



10 March 2022

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Development Committee to be held in The Chamber, Dungannon and by virtual means Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon, BT71 6DT on Thursday, 10 March 2022 at 19:00 to transact the business noted below.

A link to join the meeting through the Council's remote meeting platform will follow.

Yours faithfully

Adrian McCreesh  
Chief Executive

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## AGENDA

### OPEN BUSINESS

1. Notice of Recording  
This meeting will be webcast for live and subsequent broadcast on the Council's You Tube site [Live Broadcast Link](#)
2. Apologies
3. Declarations of Interest  
Members should declare any financial and non-financial interests they have in the items of business for consideration, identifying the relevant agenda item and the nature of their interest.
4. Chair's Business
5. Deputation - Secondary Students Union NI: School Uniform Campaign

### Matters for Decision

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| 6. Development Report  | 3 - 102   |
| 7. Strategic Community Development Update                        | 103 - 138 |
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Matters for Information

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**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

Matters for Information

- |     |   |
|-----|---|
| 15. | Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on Thursday 10 February 2022 |
|-----|---|

<b>Report on</b>	Development Report
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> March 2022
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Claire Linney, Assistant Director of Development, Tony McCance, Head of Arts and Culture
<b>Contact Officers</b>	Philip Clarke - Community Services Manager, Oliver Morgan-Good Relations Manager, Michael McCrory - PCSP Manager, Caroline Sheehy – Burnavon Arts Manager, Brian McCormick Seamus Heaney Home Place Manager, Joanne Robinson – Hill of O'Neill/Ranfurly House Manager

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	Community Grants - to agree the rolling grant awards - Local Community Festivals, and Good Relations.
1.2	DfC Real Living Wage Salary Uplift for the General Advice Support Project – to approve the direct transfer of finance through the community support programme.
1.3	Arts – Arts Festival and Arts Outreach Plan – to note the arts festival and plan for Mid Ulster under the current arts development programme.
1.4	PCSP Plan – to note the PCSP plan for information
1.5	Development - to update on Development.
2.0	Background
2.1	Community Grants – Council annually delivers an open call for its main grants; and then delivers a number of rolling community grant programmes; Good Relations and Local Community Festivals. Council also annually delivers the Decade of Anniversaries Grant.
2.2	Generalist Advice Service DfC Real Living Wage Salary Uplift – DfC are through a letter of variance under the Community Support Programme is providing an uplift amount of £21,465.51 funding related to the generalist advice advisors as part of their service. This agreement is directly between DFC And the advice provider.
2.3	Arts – Arts Festival and Arts Outreach Plan – As part of the arts development programme in Council, arts outreach takes place across the Community.
2.4	PCSP Plan – PCSP is an independent body of Council; with Council having a facilitation role in good governance re delivery of an annual action plan.

2.5	Development Update - Community Support, Good Relations, Culture, Arts, Heritage, Strategic Community Development, and PCSP.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Community Grants - The Good Relations grant is a rolling programme – no current applications. Community Festival – 8 application's received and recommended for grant allocation totalling £5,845 See grant award recommendations in Appendix 1 for approval.
3.2	Welfare Reform Support DfC Real Living Wage Salary Uplift - DfC Minister made a public commitment on 15 December to a 'fair funding' approach to supporting the critical work delivered by our Voluntary and Community Sector here. It includes the posts directly funded by DFC through the Welfare Reform Mitigations package (Welfare Reform Advice element within DFC Community Support to Council). Approval is sought to award the uplift amount of £21,465.51 to MIDAS/STEP who host the Welfare Reform programme for DFC and is managed and monitored by DFC.
3.3	Arts – Arts Festival and Arts Outreach Plan – Please see attached the annual arts plan (including festival) in Appendix 2 for information.
3.4	PCSP Plan – to note the PCSP plan for information.
3.5	Development  Community Support The Community Support team is currently working overseeing the delivery of the Council community grants, and supporting groups with development activity and other funding sources.  Good Relations Good Relations is continuing to deliver the Plan for 2021 – 2022.  Peace IV Local Action Plan – the design for the shared space towns project has commenced. An update on the location of the outdoor shared space for Dungannon is the area to left of the Square (outside Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House), event space in partnership between Council and Dungannon Enterprise Agency.  PCSP –Ongoing as guided by the PCSP Partnership. Minutes of the last meeting attached for information.  Burnavon Arts Centre, Seamus Heaney Homeplace, and Hill of O'Neill & Ranfurly House are back to operation.  Irish language development is ongoing, with the development of Seachtain na Gaelige.  The new heritage strategy development has commenced, engagement with members and key stakeholders to be planned over the next 2 months.



<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<p><b><u>Financial &amp; Human Resources Implications</u></b></p> <p>Community Festival awards £5,845</p> <p>DfC funding contribution for uplift for fair funding or generalist advice service £21,465.51</p> <p>Arts Outreach Programme – as per programme budget</p> <p><b><u>Professional Support</u></b></p> <p>None</p>
<b>4.2</b>	<p><b><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></b></p> <p>None</p>
<b>4.3</b>	<p><b><u>Risk Management Implications</u></b></p> <p>None</p>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	Community Grants - to agree the rolling grant awards - Local Community Festivals, Good Relations, and the Strategic Events.
5.2	DfC Real Living Wage Salary Uplift for the General Advice Support Project – to approve the direct transfer of finance through the community support programme.
5.3	Mid Ulster Arts Plan – to approve the Mid Ulster Arts Festival 2023 & Mid Ulster Arts Outreach programme.
5.4	PCSP Plan – to note the PCSP Plan for Mid Ulster
5.5	Development - to update on Development.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
	<p>Appendix 1 Grant awards.</p> <p>Appendix 2 - Arts Outreach Programme &amp; Festival</p> <p>Appendix 3 - PCSP Plan</p>



## Appendix 1

### Community Festivals March 2022 (Maximum £1200)

No	Organisation Name	Aim	Title Of Event/project	Band	Requested	Awarded
1	DPC Entertainment Group	Community	Queen Platinum Jubilee Event	7	£2,236.00	£480
2	Dungannon Choral Society	Arts	87 Years of Dungannon Choral Society	2	£4,300.00	£1,080
3	Stewartstown & District Environmental Outreach	Community	Craft Fair(s)	3	£1,400.00	£960
4	Clogher Eire Og GAC	Sport	Table Quiz/Clean-up Fundraiser for a Defibrillator	5	£1,140.00	£685
5	Galbally Pearses GAA	Sport	St Patricks Day Festival	5	£5,500.00	£720
6	Sporting Hearts	Community	Dungannon Truck Run	5	£3,910.00	£720
7	Clonaneese PW Group	Community	Clonaneese Ladies Conference	7	£1,800.00	£480
8	Pomeroy District Sports and Cultural Association	Culture/Sport	Pomeroy's Platinum Party	5	£1,500.00	£720

**Total                    £5,845**

Bands	Score	%
7	30-39	40%
6	40-49	50%
5	50-59	60%
4	60-69	70%
3	70-79	80%
2	80-89	90%
1	90+	100%



Mid Ulster District Council  
Arts Plan 2022/2023





## Mid Ulster Arts

### Burnavon Arts Centre Mid Ulster

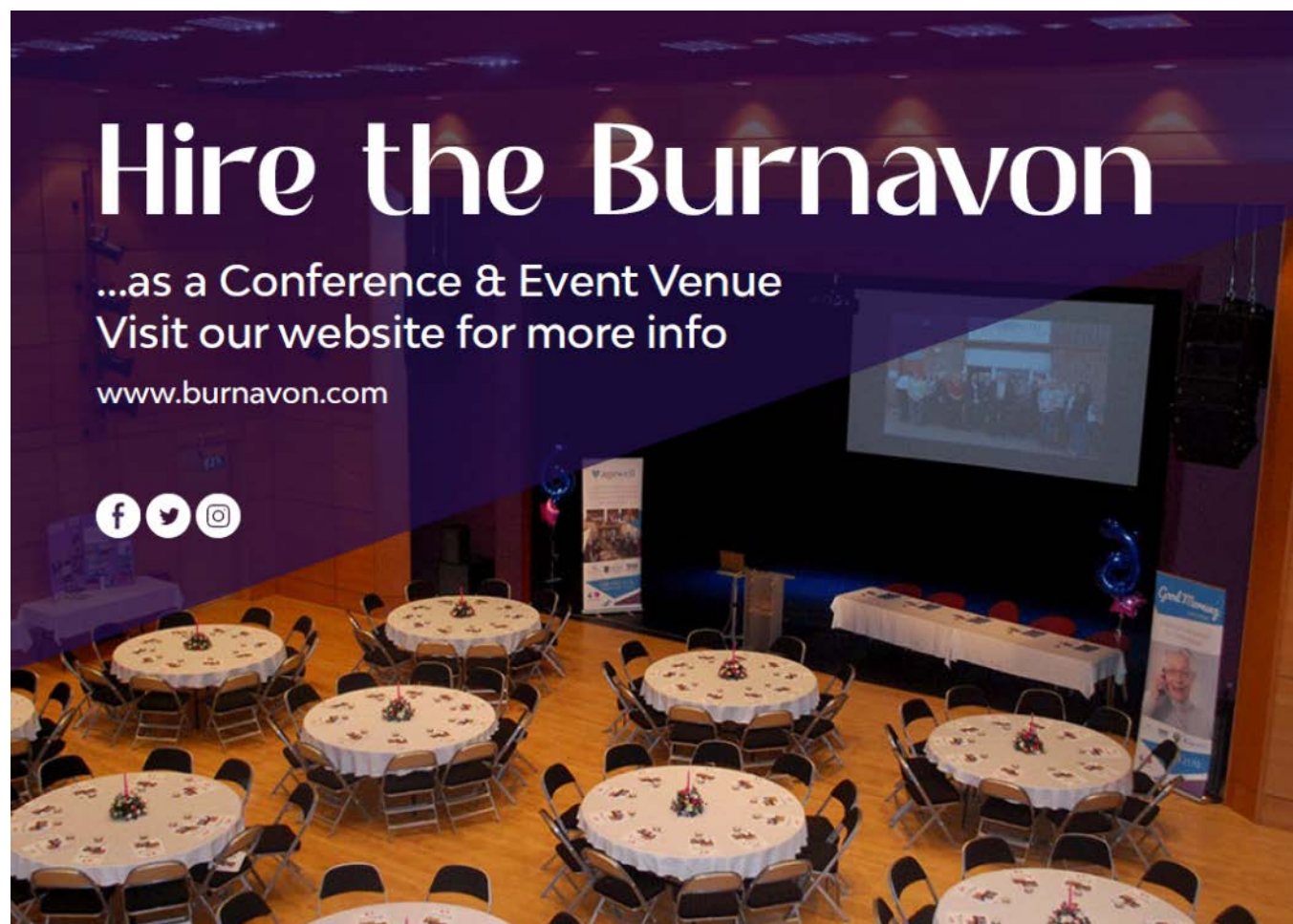
The Burnavon Arts Centre Mid Ulster opened in 1999 and since then has grown as a regional arts centre across the region providing a wide range of entertainment throughout the year including concerts, comedy, children's performances, dance, drama, educational performances, and community and visual arts.

In addition to delivering a diverse programme of performances live on stage, it also organises a number of community events each year such as Easter Family Fun Day, St Patrick's Celebration Concert, July Celebrations Concert and the Annual Craft & Food Fair.

Supporting the Creative Industries is an essential role of the facility be this through giving artists an opportunity and platform to perform, exhibiting in our Gallery space, employing them as facilitators for our workshops and events, displaying in our Craft Shop or providing advice and support from our staff.

The facility is further utilised by hiring groups for meetings and conferences to maximise usage. We continue to adapt our services to an ever-changing environment.

Moving into the 2022/2023 the Burnavon Arts Centre Mid Ulster will focus on providing a state of the arts facility and performances and range of art forms to meet the demands of our citizens and customers.





Mid Ulster Arts

Community Arts



Our Community Arts will form an important part of the development of arts activities within Mid Ulster. Mid Ulster District Council, seek to develop and deliver a district wide Community Arts Plan (linked to Burnavon Arts Centre) which will focus on offering activity to groups and individuals, in particular targeting those with limited access to the arts, “Bringing Art to the Community” and building opportunity within the Creative Industries sector. Council will seek to deliver this in partnership with local groups, schools, arts agencies, and our strategic arts theatre partners located in the community including: Bardic Theatre, Craic Theatre, An Carn Theatre, Glasgowbury, The Hub, Brantry Bard.

The Community Arts Plan will contribute and partner the direction of a number of strategies and plans for the District:

The Arts Council of Northern Ireland's 5 Year Strategy (2019/2024) outlines the key priorities as Inspire, Connect and Lead. Mid Ulster District Council will strive to take our programmes in this direction.

Mid Ulster Community Plan is built around five key themes and the Community Arts Plan will contribute to the development of Theme 3: Education & Skills and to Theme 4: Health & Wellbeing.

The Mid Ulster District Council Corporate Plan also outlines Five Key themes, the Community Arts Plan will seek to actively help achieve positive action under Themes 2: Service Delivery, 4: Environment and 5: Communities.

The Community Arts Plan will be delivered under the following themes:

Youth Engagement Programme

Education Programme

Creative Industries Programme

Older Peoples Programme

Disability Arts Programme

Art Engagement Programmes

Art Engagement Events

Mid Ulster Arts Festival



Youth Engagement Programme

Project	Detail	Participants	Duration	Budget	Notes
Summer Schemes	To offer a number of interactive workshops for young people to participate in to develop skills. The workshops will be held in the Burnavon. Ballet Ireland Summer School Music Summer School Burnavon Summer Scheme Summer Coding Workshops.	30 per workshop	July and August	£6,500	Burnavon Arts Centre
Outreach Street Art	Partner with PCSP and EA Youth re engagement of young people via outreach		Annual	PCSP budget EA Youth	Partner with PCSP in identifying art engagement programmes for young people in areas identified by PCSP



## Mid Ulster Arts

### Education Programme

Project	Detail	Participants	Duration	Budget	Notes
<b>Traditional Music in Schools Project</b>	Over 4000 Children across Mid Ulster, from P4 to P7 have had an opportunity to learn to play the guitar, mandolin, tin whistle, flute, mandolin and banjo to date. Delivered via cross community to support children to have the opportunity to perform	400 children from various schools per week	Weekly (academic year)	£13000	Partner Good Relations £5000
<b>Traditional Piping in Schools project</b>	To support young people in schools engage in the traditional music of piping. Delivered via cross community to support children to perform	100 children per week	Weekly (academic year).	£5000	Partner Good Relations (lead) £5000
<b>Pre School First Theatre Visit</b>	Introduction of nursery schools to Burnavon to attend a show for their first theatre visit	600	2 individual shows per year with target audience of 300 per show	Burnavon Programme	Burnavon Programme
<b>Schools Project</b>	Engaging art delivery facilitators to deliver creative workshops engaging young people in primary schools The project will develop arts skills through use of digital technology and more traditional arts activities. Themes will link with curriculum learning	1500	98 primary schools  98 primary schools in the District – schools will be engaged bi annually	£20,000	Delivered via a hybrid approach via a broadcast studio in Burnavon Arts Centre  Partners Amma Creative Hub Nerve Centre
<b>Theatre Performances for schools</b>	The Burnavon Arts Centre will hold a number of events targeting primary schools to visit the theatre space and enjoy live performances Performances will be primarily linked to the NI Curriculum Suggested performances: Key Stage 2 Topics: Myths of the Vikings Magic of the Mummies	600	2 shows per annum	Burnavon Programme	Burnavon Programme  Open to all schools, advertised in theatre programme.  Small fee charged as performance based
<b>Creative Writing and Illustration Arts</b>	To promote creative writing and poetry to school children	300	2 events per annum	Burnavon Programme	Programme – open to all schools re performance



Mid Ulster Arts

	<p>Poet Paul Cookson - "Bringing Poetry to Life" - engaging P6/P7 schoolchildren</p> <p>Illustrator Paul Howard – bringing illustration to life – engaging P4 school children</p>	1000 (further engagement via hybrid model)			<p>attendance. Small fee charged for attendance</p> <p>To be delivered as a hybrid model via Burnavon Recording Studio</p>
Special Education Project	<p>Young people are given the opportunity to use their senses and reasoning skills to identify and explore different art forms</p> <p>Develop a project with writers example; Paul Howard Children’s Writing Fellow for NI to be delivered in Learning Support Units and Special Schools</p>	All special learning units	<p>One project per School per annum.</p> <p>Aim to include as many schools as possible</p>	£5000	Partner Seamus Heaney Centre at Queens





Mid Ulster Arts





## Creative Industries Programme

Project	Detail	Participants	Duration	Cost / Budget	Notes
<b>Creative Industries Development</b>	Engage with key partners Nerve Centre, AmmA Creative Hub to develop the opportunities for Creative industries for young people via skills development in digital media	20 post primary schools in district, aim to work with all schools each year with partners and links to the Community Planning Careers Forum	Annually	£4000 towards Careers Digital media programme	Partners Amma, Nerve  Hybrid delivery model
	Engage with Craft NI and Artists to support the development of Creative Industries	Number of artists engaged			
	Engage with NI Libraries, Trusts, and NI Museums etc ref. programmes available, which could be rolled out within Mid Ulster				
<b>Screen Works NI</b>	<p>Partner Screen Works Education Programme to encourage and provide opportunities for young people in creative industries regarding Creative Industries Apprenticeship Programme</p> <p>Link to Screen Works NI and BBC NI to target areas of disadvantage ref opportunities for young people into film (Young People in Film Apprenticeship Programme)</p>	<p>To maximize number of participants.</p> <p>To assist with promotion of these schemes / opportunities with Mid Ulster area and monitor number of young people participating</p>	To develop		<p>Partner Screen NI</p> <p>Partner Community Planning Careers Forum, Neighbourhood Renewal, Economic Development</p>
<b>Winter Craft &amp; Food Fair</b>	Craft event within the Burnavon to offer artisan crafters the opportunity to showcase and sell products.	<p>30 - 50 exhibitors .</p> <p>Approx. public attending event 2000.</p>	1 or 2 day event.	Burnavon Programme	Partner local creative businesses

Older People’s Programme

Project	Detail	Participants	Duration	Budget	Notes
Residential Care Home Project	Artists engaging residents in local Residential Care Homes. Residents will have 'hands on experience' creating artworks from printing to sculpture. The works will be exhibited in the Burnavon for a period and then returned to the relevant Care Home	20 Residential Care Homes in District.  Aim to work with 10 Care Homes per year (bi-annual project). Pending partner funding may enable all per annum	Maximum of one programme per care home per annum.	£5000	Seek to partner PCSP / Trusts - partner contribution £5000 - £10,000 .
Creative Arts Workshops	Host a series of workshops aimed at people aged 60y+ to learn new creative skills & meet new people  Over the course of a number of weeks, participants will learn the basics of various artforms	30 – 40 older people	Delivered over 4 weeks (1 session per week)	Burnavon Programme	Subsidized - minimal fee to Burnavon Workshop programme  Work with relevant groups / bodies and agencies to target isolation, encouragement of learning new skills





Disability Arts Programme

Project	Description	Participants	Duration	Budget	Notes
Disability & Inclusive Arts Programme	<p>Support to disability groups across the area with arts outreach activity to ensure arts is inclusive for all</p> <p>Seek to bring recycling and biodiversity themes into the art delivery form where possible</p>	Maximise number of participants from different groups	Timeline developed to suit the groups	£20,000	Explore opportunities to engage other agencies to develop activities within Mid Ulster E.g. Trusts

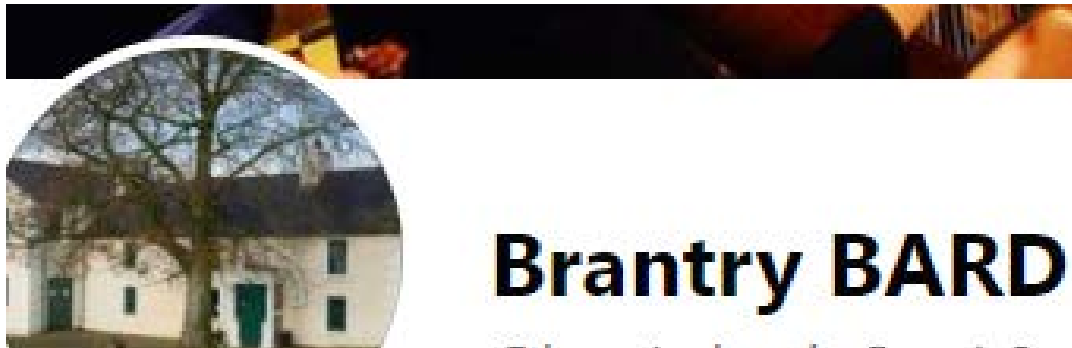




Mid Ulster Arts

Art Engagement Programme

Project	Description	Participants	Duration	Budget	Notes
Support community art groups to engage with the Burnavon	Engage groups with the Arts Centre e.g. Cookstown Youth Choir Mid Ulster Choral Group Dungannon Choral Group Cookstown Folk Group Mid Ulster Burnavon Writers Group	160	Regularly	£5000	Partner Good Relations
Strategic Community Arts Partners	Engage with the community arts partners re outreach programme delivery – Bardic, Craic, Glasgowbury, An Carn, The Hub, Brantry.	20,000	Annual	£90,000	SLA agreement with partners  Link to Art Festival
Community Arts Grant Aid Programme	Partner with Community Development regarding delivery of small grants programme to support local groups deliver on arts	20,000	Annual	£35,000	Total budget £130,000 – over 50% of activity is arts related





Mid Ulster Arts

Art Engagement Events

Project	Description	Participants	Duration	Budget	Notes
Easter Family Fun Day through Art	Engaging families in arts and crafts.  Free event	2000	One per annum	Burnavon Programme	April



## Mid Ulster Arts

### Mid Ulster Arts Festival



Project	Detail	Participants	Duration	Budget	Notes
Mid Ulster Arts Festival	<p>Deliver an Arts Festival celebrating various arts forms. The festival will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dance</li> <li>Drama</li> <li>Workshops</li> <li>Exhibitions</li> <li>Taster Sessions</li> <li>Music</li> <li>Film</li> <li>Creative Industries promotion (tours etc)</li> </ul> <p>It will be mainly delivered via Burnavon Arts Centre and strategic community arts partners and other arts delivery partners</p> <p>It will seek to complement programmes being delivered by Seamus Heaney Homeplace, Hill of The O'Neill/Ranfurly House events, Good Relations, Seachtain na Gaeilge</p> <p>Links will be established with local Businesses to other pre-theatre meals etc.</p> <p>Potential music event / street concert linking partners funding</p>		March 2023 4 week delivery	£10,000	<p>Strategic partner engagement</p> <p>Other organisations which may also have some drama offerings during the period and can be advertised as part of the programme;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pomeroy Players</li> <li>Mid Ulster Drama Society</li> <li>Bright Young Things</li> <li>CastleHill Theatre Group</li> </ul> <p>Arts Festival Forum to be established to advise on delivery</p>



Mid Ulster Arts

Total Arts Budget (from existing budget) £80,000

Contact Details

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Laura Porter Arts Officer Burnavon Arts Centre      E: [laura.porter@midulstercouncil.org](mailto:laura.porter@midulstercouncil.org)      T: 028 867 69949

Hybrid Learning Performance Studio £15,000 (current budget)

The Burnavon Arts and Cultural Centre plan to purchase equipment to allow workshop sessions to be delivered as a hybrid approach. This will allow for live streaming of sessions, or deferred interactions by schools, at a time convenient to them. This approach will be linked to our outreach activity and aims to increase participation numbers.



# DRAFT Consultation Report & Action Plan 2022-25



Policing & Community  
Safety Partnership

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making Mid Ulster safer

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## **Introduction**

### **Background**

Mid Ulster Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) is a statutory body established under the Justice Act Northern Ireland 2011.

The aim of the PCSP is to help make the Mid Ulster community safer by focusing on the policing and community safety issues that matter most. The Partnership is funded by the Department of Justice (DoJ) and the Northern Ireland Policing Board (NIPB) through the Joint Committee.

To help make our community safer Mid Ulster PCSP will:

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

The PCSP consists of Councillors, Independent Members, bodies designated by the NI Assembly, and locally designated bodies. The PCSP will consult, develop and agree local action plans that will be delivered through partnership working and based on local needs.

The Policing Committee is formed from the Councillors and Independent members sitting on the PCSP. The purpose of the Policing Committee is to provide views on policing in their area, monitoring the performance of the Police against the local Policing Plan and ensure the Police deliver against local

priorities and take forward work to gain the co-operation of the public with the police in preventing crime and enhancing community safety within the district. This will complement the work of the wider PCSP that will take forward initiatives to improve community safety in the local area.

## **Strategic Plan**

Mid Ulster PCSP was requested by the Joint Committee (Department of Justice and NI Policing Board) to develop a strategic assessment and action plan for 2022-25.

The Joint Committee has agreed three Strategic Priorities for PCSPs.

***Strategic Priority 1 – To ensure effective delivery in response to local need, and improve the visibility and recognition of the work of the PCSP through effective consultation, communication and engagement***

### ***through:***

- *carrying out meaningful engagement in the district with the local community, relevant statutory partners / agencies, businesses and the community & voluntary sector in the development and implementation of PCSP Action Plans;*
- *ensuring ongoing two-way engagement in the district with the local community, relevant statutory partners / agencies, businesses and the community & voluntary sector to provide a problem-solving forum to identify effective solutions to local issues, ensuring sufficient flexibility to address issues as they emerge, and seeking relevant expertise from the designated organisations as appropriate;*
- *using a range of platforms, including multi-media, to communicate and promote the work of the PCSP; and*
- *increasing awareness of the work of the PCSP.*

**Strategic Priority 2** - To improve community safety by prioritising and addressing local community safety issues, tackling crime and anti-social behaviour

**through**

- utilising the partnership created by the statutory, elected and independent/ community membership of the PCSP to initiate and lead work to improve community safety and tackle ASB locally;
- working in partnership to develop outcome and locality focused interventions to address the most pressing crime types and behaviours impacting local community safety, as evidenced by local need, with appropriate targets and indicators so that impacts can be measured;
- drawing on best practice, promote early intervention and collaborating effectively to improve PCSP-supported projects and programmes that address the underlying causes of ASB, crime and the fear of crime in the community, including, where appropriate, a focus on changing behaviours;
- enhancing safety and feelings of safety, in particular for those who might be more vulnerable;
- engaging with partners in the district, to horizon scan in order to respond to and re-direct resources to respond to emerging local community safety issues;
- having cognisance of the Community Safety Framework in developing local plans, and providing a feedback loop to the Community Safety Board on local issues in order to inform community safety policy development – and vice versa; and
- providing comprehensive community input into decision making processes about tackling actual and perceived anti-social behaviour and giving feedback to the community on the effectiveness of interventions on meeting outcomes.

**Strategic Priority 3** – To support confidence in policing, including through collaborative problem solving with communities

**through**

- ensuring local accountability through the Policing Committee's role in monitoring police performance;
- identifying priorities from the PCSP Plan for consideration in the development of the local Policing Plan which are consistent with the Northern Ireland Policing Plan;
- providing views to the District Commander through the Policing Committee and supporting the PSNI to engage with the community to identify and address local problems;
- delivering initiatives that link to identified local problems that impact confidence in policing;
- carrying out meaningful local events aimed at increasing PSNI engagement with local communities to build and strengthen public confidence in policing;
- delivering PCSP initiatives in the hardest to reach communities;
- providing a platform for the PCSP and PSNI to engage with young people, including on the themes of upholding the rule of law, and of ways of increasing confidence in policing; and
- building community confidence in the rule of law by helping mitigate the harm caused to people and communities by paramilitarism, criminality and organised crime consistent with wider Programme for Government objectives and through use of co-design principles, where appropriate.

1.1 The Strategic Priorities may however be reviewed at any time by Joint Committee to ensure that they are fit for purpose in relation to the effectiveness of PCSPs.

1.2 In addressing the three Strategic Priorities, PCSPs are required to take account of a number of developments, including:

### **(a) The Community Safety Framework**

The purpose of the Community Safety Framework is to ensure effective connectivity between the community safety work of the responsible agencies and provide an operational roadmap on how to collectively deliver the safer community objectives set out in the PfG and Community Plans, whilst providing the mechanism to respond proactively and reactively to operational need.

**The Framework can be viewed at:**

<https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/community-safety-framework>

### **(b) The Northern Ireland Policing Plan 2020-2025 and Annual Performance Plan 2020/2021**

The Northern Ireland Policing Plan 2020-2025 and the Annual Performance Plan 2020/2021 were developed using the principles of Outcomes Based Accountability (OBA). They outline Outcomes, Indicators and Measures which clearly demonstrate improvement in police performance, in line with the draft Programme for Government (PfG).

The Policing Plan contains three outcomes for policing over the next five years:

- We have a safe community;
- We have confidence in policing; and
- We have engaged and supportive communities.

These outcomes are underpinned by 9 indicators, which will quantify the achievement of the outcome, and 11 measures which will be used to evaluate how well PSNI are performing in 2020/21. The indicators and measures are outlined in detail in the Annual Performance Plan for 2020/21.



**The Northern Ireland Policing Plan and current Annual Performance Plan can be viewed at:**

[https://www.nipolicingboard.org.uk/sites/nipb/files/publications/policing-plan-2020-25-and-annual-performace-plan202122\\_0.pdf](https://www.nipolicingboard.org.uk/sites/nipb/files/publications/policing-plan-2020-25-and-annual-performace-plan202122_0.pdf)

**(c) Criminal Justice Inspection NI report “[Working together for Safer Communities: A review of Policing and Community Safety Partnerships in Northern Ireland](#)”.**

In August 2019 the Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland (CJINI) published its findings<sup>1</sup> for its most recent PCSP inspection.

The positive contribution made by Police and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs) to improving community safety and engagement with the police, has been highlighted in a new report.

However, the Deputy Chief Inspector said PCSPs had the capacity to develop further and CJI has made seven recommendations to enhance their profile, governance and operational arrangements.

