space.
- Series of Workshops held as part of August Craft Month

The highlight of the groups year will be during the 2018 Magherafelt Christmas Market which the Magherafelt Craft Collective and planning presently.

4.0	**Other Considerations**
4.1	**Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications**
	Financial: N/A
	Human: Continue to follow up with these operators.
	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	Continue to follow up these links.
6.0	**Documents Attached & References**
6.1	

	Pic 1. Some of the Indian Tour operators during their visit with the Chairman of Mid Ulster Council, Councillor Séan McPeake.

Report on	Minutes of Shopmobility Mid Ulster Annual General Meeting
Date of Meeting	Thurs 13th September 2018
Reporting Officer	Tony McCance
Contact Officer	Tony McCance

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

1.0	**Purpose of Report**
1.1	To update members on the progress being made by the Shopmobility Mid Ulster Scheme and to bring to members attention the minutes of the Shopmobility Scheme AGM of 25th July 2017, approved at the AGM of the Shopmobility scheme on 21st June 2018 at Hill of the O Neill, Dungannon
2.0	**Background**
2.1	The Shopmobility Mid Ulster Scheme operates from both The Burnavon Theatre Cookstown and Ranfurly Arts and Visitor Centre, Dungannon.
2.2	Mid Ulster District Council provides support in kind to the scheme, providing Councillor Board representation, officer support and venue space to operate the scheme from both Dungannon and Cookstown locations.
2.3	2018 is the 8th Year that Shopmobility has operated in Cookstown and 4th year that the scheme has operated in Dungannon.
3.0	**Main Report**
3.1	The Minutes of the AGM of 25th July 2017 was approved by the Shopmobility Mid Ulster Board at their AGM of 21st June 2018. (These are attached as Appendix 1)
3.2	2018 is the first full year that the scheme has operated as a Charitable Company and 2nd year as Shopmobility Mid Ulster. (Formerly Shopmobility Cookstown).
3.3	Chairman's report at AGM detailed the following key issues:
	• 2017/18 was another year of growth particularly in terms of membership and daily usage. In Cookstown there has been in excess of 6,000 bookings in 2017/18. There has been 8 years continual growth of the scheme in Cookstown. Cookstown scheme has seen considerable growth over the past few years and is now regarded as an essential part of the transport chain in Cookstown and one of the largest schemes in a town centre in Northern Ireland.

	• In Dungannon there has been almost 3000 bookings in 2017/18. The Dungannon project also increased over the past number of years but in 2017/18 it has seen an increase in Daily borrowing. • For both Cookstown and Dungannon schemes there is now very strong links with the Health Service across Mid Ulster, working even closer with occupational Therapists and Social Workers from both the Northern and South Health Trusts. • The core revenue funding provided by the Department for Infrastructure is critical to the survival of the Shopmobility Mid Ulster scheme. **In the current financial year both Cookstown and Dungannon schemes have received a 5% cut to their budget.** This has come at a time when Shopmobility Mid Ulster requires additional funding to cover rising maintenance costs, inflationary costs and added obligations relating to pensions.
4.0	**Other Considerations**
4.1	**Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications**
	Financial: In kind support provided by Mid Ulster District Council
	Human: In kind Officer support advice and assistance provided to Shopmobility Mid Ulster Councillor board representation
	Risk Management: n/a
4.2	**Screening & Impact Assessments**
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: The delivery of the Shopmobility Mid Ulster Scheme and Mid Ulster District Council's support of the Scheme positively influences Equality and Good Relations within the Mid Ulster region.
	Rural Needs Implications: Rural needs of users of the shopmobility scheme are considered as an essential aspect of the service delivery of the scheme operated from both The Burnavon Theatre Cookstown and Ranfurly Arts and Visitor Centre Dungannon
5.0	**Recommendation(s)**
5.1	Members are asked to note the minutes of the Shopmobility Mid Ulster Scheme AGM of 25th July 2017, approved by the Shopmobility Mid Ulster Board at the AGM held on 21st June 2018 at Hill of the ONeill, Dunagnnon.

