

Report on	Council draft response to Department for Communities consultation on proposals to amend performance indicator and standards in the Local Government (Performance Indicators and Standards) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015
Date of Meeting	Thursday 3 rd February 2022
Reporting Officer	P Moffett, Assistant Director: Org. Development, Strategy & Performance
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Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	X

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To inform members on Council's response to the consultation that covers proposals by the Department for the Economy (DfE) to amend the current (DfE) performance indicator and standards included within the Local Government (Performance Indicators and Standards) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 to include the Department for the Economy's (DfE) proposed revised performance indicator and standards in respect of economic development).
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>Statutory Performance Improvement Indicators /Standards.</p> <p>Under the Local Government (Performance Indicators and Standards Order (Northern Ireland) 2015), statutory performance indicators and standards have been set as part of the performance improvement arrangements for district councils. Performance measures have been specified for the functions of: Economic Development, Planning and Waste management, on which to report annually, as part of the performance improvement arrangements for district councils. The aim of the performance measures is to promote the improvement of service delivery for the functions specified.</p>
2.2.	<p>Proposals to Amend the Order in Respect of Economic Development</p> <p>The Department for Communities has commenced a consultation on proposals to amend the Local Government (Performance Indicators and Standards) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 to include the Department for the Economy's (DfE) proposed revised performance indicator and standards in respect of Economic Development (refer to Appendix One - The Local Government (Performance</p>

	<p>Indicators and Standards) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2022). The proposed amendments cover revisions to the performance indicator and standards placed on councils in relation to DfE's policy area of job promotion through a business plan development programme. This consultation closes on 28 February 2022.</p> <p>The consultation is being undertaken by the Local Government & Housing Regulation Division in the Department for Communities (DfC) (which is the responsible department for specifying, under s89 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014, local government performance indicators and standards). However the policy in respect of these proposed amendments is the responsibility of DfE.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Context of proposals to change the Orders' standards (jobs promotion) - following on from the Capaxo Review (June 2020)</p> <p>Mid Ulster District Council welcomes the Department for the Economy (DfE) proposals to amend the current (DfE) performance indicator and standards, (refer to Appendix Two). Included within the Local Government (Performance Indicators and Standards) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 (hereby referred to as the Order) in relation to DfE's policy area of job promotion through a business plan development programme. The proposals to change the Orders standards follow on from the Capaxo Review (June 2020 – an independent review commissioned by Councils of the Northern Ireland Business Start Up Programme (NISUPB), also known as the Go For it Programme (GFI) target figures). The review had proposed a new rationale for allocating job creation targets by Council area using a broad range of data to create a proportionality formula that could be applied to each Council area to produce a jobs target range for each area.</p> <p>The proposed standards aim to amend and hence reduce Mid Ulster's statutory standard to 153 jobs (job creation) from April 2022, from the current standard of 210 contained within the Order since 2015. Council have supported the revised targets as they more accurately reflect the changed economic realities of the sub-region, including high employment and the loss of migrant population.</p>
3.2	<p>Delivery Start Up Support Model Post March 2023.</p> <p>With NIBSUP ending in March 2023, significant work is being undertaken to identify and scope mechanisms for future delivery. In 2021, an initial review was undertaken to consider what the future business start-up support model should comprise, based on good practice research from other locations. Over recent months the 11 Councils have been working on an Options Analysis and Belfast City Council (acting as lead) has commissioned research to inform the delivery of business start-up support post-2023 and undertake a Business Case for this. Looking ahead, there is a case for substantive change to the approach to both the delivery and the performance measurement of future mechanisms of support.</p> <p>This case for change is also driven by the new business funding and support landscape and also significant new policy imperatives, including the ambitions</p>

3.3	<p>articulated in DfE's '10x Economy Vision', highlighting the importance of fostering a culture of entrepreneurship and supporting new business development, DfE's Recovery Action Plan, the City/Growth Deals, and in DfC's own policy arena, the focus of Employability NI on establishing local Labour Market Partnerships in each Council area.</p> <p>Targets and Performance Indicators Post March 2023</p> <p>The current Statutory Order requires the reporting of 'the number of jobs promoted through business start-up activity (defined as 'the delivery of client led business plans under the Council-led Northern Ireland Business Start Up Programme or successor programmes'). Council agrees the proposed targets and associated performance indicators outlined in relation to the Mid Ulster District are appropriate only for the final year of the NIBSUP i.e. 2022/23. However, the targets and performance indicators post-March 2023, must be re-shaped to ensure they reflect the range of outputs of the new support offering.</p> <p>Council would urge the Departments for the Economy and Communities, and also Invest NI, to work collaboratively with Council Working Groups and SOLACE during the design process for this new entrepreneurship support programme, which must include the development of new, relevant and appropriate targets and indicators, and also to ensure that resources are also secured to support its delivery.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: N/A
	Human: N/A
4.2	<u>Screening & Impact Statements</u>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Members reflect on and adopt the Council's draft response to the consultation to amend the current (DfE) performance indicator and standards included within the Local Government (Performance Indicators and Standards) Order (NI) 2015 to include the Department for the Economy's (DfE) proposed revised performance indicator and standards for economic development specific to Mid Ulster district
6.0	Documents Attached & References

	<p>Appendix One: Consultation The Local Government (Performance Indicators and Standards) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2022</p> <p>Appendix Two: Council's response to the consultation on The Local Government (Performance Indicators and Standards) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2022, in respect of Economic Development</p>
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