**(d) Public Satisfaction with PCSPs**

The Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey was cancelled indefinitely from 2018. To gauge public satisfaction with PCSPs, consider conducting local PCSP

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.cjini.org/getattachment/010eb06d-a1b7-46b9-85cd-50af58cb6f98/Policing-and-Community-Safety-Partnerships.aspx>

Community Surveys or refer to the Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey at [www.ark.ac.uk/nilt/](http://www.ark.ac.uk/nilt/)

The Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey (NISCS), previously known as the Northern Ireland Crime Survey, may also be used. This is a representative, continuous, personal interview survey of the experiences and perceptions of crime of approximately 4,000 adults living in private households throughout Northern Ireland.

All the published findings for Perceptions of Crime can be accessed at: [Perceptions of Crime Publications | Department of Justice \(justice-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

The **Northern Ireland Safe Community Survey** can be accessed from: <http://nics.intranet.nigov.net/nics/news/experience-crime-findings-201920-northern-ireland-safe-community-survey>

#### **(e) Together: Building a United Community**

The Northern Ireland Executive's Good Relations Strategy, Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC), which was launched by the First Minister and Deputy First Minister in May 2013, has four key priorities:

- Our Children and Young People;
- Our Shared Community;
- Our Safe Community; and
- Our Cultural Expression.

<https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/topics/good-relations-and-social-change/together-building-united-community-tbuc>

## **(f) Tackling Paramilitary Activity, Criminality, and Organised Crime Programme**

The Executive is currently implementing Phase two of the Tackling Paramilitary Activity, Criminality, and Organised Crime Programme. The Programme is aiming to build safer communities resilient to paramilitarism, criminality, and coercive control. This includes work to keep people safe from the harm caused by paramilitary groups and work to build resilience among individuals and communities.

Information about the Phase 2 can be accessed from:

<https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/articles/executive-programme-tackling-paramilitary-activity-and-organised-crime> and [View the Action Plan and interim review for phase one of the Programme](#)

## **(g) Community Planning**

The Criminal Justice Inspection NI report “PCSPs, A review of governance, delivery and outcomes” recommended that the Community Plan should be the focal point for delivery of the long-term aims of the PCSP and that the action plans of the PCSPs should feed into the Community Plan.

As part of the community planning process, each council area has provided an assurance that PCSPs will be considered as the key delivery mechanism for community safety actions within community plans. Accordingly, actions within the PCSP action plans should align with community safety actions within the community plan.

## **Mid Ulster Area Profile**

The estimated population of Mid Ulster Local Government District at 30 June 2020 was 148,953, of which 74,851 (50.3%) were male and 74,102 (49.7%) were female. This was made up of:

- 34,800 children aged 0-15 years;
- 45,952 people aged 16-39 years;
- 46,209 people aged 40-64 years; and
- 21,992 people 65 years and older.

Between 2010 and 2020 the population of Mid Ulster Local Government District increased by 11,732 people or 8.5%. The population of Mid Ulster LGD is projected to increase to 159,208 by mid 2030.

### **Employment Rate**

In 2018, 16-64 (working age) employment rate in Mid Ulster Local Government District was 74.2%. The overall 16-64 employment rate for Northern Ireland was 70.0%.

### **Economic Activity**

In 2018, it was estimated that 76.5% of those aged 16-64 living in Mid Ulster Local Government District were economically active (either employed or unemployed) and 23.5% were economically inactive (people who are neither in employment nor unemployed). This group includes, for example, all those who were looking after a home or retired, long term sick or disabled.

This compares with 72.8% economically active and 27.2% economically inactive for Northern Ireland.

### **Qualification Level**

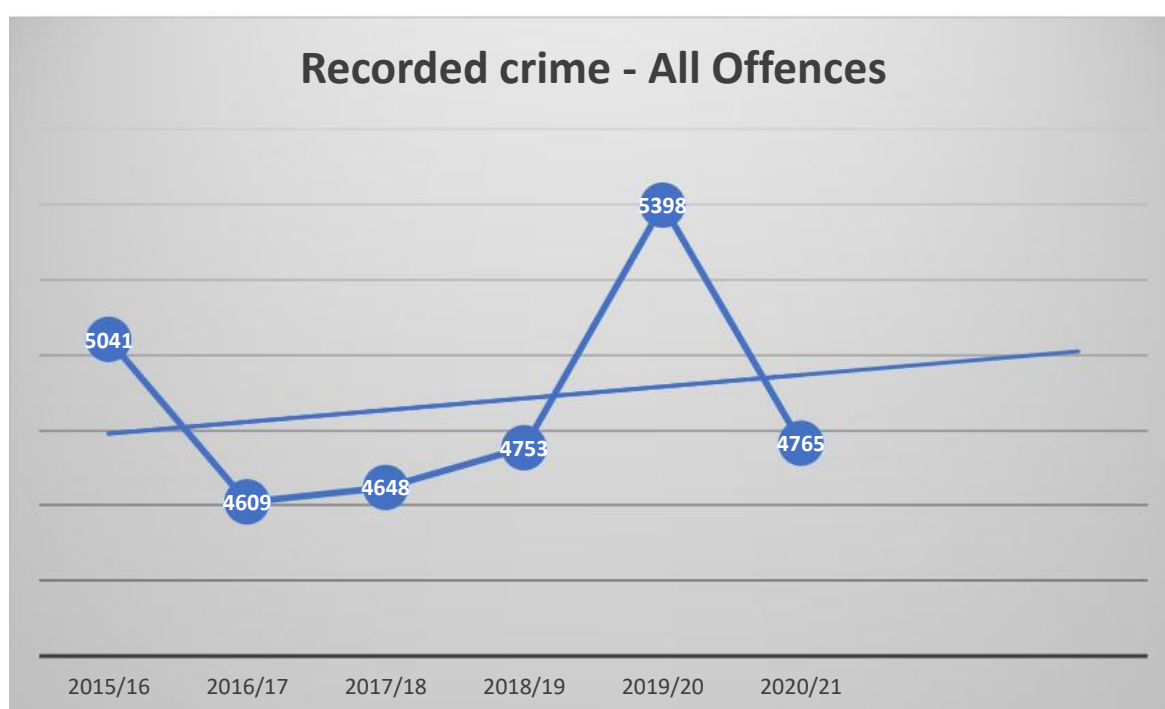
In 2018, of those persons aged 16-64 in Mid Ulster Local Government District, 33.9% were qualified to Degree level or above (NI Average: 34.9%), whilst 19.4% had 'no qualifications' (NI Average: 14.7%).

## Statistics

Official PSNI recorded statistics were obtained from NISRA. These statistics are presented in graphs. Each graph has a line that outlines the overall trend and future forecast for each crime type/incident.

### **Recorded Crime**

Since 2015/16 there was a lower level of recorded crime across the Mid Ulster district. In 2019/20 the figure has risen but subsequently fallen in 2020/21 and this has pushed up the trend forecast slightly.



## Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) Statistics

From 2015 incidents of ASB reduced across the Mid Ulster district. However the figures spiked in 2020/21. This may be due to the inclusion of Covid offences.

This has changed a downward trend from the previous years to an upward trend.



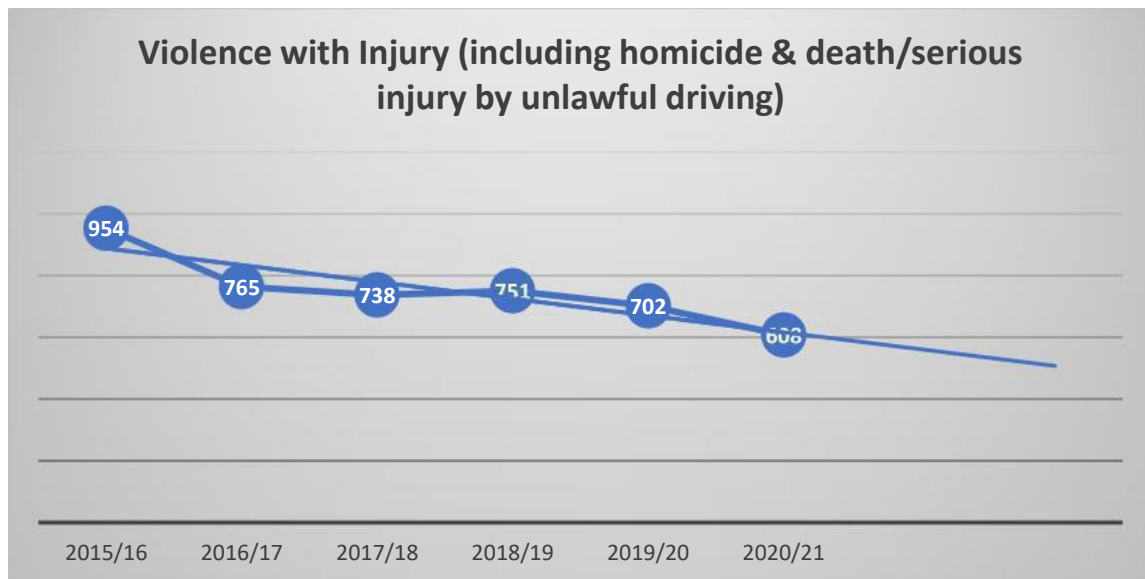
## Youth Justice Agency

The statistics for the numbers of young people involved with the Youth Justice Services shows a steady level since 2015/16. The trend forecast is that figures will continue to remain steady.



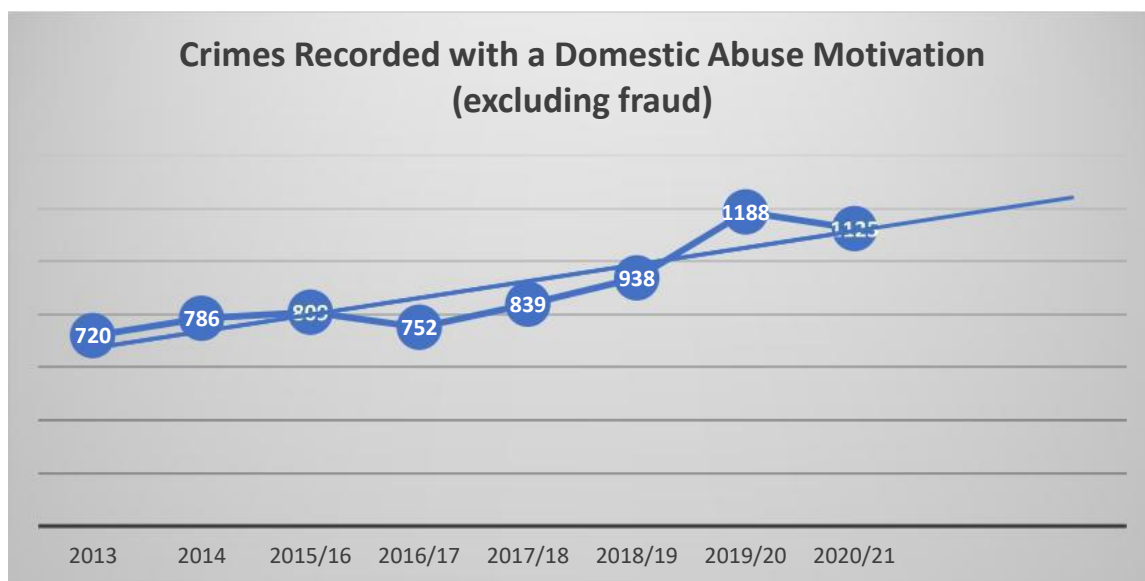
## Violence with Injury

Overall, Violence with injury (including homicide) is reducing in the district. The trend forecast is that figures will continue to reduce.



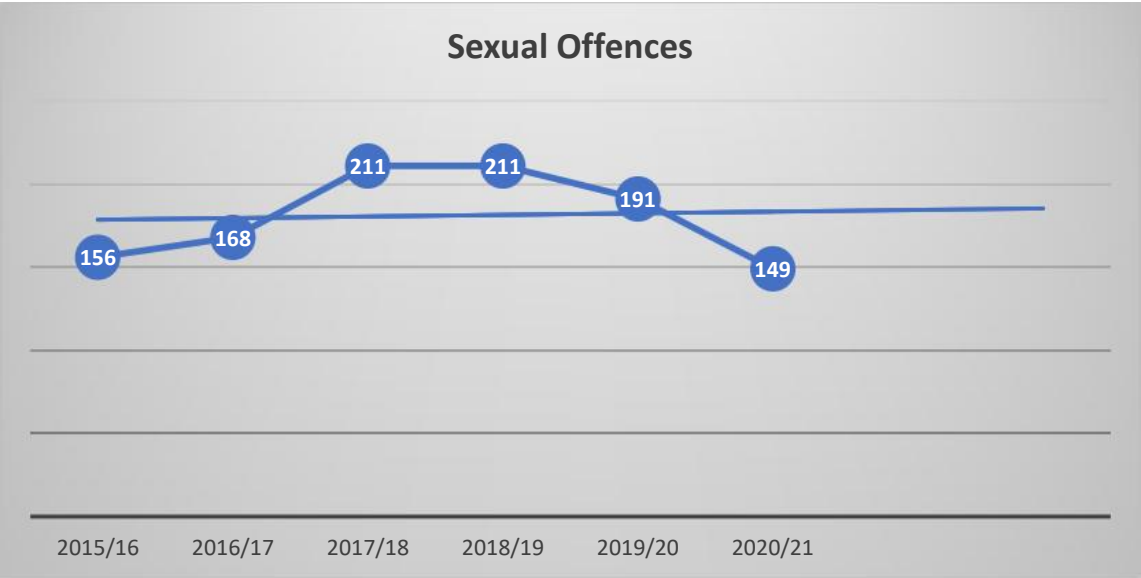
## Domestic Abuse

Since 2015/16 reported crimes with a Domestic Abuse motivation (excluding fraud) have increased in the district. The trend forecast is that figures will continue to increase.



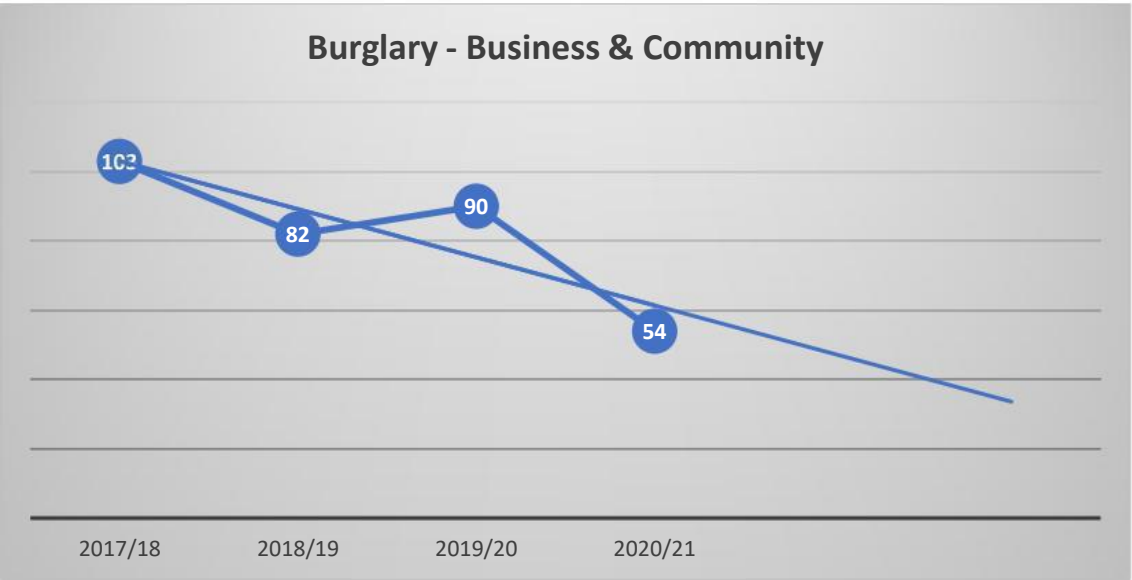
**Sexual Offences**

The trend for Sexual Offences is flat as offences have reduced in the previous two years.



**Domestic Burglary**

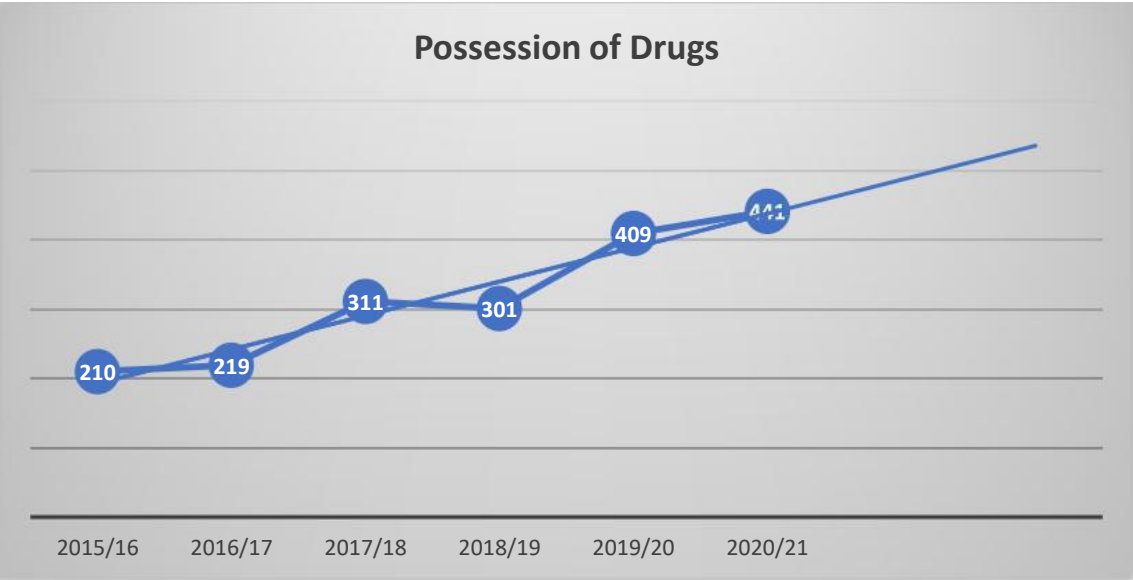
Overall, Domestic Burglary has decreased in the district. The trend forecast is downward. Please note that the method of recording Burglaries changed in 2017/18.



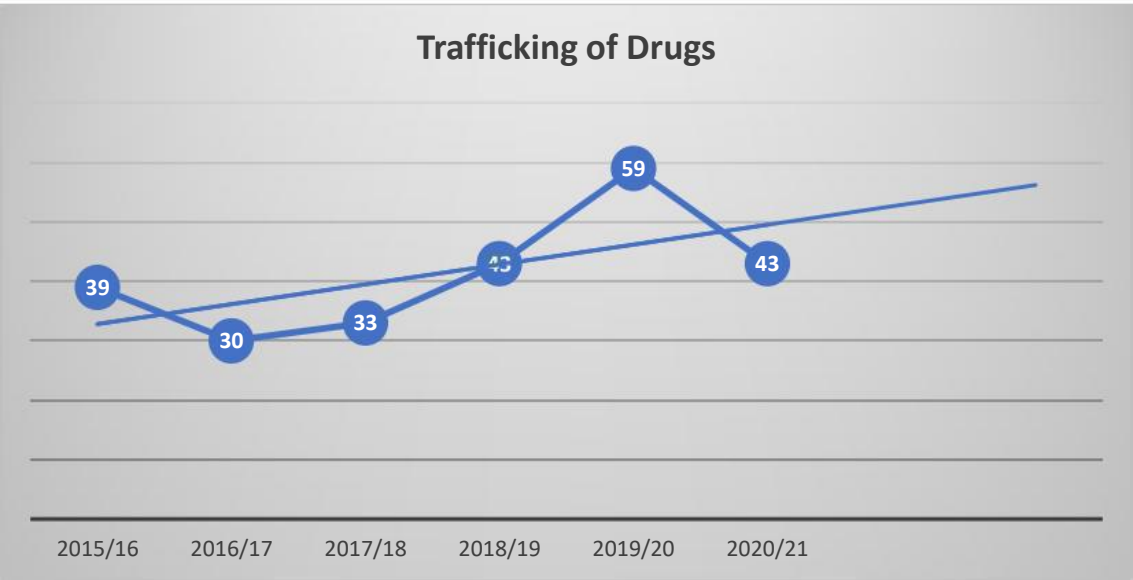


**Drugs**

Possession of Drugs has increased from 2015/16. The trend forecast is that figures will continue to increase.

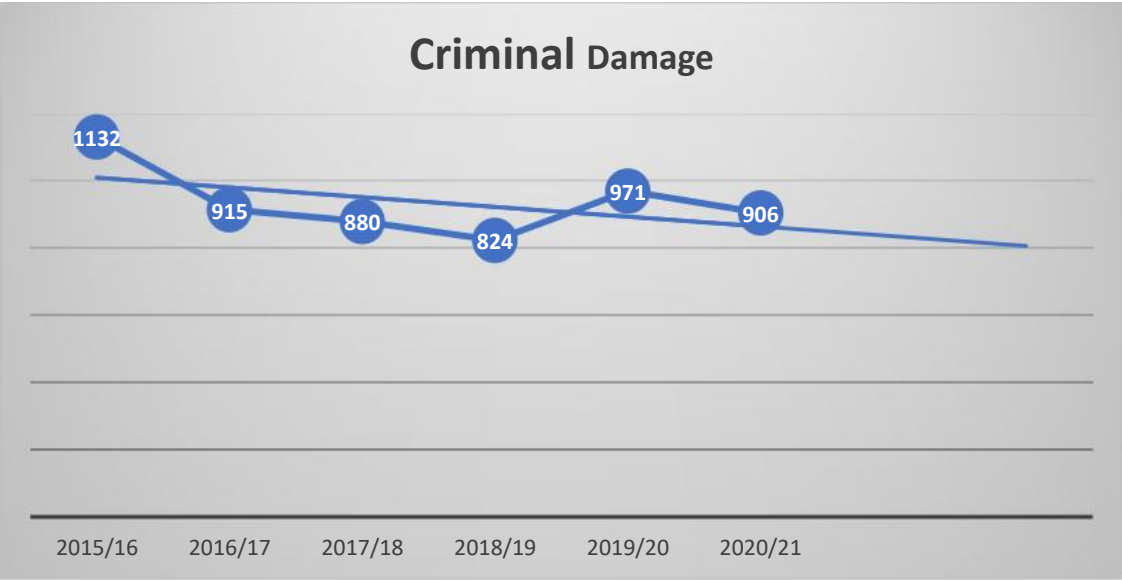


Trafficking of drugs has increased slightly in the Mid Ulster area since 2015/16. The trend forecast is upwards.



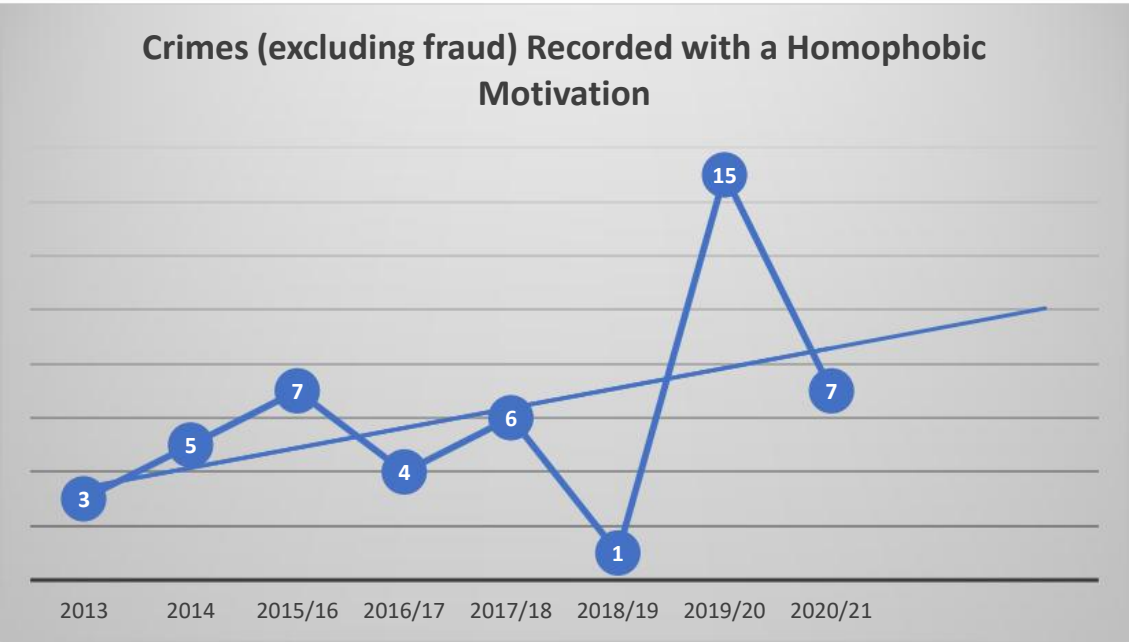
**Criminal Damage**

Criminal Damage has reduced since 2015/16 across the Mid Ulster area. The trend forecast is that figures will continue to reduce.

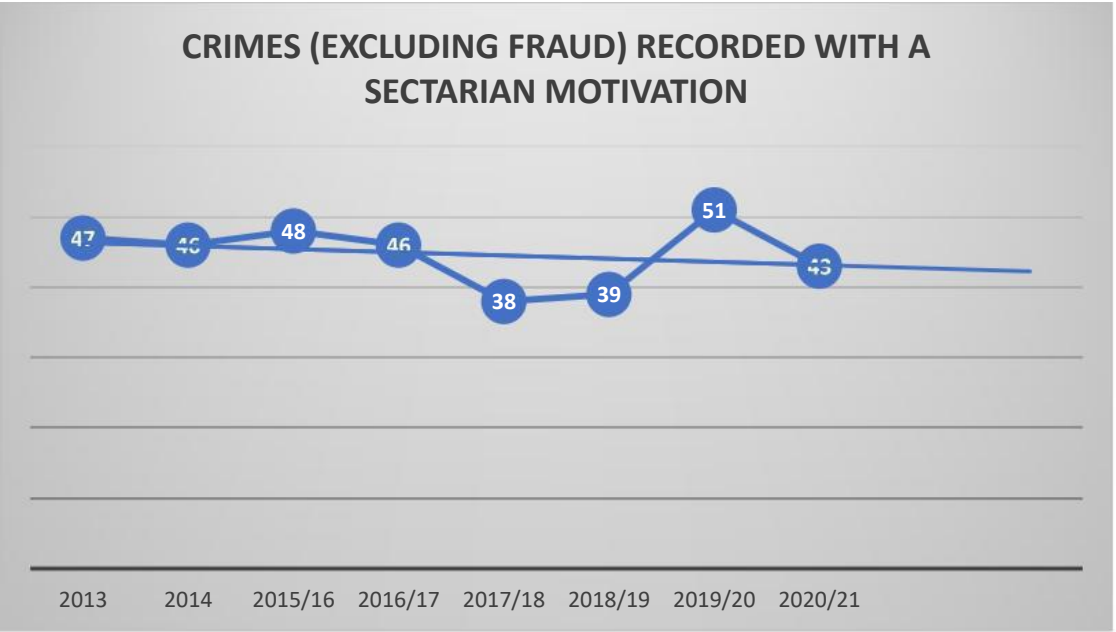


**Hate Crime**

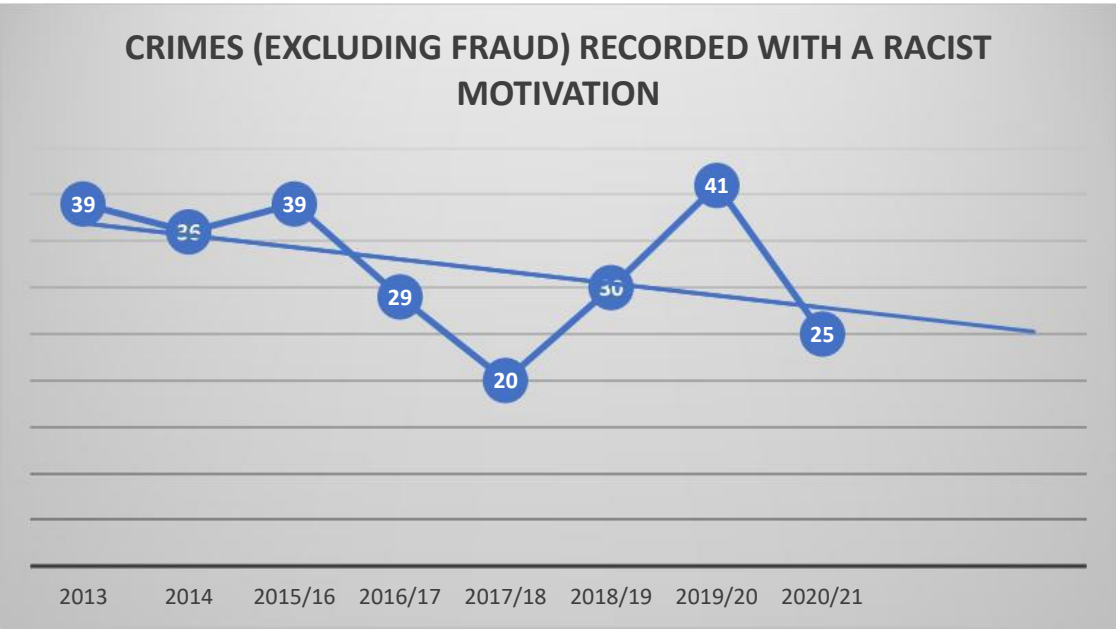
Recorded Hate Crime with Homophobic motivation has increased in 2019/20. The trend forecast is slightly up. However it must be noted that the low numbers of reported crimes may not provide an accurate statistical interpretation.



Recorded Hate Crime with a Sectarian motivation has stayed at the same levels since 2015/16 The trend forecast is flat.

