

<b>Report on</b>	Joint Delegation Visit (with South West College) to Catapult Centres in the UK
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Adrian McCreesh
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<b>Is this report restricted for confidential business?</b> If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	Yes	
	No	X

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To seek Members approval on attendance on the proposed visit to one/two Catapult Centres in the UK which the Mid Ulster Engineering Centre of Excellence is modelled on.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	At the Council meeting in July 2017, Council approved a joint delegation from Council's Development and P&R Committees together with South West College (SWC) to visit one/two of the leading Catapult centres in the UK.
2.2	It was agreed that any Member interested in attending the proposed visit should express an interest by Monday 7 August 2017.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	The structural model of the proposed Mid Ulster Engineering Centre of Excellence is based on the Catapult Centres in the UK. The Catapult centres are a network of world-leading centres designed to transform the UK's capability for innovation in specific areas and help drive future economic growth.
3.2	At the Council meeting in July 2017, Council approved a joint delegation from Council's Development and P&R Committees together with South West College (SWC) to visit one/two of the leading Catapult centres in the UK. It was agreed that any Member interested in attending the proposed visit should express an interest by Monday 7 August 2017.
3.3	The following 7 Members expressed an interest in attending the visit; Councillors Kim Ashton (DUP), Dominic Molloy (SF), Niamh Doris (SF), Frances Burton (DUP), Sean McPeake (SF), Trevor Wilson (UUP) and Paul McLean (DUP).
3.4	It is recommended that Council representation should comprise a cross-party delegation comprising 5 members drawn from the membership of the Council's Development and P&R Committees and be 2 Sinn Fein, 1 DUP, 1 UUP and 1 SDLP.
3.5	It is further recommended that 1 or 2 Council officers attend the visit to co-ordinate itinerary activities.

<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<p><b><u>Financial &amp; Human Resources Implications</u></b></p> <p>Financial: Council's contribution towards costs for the proposed visit to be funded from its Economic Development budget 2017/18.</p> <p>Human: Staff time.</p>
<b>4.2</b>	<p><b><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></b></p> <p>N/A</p>
<b>4.3</b>	<p><b><u>Risk Management Implications</u></b></p> <p>N/A</p>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	That Members approve for a cross-party delegation from Mid Ulster District Council to attend the UK Catapult Centres visit, comprising 5 members drawn from the expressions of interest received from serving members of Council's Development and P&R Committees. It is recommended that the number of places be allocated as follows; 2 Sinn Fein, 1 DUP, 1 UUP and 1 SDLP and that agreement be sought on attendee names to allow the relevant bookings to be made.
5.2	That Members approve 1 or 2 Council officers attend the joint delegation visit to help co-ordinate itinerary activities.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
	N/A