6.0	**Documents Attached & References**
6.1	Appendix 1 – Minutes of Shopmobility Mid Ulster AGM held at Burnavon Theatre Cookstown on 25th July 2017

APPENDIX 1

Shopmobility MID ULSTER

Minutes Of Shopmobility Mid Ulster

Annual General Meeting

Held On Tuesday 25th July 2017 @ 10.30am

In The Burnavon Arts And Cultural Centre, Cookstown

PRESENT:

Wilbert Mayne MBE (Chairman)	Chair,
Ursula Marshall (Vice Chairman)	Vice Chair
Cllr Kim Aston	Chair of Mid Ulster District Council
Cllr Mark Glasgow	Vice Chair of Mid Ulster District Council
David Lyttle	David Lyttle & Co Accountants
Gretta Reid (Secretary)	040 / Age Concern Cookstown
Brigid Scullion	CDM Community Transport
John McGorry	MS Support Group
Cllr Christine McFlynn	MUDC
Sean McElhatton	MUDC
Margaret McCammon	MUDC

OTHER:

Mark Farquhar	Project Manager, Shopmobility Mid Ulster
Sarah McGurk	Project Administrator, Shopmobility Mid Ulster (Cookstown)
Fiona Hamill	Project Administrator, Shopmobility Mid Ulster (Dungannon)
Aidan Campbell	Shopmobility Mid Ulster Volunteer

1. Welcome

Wilbert welcomed everyone to the seventh Shopmobility Mid Ulster A.G.M.

2. Apologies

Tony McCance	MUDC
Mary McCullagh	MUDC
Cllr John McNamee	MUDC
Mary Tennyson	MUDC
Julie Ann Spence	MUDC

3. Confirmation of Minutes of the Previous Meeting

There were no amendments to the minutes from the previous AGM on the 27th June 2016; they were duly approved and signed by the chairperson.

Proposed: Cllr Christine McFlynn

Seconded: John McGorry

4. Guest Speaker Cllr Kim Aston Chairperson of Mid Ulster District Council

Cllr Kim Aston (Chair of Mid Ulster District Council) thanked Shopmobility for inviting her to the A.G.M. Cllr Aston commented that Shopmobility has grown from it started and has been a great asset to both town centres. Shopmobility helps to make both towns more accessible and works very well with other partnerships within the community. Cllr Aston concluded by saying MUDC are happy to support Shopmobility Mid Ulster and wished both schemes continued success for the future.

5. Chairman's Report

Wilbert welcomed everyone to the 7th A.G.M of Shopmobility, he thanked Cllr Kim Aston Chair of Mid Ulster District Council for and attending and David Lyttle. Wilbert commented that usage has continued to grow in both schemes with Cookstown reaching 5621 and Dungannon reaching 2937. Membership has grown in both schemes with Cookstown at 410 and Dungannon with 170. We have also worked closely with community and voluntary agencies and Occupational Therapists providing equipment to people as a result of referral from the O.T whilst waiting on equipment from the N.H.S.

Wilbert stated that we currently have 75 items of equipment and are in the process of adding more wheelchairs which we are able to purchase as a result of funding from MUDC and Trusthouse Charitable Foundation, Wilbert added his thanks to both organisations on behalf of Shopmobility Mid Ulster.

Wilbert added that Shopmobility Mid Ulster is now registered as a company limited by guarantee. This was agreed after legal advice from Phil Nicholl Associates and Auditors David Lyttle. We now intend to re-register with the Charities Commission.

Wilbert added that in March Christy Quinn had left our Dungannon office and our new member Fiona Hamill has fitted in very well and is an asset to the organisation. Also during the year Mark relocated his office to Dungannon within CDM offices and this is the organisations official registered head office address.

Mark read a card that a Cookstown member had written praising Shopmobility and the Sarah McGurk in Cookstown for the service she had received.

Wilbert was pleased to say that during the year the DFI carried out spot checks and a detailed monitoring visit the DFI were impressed and there were no issues.