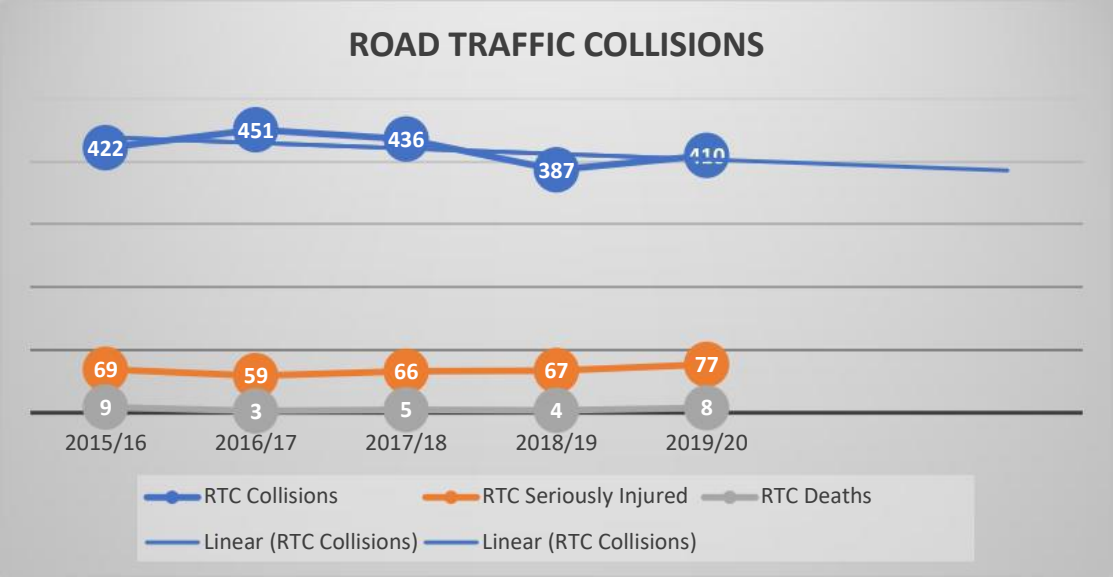


Recorded Hate Crime with a Racist motivation has varied from 2015/16. The current trend forecast is slightly down.



Road Traffic Collisions

Road traffic collisions has reduced slightly in previous years, with a slightly downward trend line.



## Community Audit

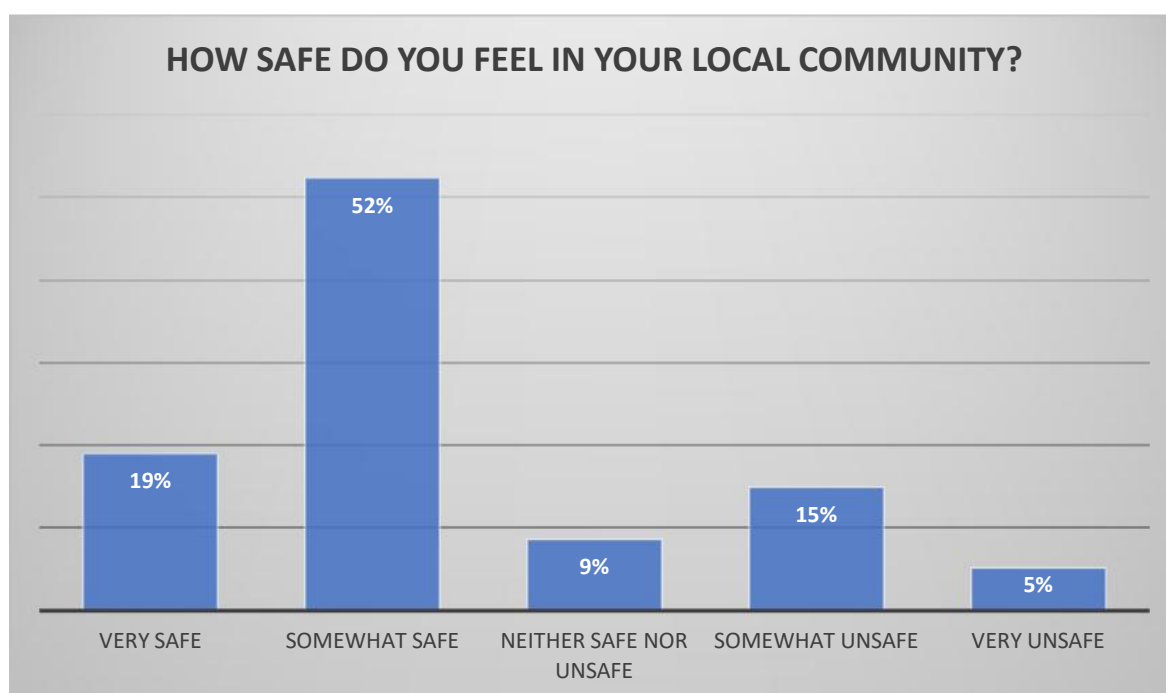
To assist PCSP members three specific community consultation surveys were undertaken in November and December 2021; a general community survey, youth survey, and an older persons survey.

## Community Survey

This survey was promoted through social media utilising all PCSP members accounts and also the text alert system. 176 people responded to this survey.

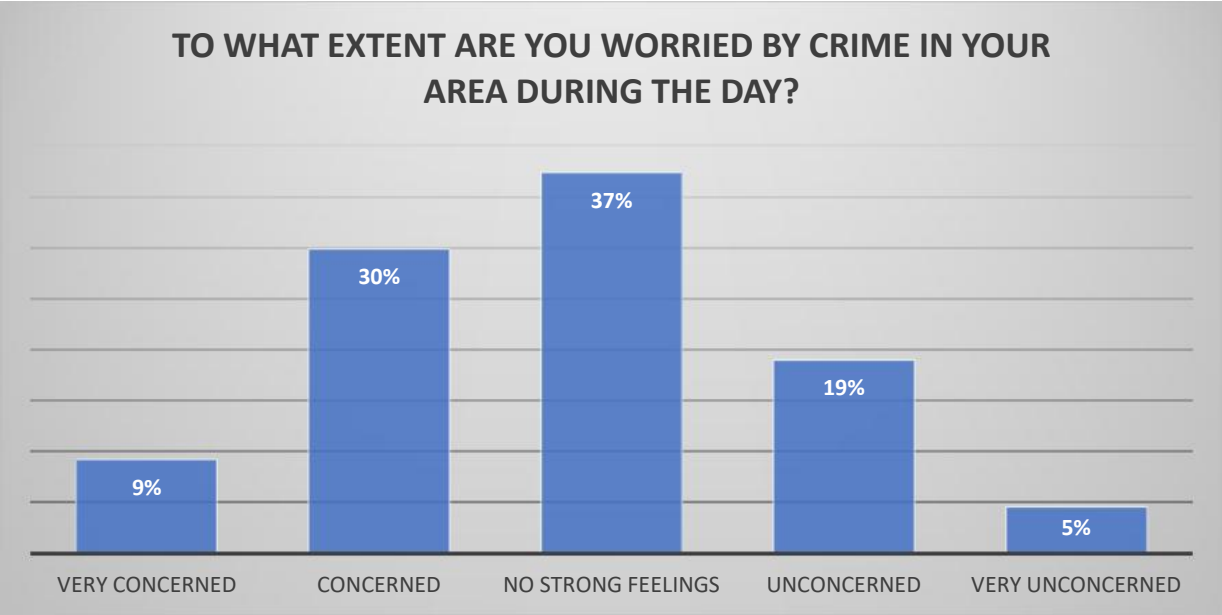
### **Safety**

71% stated that they feel safe or very safe in their community. 20% stated that they felt unsafe or very unsafe

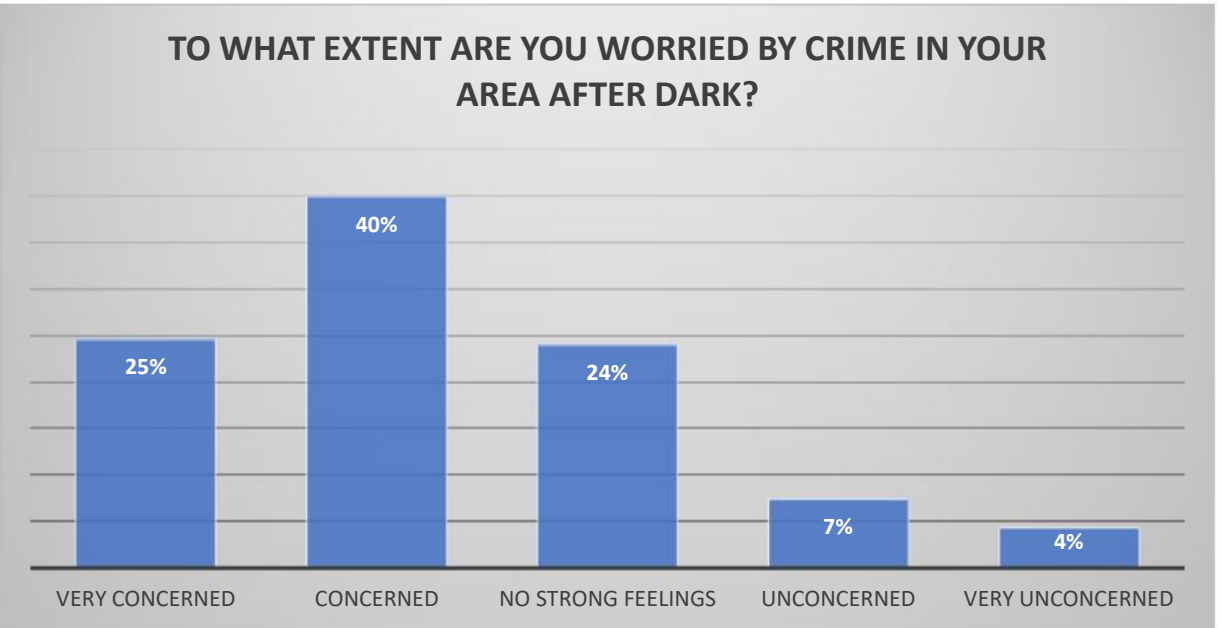


**Fear of Crime**

39% of respondents stated that they concerned or very concerned by crime in their area during the day



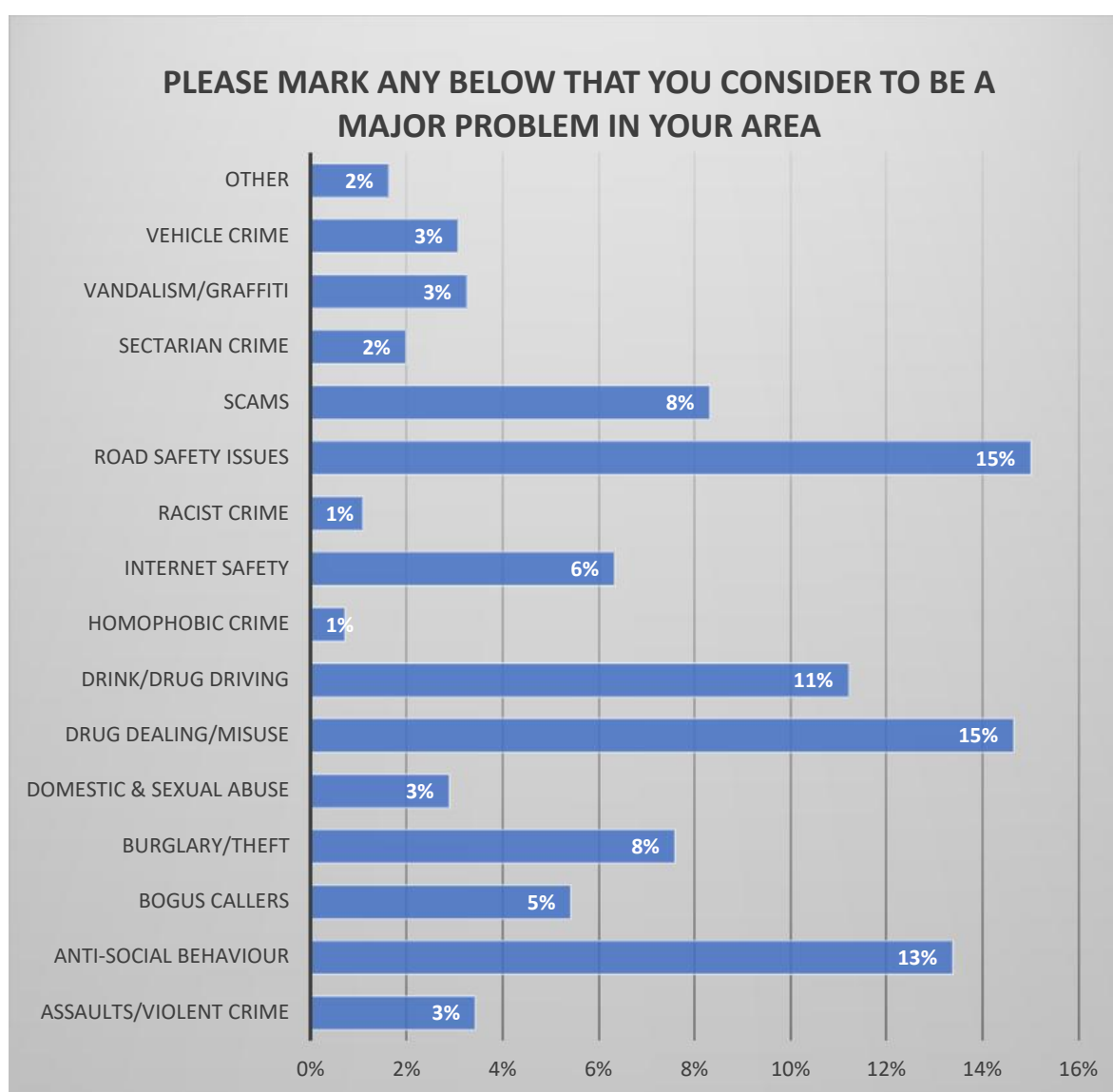
65% of respondents stated that they concerned or very concerned by crime in their area at night.



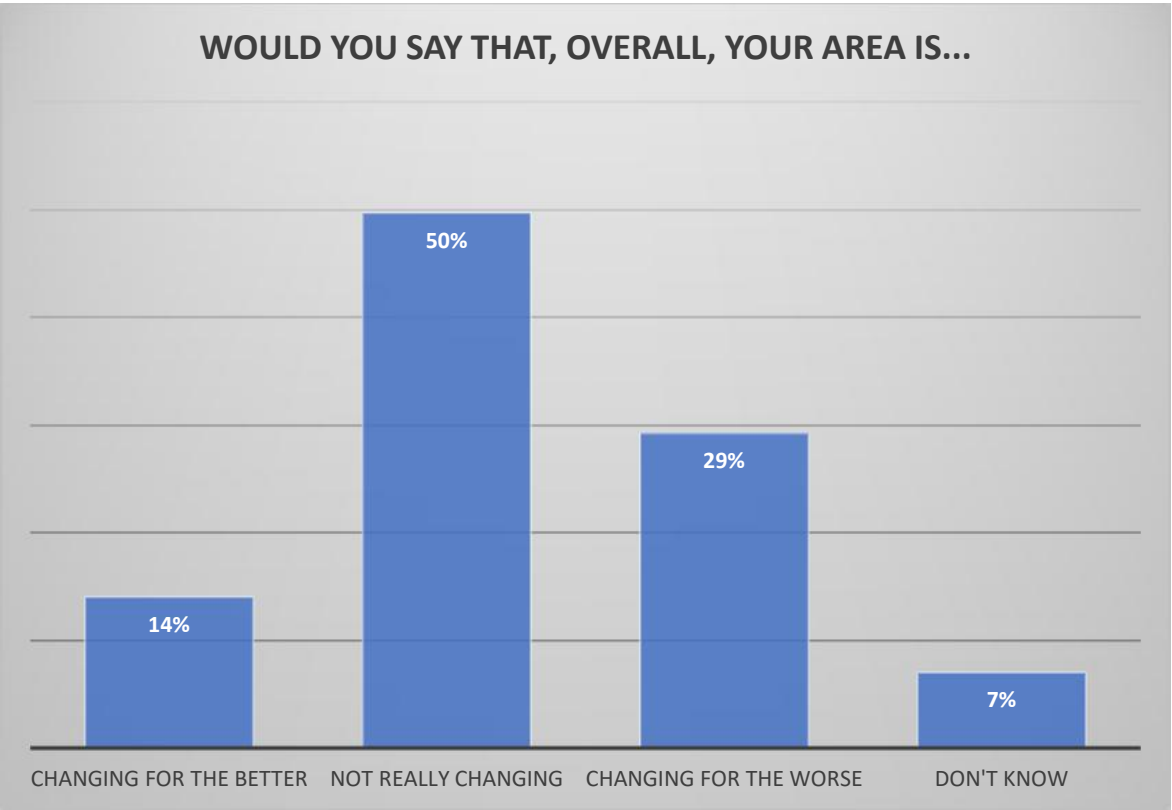
## Perceptions of Crime

Respondents stated they considered the following to be major problems in their area.

- |                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| 1. Road Safety Issues    | 15% |
| 2. Drug Dealing/Misuse   | 15% |
| 2. Anti-social Behaviour | 13% |
| 4. Drink/Drug Driving    | 11% |
| 5. Scams                 | 8%  |
| 6. Burglary/Theft        | 8%  |



64% of respondents stated their area was changing for the better or not really changing. 29% stated that their area was changing for the worse

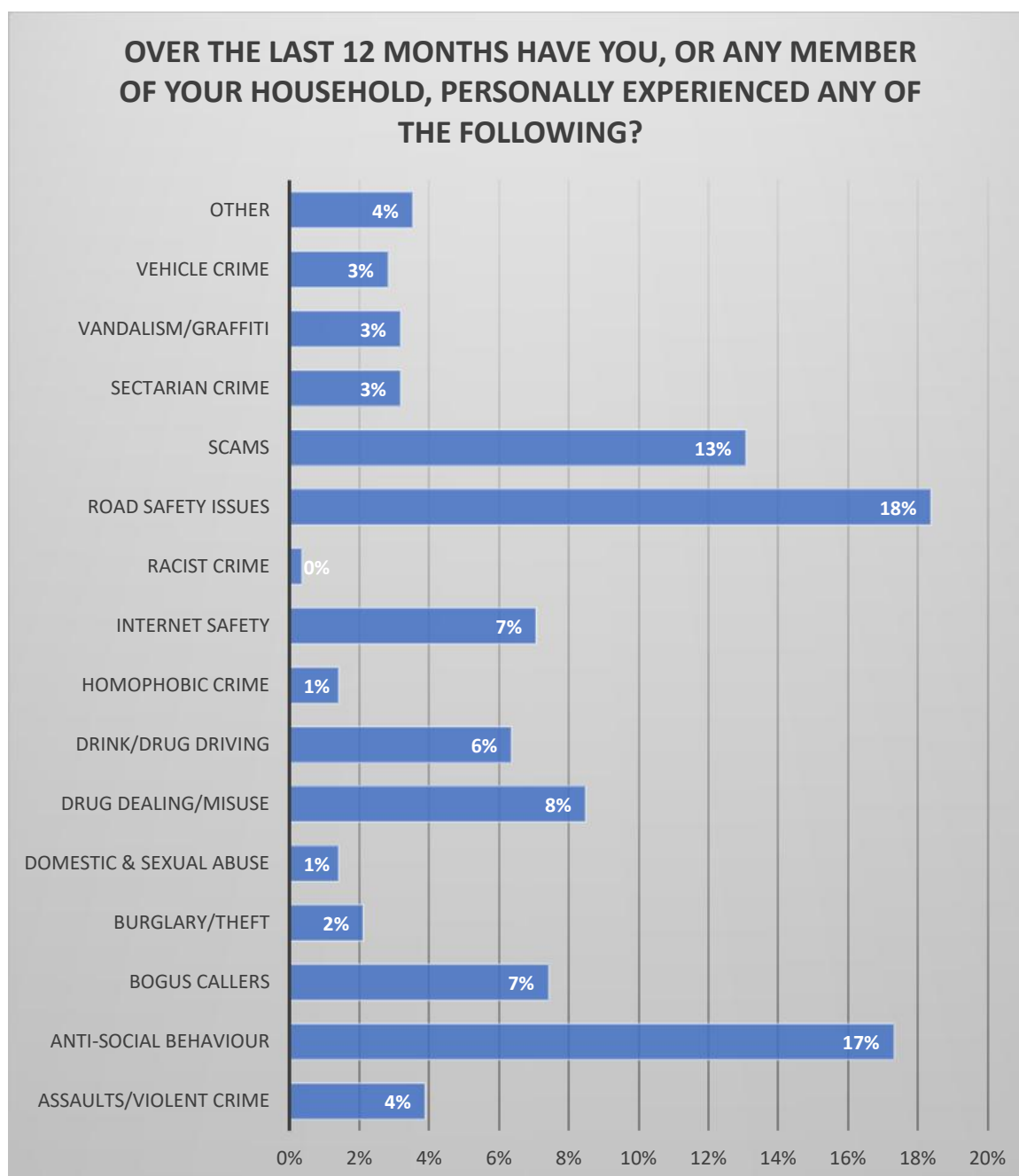




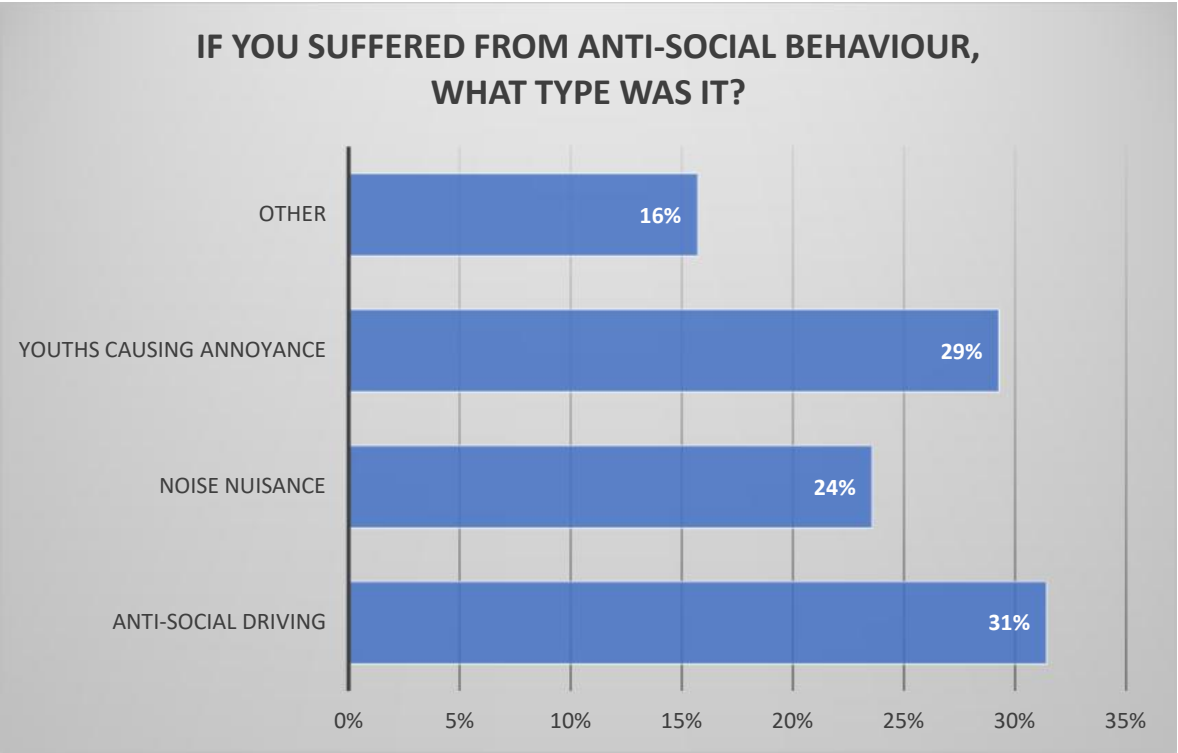
## Experience of Crime

Respondents stated that, over the preceding 12 months, they or a member of their household personally experienced the following:

1. Road Safety Issues 18%
2. Anti-social Behaviour 17%
3. Scams 13%

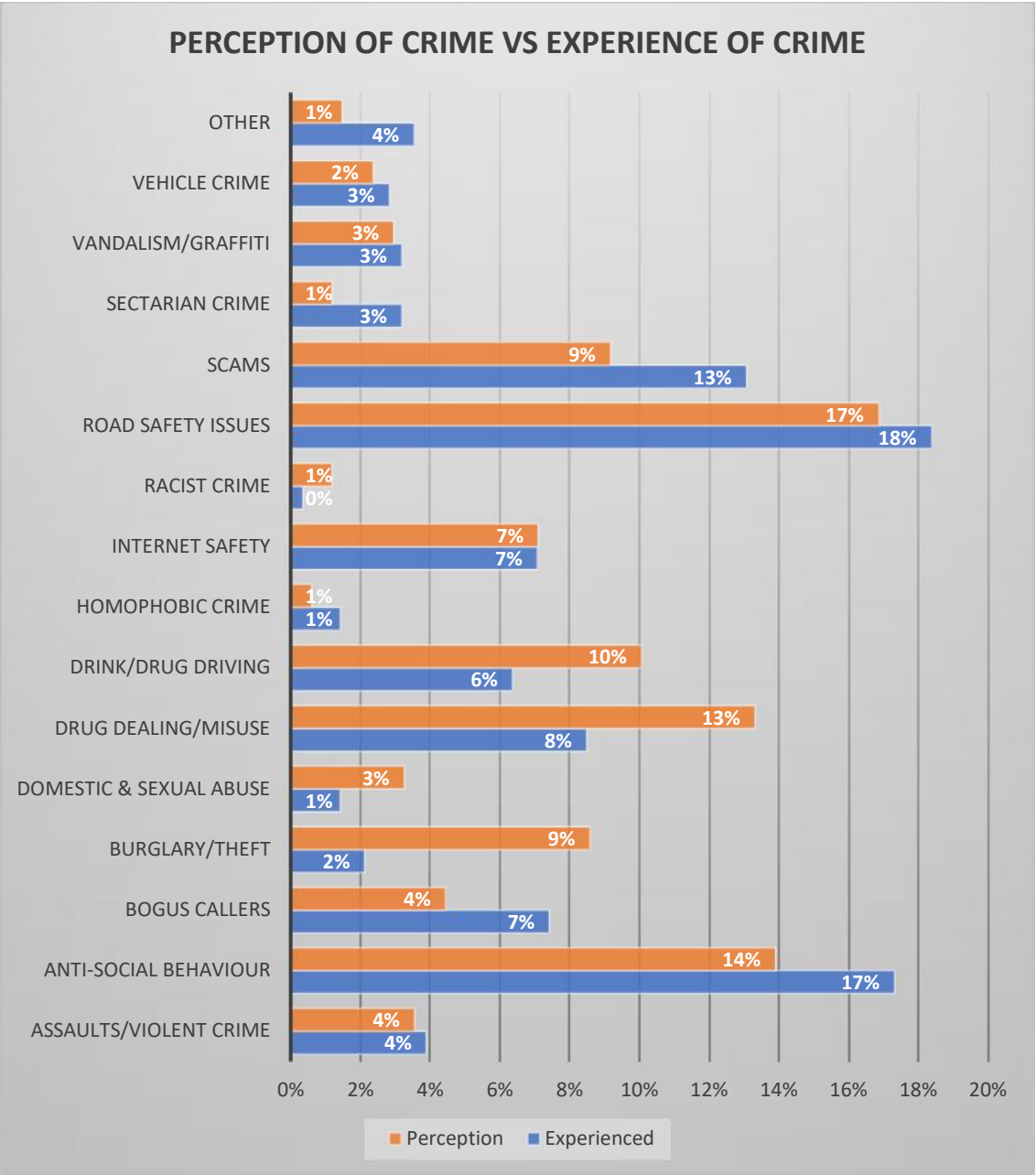


For those who suffered from anti-social behaviour:



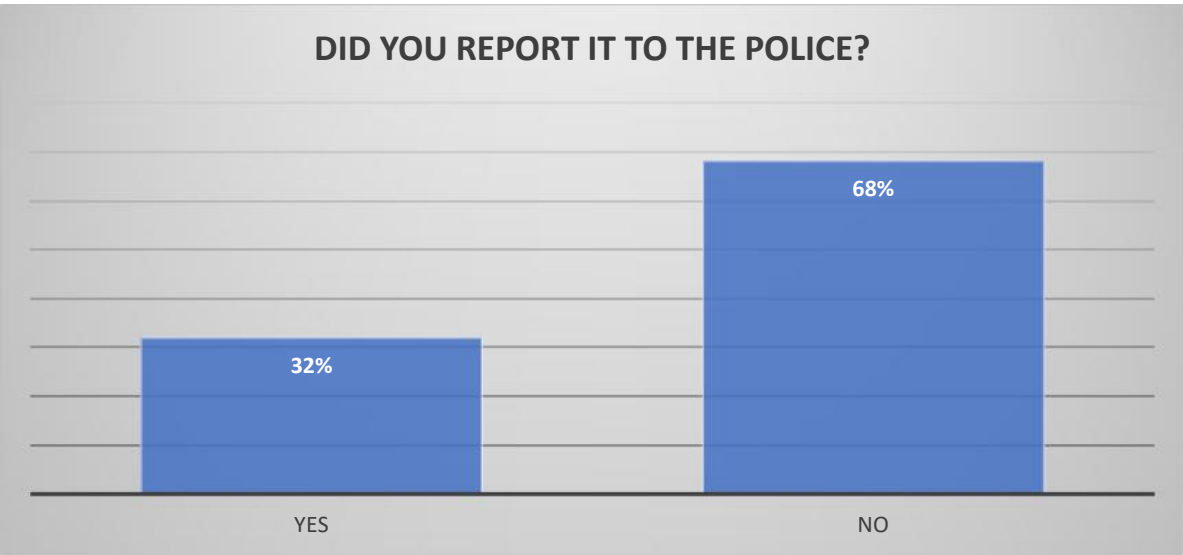
Comparing perception of crime and actual crime experienced we find the following:

- Perception of scams as a problem is low compared with actual experience.
- Drug related offences have a higher perception than experience.
- Burglary has a higher perception than experience.

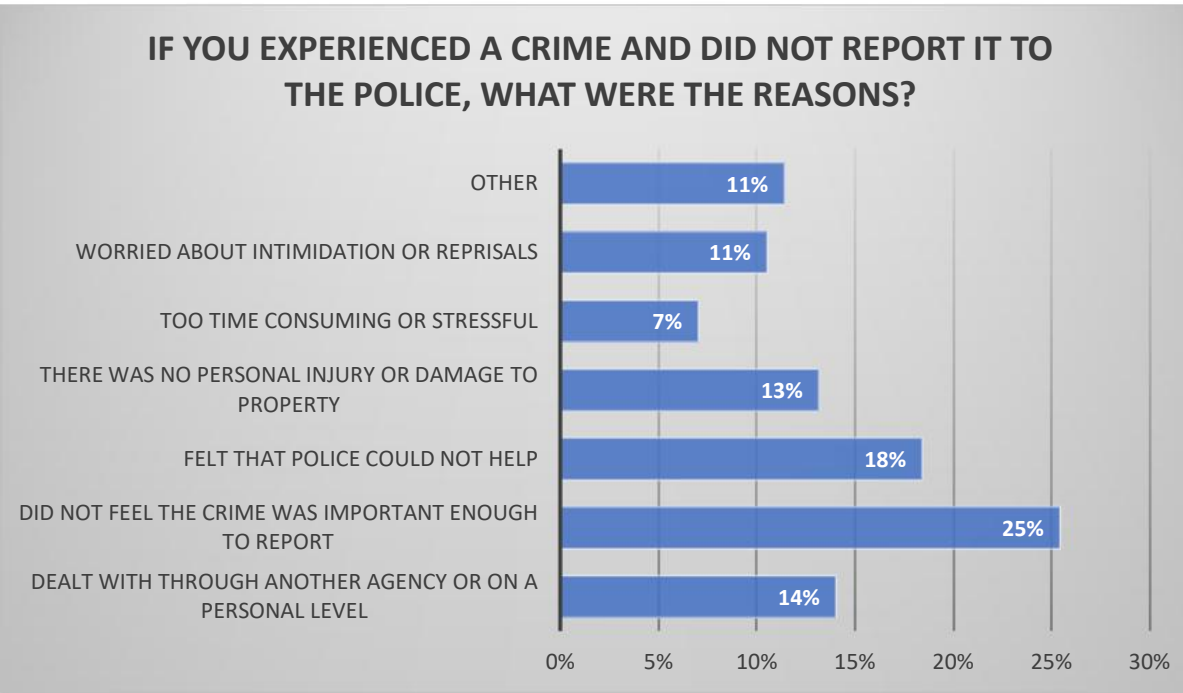


**Reporting of Crime**

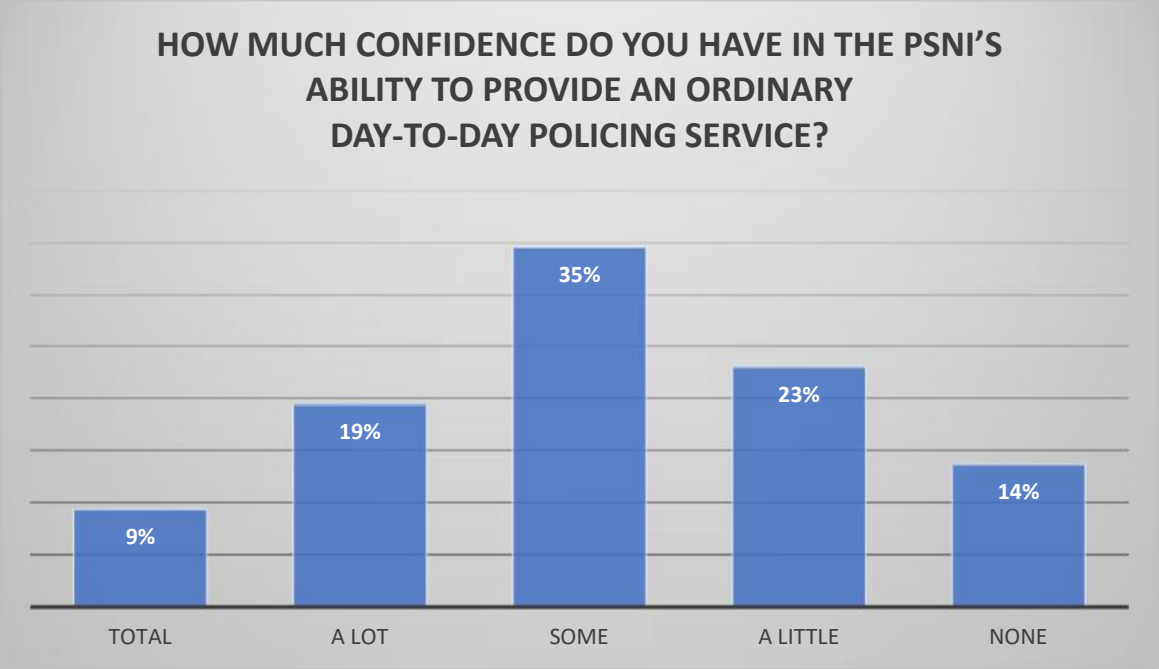
32% of those that experienced an incident/crime stated that they reported it to the PSNI.



For those that experienced an incident/crime and didn't report it, the two main reasons were that the respondent did not feel the incident/crime was important enough to report (25%), or that the respondent felt that the police could not help (18%).



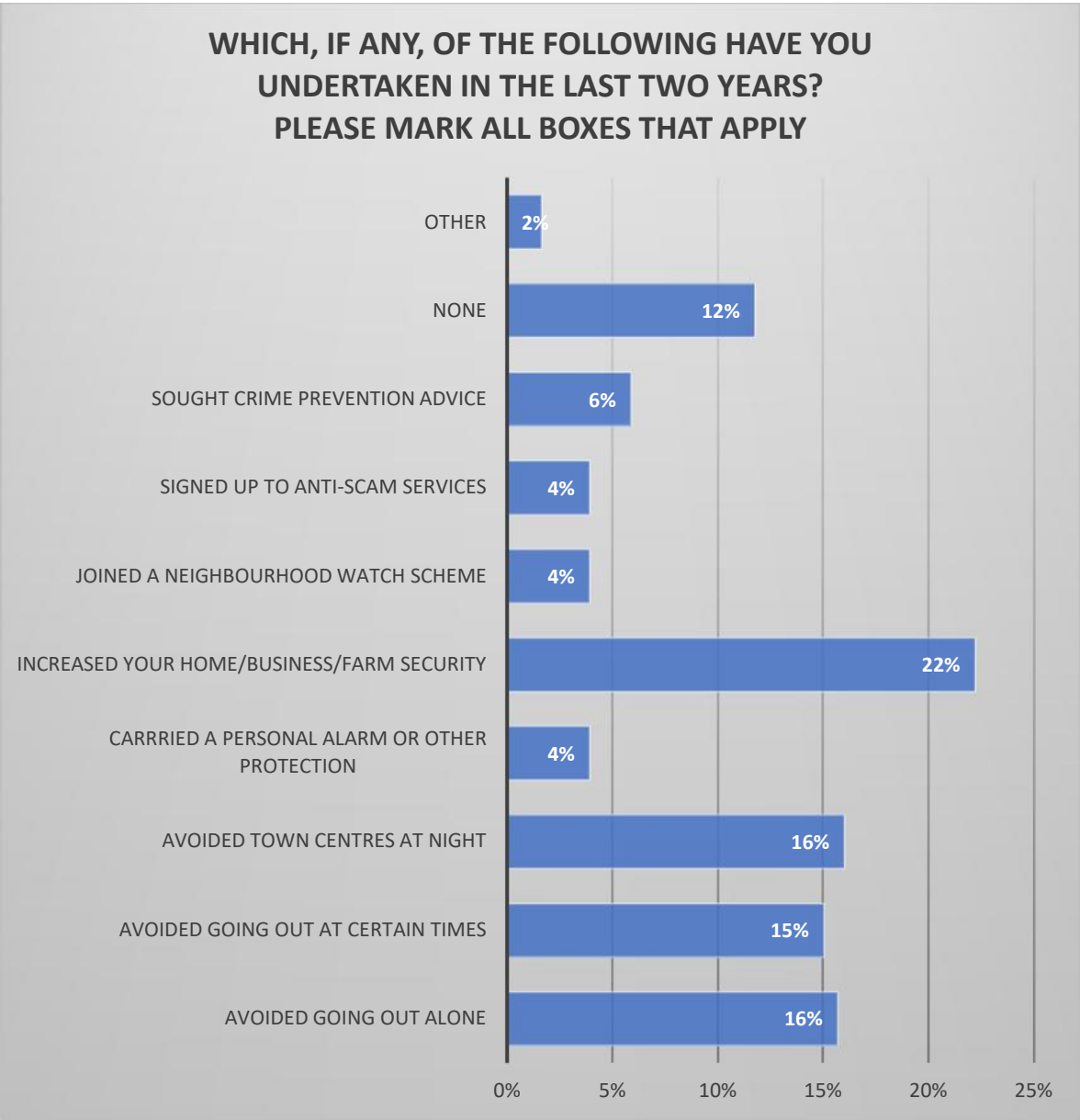
63% of respondents stated that they had some to total confidence in the PSNI's ability to provide an ordinary day to day policing service. 23% stated a little and 14% stated none.



# Crime Prevention

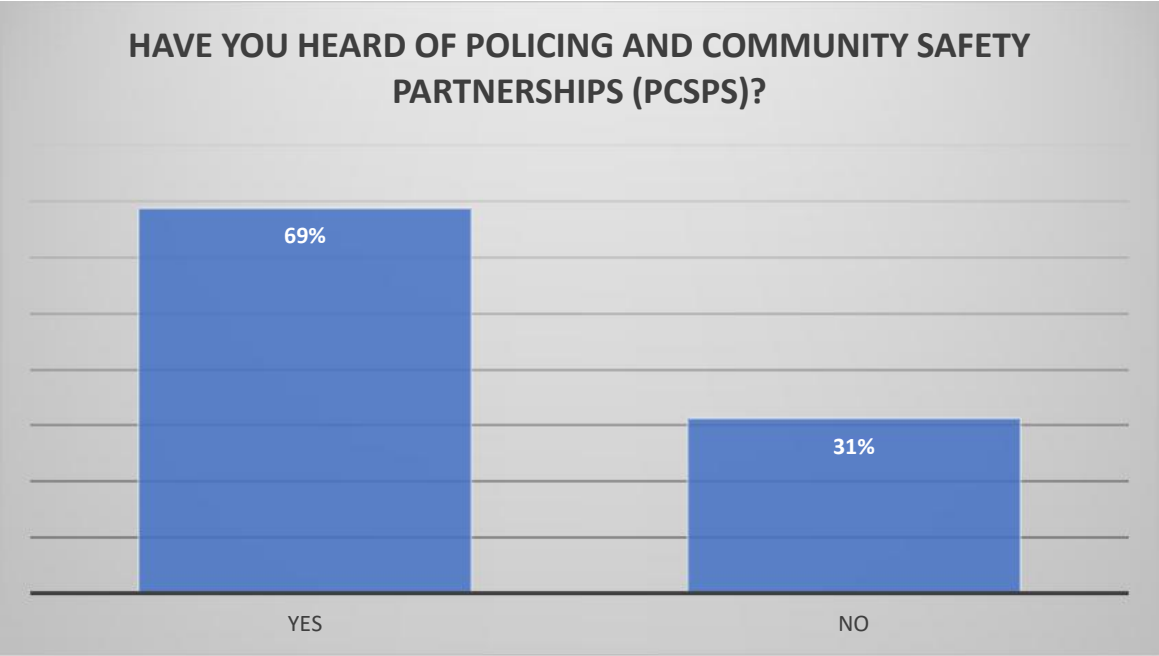
Respondents stated that they had taken the following crime prevention measures in the last 2 years

- 1. Increased home/farm/business security 22%
- 2. Avoided town centres at night 16%
- 3. Avoided going out alone 16%
- 4. Avoided going out at certain times 15%

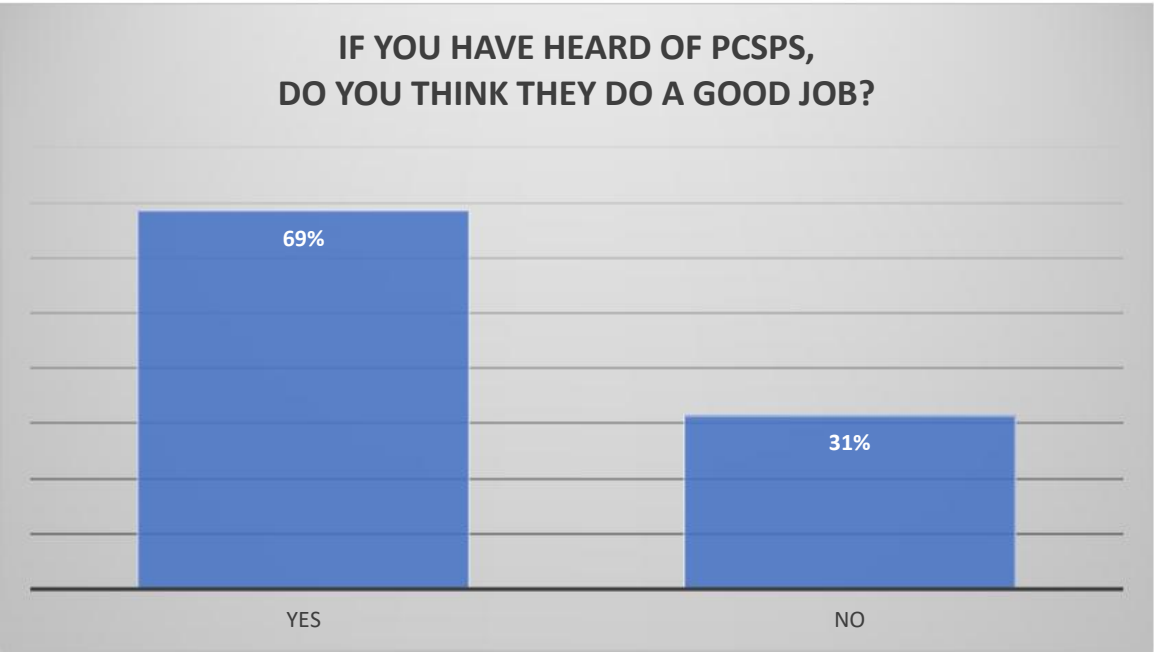


**Awareness of PCSPs**

69% of respondents stated they had heard of Policing & Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs).



69% of respondents, who had heard of PCSPs, stated that they think PCSPs do a good job.



## What would have biggest impact on reducing crime?

Respondents were asked the following: “Apart from increasing police numbers, what single step would have the biggest impact on reducing crime, antisocial behaviour, and the fear of crime in your area?”

The responses are listed below, as originally submitted.

More patrolling
Seeing crime being dealt with and not ignored
Parental responsibility
More visual police patrols, more engagement with officers in the community
Treating people equal
Not enough being done to bring these people to court, even when you have evidence on camera you are let down every time and so the person continues to do it
Deal with those that commit crime rather than ignore it
Report to the police
Police patrolling on foot speaking to local residents
Funding for anti-crime campaigns
More mobile patrols in unmarked cars in all areas
Dealing with speeding daytime Road racing at night in Upperlands
Dealing with road racers at nighttime in and around Kilrea road
Cameras
Adults taking responsibility for themselves and their children
Visible police presence at certain times of evening, alternative activities for youth, more lighting in town...especially the car park at centra/home bargains
More interaction during daytime
Better lighting on streets
Get rid of 101 as I tried to use it to report a crime in progress once used it as was not sure if it was crime . So unimpressed. Someone tried to use to report car blocking my driveway, no help. Will never try again
Increased police numbers will be no use because they have to on the ground doing their job not driving around in cars .
More interaction with the people/groups involved
Better street lighting and routine visible police presence.
More speed cheking
Engagement with people
Speed humps
Visible patrolling on foot
Action taken when crime is reported
Improve Mental Health Awareness
Locals on the street
Tougher punishment



Having better lighting and cctv and zero tolerance for offenders
Clamp down on bad dry
Better Road lighting in rural areas
Get rid of Muslims and foriners
The police may b a lot more helpful if when violence is taking part as they watch if they actually took action instead of turning a blind eye constantly
More patrols in rural areas
Following up blatant anti social behaviour
Reporting it ,people being more security aware
speed checks in village (Castlecaulfield)
Road checks for speed and police on boat.
Be Vigilant at all times.
Direct action and stricter consequences
More police resources
Our area does not have any problems at the moment
Speed traps at weekends
Any one stealing caught on your land u should be aloud to cut there hands off
More interaction and support
Better laws to protect the innocent
Tougher sentences
Overt police patrolling
Awareness
Working in community
Been able to lift the phone and get through to your local station
A officer or 2 on the beat from time to time would help , its the answer , you can't police any area if you aren't in it ,
Big find
With reference to the drug abuse more. Plain. Clothing dealing is on the. Rise in. The area
Listening and responding appropriately
The polic not be so tolerant when youths cause damage by vandalism
Have an elected ombudsman and the power to immediately sack police and take them to court and have MI5 under the control of the ombudsman also
Education and information programmes to reduce hate crime
Speeding
More foot patrols !!
Equality of policing across different areas
Police actually dealing with it and young ones actually realising for every action theres a consequence no matter what race or religion they are
Slow signs/speed ramps
Agencies working together
Bigger penalties for law breakers.
People carrying Personal Alarms
Community police doing walkabouts and communicating with residents
Get the drugs out of my town
More patrols in area

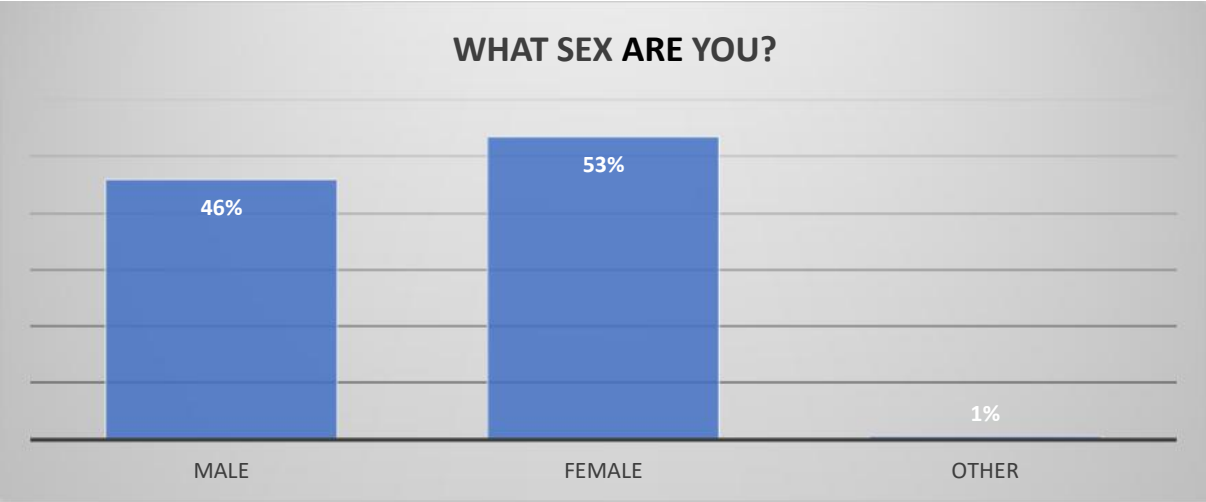
Clamp down on drug and alcohol misuse
More emphasis put on penalties and punishments
Neighbourhood watch
More interesting things for our youth.
F someone reports a crime then we would love police to check, most people are afraid to report
Better police engagement with the community. Psni have lost the faith of normal people during the pandemic for their heavy handed tactics.
POLICE CAR DRIVING AROUND
Beat officers including rural areas.
Arm citizens.
Arresting the drug dealers that the police already know about
Reopen local PSNI stations.my closest is approx 15 miles away
This question says it all you don't even want to know about increased police numbers. There also needs to be a broader view of crime to understand how we can address the causes of crime, eg how many you g people in the care system are criminalised by the time they are 18 - what responsibilities are the state taking to address this. We need to address crime at its root.
More cameras
More time needs to spent on drug dealing and drug dealers and drug misuse in the area
Accountability...proper punishment, real deterrents
I'm not sure what can be done, paramilitaries are still real in mid ulster and can seem to do what they want without fear
More of them being charged
Removing ant social people from area and removing drug dealers
Drug dealers know to the police being halted
More visible beat patrols around estates
Visible policing
Consequences for drug dealing offences ie. Passport removal immediate
Removing people from housing developments that bring violent behaviour who leave their neighbours scared
More police on the ground
More stop checks on drivers and speed traps
Visible police presence
Camera on main streets
CCTV, spot patrols, regeneration of derelict buildings/ areas.
Increased CCTV
Adequate punishment for those that commit the crime
The drug dealing is an absolute nightmare! It's happening in front of the polices eyes!!! I even seen it myself happening in front of police and when challenged about it they just shrug the shoulders
Larger presence in the area
Speed cameras
Policing the buses as I have seen drugs coming into the magherafelt & maghera aera from Belfast via Coleraine,
No other steps. Increasing police presence is the most needed action
Removing the drug den

More police patrolling around estates
Enforcement
Stop youths bloody speeding and doing powercircles on the bloody roads
More police presence & yes alot of this is to do with a lack of police numbers. Also more senior officers out on the streets meeting the public & seeing how hard foot officers r getting it. How can the police have such high numbers sitting at hospitals is there something more than can be done to free them up?
CCTV, speed boards in 30 zones
traffic calming measures.....speed cameras
Knowledge
Thankfully it's quiet on our street and have had no problems
Street lights
In addition to this, more speed patrols on the Clady Road
Education via community groups.
More community group activity
More police out and about, frequent vehicle checks, more presence everywhere!!!!
Would love to see police being nice and get Training in disabilities and mental health
Reaching out to the nationalist community and installing more trust
More action against drugs
More needs to be done to tackle drug dealing. No sooner are the dealers arrested then they're back selling. Start drug and alcohol addiction classes in school, that's where it should start. We as a collective neighbourhood have reported drug dealing in our area on so many occasions and it's great to see some action taken but then they're out and the drugees are banging at all hours for their fix or ones who have beef with another are hollering and banging at all hours, kicking cars. And yes the police are involved because either the drug dealer has called them or one of us but we know it'll happen again. If we can't stop the dealers then starve their customer base with education from a young age. You go to schools to talk about road safety well drug/alcohol abuse needs to be on the table.
People in the community being more vigilant and parents actually giving a shit about where their kids are.
Cctv, patrols at 10pm onwards
More interaction with public in rural areas
Walk around patrols, harsher punishment for offenders
Police presence in rural areas as well as towns
An odd patrol wouldn't hurt or arriving on time
Better lighting
Speed monitoring
Reporting crime
Well that's easy. If I need to report a crime, why would I report this when I've seen in past exactly who you listen to. Numerous reports made regarding homophobic hate crime and what happens? I'm the one treated like the criminal. So honestly no faith at all in the police so I'll happily just get in with it. More problems than it's worth.

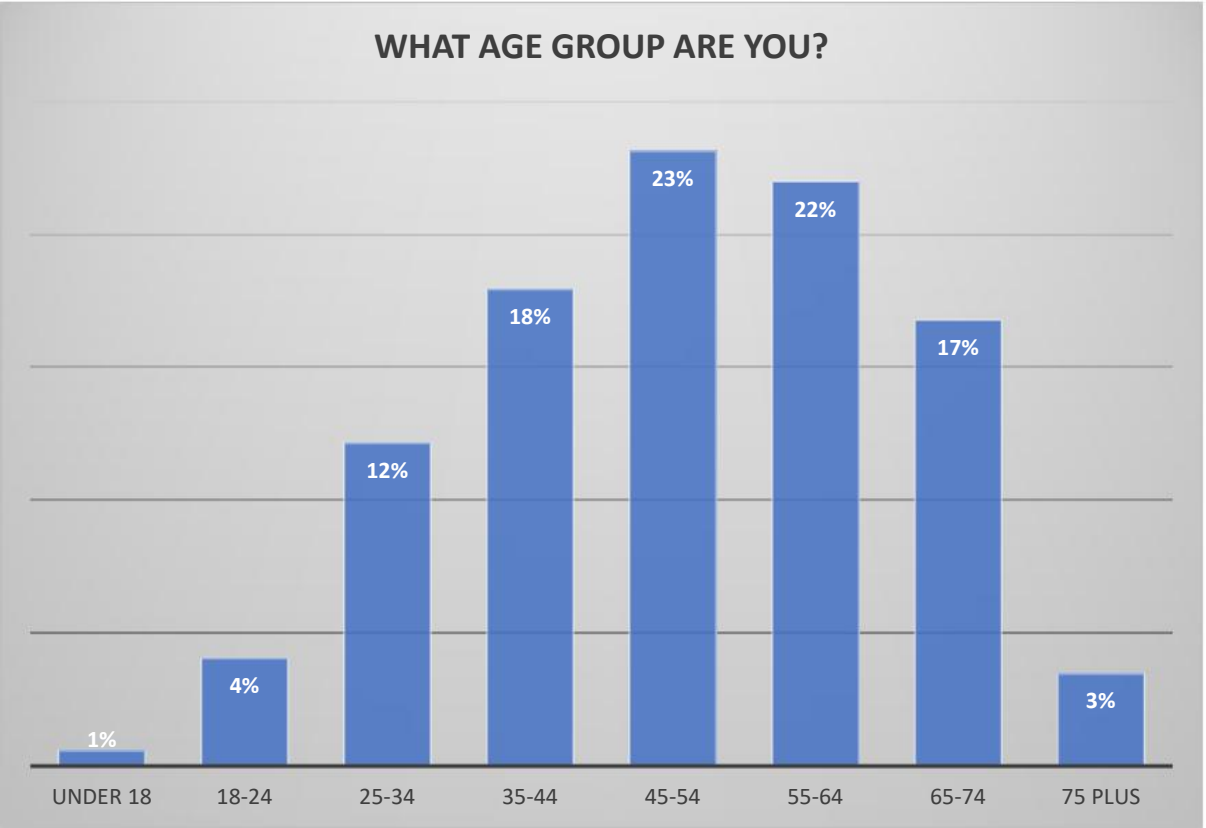
Demographics

Respondents to the PCSP survey stated the following

Sex



Age Group



# Youth Survey

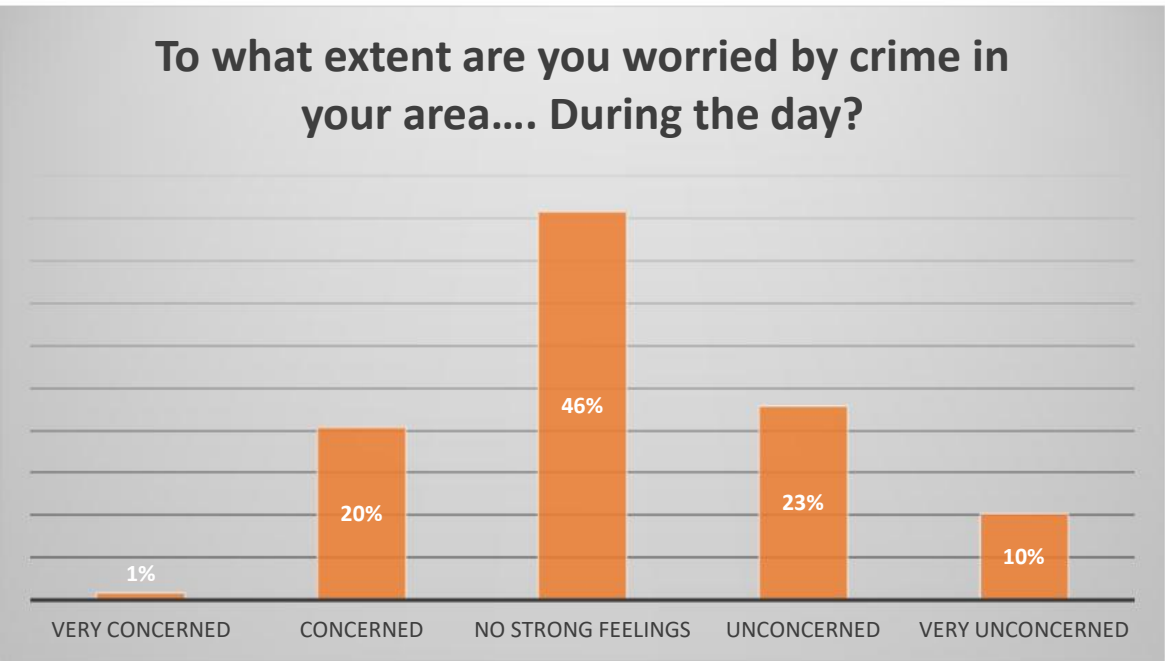
The EA Youth Service engaged with young people across the district to undertake a survey with 119 completing it.

## Fear of Crime

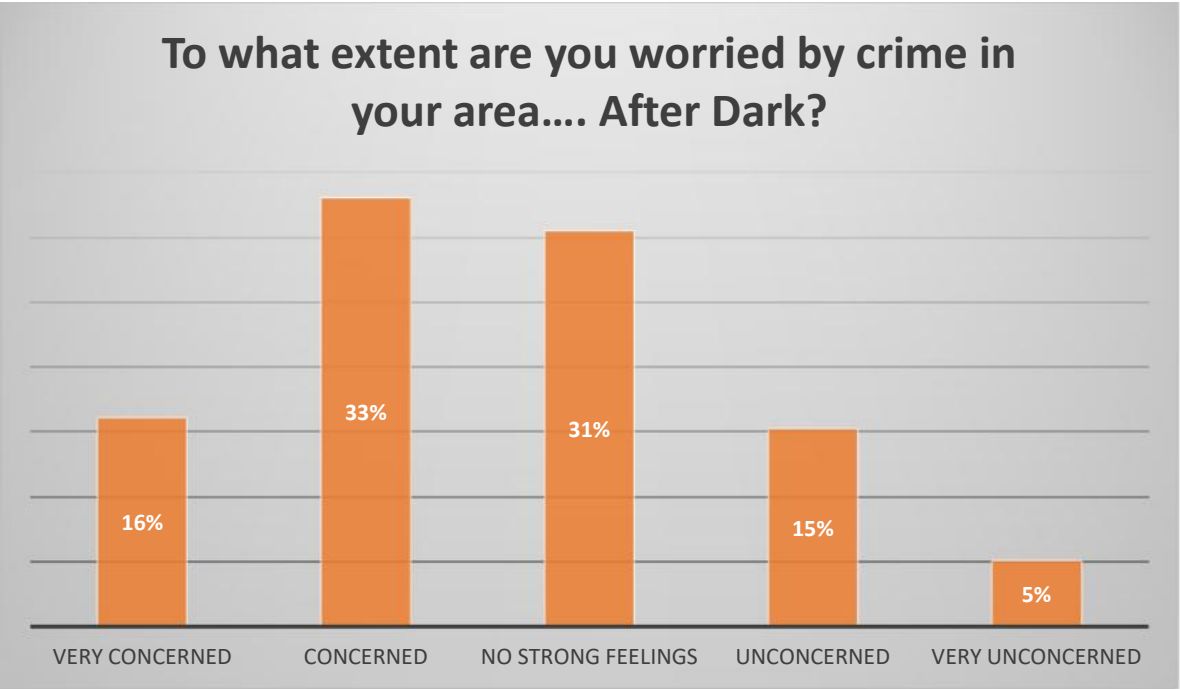
Only 8% of respondents stated that they felt unsafe in their local community.