Wilbert also added that Shopmobility Mid Ulster has now introduced a new pension scheme which will start with contribution from July's wages.

Going forward we have received a letter of offer for up to the end of July, and are waiting on an update on funding.

Wilbert concluded by highlighting the new project in the pipeline. This project will help to complement our existing service and will hopefully involve working in partnership with other community and voluntary organisations to provide a mobility delivery service within Mid Ulster. Several preliminary meetings have taken place in regards to acquiring funding. Hopefully the necessary funding will be obtained.

6. Financial Report David Lyttle

David Lyttle presented the yearly financial report, including a breakdown of all costs and funds. David took this opportunity to thank Mark on how well the accounts are kept and to such a high standard. Ursula commented on having a reserve fund and how this is was needed.

Proposed: Ursula Marshall
Seconded: Cllr Christine McFlynn

7. Election of Officers

David Lyttle oversaw the election of Officers. Following a proposal and unanimous agreement all members were re-elected.
Proposed: Cllr Christine McFlynn
Seconded: Brigid Scullion

8. Appointment of Auditors/Solicitors

It was proposed that we continue with our present auditor. D. Lyttle and Co.
Proposed: Cllr Mark Glasgow
Seconded: Gretta Reid
It was proposed that we continue with our present solicitors. Doris and MacMahon
Proposed: Gretta Reid
Seconded: Cllr Mark Glasgow

9. Open Forum

Mark talked through bookings for both schemes and referred to graphs presented in the presentation pack, Mark commented that there has been a very high demand for wheelchairs and scooters. Mark took the opportunity to thank MUDC and Trust House Charitable Foundation for the recent funding and as a result of this we are currently in the process of acquiring new wheelchairs both transit and self-propelled. Cllr Christine McFlynn added that it is a pleasure to be part of the committee and the great work and service that Shopmobility provides and also added that Ursula is a great asset to the committee with all her knowledge. Cllr McFlynn also commended Mark on the work he does and is always on top of things.

The committee also congratulated Mark on completing his recent studies. Graduating from his course with a Distinction in Sustainable Investment in the Third Sector. Marks studies focused on the development of the new project Gobility.

10. Closing Remarks

Wilbert closed the meeting wishing Mark good luck with Gobility. Wilbert thanked all our funders, supporters and partners. Wilbert added thanks to the service users the Shopmobility staff and the committee. Wilbert also thanked Joanne Loughrin for the catering for the A.G.M.