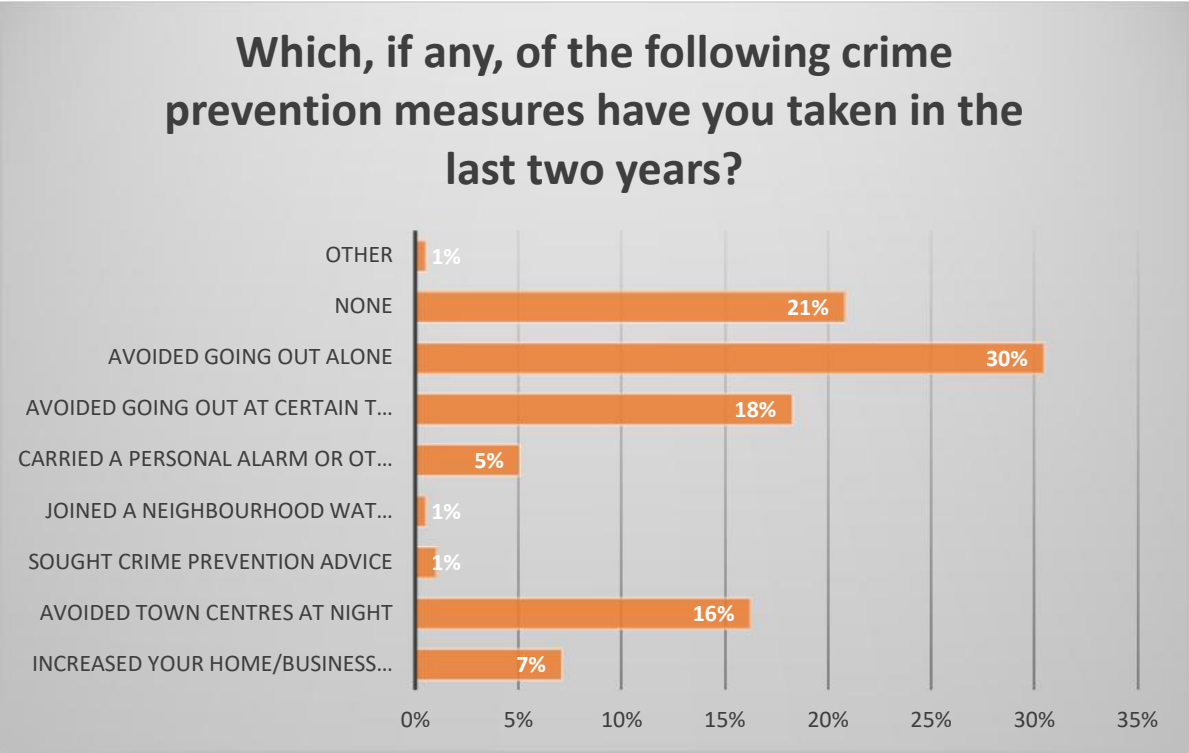
21% of respondents were concerned about crime in their area during the day



49% of respondents were concerned about crime in their area after dark



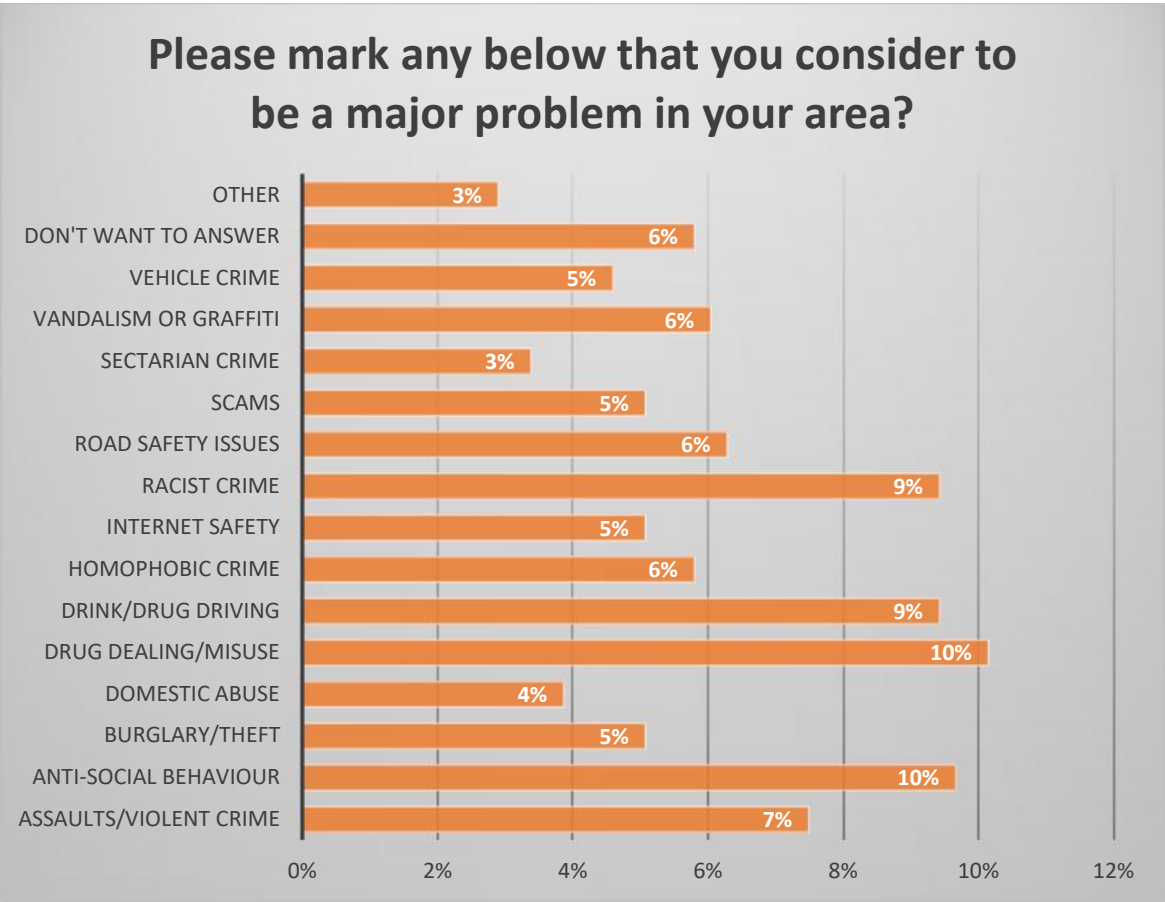
48% of respondents stated that they either avoid going out alone or going out at certain times



**Experience of Crime**

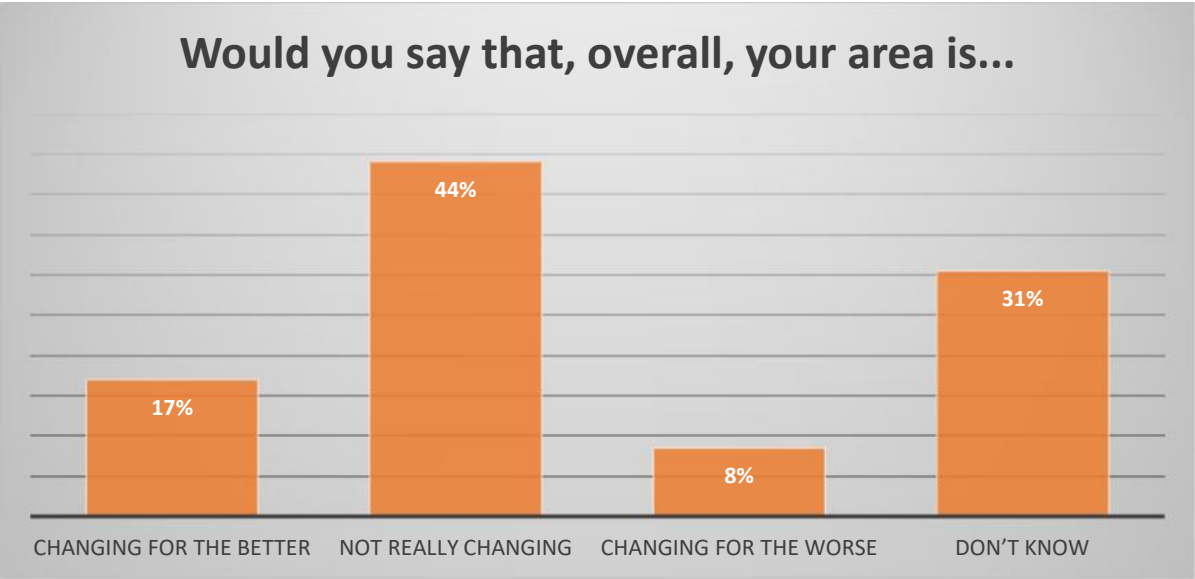
Respondents stated the following as the top 5 major problems in their area

- 1. Drug Dealing/Misuse
- 2. Anti-social Behaviour
- 3. Drink/Drug Driving
- 4. Racist Behaviour
- 5. Assaults/Violent Crime





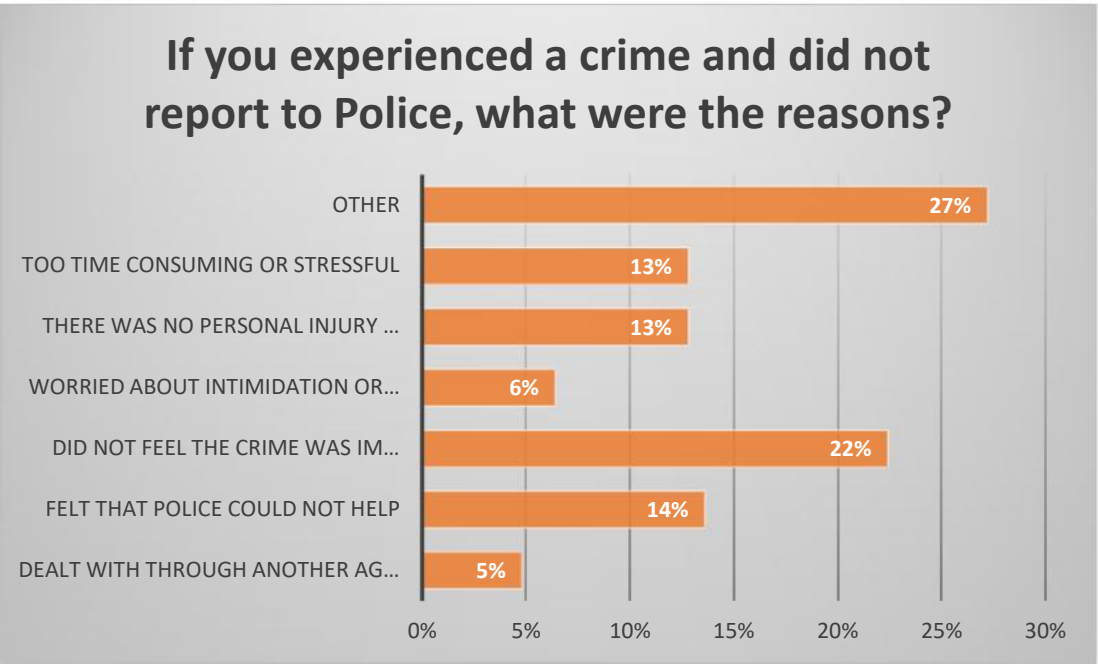
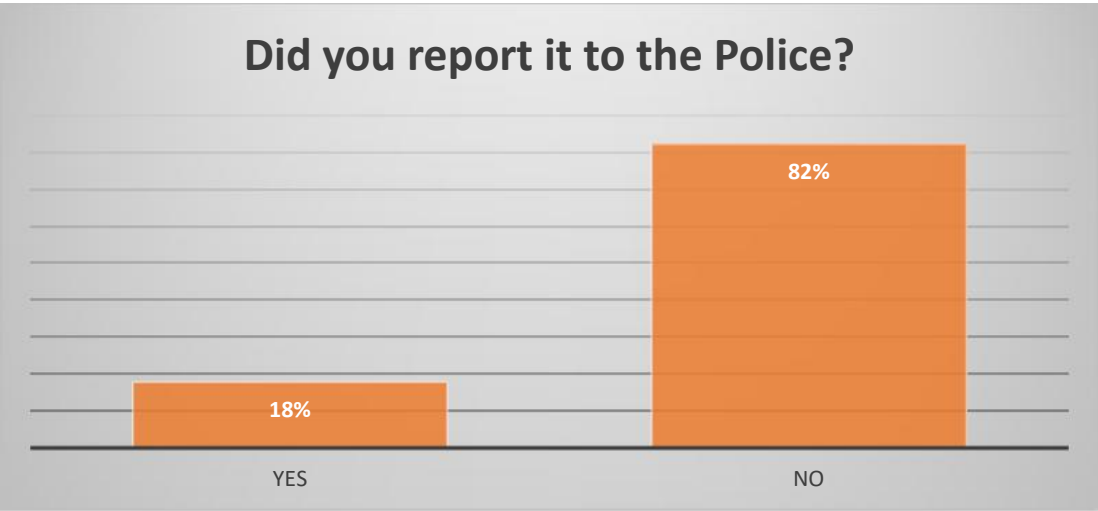
Only 8% stated that they thought that their local area was changing for the worse.



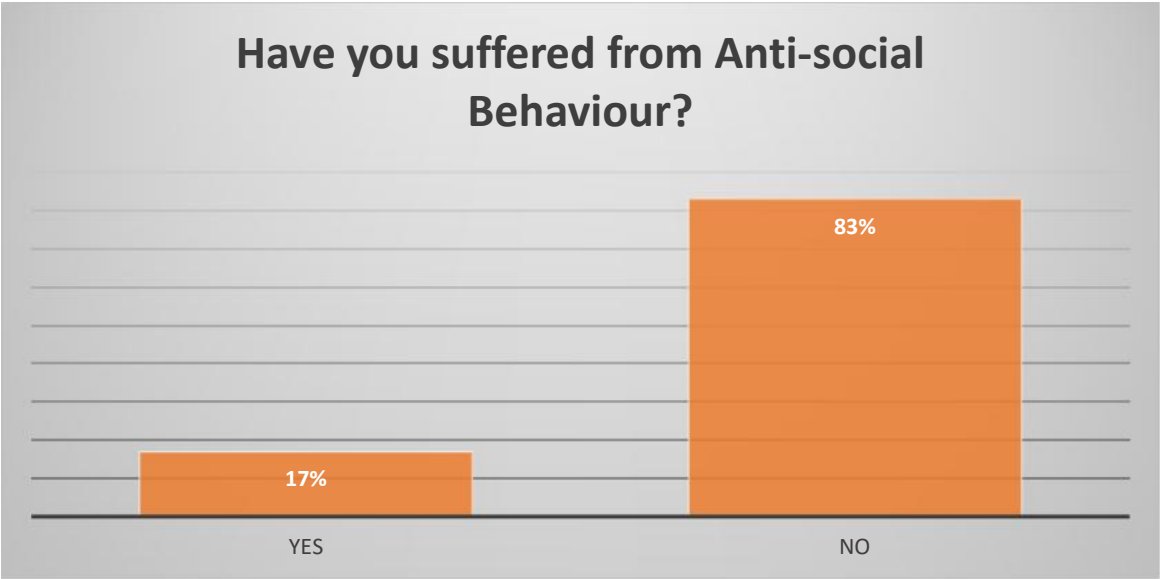
Nearly 50% of respondents stated that they never crime over the last 12 months.



Reporting of Crime

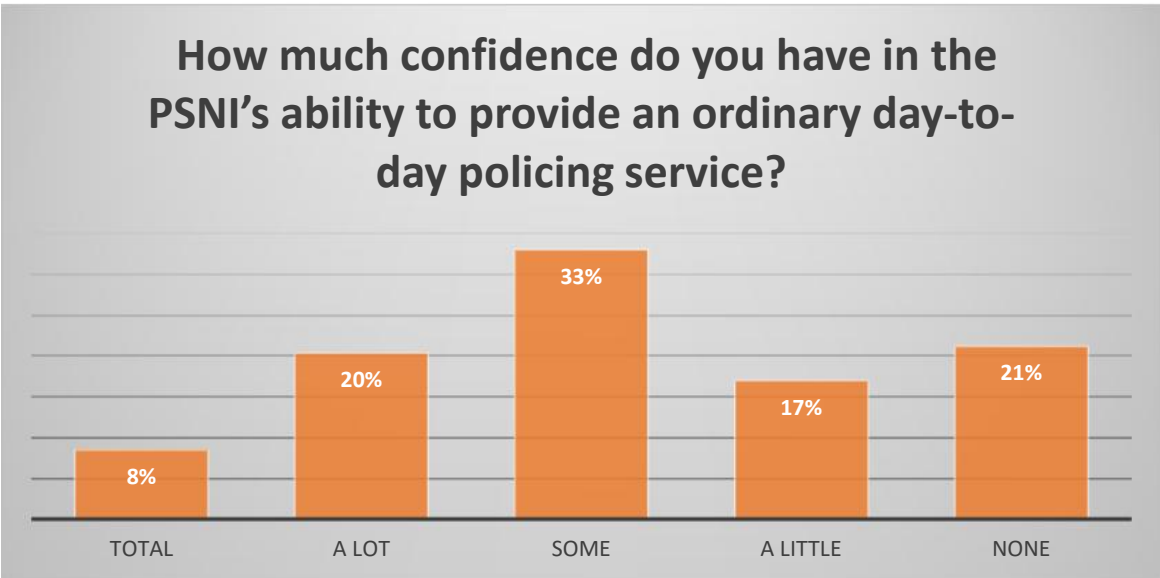


17% of respondents stated they had suffered from anti-social behaviour



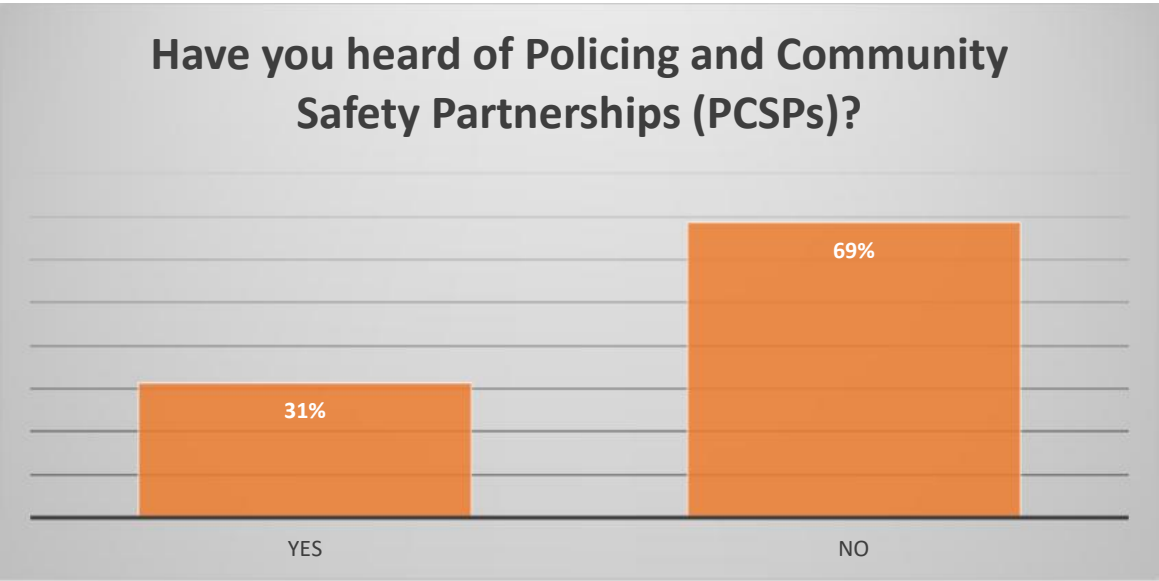
**Confidence in Policing**

78% of respondents stated they had total to a little confidence in the PSNI. 21% state they had none

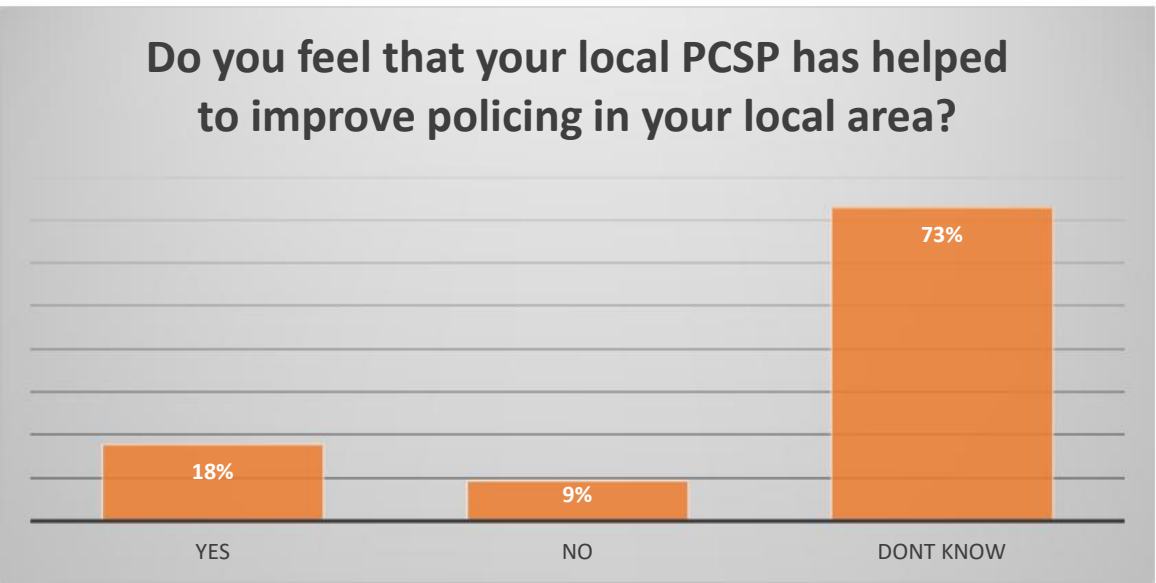


**Awareness of PCSPs**

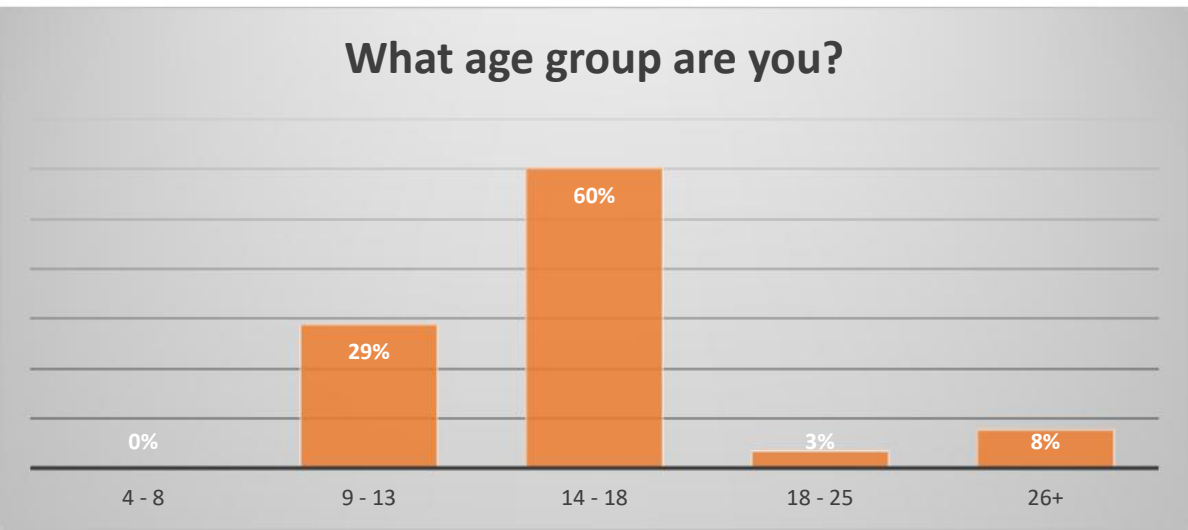
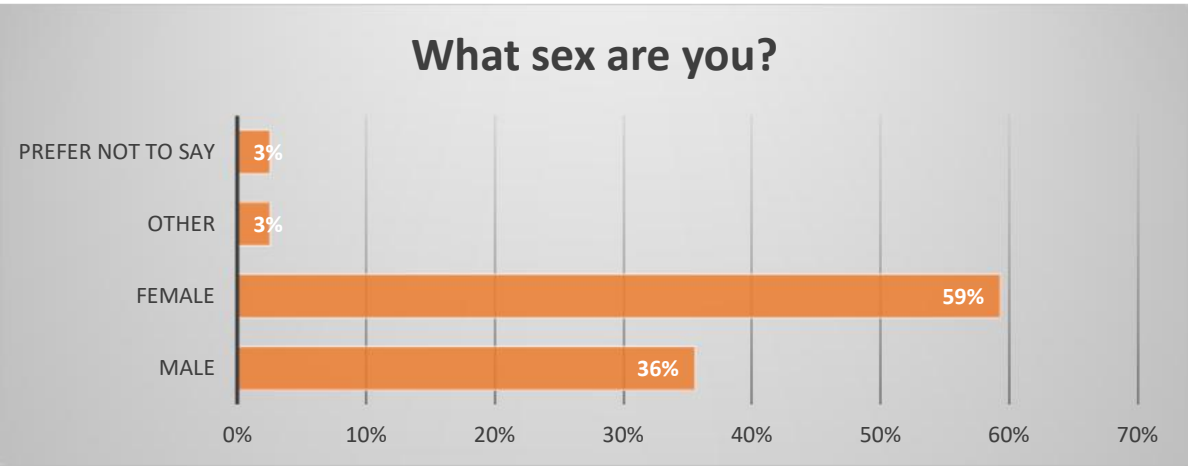
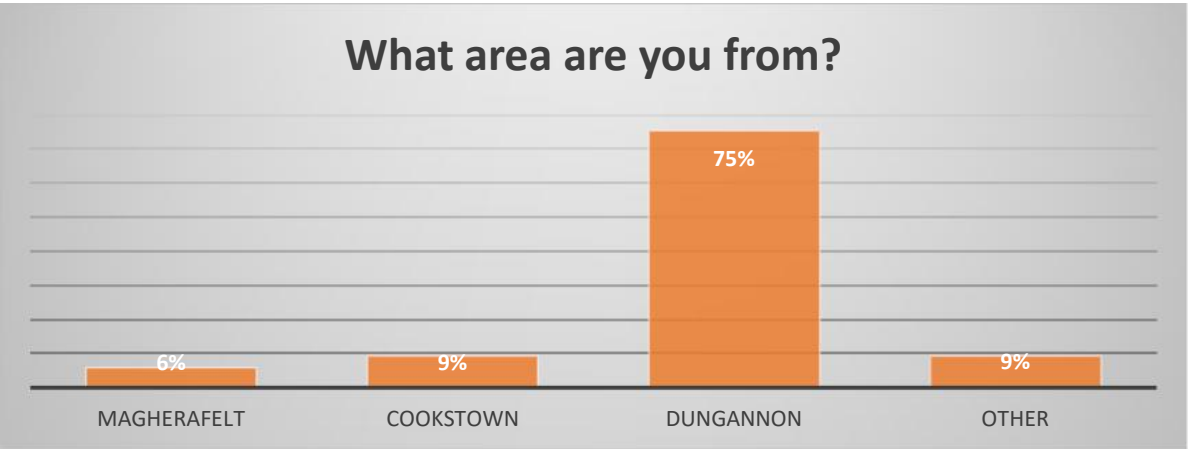
31% of respondents had heard of PCSPs



73% of respondents didn't know if their local PCSP had helped improved policing in the their local area.



Demographics



## What would have biggest impact on reducing crime?

Respondents were asked the following: “Apart from increasing police numbers, what single step would have the biggest impact on reducing crime, antisocial behaviour, and the fear of crime in your area?”

The responses are listed below, as submitted.

Partnership work - pooling resources
More patrolling cars
Have more security
Educating young people about the consequences of their actions
Working with other agencies like schools
trying to help the young people doing the crimes
education people on what they are doing wrong
police more visable in areas
Education / awareness
police
Pollice
educating people
more inclusive youth programmes within the dungannon area (ie visiting schools)
more awareness/information about crimes happening
Encouraging CCTV for more businesses and homes
Education in schools - ensuring young people have choices apart from crime / gangs
More security in the area
Daily police car driving around Dungannon every hour
people stop being aggressive
Youth club
Awareness and checks
youthclub
more imformation
Somewhere for the young people to go
more police around
Cctv in operation to watch certain areas where anti social behaviour happens so they can be brought to justice
Stiffer jail sentences
youth club
Youth service
youth club
youth club
youth club
more police

jail for all unwanted sexual interactions
Enforce safety measures
more police patrols
Nothing has really happened it's a fairly safe area
put cameras in our area
security cameras and alarms
Checking if people have weapons
more CCTV cameras
more police going on patrol
Awareness
A lot of things would cause my area is small
More CCTV cameras
More CCTV cameras
Having more cctvs
Youth centres
It be talked about more around schools and town
More cameras in places where crimes are more likely to happen
Camera ?
Community days such as people gathering for tea and for a chat
Make people more aware of local crime
Lights. Cameras. Neighbourhood support
More harsh punishments for serious crime and increasing drunk driving consequences

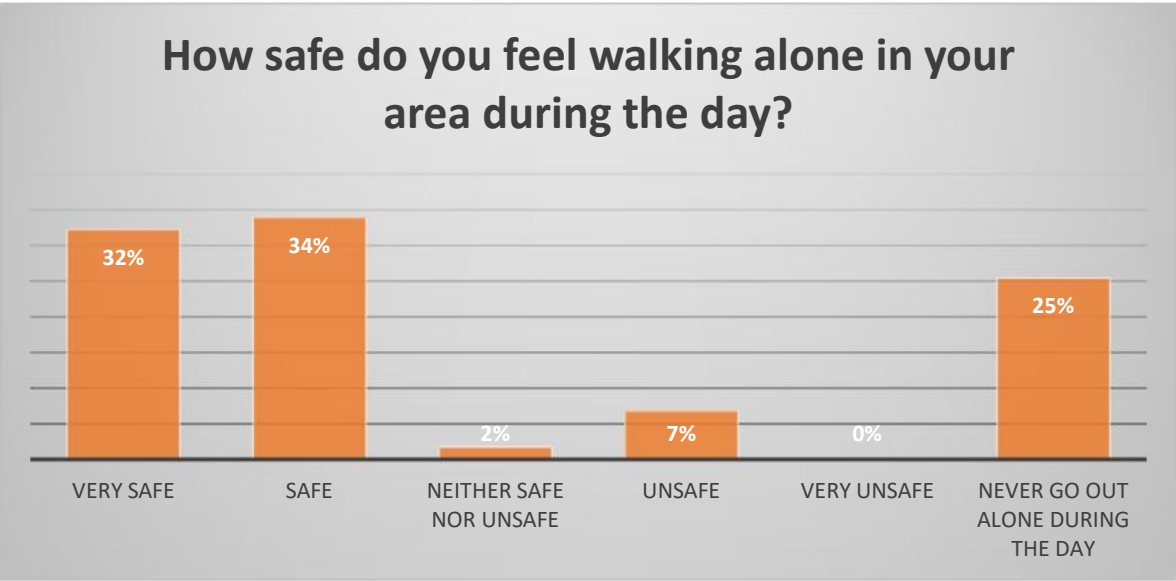


# Agewell Survey

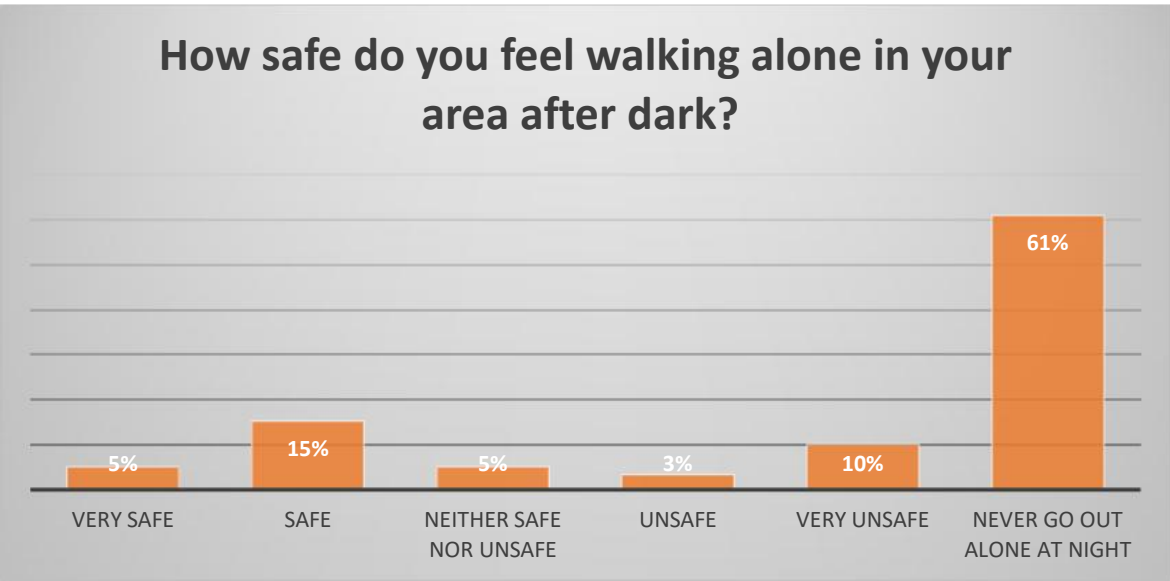
A Telephone Survey was undertaken by Agewell of it's members. 59 older people completed this survey.

## Survey Results

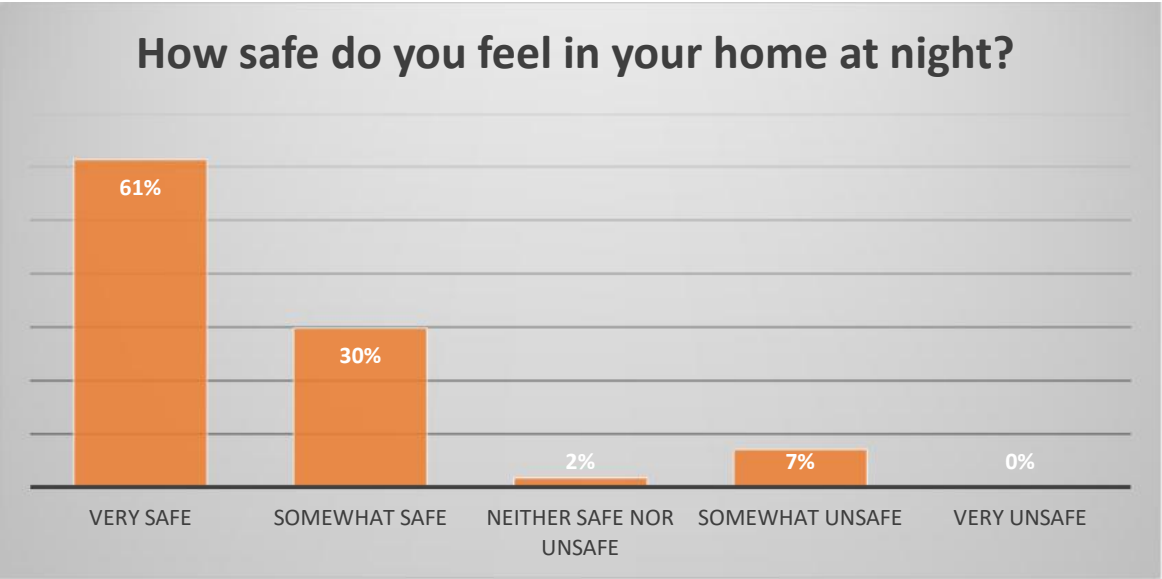
7% of respondents stated that they feel unsafe walking alone during the day.  
25% never go out alone during the day



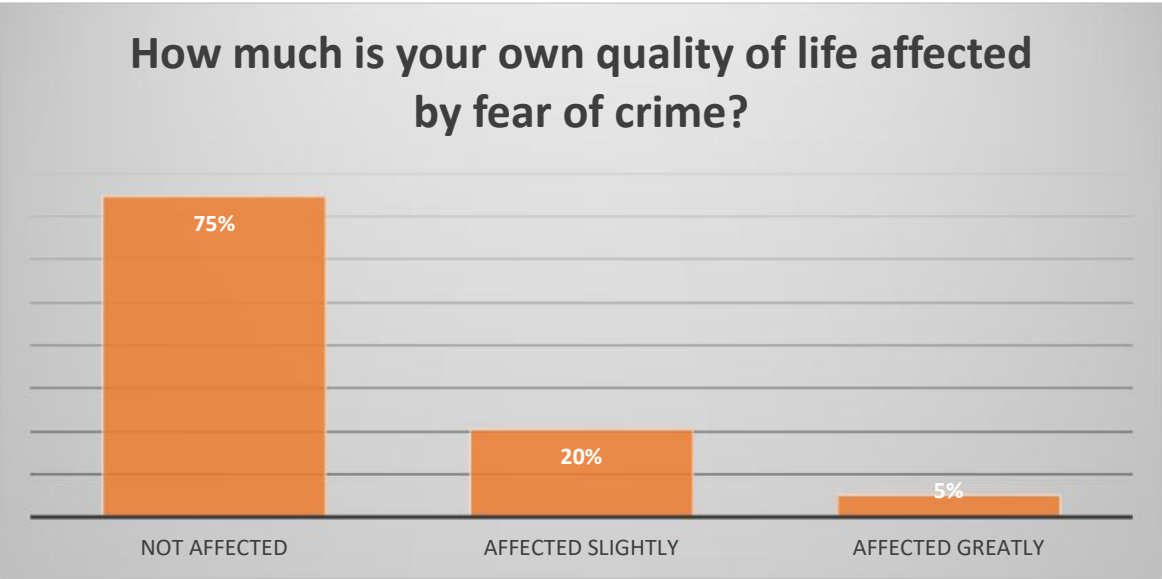
13% felt unsafe walking alone after dark. 61% never go out alone at night.



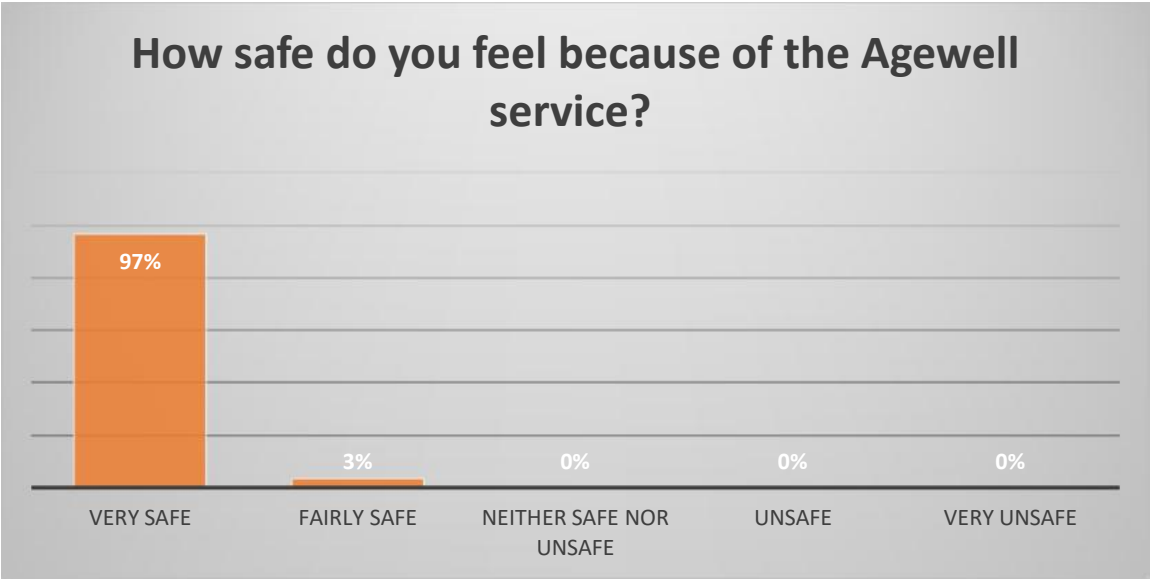
7% feel somewhat unsafe in their home at night.



25% stated their quality of life was affected by fear of crime.



100% stated that they felt very safe or fairly safe because of the Agewell service.



## **PCSP Strategic Plan 2022-25**

The Joint Committee of the Dept of Justice and NI Policing Board agreed the strategic objectives for the PCSPs. These are listed below and will form the basis of the development of the PCSP Strategy and Action Plan.

The Joint Committee agreed three Strategic Priorities for PCSPs.

**Strategic Priority 1** – To ensure effective delivery in response to local need, and improve the visibility and recognition of the work of the PCSP through effective consultation, communication and engagement

**through:**

- carrying out meaningful engagement in the district with the local community, relevant statutory partners / agencies, businesses and the community & voluntary sector in the development and implementation of PCSP Action Plans;
- ensuring ongoing two-way engagement in the district with the local community, relevant statutory partners / agencies, businesses and the community & voluntary sector to provide a problem-solving forum to identify effective solutions to local issues, ensuring sufficient flexibility to address issues as they emerge, and seeking relevant expertise from the designated organisations as appropriate;
- using a range of platforms, including multi-media, to communicate and promote the work of the PCSP; and
- increasing awareness of the work of the PCSP.

**Strategic Priority 2** - To improve community safety by prioritising and addressing local community safety issues, tackling crime and anti-social behaviour

**through**

- utilising the partnership created by the statutory, elected and independent/ community membership of the PCSP to initiate and lead work to improve community safety and tackle ASB locally;
- working in partnership to develop outcome and locality focused interventions to address the most pressing crime types and behaviours impacting local community safety, as evidenced by local need, with appropriate targets and indicators so that impacts can be measured;
- drawing on best practice, promote early intervention and collaborating effectively to improve PCSP-supported projects and programmes that address the underlying causes of ASB, crime and the fear of crime in the community, including, where appropriate, a focus on changing behaviours;
- enhancing safety and feelings of safety, in particular for those who might be more vulnerable;
- engaging with partners in the district, to horizon scan in order to respond to and re-direct resources to respond to emerging local community safety issues;
- having cognisance of the Community Safety Framework in developing local plans, and providing a feedback loop to the Community Safety Board on local issues in order to inform community safety policy development – and vice versa; and
- providing comprehensive community input into decision making processes about tackling actual and perceived anti-social behaviour and giving feedback to the community on the effectiveness of interventions on meeting outcomes.



**Strategic Priority 3** – To support confidence in policing, including through collaborative problem solving with communities

**through**

- ensuring local accountability through the Policing Committee's role in monitoring police performance;
- identifying priorities from the PCSP Plan for consideration in the development of the local Policing Plan which are consistent with the Northern Ireland Policing Plan;
- providing views to the District Commander through the Policing Committee and supporting the PSNI to engage with the community to identify and address local problems;
- delivering initiatives that link to identified local problems that impact confidence in policing;
- carrying out meaningful local events aimed at increasing PSNI engagement with local communities to build and strengthen public confidence in policing;
- delivering PCSP initiatives in the hardest to reach communities;
- providing a platform for the PCSP and PSNI to engage with young people, including on the themes of upholding the rule of law, and of ways of increasing confidence in policing; and
- building community confidence in the rule of law by helping mitigate the harm caused to people and communities by paramilitarism, criminality and organised crime consistent with wider Programme for Government objectives and through use of co-design principles, where appropriate.

## Turning the Curve

When developing the 2022-25 action plan, the PCSP reviewed current projects to determine if they were effective and should be continued in the new action plan

	Project Name	Short Impact Synopsis	
SP1 Awareness	Awareness raising	PCSP to continue with awareness raising activities. Feedback from partners is positive	C o n t i n u e
	Emergency Services Road Traffic Collision Reconstructions	The Fatal Road Traffic Collision Reconstructions demonstrated good impact with increase in knowledge and awareness of 100% of those attending the initiatives. Feedback from partner agencies very positive. 100% stated that it had improved their attitude to the emergency services.	C o n t i n u e
	Crashed Car Simulator	The Crash Car Simulator demonstrated good impact with increase in awareness of 90% of those attending the initiative.  The simulator will continue to be targeted at post primary schools	C o n t i n u e
	SIDs	SIDs have been previously deployed and demonstrated that they reduce speed. This has contributed to reduction in ASB driving, increased awareness of speeding, and increased community confidence in PSNI	
Youth Diversion	Youth Engagement and Diversionary programmes at hotspot areas and times	The Youth Engagement initiatives demonstrated positive increases in awareness of the educational topics and also demonstrated a behaviour change in the participants. Feedback from PCSP partners state that the programme is making a discernible difference to those participating but also to their communities PCSP will continue youth engagement in targeted areas. Including intergenerational programmes.	C o n t i n u e
ASB Educational Programmes	Where is Your Child Tonight education programme and PR campaign	Feedback from partners highlighted the campaign was making an impact on the youth and their parents	C o n t i n u e

Alcohol Youth Engagement	Alcohol Awareness	Due to Covid this was unable to be run in 21/22. Previously 85% of participants on the Alcohol Awareness Course stated the likelihood of reoffending was low. 86% stated the course had increased their knowledge of the law surrounding underage drinking. 82% stated that the course had improved their attitude to Police. Reoffending rate was 4%.	C o n t i n u e
NTE Training	Training includes: Defib and First Aid Training Responsible Alcohol Trading programmes Drugs/Alcohol training programmes for staff in night-time economy	Due to Covid this was unable to be run in 21/22.  Previously 100% of those participating on the training courses stated they were relevant and well delivered. 100% stated courses met their objectives and helped them to practice responsible retailing in licensed premises.	C o n t i n u e
Safe Night Out	Penalty Notice: Cost of Your Night Out	Campaign well received. Feedback from PSNI that there was reduction in penalty notices given during advertising period	C o n t i n u e
	Support Club Angels, Street Angels/Reaching Out groups that provide assistance to those in the night-time economy.	Due to Covid this was unable to be run in 21/22.  Previous feedback from PSNI state that the Club Angels/Reaching Out Groups make a positive impact on the safety of the night time economy.  This programme is currently unable to run, however PCSP will review if circumstances change.	S t o p
Internet Safety	TeenSafe Programme	Due to Covid this was unable to be run in 21/22.  This programme is aimed at teenagers and will involve them participating in six topical workshops delivered by partners ranging from internet safety to road safety. When delivered in previous years, they were very successful.	C o n t i n u e
	Internet Safety Programmes	The internet safety primary and post primary programmes with 95% and 94% respectively finding programmes beneficial	C o n t i n u e

<b>Domestic Violence</b>	Domestic Violence campaign	Behind Closed Doors campaign normally held at Christmas and was well received. Positive feedback from Womens Aid and PSNI. Campaign was also extended to social media	C o n t i n u e
	Positive Relationships Schools programme	Programme currently underway and to date has been delivered to 5 schools and 465 pupils.  Previously there was an average increase in awareness of topics was 66%.	C o n t i n u e
	High risk victims security installations	Feedback from PSNI very positive for this programme. They report that 100% of participants stated it had increased their feeling of safety. To date equipment installations have been delivered to 25 persons.	C o n t i n u e
<b>Comm VP Initiatives</b>	Hold community safety awareness raising events with the following target demographics, older people, people with disabilities. Also awareness raising events for rural crime and hate crime, and safety for females	Due to Covid this was unable to be run in 21/22.  Previously good feedback from community and partners who attended these events.	C o n t i n u e
	Alcohol and Drugs Schools Project	Currently to date it has been delivered to 7 schools and 217 students. Previous feedback from schools and pupils was very positive with over 65% of pupils increasing awareness.	C o n t i n u e
	Agewell – Older Persons Security	249 security visits completed to date. 100% of older people who received this service stated that it had increased their feeling of safety	C o n t i n u e
<b>Comm &amp;</b>	Police engagement with communities	On average over 90% of participants stated the engagement event increased their confidence in policing,	C o n

	including children, youth, at risk and disadvantaged communities (activities such as, Bike Marking, Trailer Marking, PEPs, etc)	with over 90% stating that their awareness had been increased of the relevant topic.	t i n u e
	Promote and sustain Neighbourhood Watch Schemes	Currently there are 40 schemes in Mid Ulster.	C o n t i n u e
Policing Committee	Fresh Start initiatives and Programme for Government key messages and campaigns	PCSP to integrate the message of increasing lawfulness through the work and engagement with the community. Project with PSNI Youth Diversion Officers and eight youth completed in Q2 with positive feedback Blackout Play delivered by youths detained at Hydebank due to rolled out this quarter.	C o n t i n u e
Awareness Raising	Awareness raising campaigns and engagements – rural crime, cyber crime, scams/bogus callers, fear of crime, road safety, Text Alert, BeeSafe, Participatory Budgeting, Safer U App, SIDs	PCSP to continue with awareness raising campaigns. Feedback from partners is positive and crime levels across all categories in the population has reduced.	C o n t i n u e



## Action Plan

In December 2021 PCSP undertook an Assessment of Policing and Community Safety in the Mid Ulster District Council Area.

This exercise was undertaken to ensure that the priorities identified continue to reflect priority policing and community safety issues in the area and was informed by analysis of information provided by statutory partners, as well as the results of ongoing borough wide engagement and consultation on policing and community safety across the council area.

Cognisance was also taken of:

- The Programme for Government
- The most recent CJINI Inspection Reports
- The Northern Ireland Policing Plan
- Local Policing Plan
- Together Building a United Community
- Council's GR Plan
- Tackling Paramilitary Activity, Criminality, and Organised Crime Programme
- Community Planning

A Turning the Curve Exercise was undertaken in relation to the current PCSP Action Plan Indicators/themes to formulate the partnership's best thinking on projects and initiatives to contribute towards the overall outcome.

To deliver on the strategic objectives the PCSP has developed an action plan with three strands:

1. To successfully deliver the functions of the Policing and Community Safety partnership for the area.
2. To improve community safety by tackling crime and anti-social behaviour.
3. To improve community confidence in policing

<b>STRATEGIC PRIORITY – 1</b>
To form and successfully deliver the functions of Mid Ulster PCSP
<b>INDICATORS</b>
% people who have heard of PCSPs

Theme	Aims and short description	Key Activities	Start Date	Finish Date	Resource/ cost required	Performance measures	Reporting Quarter
Form and Successfully Deliver the Functions of the PCSP							
PCSP Delivery	Organise the work of the PCSP through the PCSP Members, appropriate structures and mechanisms	Ensure full complement of staff and that all policies and procedures are in place for the effective running of the PCSP	Q1	Q4	£10,622	<b>How much did we do</b> Number of PCSP private, public and thematic sub group meetings Number of events to support/increase the capacity of PCSP Members Number of members of public attending	Q1-4
	Support the PCSP to function effectively and deliver on the action plan aligned	Produce, circulate and submit financial reports, progress reports, Annual Report, Equality and Consultation Reports				<b>How well did we do it?</b> #/% attendance of all PCSP Members at meetings #/% Member attendance at	Q1-4
							Q4

	with the Community Plan and in line with OBA	<p>within specified timeframes</p> <p>PCSP private, public and thematic sub group meetings (ASB, Night Time Economy and Vulnerable Persons)</p> <p>Local and regional PCSP training and capacity building activities</p>				<p>training and capacity building events</p> <p>#/% members of public who feel satisfied with meeting</p> <p><b>Is anyone better off?</b></p> <p>#/% Members who feel supported in their role</p> <p>#/% Members with increased knowledge/understanding of their role</p>	
PCSP Engagement and Awareness	Engage with local community, statutory groups and key stakeholders and increasing PCSP awareness	PCSP Communications Strategy in place including a social media presence				<p><b>How much did we do</b></p> <p>No of awareness raising activities</p> <p>No of people reached through social media</p> <p><b>How well did we do it?</b></p> <p>#/% Increase in social media presence</p> <p><b>Is anyone better off</b></p> <p>#/% public awareness of PCSP</p>	Q2-4

<b>STRATEGIC PRIORITY – 2</b>
To improve community safety by tackling actual and perceived crime and anti-social behaviour
<b>INDICATOR –</b>
Recorded incidents of ASB
Recorded incidents of crime related to NTE
Recorded crime against vulnerable groups

Theme	Aims and short description	Key Activities	Start Date	Finish Date	Resource/ cost required	Performance measures	Reporting Quarter
Anti-Social Behaviour							
Anti-Social Driving	Engage target groups to divert, deter and raise awareness re anti-social driving and road safety	Emergency Services Road Traffic Collision Reconstructions  Crashed Car Simulator  Speed Indicator Devices	Q3	Q4	£13,068	<b>How much did we do?</b> Number of events Number of SIDs deployed Number of participants in each initiative <b>How well did we do it?</b> #/% of participants assessed their participation as positive No of weeks SIDs were deployed <b>Is anyone better off?</b> #/% of participants with increased knowledge and awareness of the impact of anti social driving	Q1-4       Q2-4       Q2-4

						#/% of participants with improved attitude towards policing (when PSNI involved)  % participants more likely to engage with PSNI following reconstructions % participants more likely to report crime following event. Reduction in Speed recorded by SIDs	
Youth Diversionary/ Engagement Programmes	Engage with, divert and deter young people from ASB in hotspot and target areas/times	YEP Initiative - Youth Engagement and Diversionary programmes at hotspot areas and times	Q3	Q4	£28,425	<b>How much did we do?</b> Number of initiatives Number of participants in each initiative <b>How well did we do it?</b> #/% of participants completing each initiative #/% of participants assessed their participation as positive <b>Is anyone better off?</b> #/% of participants with increased knowledge and awareness of the impact of ASB #/% of participants initiative with improved attitude	Q3-4



						towards policing (when PSNI involved) % participants more likely to engage with PSNI following event % participants more likely to report crime following event.	
Anti-Social Behaviour Educational Programmes	Raise awareness and educate re impact and consequences of ASB	"Where is Your Child" education programme and PR campaign – District wide video campaign  ASB 'Who Do I Call' initiative- District wide campaign	Q3	Q4	£15,068	<b>How much did we do?</b> No of advertising sites No of posts/adverts No of leaflets distributed <b>How well did we do it?</b> Number of shares on social media No of advertising sites within areas with high ASB <b>Is anyone better off?</b> Number of people with an increased knowledge and awareness of the social media campaign ASB reduction in population during initiative	Q3-4

Theme	Aims and short description	Key Activities	Start Date	Finish Date	Resource/ cost required	Performance measures	Reporting Quarter
Night Time Economy							
Alcohol Youth Engagement	Increase awareness of the impact and consequences of underage drinking	Alcohol Awareness Programme	Q3	Q4	£9,068	<b>How much did we do?</b> Number of initiatives Number of participants in each initiative <b>How well did we do it?</b> #/% of participants in each initiative assessed their participation as positive <b>Is anyone better off?</b> #/% of participants in each initiative with increased awareness and knowledge of impact and consequences of underage drinking #/% of participants in each initiative	Q3-4

						<p>with improved attitudes towards policing</p> <p>% participants more likely to engage with PSNI following event</p> <p>% participants more likely to report crime following event.</p> <p>#/% change in levels of participants reoffending</p>	
NTE Training	<p>Deliver training to support Night Time Economy stakeholders and increase knowledge and understanding re trading responsibilities &amp; NTE issues</p>	<p>Training includes:</p> <p>Defib and First Aid Training</p> <p>Responsible Alcohol Trading programmes</p> <p>Drugs/Alcohol training programmes for staff in night-time economy</p>	Q3	Q4	£11,068	<p><b>How much did we do?</b></p> <p>No of events</p> <p>No of participants at each event</p> <p><b>How well did we do it?</b></p> <p>#/% of participants completing each initiative</p> <p>#/% of participants in each initiative assessed their participation as positive</p> <p><b>Is anyone better off?</b></p> <p>#/% of participants in each initiative with increased awareness and knowledge</p> <p>#/% of participants in each initiative with improved attitudes towards policing (where relevant)</p> <p>% participants more likely to engage with PSNI following event</p>	Q3-4

						% participants more likely to report crime following event.	
Safe Night Out	Improve NTE experience for all through education and multi-agency initiatives	Penalty Notice: Cost of Your Night Out campaign	Q3	Q4	£11,068	<b>How much did we do?</b> No of advertising sites <b>How well did we do it?</b> No of advertising sites within NTE areas <b>Is anyone better off?</b> ASB reduction in population during initiative	Q3-4

Theme Vulnerable Persons	Aims and short description	Key Activities	Start Date	Finish Date	Resource/ cost required	Performance measures	Reporti ng Quarter
Internet Safety	Engage with and increase target audience's awareness and knowledge of how to stay safe online	Teen Safe programme  Internet Safety Programmes	Q3	Q4	£18,068	<b>How much did we do?</b> Number of events Number of participants in each initiative <b>How well did we do it?</b> #/% of participants in each initiative assessed their participation as positive <b>Is anyone better off?</b> #/% of participants in each initiative with increased awareness and knowledge of internet safety #/% of participants in each initiative with improved attitudes towards policing (where relevant) #/% of participants in initiative more confident in accessing support services (Internet Safety only)	Q3-4

Domestic Violence	Increase awareness and knowledge of domestic violence	Domestic Violence campaign	Q2	Q4	£24,068	<b>How much did we do?</b> No of advertising sites <b>How well did we do it?</b> No of advertising sites within high population areas <b>Is anyone better off?</b> Increase in calls to Helpline number during campaign	Q2-4
		Positive Relationships DV Schools programme	Q3	Q4		<b>How much did we do?</b> Number of participants in each initiative Number of schools delivered in <b>How well did we do it?</b> #/% of participants in each initiative assessed their participation as positive <b>Is anyone better off?</b> #/% of participants in each initiative with increased awareness and knowledge #/% of participants in initiative more confident in accessing support services  <b>How much did we do?</b> No of installs	Q3-4



		High risk DV victims security installations	Q1	Q4		<b>How well did we do it?</b> #/% of installations completed within 1 weeks of referral (security installs only) #/% satisfied with service <b>Is anyone better off?</b> Police opinion of effectiveness of initiative (Security installations only) #/% feeling safer as a result of the service	Q2-4
Vulnerable Persons Initiatives	Increase awareness and knowledge of community safety issues affecting vulnerable people and provide support as identified	Hold community safety awareness raising events with the following target demographics, older people, people with disabilities. Also awareness raising events for rural crime and hate crime. As well as safety for females.	Q3	Q4	£21,068	<b>How much did we do?</b> No of events Number of participants in each initiative <b>How well did we do it?</b> #/% of participants completing each initiative #/% of participants in each initiative assessed their participation as positive <b>Is anyone better off?</b> #/% of participants in each initiative with increased awareness and knowledge #/% of participants in each initiative with improved	Q3-4

		<p>Alcohol and Drugs Schools Programme</p> <p>Ageing Well – Older Persons Security</p>				<p>attitudes towards policing (where relevant)</p> <p>% participants more likely to engage with PSNI following event</p> <p>% participants more likely to report crime following event.</p> <p>#/% of participants in initiative more confident in accessing support services</p> <p>#/% of participants with increased feeling of safety (Ageing Well only)</p>	
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<b>STRATEGIC PRIORITY – 3</b>
To support community confidence in policing
<b>INDICATOR</b>
% increase in community confidence in policing
% increase in the level of reporting to the police (NI Crime Survey)
% increase in the level of community and police engagement
% increase in people who felt that the local PCSP has helped to improve policing in their local area