The meeting ended @ 11.45am

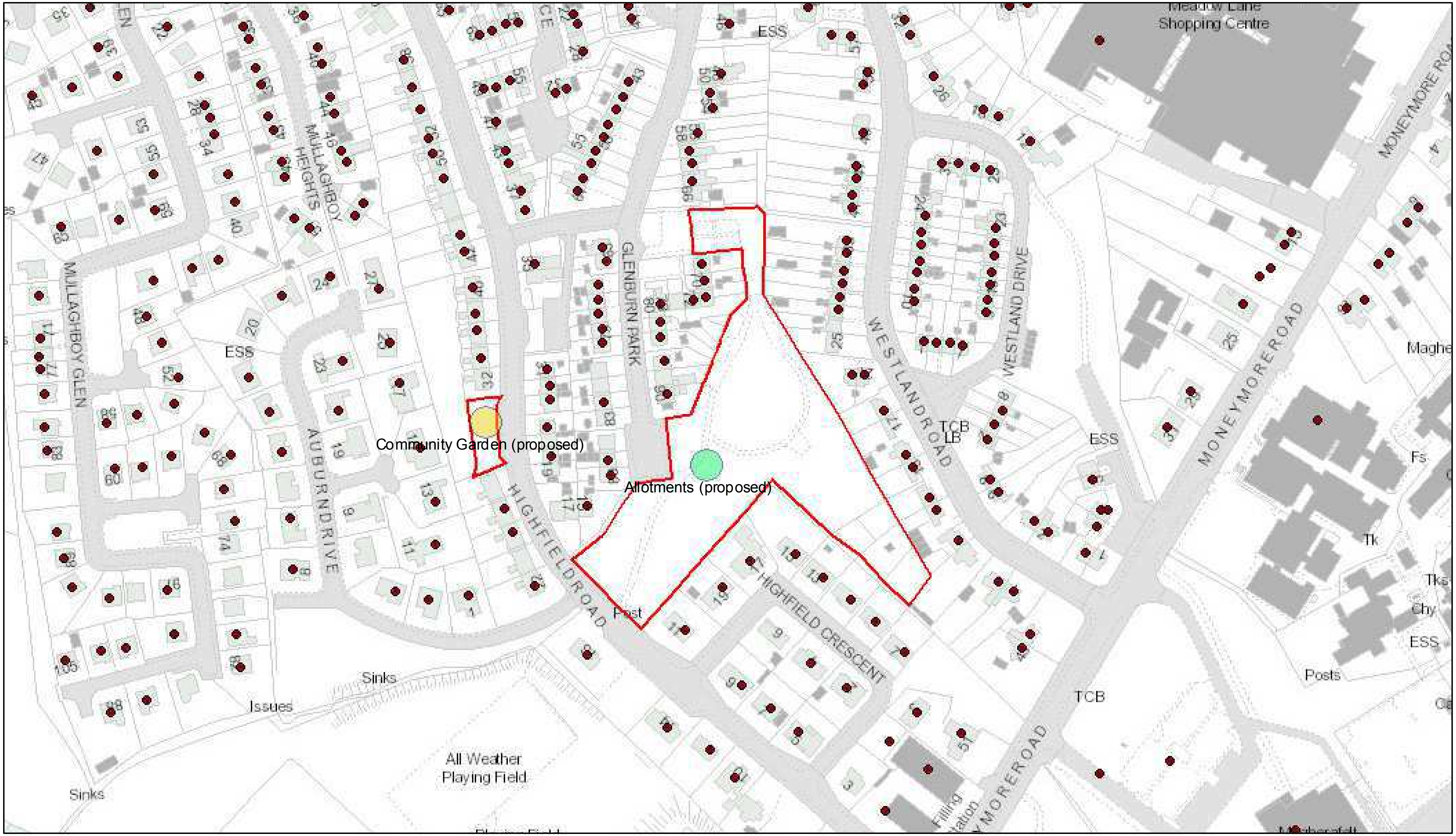
Report on	Request for Allotments in Glenburn Area, Magherafelt
Date of Meeting	Thursday 13th September 2018
Reporting Officer	Head of Parks
Contact Officer	Anne Reid

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 update Members on the proposal to develop allotments in the Glenburn/Highfield area, Magherafelt.
2.0	**Background**
2.1	Officers have been approached by members of Glenburn Community Association regarding the possibility of creating allotments in the area.
2.2	Officers have visited the site and have had discussions with the local Councillor and the Community Group.
3.0	**Main Report**
3.1	Following the site investigations and community consultation it is proposed to develop a community garden on the piece of derelict land on the Highfield Road and look to create allotments on a suitable space within the Highfield play area, see Appendix 1 showing map of area.
3.2	It is envisaged to set up the Community Garden on a joint enterprise project between the Community Association and MUDC.
3.3	The estimated development cost for Community Garden and allotments could be in the region £10,000. No source of funding has been identified at this stage.
4.0	**Other Considerations**
4.1	**Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications**
	Financial: Subject to sourcing available funding project costs are estimated as £10,000.
	Human: Existing staff resource available to aid in the setup of the project.

	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	Project to be further developed with community group and funding options/partnerships to be investigated. Draft options to be presented to committee in due course.
6.0	**Documents Attached & References**
6.1	Appendix 1 - Map of proposed site, Highfield Rd/Glenburn, Magherafelt.

ArcGIS Web Map



24/08/2018 09:54:17

MFelt_Deeds

Mid_Ulster_Outline

Pointer

1:2,500

0 0.02 0.04 0.08 mi

0 0.0325 0.065 0.13 km