Policing Committee and Confidence Building	Aims and short description	Key Activities	Start Date	Finish Date	Resource/ cost required	Performance measures	Reporting Quarter
Policing Committee Monitoring	<p>Ensure Local accountability through monitoring police performance</p> <p>Ensure that policing delivery reflects the involvement, views and</p>	Facilitate and hold Policing Committee private meetings, themed public meetings, and Local Policing Plan meetings	Q1	Q4	£8,068	<p><b>How much did we do?</b>  Number of Policing Committee meetings  No of members of public attending public meetings</p> <p><b>How well did we do it?</b>  #/% PCSP Members attending all meetings.  #/% of members of public satisfied with public meetings</p> <p><b>Is anyone better off?</b>  #/% participants and PCSP members with improved</p>	Q1-4

	priorities of local communities					awareness of local policing delivery.	
Community and Police Engagement	<p>Support effective engagement with the police and local community</p> <p>Improve police service delivery in partnership with local communities</p>	<p>Police engagement with communities including children, youth, at risk and disadvantaged communities (activities such as, PEPS, Bike Marking, Trailer Marking, etc)</p> <p>Themed public meetings, consultative forums and local meetings</p> <p>Neighbourhood Watch</p>	Q2	Q4	£15,868	<p><b>How much did we do?</b>  Number of local meetings.  Number of public themed meetings  Number of engagement activities  Number of NH Watch Schemes  Number of members of the public attending</p> <p><b>How well did we do it?</b>  #/% of members of the public satisfied with meeting/event  #/% of members of the NH Watch who feel satisfied with meetings/events</p> <p><b>Is anyone better off?</b>  #/% of participants with increased confidence in police  % participants more likely to engage with PSNI following event  % participants more likely to report crime following event.</p>	Q2-4

						<p>#/% of members of the NH Watch who feel supported to deliver their role.</p> <p>#/% of members of the NH Watch who feel their area feels safer because of the scheme.</p>	
Policing Committee Communication	Build community confidence in the rule of law and embed a culture of lawfulness	Engage with high risk youths to deter repeat behaviour	Q3	Q4	£11,668	<p><b>How much did we do?</b> Number of participants in the initiative</p> <p><b>How well did we do it?</b> #/% of participants in each initiative assessed their participation as positive</p> <p><b>Is anyone better off?</b> #/% participants with increased awareness % participants with improved levels of awareness of support services #/% of participants with increased confidence in police % participants more likely to engage with PSNI following event % participants more likely to report crime following event.</p>	Q4

Crime Prevention Awareness Raising	Increase community knowledge of PCSP and awareness of activities and preventative measures	Awareness raising campaigns and engagements – rural crime, cyber crime, scams/bogus callers, fear of crime, road safety, Text Alert, BeeSafe, Participatory Budgeting Schemes, Safer U App, SIDs	Q1	Q4	£27,017	<p><b>How much did we do?</b></p> <p>Number of awareness raising campaigns</p> <p>No of events held</p> <p>No of members of the public attending</p> <p>Number of text alert messages issued</p> <p>No of SIDs deployed</p> <p><b>How well did we do it?</b></p> <p>#/% of participants who report their participation as positive/beneficial</p> <p>No of weeks that SIDs were deployed</p> <p><b>Is anyone better off?</b></p> <p>#/% participants improved their level of awareness of information, resources or support available in relation to topic</p> <p>#/% of participants with increased confidence in police</p> <p>% participants more likely to engage with PSNI following event</p> <p>% participants more likely to report crime following event.</p> <p>%Reduction in Speed recorded by SIDs</p>	Q1-4
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## Acronyms

DoJ	Department of Justice
NIBP	Northern Ireland Policing Board
FYTD	Financial Year to Date
PFYTD	Previous Financial Year to Date
NPT	Neighbourhood Policing Team
LPT	Local Policing Team
CPO	Crime Prevention Officer
DST	District Support Team
CID	Criminal Investigation Department
ASB	Anti-Social Behaviour
NTE	Night Time Economy
VVC	Vulnerable Victims of Crime
NIFRS	Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service
RAPID Bins	Remove All Prescription and Illegal Drugs
BAME	Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic
TAIS	Timorese Association Inclusive Support
CRN	Community Resolution Notice
YDO	Youth Development Officer
PPU	Public Protection Unit
MARAC	Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference
STEP	South Tyrone Empowerment Project
DAERA	Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
HMRC	Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs
DVA	Driver Vehicle Agency
DFI	Department for Infrastructure

**Minutes of the meeting of Mid Ulster Policing and Community Safety Partnership held on Wednesday 15 December 2021 at 2.30pm via Microsoft Teams**

**Present:** Councillor Clement Cuthbertson (Chair), Councillor Frances Burton, Councillor Anne Forde, Councillor Cathal Mallaghan, Councillor Christine McFlynn, Councillor Brian McGuigan, Councillor John McNamee, Councillor Sean McPeake, Councillor Trevor Wilson

Alexandra Black (Vice Chair), Sue Chada, Grace Meerbeek, Seán MacGoilla Cheara, Julie McKeown

Michael Avila (Hate Crime Victim Support), Sergeant Simon Corr (PSNI), Sinead Dolan (YJA), Chief Inspector Mervyn Seffen (PSNI), Inspector Gavin Sterling (PSNI)

**Apologies:** Sharon Crooks (NIHE), Paul McCloskey (NIFRS)

**In Attendance:** Michael McCrory (PCSP Manager), Annette McGahan (PCSP Officer), Shauna McCloskey (PCSP Officer), Martina McCullagh (PCSP Assistant)

The Meeting commenced at 2.30pm.

**PCSP213/21 WELCOME**

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

**PCSP214/21 HATE CRIME ADVOCACY SCHEME PRESENTATION – MICHAEL AVILA, HATE CRIME PROJECT MANAGER**

The Chair welcomed and introduced Michael Avila, Hate Crime Project Manager for Victim Support to the meeting, who provided a presentation to Members in relation to the work carried out by their organisation.

Michael Avila, advised that they work in partnership with other specialist organisations across Northern Ireland to address hate crime and provide support to victims.

The definition of a hate crime is; *'Any incident, which may or may not constitute a criminal offence, which is perceived by the victim or any other person, as being motivated by prejudice or hate'*.

Under Article 2 of the Criminal Justice (No. 2) Northern Ireland Order 2004, provisions are made for an enhancement in sentences for offences aggravated by hostility on the basis of race, religion, sexual orientation or disability. Hate incidents will always be logged as such, even if no criminal offence has taken place. Hate Crime legislation is currently being reviewed by the DoJ which will possibly be expanded in Northern Ireland to include more robust legislation, harsher sentencing and cover more hate crime categories.

There are six different strands of hate crime; *Disability, Racist, Homophobic, Transphobic, Faith/Religion, Sectarian*

The following information was provided in relation to the Hate Crime Advocacy Scheme;

- It was introduced in 2008 and funded by the DoJ and PSNI
- Aims to improve support to victims; increase confidence and encourage reporting; reduce barriers and improve access to the criminal justice system
- Victim Support NI acts as a co-ordinator
- Partners include Migrant Centre NI, Leonard Cheshire and Rainbow Project
- Examples of good practice and learning are shared across the partnership

There are currently six Advocates addressing hate crime on a daily basis across Northern Ireland. The role of an Advocate is to contact victims and help signpost them to Legal, Housing, Health and Emotional support services, but the main role is to help navigate victims through the judicial system acting as a liaison between victim and police. The Advocates meet with DoJ and PSNI on a monthly basis to review cases and discuss any apparent trends that may assist with local policing initiatives.

The Chair thanks Michael Avila for attending the meeting and providing the presentation on the 'Hate Crime Advocacy Scheme'.

#### **PCSP215/21 DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Members were reminded of their obligation in relation to declarations of interest.

#### **PCSP216/21 MINUTES OF MID ULSTER POLICING & COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2021**

The Minutes of Mid Ulster Policing and Community Safety Partnership meeting held on Wednesday 8 September 2021 were approved by Members.

**Proposed by:** Councillor Brian McGuigan

**Seconded by:** Councillor John McNamee

#### **PCSP217/21 MATTERS ARISING**

##### **PCSP211/21 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS - Designated 'No Drinking Zones'**

The Chair advised Members that a letter has been sent to Mid Ulster District Council in relation to reviewing all designated 'No Drinking Zones' and requesting the number of fines issued by Council during the previous 12 month period.

Chief Inspector Seffen advised that records of statements sent to Mid Ulster District Council are not collated centrally, but was of the opinion that numbers would be low.

Councillor Wilson expressed his surprise that Police do not retain records in relation to individuals caught consuming alcohol in public places, as this information is forwarded to Mid Ulster District Council to process and issue fines.

### **Trailer Marking Events**

Councillor Burton referred to a discussion which took place at the PCSP meeting on the 8 September 2021 regarding the possibility of holding Trailer Marking events in Granville and Clogher Marts, and asked if these events could be arranged.

In response Chief Inspector Seffen advised that Trailer Marking events are continuously held across the district and the arrangement of one for Clogher Valley will be raised with Joanne Smyth, CPO.

## **PCSP218/21 DRAFT STATISTICS AND CONSULTATION REPORT**

The PCSP Manager referred Members to the Draft Statistics and Consultation Report which has been collated using all responses received through Community Consultation Surveys to date. Further responses have been received since this document went to print and there will also be consultation surveys to be included from the EA, which have been garnered from schools across the District together with Agewell consultation surveys. This report provides an initial view, the finalised report will be available after Christmas.

Members made the following comments;

In response to a question from Councillor McFlynn regarding the sharing of information relating to Road Traffic Collisions with the Department for Infrastructure (DfI), Chief Inspector Seffen advised when an collision happens Police complete a '*Collision Report Form*' which is part of their reporting mechanism to DfI.

## **PCSP219/21 PROJECTS UPDATE**

### **ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

#### **Youth Engagement Programme (YEP)**

The PCSP Manager advised that Youth Engagement Programmes have been taking place in Dungannon, Cookstown together with a pilot programme held during the day in St Patrick's College in Maghera. The feedback from both PSNI and participants involved has been very positive. The Programme ran for eight weeks and it is hoped to re-engage with the same group of youths after Christmas to further strengthen relationships and build on the programme to date.

### **Crash Car Simulator**

Crash Car Simulation has been rolled out to schools across the District and it is hoped this will continue after Christmas.

### **Road Traffic Collision Re-construction**

Road Traffic Collision re-construction took place in Tesco car park in Cookstown on the 6 December 2021, as part of the Youth Engagement Programme (YEP). This event was open to the public to attend. It is hoped that a further event will be arranged after Christmas.

### **NIGHT TIME ECONOMY**

The PCSP Manager advised that a Night Time Economy Sub Group meeting took place on the 30 November 2021, a further meeting will be arranged in due course. It is hoped to invite Coach Operators and Night Club owners to get their feedback and input, Covid restrictions allowing.

### **'Spiking' of drinks**

The PCSP Manager advised Members a pilot scheme with one of the larger bars in the district will be arranged, to help highlight the increasing issue of 'spiking', and to provide information to encourage patrons to be vigilant.

In response to a question from Councillor McNamee in relation to the role of the Police regarding Covid Passports, Chief Inspector Seffen advised that they will be focusing on enforcement around licensed premises and not the individual. Regular inspections of licensed premises will be carried out to ensure that they are complying with the Covid Passport legislation using the 3 E's approach, *Education, Encouragement and Enforcement*. If repeat breaches are found enforcement will be used. If licenced premises have any issues around anti-vaxxers and compliance, police will provide assistance. A number of inspections have already take place, and a programme of inspection for all licensed premises across Mid Ulster is currently being prepared.

### **VULNERABLE VICTIMS OF CRIME**

PCSP Officer, Shauna McCloskey provided the following update on programmes taking place;

#### **Positive Relationships Programme**

The Positive Relationships Programme is being delivered by Causeway and Mid Ulster Women's Aid. The programme commenced at the end of September 2021 with an expression of interest from 10 schools with 5 programmes now fully completed.

#### **Internet Safety Programme**

The Internet Safety Programme is being delivered by Beam Creative Network in partnership with PSNI schools officers. This programme will run from 31 January 2022 to 11 February 2022 with 15 primary schools confirmed to participate.

### **Drugs and Alcohol Programme**

The Drugs and Alcohol Programme is being delivered by Start360 in partnership with the schools officers, 1 programme has been delivered to date.

### **'Black Out' Play**

The 'Black Out' play video recording has now been obtained by Sue Wright, PSNI Schools Officer and will be delivered in post primary schools. As sufficient funding was not available to rollout the play to schools, the DoJ are providing the video as an alternative.

### **Pilot Project being developed to fill the gap left due to the closure of the RADAR Centre in Belfast**

Funding has been secured from 'Policing with the Community' to fund a 'pilot project'. This Programme has been offered to 55 schools across Mid Ulster and to date 36 schools have confirmed their participation.

### **Hi-Risk Domestic Violence**

Hi-Risk Domestic Violence Programme is ongoing, with a total of 15 people having been referred to Joanne Smyth, CPO.

### **Speed Indicator Device (SIDs)**

SIDs will be moved from their current locations within 2 to 3 weeks to the next location as per the waiting list. Problems with batteries for a number of SIDs is currently being checked by Technical Services staff.

The PCSP Manager advised that up to date details on all SIDs is now available on PCSP Facebook.

## **PCSP220/21 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **EA Youth Service – Purchase of a van**

The PCSP Manager advised that initial discussions have taken place with the Education Authority in relation to the purchase of a van, which could be facilitated with 'hot spot wifi' to attract young people away from areas where they gather. This could be incorporated with outdoor activities, provided by EA Youth Workers in conjunction with the local NPT to help build relationships with youths in ASB hotspot areas.

Members agreed that a more detailed and structured proposal is brought to the next PCSP meeting for discussion.

### **Face Masks**

In response to a request for an update from Councillor Wilson in relation to the number of fines issued to individuals for non-compliance of wearing a face mask, Chief Inspector Seffen advised if an individual states they are exempt from having to wear one, police do not have the power to ask for proof, therefore, no further action can be taken.

## **PCSP221/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next PCSP meeting will take place on Wednesday 9 March 2022 at 2.30pm.



The PCSP Manager advised that the DoJ have now issued their guidance notes in relation to the Action Plan, therefore a further meeting will have to be arranged to tie in with their submission deadlines. Members will be notified in due course.

The Chair thanked Members for attending the meeting and wished everyone a very Happy and Healthy Christmas and New Year.

The meeting ended at 3.20pm.



<b>Report on</b>	Strategic Community Development Update
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> March 2022
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Claire Linney, Assistant Director of Development
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Martina Totten, Strategic Development Coordinator

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	<p>To update members on a number of key areas of delivery under Strategic Development for social housing provision</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Draft Dungannon Place Shaping Plan Pilot</li> <li>2. Women's Aid/Apex Supported (social) Housing Scheme</li> <li>3. Response to DfC Housing Supply Strategy Consultation</li> </ol>
1.2	<p>To update members on the delivery of the</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mid Ulster Anti-Poverty Plan</li> <li>• Council Anti – Poverty Plan</li> </ul>
2.0	Background
2.1	<p><b>Draft Dungannon Place Shaping Plan</b> As part of Mid Ulster Community Planning a draft pilot Housing and Regeneration Place Shaping Plan has been identified as needed for Dungannon town; via a partnership with NIHE. The aim of the plan was to set a number of 'Place Shaping Principles' to allow for much needed social and affordable housing provision in the town alongside regeneration for Dungannon town.</p> <p><b>Women's Aid/Apex Supported (social) Housing Scheme</b> Council has been assisting Causeway and Mid Ulster Women's Aid and Department for Communities on the delivery of much needed 'Move On' accommodation for their clients in the District, as the next step back to permanent housing placements. Such developments address the specific needs of those affected by violence and release other properties to address the wider social housing need in the area.</p> <p><b>Response to DfC Housing Supply Strategy Consultation</b> Council submitted a response to DfC Housing Strategy 2022-2037 consultation on 9<sup>th</sup> February. A consultation session was also held with DfC officers and elected members to provide comments to the response.</p>

2.2	<p><b>Mid Ulster Anti-Poverty Plan</b></p> <p>The Mid Ulster Anti-Poverty Plan was presented to Council last year. Members agreed the Plan. It was noted at this time that whilst the Plan is the responsibility of all community planning partners, it was important that Council show leadership, via the development of a Council led plan.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><b>Draft Dungannon Place Shaping Plan Pilot</b></p> <p>To address issues of quality social housing provision for Dungannon alongside regeneration needs, Council is developing a Pilot Place Shaping Plan for Dungannon, with a set of corporate social and affordable housing planning and development principles. The Place Shaping Plan aims to set good social and affordable development management alongside housing policy and investment by creating a framework and guidance to create homes and neighbourhoods which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• meet the needs of those requiring social and affordable housing</li> <li>• are of enduring good quality</li> <li>• have appropriate open space</li> <li>• are conveniently located for access to jobs, facilities and amenities</li> <li>• are future-proofed for climate change</li> </ul> <p>The set of draft principles include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Protection of the town centre retail core. Existing shop fronts should be maintained. Town centre housing should take the form of LOTS apartments, apartment developments setback from the street or town houses that complement the streetscape in terms of footprint, density and height.</li> <li>2. Family housing should not be developed close to premises associated with the night-time economy.</li> <li>3. House type should be appropriate to the Zone. LOTS apartments in the town centre, semi-detached houses and bungalows at the edge of the town centre and suburbs.</li> <li>4. All housing development should align with the current Dungannon townscape and built environment - appropriate footprint, density, scale and height, as detailed in this Plan</li> <li>5. All housing should provide for a good quality of life, designed with outside green space or pocket parks at the core of town centre apartment developments, semi/detached properties with gardens, close to amenities and facilities, with access to sufficient parking</li> <li>6. Housing should be developed to the highest environmental standards (climate change, energy efficiency, technology)</li> <li>7. All housing at the edge of the town centre and suburbs should be developed on the basis of mixed tenure and mixed type to promote social cohesion</li> <li>8. All housing schemes should have a minimum 2-bed requirement to facilitate family living except properties specifically designed for single people with no access rights to dependents.</li> </ol> <p>The next stage is to undertake engagement on the proposals within the draft plan with a range of stakeholders including members. The draft plan engagement will take place over the next 2 months.</p>

### **Women's Aid/Apex Supported (social) Housing Scheme**

A site has been identified adjacent to the Women's Aid refuge, on Council owned land at Station Road, Cookstown. Council previously agreed to a lease with Women's Aid for the site to be used for the provision of Move on Accommodation for its clients. Women's Aid carried out an Economic Appraisal exercise which explored the various options to deliver the house build scheme. The Appraisal recommended a partnership approach with a Housing Association, to allow the use of the Housing Association Grant (Housing Associations are the only organizations that can access the grant). Upon discussions with a number of Housing Associations, Women's Aid entered into a partnership with Apex Housing Association and Council, to develop social housing for the sole use of women and families of domestic violence. Apex Housing Association was identified as a partner; due to their commitment to move on housing for women of domestic violence, and their experience in the provision of similar housing in Derry City, their current development in Omagh. Apex Housing Association have delivered similar housing schemes in Derry City with Foyle Women's Aid and are currently undertaking delivery with Fermanagh Women's Aid.

In order to progress with the development, Apex Housing Association have informed Council that they must have Title Hold of the site, in order to secure the necessary public and private funding they would require to deliver the scheme. Housing Associations can make an application to DfC, through NIHE, for a HAG grant for 60% of the total build costs. The remaining 40% is raised from private investments.

Causeway & Mid Ulster Women's Aid currently hold a 99 year lease from Council for the site. They have written to Council to rescind this lease based on the sale of land to Apex Housing Association (partnering with Women's Aid) with the necessary conditions to protect the developed site for Category 1 Supported (social) Housing and Women's Aid as the main used as long as is required. This will be considered formally by the Policy and Resources Committee through to Council.

### **Response to DfC Housing Supply Strategy Consultation**

A response to the DfC Housing Strategy 2022-2037 consultation on 9th February. The strategy is intended to provide a long term framework for the development of policy, interventions and action plans to deliver the right homes in the right locations, to help meet current and foreseeable housing needs and demands. As such, it is anticipated that the strategy will make a major contribution to the achievement of strategic outcomes as described in the draft Programme for Government outcomes framework, New Decade New Approach and the Department's strategic plan, 'Building Inclusive Communities.

Please see **Appendix 1** Response to Consultation

### **3.2 Mid Ulster Anti-Poverty Plan**

Engagement has taken place with all departments (directors and heads of service) to update them on the Mid Ulster Anti-Poverty Plan, and to identify actions for Council delivery, alongside areas for lobbying under community planning. Please see attached at **Appendix 2**. Council Service leads will report on progress in implementing the actions on a quarterly basis. All Council actions align to the overall themes contained in the main Mid Ulster Anti-Poverty Plan.

	Engagement is also continuing with Community Planning partners regarding delivery of the Mid Ulster Anti-Poverty Plan.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<p><b><u>Financial &amp; Human Resources Implications</u></b> None</p> <p><b><u>Professional Support</u></b> None</p>
<b>4.2</b>	<p><b><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></b> None</p>
<b>4.3</b>	<p><b><u>Risk Management Implications</u></b> None</p>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
<b>5.1</b>	<p>To note update key areas of delivery under Strategic Development:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dungannon Place Shaping Plan Pilot</li> <li>2. Women's Aid/Apex Supported (social) Housing Scheme</li> <li>3. Response to DfC Housing Supply Strategy Consultation</li> <li>4. Mid Ulster Anti-Poverty Plan</li> </ol>
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
<b>6.1</b>	<p>Appendix 1 Housing Consultation response</p> <p>Appendix 2 Mid Ulster Anti Poverty Plan review</p>



**Department for Communities  
Housing Supply Strategy  
February 2022  
Mid Ulster District Council Response**

## **Introduction**

Mid Ulster District Council (MUDC) welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Department for Communities Housing Supply Strategy Consultation. Council broadly welcomes the development of the Strategy and its commitment to **Working in new and different ways with local Councils and Community Planning Partnerships to realise opportunities to increase and maintain housing supply and help create sustainable and inclusive urban and rural places**. That said, Council wishes to highlight the following key housing issues that face the community in Mid Ulster.

The Mid Ulster Housing market has experienced a great deal of change over the last 20 years with a significant increase in population and growth. Mid Ulster population growth has outpaced the NI average between 2001 and 2013 as population grew by 19% (compared to a NI growth of 8%). The number of households increased by 18% between 2001 and 2010. There is a projected Housing Growth Indicator new dwelling requirement of 10,300 for the period 2016 to 2030 for the district, which is well above the NI average of 7,709. The levels of growth, particularly in Dungannon, has had an impact on housing demand and rental values. This and the limited increase in social housing stock has led to issues of poverty in the area.

Mid Ulster has one of the highest levels of social housing need and this is reflected in the level of housing stress. At March 2021, there were 2,158 applicants on the waiting list for Mid Ulster with 1,267 in housing stress and only 283 allocations over the year. Housing stress in rural areas is also increasing on an annual basis since March 2016. At March 2021, there were 650 applicants on the rural housing waiting list for Mid Ulster with 353 in housing stress and only 115 allocations over the year. Demand for intermediate housing aimed at low income households in Mid Ulster is estimated at 1,350 units between 2020-2030.

Mid Ulster has the second lowest number of NIHE and Social Housing properties across all districts. Up to March 2021, NIHE and Housing Associations have sold 7,651 units under the house sales scheme, leaving 3,855 of NIHE housing stock in the district. NIHE has identified a social housing need of 718 units required for the 2020/2025 period. There were 30 units completed and 93 units onsite at March 2021; and 217 units programmed for the 2020/2023 period, falling well short of what is required by 2025. Almost 60% of all units required are in the Dungannon and Coalisland.

Affordable and social housing provision is a key strategic issue identified for Mid Ulster as part of its Community Plan. As the allocation of housing is a central element in achieving many of the objectives detailed in the Community Plan, it is difficult to consider it in isolation of the other key areas, including poverty, regeneration, health and wellbeing and prosperity. Mid Ulster Community Planning has identified a number of actions to address the housing crisis in the District

## **Strategic Framework**

### **Objective 1: Creating Affordable Options**

#### Affordability

Local affordable housing needs are determined on financial affordability i.e. the ability of a person or household to access financial support whether it is through co-ownership, shared ownership or right to buy, or other alternative financial supporting mechanism. Affordable Housing cannot be measured in '*residential units*', it must be measured on the individual householder(s) need to access a decent home.

Within Mid Ulster, the Council has acknowledged that there is a major issue regarding the affordability of rent whether it is social rented homes or private rented homes. This is causing a distinct rise in homelessness, including hidden homelessness. Exortionate rent prices and exponential increases are being imposed on tenants renting within the sector, resulting in immense suffering by residents who are enduring such rises on restricted or decreasing income levels.

A basic analysis of private sector rents in Dungannon at March 2021 indicated average costs of between £625 - £650 per month for a three bedroom semi detached/terraced house. These are often ex-NIHE dwellings. The Housing Benefit Local Housing Allowance is set at £102.00 per week for a three bedroom property. This leaves tenants in receipt of Housing Benefit, who have rental costs of £650/month, having to find a shortfall of £208 per month. This is in comparison to an average rent of £550 per month for similar privately rented properties in Enniskillen, Lurgan, Portadown and Omagh. Many people simply cannot afford £650 per month or cannot enjoy a decent quality of life if most of their wages are spent on housing costs. Some newer private rented houses in Mid Ulster can cost between £700-£900 per month, way beyond the reach of most tenants, and most definitely those in receipt of benefits.

Dungannon sits within the Broad Rental Market Area of Lough Neagh Lower. The Broad Rental Market Area boundaries are not reflective of the market rents being charged and as a result, tenants in the private rented sector face significant day to day hardship trying to meet their housing costs. Almost nine in 10 private rented sector claimants experience a shortfall between their weekly rent and the amount of Housing Benefit they receive (NI Broad Rental Market Areas Scoping Study and Impact

Assessment January 2019). This is particularly challenging in the current climate, with people navigating their way through Covid19, job losses and the rising cost of everyday living. Delays in processing Universal Credit can contribute to rent arrears building up and result in a reluctance by private landlords to accept tenants in receipt of benefit. The Bedroom Tax mitigation measures have been helpful but will be an expensive hurdle for many when this ends. Local Housing Allowance (LHA) must be reviewed to take account of variations in rent charges within Broad Rental Market Areas. Council recommend that rental market areas be re-defined to reflect actual rental charges across all areas. Recognition is also given on the impact of LHA on the number of new social homes being built.

Housing Associations need to ensure they are charging rents based on the Local Housing Allowance levels. While there is a need for Housing Associations to secure private finance investment to build homes, this may be funded by charging higher rents contributing to housing pressure. The average Housing Association rent in 2021 is £98.34 per week (£106.28 for a three bed property) in Mid Ulster. These figures do not include service charges or rates and are significantly more than the average rent charged by NIHE at £68.27 per week, excluding rates.

Greater support for Housing Association's to bring forward affordable housing is required. Unlike social housing provision, Housing Associations currently shoulder 100% of the financial costs and liability of affordable housing schemes. This can make such schemes high risk and therefore unattractive to Associations. In order to increase the supply of affordable housing, measures to alleviate the financial risk to Housing Associations, will need to be considered.

Co-ownership is a welcome, but limited initiative given the cap of £165,000 on the value of the property that can be bought as a co-owner. Many private developers can achieve much more than this on the open market for their properties, and it is therefore not a cost effective solution for them to sell to a Co-ownership scheme especially in a buoyant market. Schemes which provide an incentive to developers to participate in shared ownership developments are required as is more flexibility for Housing Associations to increase purchase offers beyond the current cap. Restrictions should be placed on a Co-ownership property to prevent it being sold on to a private landlord, with a requirement to offer it back to the Housing Association for first refusal.

#### Intervention in the Private Rented Market

The private rented sector across the district has seen an unprecedented increase in its tenure share. The impact of COVID19 on rising levels of unemployment, lending restrictions and growing social housing waiting lists will ensure that demand for the private rented sector will continue grow.

Rental values in Dungannon and to a lesser extent Cookstown are very high and there is significant difference between actual rental charges and Local Housing Allowance

amounts. In addition, the largest number of housing benefit claimants are living in properties belonging to the private sector. There is a real need for intervention. If a solution is not found, the social housing crisis will continue to escalate and the social issues heighten. It will also cause further problems with regard to housing allocation in terms of meeting need, vulnerable people, family unity, strong communities, etc. MUDC advocates for Executive intervention in the rental market to monitor rental values in our main hub towns and cities (which are where the populations are concentrated) and to intervene where the market is creating real issues of poverty and social deprivation. Intervention models have been developed in the South of Ireland in the form of Rent Pressure Zones and in other EU countries such as Germany, whereby rules introduced in 2015 prevent landlords in certain towns and cities from setting rents for new tenants any higher than 10% above the local average from the previous four years. However, it has been noted that in examples such as Dublin, these interventions were implemented too late, when rents had risen well beyond the affordability of many, which has reduced their potential impact in addressing the issue.

#### Public Sector Asset Mapping

Mid Ulster District Council is committed to the release of public sector land for the provision of social housing where possible and are working with NIHE to identify appropriate land for same. Council has already made land available to Causeway and Mid Ulster Women's Aid for the development of supported housing. We also continue to encourage other statutory partners, through our Community Planning partnerships, to identify unused land assets for social and affordable housing. Assets mapping of the entire public sector will be hugely beneficial for the supply of social and affordable housing across the region. MUDC supports NIHE efforts to **extend the scope of the Government Land and Property Register (GLPR) Programme to digitally map all land and property holdings for both Central Government and Local Government in NI.**

#### Land Availability

Land banking is an issue in Mid Ulster with a number of developments having gone through the Planning process but not materialised in buildings on the ground. This has an impact on the analysis of waste water and sewerage capacity by skewing the figures, which in turn impacts on the approval of future housing schemes. This issue is mainly experienced in Dungannon, adding further stress to housing demand.

**Creating the right policy and legislative environment, including better utilising the powers already in place to support new supply and reuse/adapt existing buildings,** should include the greater use of land vesting by NIHE. This will ensure the release of necessary lands for the development of social and affordable housing as well as discouraging other landowners from banking land and holding up the supply of housing.

### Waste Water & Sewage Infrastructure

**Seeking the prioritisation of water infrastructure for new housing in areas of most acute housing need is most welcomed by Mid Ulster District Council.** The issue of water and wastewater management in Mid Ulster will have detrimental impact on the district achieving a number of key housing outcomes. Many people living in the Mid Ulster District Council area are facing significant housing stress because of house building not keeping up with housing demand. New housing developments particularly in our urban towns and key settlements are being refused by NI Water, due to lack of upgrading to Waste Water Treatment Works and new water mains not being delivered. Significant Waste Water network capacity issues are emerging in our five main hub towns including Magherafelt, Cookstown, Dungannon, Maghera and Coalisland. These towns have been identified within the Area Plan for Mid Ulster for growth status. Mid Ulster is currently completing on the development of the Area Plan and has estimated a need for approximately 10,950 new houses by 2030. In addition to the Waste Water Treatment Works, waste water network capacity issues are emerging in 20 areas across the district. Because of this, new connections are being declined in parts of the catchment.

A significant collaborative effort is required to address a problem of this magnitude. Starting with central government to provide the necessary financial resources to upgrade the current waste water infrastructure; but also at a local level with NI Water, NIHE and local councils to develop local solutions. More sustainable solutions such as SUDs need to be explored, to offset rainwater capture to alleviate pressure on the sewerage system re capacity.

### Skills - Local Market Partnerships

Mid Ulster Community Planning welcomes proposals from DfC to create Labour Market Partnerships (LMP) in each council area, allowing for tailored interventions to address the district's particular issues. Key areas for delivery would be the retraining of sectors no longer providing sustainable employment, an issue that has been further exacerbated by the pandemic. Any work regarding **upskilling, reskilling, delivery of apprenticeships**, through this strategy, should be delivered in Partnership with the Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership to ensure a holistic approach to skills and employment in the district.

## **Objective 2: Prevention and Intervention**

### Housing and Poverty

More low-income families tend to live in the private rented sector, which tends to be more expensive with poorer living conditions. The gap between housing benefit and local housing allowance which has grown since housing benefit cuts were introduced in 2011 has resulted in worsening levels of poverty and pressure on the family budget. Investment in social housing and the removal of the gap between rents and benefits

is a necessity to help those caught in the poverty trap caused by housing. Housing costs must not push our residents into poverty. Government bodies have a responsibility to the citizens of Northern Ireland to intervene in both failing social policies and commercial markets when this happens. People should live in homes that are of a good quality and standard to ensure good physical and mental health, social wellbeing, cohesion and the prosperity of society as a whole. Alleviating poverty, through addressing the impact of increasing housing costs on people's incomes should be a key priority of this Strategy.

Mid Ulster Community Planning is fully committed to reducing poverty and the impact of poverty on individuals and communities within Mid Ulster. In 2019, in the absence of a Regional Anti-Poverty Strategy, Mid Ulster Community Planning partners came together from statutory agencies, business and community to look at a range of priorities impacting on poverty; with the aim of creating an Anti-Poverty Plan that seeks to identify strategic actions for partner delivery. A number of poverty issues were identified through the development of the Plan for Mid Ulster including, *"People living in deprived areas are more likely to be in a house that is of a lower standard of quality living e.g. house standard and heat etc"*. One of the key objectives of the Anti-Poverty Plan is to *"Provide everyone with a quality home for life, through affordable rents via rent interventions of increased rent support, adequate social and affordable house provision in mixed tenure developments and quality environments"*. Mid Ulster Community Planning is fully committed to working with all Government departments to fulfil the actions of the Mid Ulster Anti-Poverty Plan and the Regional Poverty Plan.

### Homelessness

Even though Mid Ulster may seem to have a low level of rough sleeping, it has the high number of chronic homeless people (this is evidenced by figures provided by NIHE District Offices). Whilst many homeless people are not presenting on the streets they are 'sofa surfing', relying on friends and families to provide accommodation in houses that are already at full capacity, causing further stress to other family units. NIHE research estimates that 5-10% of the homeless population suffer chronic homelessness. These levels of homelessness/chronic homelessness are unacceptable, and as the Housing Executive and Department for Communities has referenced, there is a need for robust action.

There is a body of information that indicates chronic homelessness is associated with people who suffer a range of complex support needs. However, there are further associated issues, including in Mid Ulster the inability of tenants to pay rents that are beyond reasonable levels. Homelessness caused by affordability of rental properties is becoming a major issue, particularly in the Dungannon town area and as a result many tenants are experiencing recurring homelessness. For people experiencing prolonged and serial homelessness, housing affordability barriers are often compounded by issues of poor mental health, addictions, social exclusion and financial stability. Against this background many individuals/families are leading

unstable and chaotic lifestyles by living in unsuitable B&B, hostel, emergency and temporary accommodation in areas which are unfamiliar and away from family support. There are instances where families and children are being placed in unsuitable temporary accommodation. Furthermore, social housing providers are making housing allocations without consideration of support needs for the individual/families. This often worsens their situation and exacerbates their dependencies resulting in recurring temporary placements and serial housing failure. Council are of the opinion that changes must be made to the Housing Selection Scheme to enable mixed housing allocations that take account of family togetherness, community cohesion, and access to transport services, education and employment with the view of providing an integrated holistic approach to long-term housing sustainability.

It is fundamental that homelessness is addressed through a multifaceted approach involving statutory, voluntary and community sectors to ensure that people experiencing chronic homelessness are provided with appropriate permanent housing in their areas of choice along with tailored support to meet their individual needs. It is imperative that the NIHE, Housing Associations and partner agencies are committed to eradicating the homeless problem by investing the necessary resources so that the causes of the repeat homelessness becomes known, and appropriate action taken to ensure individuals/households have access to settled, affordable and suitable housing in their areas of choice. Models include buying up single properties in areas where there is stock coming to the market rather than relying on large developments. Council recommends legislative changes be made to place a Statutory Duty on relevant agencies to co-operate in an interdepartmental approach in providing the required resources, housing and support mix for people who are threatened or already experiencing homelessness.

#### Supported Housing

Council welcomes a commitment to **Develop and implement new policies that will support the delivery of a more diverse range of housing types/alternative models of housing to meet all housing needs.** The 2021 annual update of the Housing Investment Plan for Mid Ulster states that the gross, three year (2021/24) SHDP contains no supported housing schemes for Mid Ulster as there is currently no identified or known requirement for supported housing in the district. However, Mid Ulster Community Plan has identified a need for supported housing across the District. Supported housing need has been identified for people with disabilities, older people and vulnerable women who are victims of domestic violence. A need was also identified in Dungannon for people with learning disabilities. This has been brought to the attention of the Southern Health and Social Care Trust who recognised the need but stated that there is no current funding. There has been no supported housing provision in the last number of years, which would call into question the suggestion that there is a lack of need whilst other plans and engagements with the sectors have identified a real need. There is confusion around whether need or lack of resource is



driving the agenda. Council would seek a review of supported housing needs for people between those who are responsible for identify the need and those who are responsible for providing the financial resources.

Council also considers that there needs to be a Government focus on the housing needs of older people. In the context of an ageing population, it is important that provision is made for affordable, specialist accommodation which caters for the elderly in our society who are in need of care due to a reduced ability to perform some tasks. A government focus on housing provision for this section of society would help reduce pressure on the demand for general social rented housing. Such specialist housing would also be likely to provide health and well-being benefits and reduce feelings of isolation for residents.

Council is currently working with Causeway and Mid Ulster Women's Aid on the delivery of much needed Move On accommodation for their clients in Cookstown as the next step back to normal housing situations. A considerable number of women, children and young people are at risk of domestic violence are unable to get into the Mid Ulster Women's Aid Refuge because of lack of capacity. The need for such services is increasing and is reflected in police crime statistics. Such developments address the specific needs of those affected by violence and release other properties to address the wider social housing need in the area.

#### Intimidation Criteria

Council has recently lobbied to the DfC Permanent Secretary to ensure that Women and their children experiencing Domestic Violence are eligible to gain Intimidation Points, in the same way that they are applied to victims of sectarian, racial or disability abuse. Whilst Women's Aid works tirelessly to source these families suitable accommodation, this can be extremely difficult with housing demand significantly high in the district. Often, they can only source accommodation for the families outside the area they currently reside in. However, because many mothers are reluctant to uproot their children from their schools, families and friends, as this would have an even greater negative impact on the children, they often return to the abusive relationship. The NIHE guidance states that organisations can confirm if there is a danger to life. However, in order to ensure that the most vulnerable families are protected from further abuse and violence and provided with the best opportunity to access accommodation in an area where they feel safe and is positive for their wellbeing, In order to **deliver housing solutions for citizens who are most in need**, Council advocates that these families be afforded the maximum points available.

Council also has concerns with the application of Intimidation Points to providing housing for those that are involved in Anti Social Behaviour and criminality, over other citizens, including young families and older people. This application of points has often resulted in provision on social housing in well established, peaceful communities that has brought with it ASB and criminality. Council welcomes the Ministers commitment

to implementing the 18 recommendations of the Review of the Common Selection Scheme and the Strategy's objective to **examine further options on the issues of intimidation points and interim accommodation points.**

### **Objective 3: Quality**

The Department of Communities' urgent measures under the Private Tenancies (Coronavirus Modifications) (Northern Ireland) Act 2020 to provide additional protections for private rented tenants from eviction during the COVID-19 outbreak are welcome. However, evictions by the 'back door' are still common. Unscrupulous landlords are essentially evicting tenants by increasing rents to extortionate levels. Tenants who cannot afford to pay find it impossible to remain in the property. This is particularly evident when tenants have asked landlords to make basic improvements or repairs to the property. Some houses are still being rented with single glazed windows and outdated heating systems, causing dampness, extra fuel costs and health related problems. While tenants have the right to carry out work themselves and deduct the cost from their rent, some have faced the consequences of this, quickly receiving notice of a substantial rental increase soon after.

A single independent body responsible for assessing and enforcing housing quality standards would be beneficial, as would more awareness of tenants' rights and encouragement to report underhand practice and poor quality housing in the private rented sector. Rent regulation measures would help to eradicate unfitness and ensure that tenants live in a healthy and safe environment. This particularly applies to the regulations covering Houses in Multiple Occupation across the private rented sector. There are a considerable number of, mostly unregistered, HMOs in Mid Ulster. The current regulation of HMOs is based on the Belfast model, mainly occupied by the student population. This is not appropriate for Mid Ulster, where the majority are occupied by the migrant worker population, many of whom have been wrongly told they will be deported if they report concerns about overcrowding and housing unfitness. The regulations covering Houses in Multiple Occupation should be strengthened across the private rented sector with rent regulation used as a lever to bring substandard properties up to standard, including energy efficient standards.

House quality does not just relate to new housing, but to existing provision. There are quite a number of people renting in poor accommodation. The repair grant is still available in NI but it is very hard to access. To be eligible you must have a statutory notice from Environmental Health to apply.

Council welcomes the Strategy's commitment to **strengthen enforcement powers to uphold standards.** There is need for a greater legislative remit and provision of associated resourcing for the inspection of housing conditions to ensure they are fit for purpose for health and wellbeing. Many lung related conditions and asthma that

have a long lasting impact on health and wellbeing, life expectancy and the resource burden on the health service can be linked to people living in houses of poor quality.

The majority of responsible landlords and letting agents in the private rented sector would welcome more definitive standards and stricter regulations. Additionally, a wider range of grants available through the NIHE would provide significant encouragement for landlords to keep properties up to standard.

Council also seeks to ensure the Planning gain of adequate green space provision in housing; that green space are not edge strips of green around an estate but a central space that is accessible to all. Evidence would show that where our social housing provision has been well planned with good space and green space provision there are less social issues in the longer term. Green space needs to be integral to the design for social and affordable housing and to the allocation of the housing grant to build developments with good open space. NIHE needs to have a greater say in the final design that allows for good practice.

Mid Ulster Community Planning has initiated a pilot Housing and Regeneration Place Shaping Plan in Dungannon, in partnership with NIHE. This plan will identify 'Place Shaping Principles' that we will seek to have adopted and implemented by NIHE and Council when assessing social housing applications, based on complementing the priorities for regeneration for Dungannon town. Council would welcomes the Department's support to replicate this partnership and process across all hub towns.

#### **Objective 4: Better Places**

##### Place Shaping

The Mid Ulster Community Plan completely supports the Strategy's focus to **Putting place-shaping at the heart of our actions by developing policies that will support delivery of housing led regeneration, encourage mixed tenure and promote shared Housing**. The central principle of Community Planning is the wider integrated impact of one policy on another and on resources. It is important that housing provision takes account of the long term sustainability of areas and lifetime homes. Housing is one of the basic hierarchy of needs for people. The provision of suitable homes for people is critical to all elements of wellbeing. Families should have adequate space for children to grow and develop in all areas of life. This is similar in the allocation of housing to people who are separated and have children for part of a week. Maintaining the family unit and bond with parents is invaluable to the wellbeing of the child.

MUDC wants a greater balance achieved between town centre regeneration and the provision of social and affordable housing. It is unarguable that Mid Ulster has a high level of social housing need but addressing that need cannot come at the expense of

other areas of society, like our town centre viability and growth. Recently, a number of Housing Associations have been granted permission and provided with grants to build social housing (mainly apartments) in streets primarily dominated by retail and leisure. The provision of social housing in such locations is not viable, nor is it addressing real need. Not only does it have an impact on the retail and leisure economy of our hub towns, but the properties are often occupied by young families living in 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> floor apartments, with no garden or space to play and near bars, restaurants or gambling establishments. This is a cheaper option based on easy provision and does not take account of families in real need on the social housing list.

As previously stated, to address these issues of quality social housing provision, Council is developing a Pilot Place Shaping Plan for Dungannon, with a set of corporate Planning principles. The Place Shaping Plan aims to complement planning policy, development management, and housing policy and investment by creating a framework and guidance to create homes and neighbourhoods which:

- meet the needs of those requiring social and affordable housing
- are of enduring good quality
- have appropriate open space
- are conveniently located for access to jobs, facilities and amenities
- are future-proofed for climate change

The set of draft principles include:

1. Protection of the town centre retail core. Existing shop fronts should be maintained. Town centre housing should take the form of LOTS apartments, apartment developments setback from the street or town houses that complement the streetscape in terms of footprint, density and height.
2. Family housing should not be developed close to premises associated with the night-time economy.
3. House type should be appropriate to the Zone. LOTS apartments in the town centre, semi-detached houses and bungalows at the edge of the town centre and suburbs.
4. All housing development should align with the current Dungannon townscape and built environment - appropriate footprint, density, scale and height, as detailed in this Plan
5. All housing should provide for a good quality of life, designed with outside green space or pocket parks at the core of town centre apartment developments, semi/detached properties with gardens, close to amenities and facilities, with access to sufficient parking
6. Housing should be developed to the highest environmental standards (climate change, energy efficiency, technology)
7. All housing at the edge of the town centre and suburbs should be developed on the basis of mixed tenure and mixed type to promote social cohesion

8. All housing schemes should have a minimum 2-bed requirement to facilitate family living except properties specifically designed for single people with no access rights to dependents.

### Mixed Tenure

There is strong evidence that highlights the benefits of mixed developments in promoting quality housing, social cohesion, reducing social exclusion and creating stronger communities. This requires a two tier approach; one through the delivery of the social and affordable housing provision and through private developer schemes via planning. **Ensure the planning system, including Local Development Plans, help support the delivery of the appropriate supply of housing** is hugely important. There is a great deal of inconsistency in the requirements for social housing ratios in new build sites across NI Council areas. New Planning Regulations should be put in place setting a standard and regionally consistent ratio for the number of social housing units provided in every new development. Quality management of delivery of such provision is essential, requiring an oversight body to ensure that adequate provision of social and affordable housing remains a priority. There is a definite need for mixed tenure developments in rural areas that provide choice for those who do not wish to leave their own rural communities and families but have to move to urban areas where housing is available. Sustaining rural communities and ensuring they continue to thrive is a necessity and should be a priority. Council welcomes the commitment to the **development of a mixed tenure policy**.

Mid Ulster Council support ideas to acquire existing market stock in areas of consistent unmet need. Council feel that this is an underutilised scheme that should already be better used to ensure social housing provision for rural areas. It is the view of the council that there appears to be a reluctance of Housing Associations to acquire homes in this way, as the low and sporadic numbers they would have to manage in a small rural areas may not financially appeal to them.

### Housing Supply in Rural Areas

**Enabling the provision of affordable rural homes** is a key priority for MUDC, given the district rural make up. Many people are still completing housing applications by stating their preference of location based on where they know the housing is going to be and not where their family are located or where they would choose to live. This not only puts further demand and burden on social housing developments in our towns, where the necessary infrastructure required for development is already at capacity. It also creates further social issues relating to childcare and family support and isolation.

Mid Ulster Council have been working with NIHE to carry out Latent Demand Tests in rural areas of Mid Ulster. We have been looking at how the process is communicated to the local communities and using Council's Community Development contacts to engage with local community groups and elected members to help with this communication and messaging. The aim of this work is to ensure that best response

to the Latent Demand Testing and evidence clearly the true demand for both social and affordable housing in the area.

Even with this positive partnership work between organisations, it still is not translating into housing provision in our rural areas. There are examples in Mid Ulster, where there has been positive responses from local communities to Latent Demand Tests in their area, only to be told that there is still not enough need to bring forward a social housing scheme. Or instances where the NIHE have demonstrated need for an affordable housing scheme but Housing Associations declining to develop. Mid Ulster District Council would advocate for a more robust link between housing supply and housing need, through this Strategy. How need is assessed, for both social and affordable housing must be reviewed to ensure that it is a true reflection of the housing needs of communities across the region, with particular attention paid to rural areas, where hidden need is most prevalent. It then requires a duty from those who provide the housing, to fulfil what has been clearly identified as a need.

### **Objective 5: Decarbonisation**

Commitments to improved energy efficiency within housing stock alongside considering solutions for the future de-carbonisation of household heating systems are positive developments, as this is an urgent challenge facing those responsible for housing provision here.

We support a major retrofitting campaign, to increase minimum Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) minimum ratings within our housing stock. Whilst reducing carbon emissions is important, tackling fuel poverty and maximising thermal comfort for citizens should also be a reason to create more energy efficient housing. This is particularly important when viewed in the context, that the rate of fuel poverty in the north of Ireland is 22%, and that housing here accounts for 13% of greenhouse gas emissions. Statistics on the incidences of fuel poverty within lower income households is incentive enough for DfC to make this a matter of absolute priority within the Housing Supply Strategy, across both rural and urban settings.

### **Delivery**

As previously stated, housing and housing supply are a key objective within the Mid Ulster Community and as such Mid Ulster District Council, as lead facilitator of the Community Plan, have established a Mid Ulster Housing Forum, made up of Housing Associations, NIHE, NI Water and MUDC Planning. In addition to this, we also have an elected member housing working group.

As part of wider Community Planning delivery, a community engagement structure also exists in Mid Ulster. This is a 2 tiered approach. Firstly, networks have been established in each of the seven District Electoral Areas (DEAs) within the district. The networks are made up of community & voluntary groups operating in each DEA, as well as the local elected representative for that area. The next tier comprises of a Strategic Community & Voluntary Sector (CVS) Forum, made up of CVS groups and organisations that operate across the district. A number of members of the Strategic CVS Forum participate in one of the four Community Planning Thematic Working Groups, where they will support the delivery of the Mid Ulster Community Plan.

As already mentioned in this response, Council were able to utilise our DEA networks in partnership with NIHE in carrying out Latent Demand Tests. We looked at how the process is communicated to the local communities and using the DEA networks to engage with local community groups and elected members to help with this communication and messaging. The aim of this work is to ensure that best response to the Latent Demand Testing and evidence clearly the true demand for both social and affordable housing in the area.

As clearly outlined above, there are already established networks in Mid Ulster that would facilitate the delivery of the Housing Supply Strategy at a local level. Council believes that the Strategy needs to be delivered at a local level, by local organisations and communities, potentially through local action plans.

At the same time, whilst Council welcomes the need for cross departmental endorsement to the Strategy, we believe that there must be one accountable body for the delivery of the plan. Responsibility by various departments for delivery specific elements of the plan and responsibility for ensuring that the whole plan is delivered to ensure **“Everybody has access to a good quality, affordable and sustainable home that is appropriate for their needs and is located within a thriving and inclusive community”**, must be separated. The Council seeks the commitment from DfC to act as this responsible department.

In addition to the above point, although MUDC welcomes a Framework that incorporates key statutory bodies in the delivery of housing in areas of identified need, that includes NIHE and Councils, it holds the view that the NIHE must provide the strategic lead for social and affordable housing provision in the region. Council believes it is crucial that NIHE sets the strategic principles and best practice examples for social and affordable housing provision for others to follow. It is important that the Strategy underlines and reinforces this.



## Conclusion

Northern Ireland is experiencing a significant shortage in the provision of Social and Affordable Housing. It is clear from the Social Housing Programme that housebuilding is not keeping up with housing demand resulting in rising housing stress, homelessness and chronic homelessness figures. New ways for increasing the supply of social housing must be prioritised. Council recommend the following action:

- Purchase of land and development of mixed housing types and tenures in both urban and rural areas by the Housing Executive;
- Widening the offering of 'Affordable Housing' by Housing Associations, enabling people the opportunity to avoid rental market pressures and accessing low cost home ownership;
- Flexible models to support and increase the purchasing of new and existing housing from the open market by social housing providers, particularly in rural areas.
- Regionally consistent policy on mixed tenure ratio on new build private developments to ensure delivery of social and affordable housing at appropriate rate based on housing need;
- Further consideration must be given to future sales of social housing stock. The current 'Right to Buy Scheme' amended to 'Buy Back Scheme' where purchasers are obliged to sell the property back to social housing landlords in the event of disposing.

Theme	Sub Theme	Action	MUDC Progress		Community Planning Partner Progress	
			Lead	Update	Partner	Update
Cross Cutting	All Themes	Raise awareness and promote the Council's Anti Poverty Actions and promote the message that 'Poverty is not inevitable'.	Ursula Mezza	Promotion as an when actions developed and underway.		
Economic Growth	Income and Benefits	Partners to review use of zero-hours contracts and living wage implementation. Review good practice in zero contract hours and living wage.	Marissa Canavan	The Council agreed to become a living wage foundation employer approximately 4 years ago which is higher than the national living wage. Council implements the NJC salary scales which are higher than both the living wage foundation and national living wage. In leisure we have moved away from casual workers and implemented contract hours for part-time employees therefore we have few casual workers.		
Economic Growth	Income and Benefits	Lobby and seek partner support for implementation of a living wage, to include those in training/reskilling programmes.	Community Planning			
Economic Growth	Income and Benefits	Promote and provide benefit advice and debt support to maximise income and reduce debt. Continue promotion and provision of local advice service and targeted debt support to vulnerable people.	Claire Linney	Ongoing – contract being reviewed at present for a new 3 year term. Adapting a blended balance of advice provision with both face to face and virtual options available.		
Economic Growth	Income and Benefits	Lobby for continued mitigation and increased support by the Northern Ireland Executive to universal credit claimants (partner DFC for implementation).	Community Planning			

Economic Growth	Income and Benefits	Engage the local credit union network on the provision of low or no interest loans for those on low income/ benefits, money management support for teenagers and young adults and the provision of banking type facilities for community groups.	Claire Linney	Credit Union Network meeting 20 October 2021 with ILCU and UFCU on youth money management, bank facilities for community groups. Proposal for DFC Funding to CU network approved by Council in December 21. Workbook available free to download for all NI post primaries but physical copies have been delivered to NI Schools. <a href="https://www.young-enterprise.org.uk/resources/your-money-matters-financial-education-textbook-ni/">https://www.young-enterprise.org.uk/resources/your-money-matters-financial-education-textbook-ni/</a>		
Economic Growth	Employment and Skills	Review 'Return to Employment' models (e.g ACE, Job Guarantee Scheme etc.) to advocate for local implementation of best practice model.	Economic Growth	To be considered by LMP		
Economic Growth	Employment and Skills	Lobby and seek partner support go review initiatives and investments through public procurement to consider social clause for public monies linked to working conditions and zero hours contract. (Engage Buy Social NI and partners for Public Procurement to consider social clause linked to working conditions / zero hours contract.)	Linda Ferguson Catriona McGinn	Comprehensive review currently being undertaken of the MUDC Procurement Policy and there is a proposal to include social clauses in this document. Direction is required from SMT in relation to the recently issued DoF PPN and to what extent MUDC will implement social clauses, when, how and who will be responsible for implementation. Procurement to consider what assistance/guidance can be provided by Buy Social NI.		Social Clauses discussed with all partners in Anti Poverty Plan update meetings.
Economic Growth	Employment and Skills	Lobby for the development of affordable and flexible childcare models, the provision of 30 hours per week free childcare for 3 years plus, in line with other UK regions; an employer tax incentive to support onsite childcare provision. Link to the DFC Childcare Strategy.	Community Planning			
Economic Growth	Housing and Housing Welfare	Lobby and seek partner support for an independent body, (under NIHE), to set local rent values (social/private), in line with area affordability.	Community Planning	Included in consultation response made to PFG March 2021 and response made to DfC Housing Supply Strategy July 2021		

Economic Growth	Housing and Housing Welfare	Review the statutory asset and land base for affordable and social housing provision. Develop a Council model for the provision of surplus Council land for social housing development, in partnership with key agencies.	Claire Linney	In discussions with NIHE; pending full asset base review.		
Economic Growth	Housing and Housing Welfare	Lobby for Planning Policy to make provision of adequate recreational space in all developments, with central spaces for children to play safely and in plain sight of homes.	Claire Linney	Dungannon Pilot Housing and Regeneration PlaceShaping Plan - draft received, consultation pending.		
Economic Growth	Housing and Housing Welfare	Lobby for greater enforcement for Environmental Health to ensure quality housing conditions.	Community Planning	Included in consultation response made to DfC Housing Supply Strategy July 2021.		
Economic Growth	Housing and Housing Welfare	Extend the affordable warmth scheme in partnership with DfC making it accessible to all on low income.	Environmental Health			Minister Hargey changed the Affordable Warmth Scheme eligibility criteria in order to help more households who are in fuel poverty. The income threshold was increased from £20,000 to £23,000. Certain benefits were dis-applied from the calculation of income; DLA, PIP, Carer's Allowance and Attendance Allowance.
Economic Growth	Housing and Housing Welfare	Lobby for home improvement and energy grant schemes.	Community Planning	Included in consultation response made to DfC Housing Supply Strategy July 2021		

Health and Wellbeing	Early Years	Lobby to extend Sure Start and early years' intervention models and programmes (parental support, oral health initiatives etc.) to those most vulnerable and on low income.	Community Planning			DE has allocated £1.56m in 2021/22 to enable temporary expansion of Sure Start catchment areas to include an additional 22 SOAs in the 25% most disadvantaged areas but do not currently receive Sure Start services. As estimated by HSCB, the funding will enable Sure Start services to be received by an additional 2,354 children in areas of disadvantage. The 22 SOAs will be brought in on a temporary basis until a policy decision can be taken on whether to amend existing geographical targeting of the programme. This decision will be taken following a review of Targeted Early Years Interventions planned in 2021/22. Libraries NI Libraries NI - Rhythm and Rhyme Sessions for 0-3year olds available in all libraries. Southern Trust - HENRY (Health, Exercise and Nutrition for the Really Young) is a childhood obesity prevention programme that supports families with young children to develop healthy lifestyles. The programme is for families with children aged 0-5. and is being offered across the SHCT area via health visiting services. PWB Locality Manager invited to Mid Ulster Anti-poverty Virtual Network on 15th of September. 7 week Mellow Bump Programmes for Mums and Dads to Be available. Roots of Empathy Recovery Programme available to Primary Schools. Incredible Years programme
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Education and Skills	Early Years	Encourage and promote recycling schemes for high cost family items e.g. baby items, IT equipment. Map and promote local charities and schemes which provide high cost items.	Claire Linney	Foodbanks can assist with this. Mapping exercise to be completed in early 2022. Partnership project with Save the Children and the Northern and Southern Trusts to provide support for families with young children in financial hardship under their Family Support Initiative. The referrals to the programme would be via the Mid Ulster Advice Service STEP. A support worker will engage the families in need and provide a wrap around service of support with provision for early learning educational toy packs for children, support re accessing services, and support for basic provision such as food and essential household vouchers and support on engaging children early on worries etc. (up to a maximum of £340 per family).		
Education and Skills	Education Affordability	Review good practice models addressing school education costs (branded uniforms, extracurricular activities, trips etc.).				
Education and Skills	Education Affordability	Promote uniform grants and deliver recycling initiatives uniforms and IT equipment	Barry O'Hagan	Project in Progress. Computers being gathered up and software to securely wipe these has been bought. Link with CD to charity or community organisation that want the form factor (hard drives) and screens.		
Education and Skills	Education Affordability		Claire Linney	Plan for all schools Spring 2022. The school uniform recycle model is something the Council continues to promote via schools and organisations. CYPSP promotion. Foodbanks promote and deliver recycling initiatives.		
Education and Skills	Education Affordability	Promote Free School Meals and lobby for increased threshold	Claire Linney	DE currently reviewing FSM and possibility of Free For All. MUDC will make a response to consultation		

Education and Skills	Education Affordability	Promote breakfast clubs in schools and look at potential to link to social economy cafes, youth programmes etc. Develop and promote Fareshare schemes in schools in areas of high deprivation. Develop and promote social café models.	Claire Linney	Fare Share scheme information shared with all schools, positive level of interest and a number of schools have now registered with the scheme. Information shared with EA.		
Education and Skills	Skills and Educational Development	Lobby and seek partner support for the review of the school funding formula to ensure all young people can avail of the most appropriate educational pathway for their needs.	Fiona McKeown	Response submitted to consultation on Skills Strategy for Northern Ireland: 'Skills for a 10x Economy' in August 2021. Funding approved to host a 4C UR Future Live Event in June 2022 targeting Year 11 pupils. Local Area Learning Partnerships have been invited to nominate representatives onto Mid Ulster LMP.		
Education and Skills	Skills and Educational Development	To work in partnership with Mid Ulster Skills Forum to develop apprenticeship programmes across the district, targeted at areas of disadvantage.	Fiona McKeown	1. Promote investment in apprenticeships and vocational training to meet local industry needs (manufacturing and engineering) - MEGA Degree Apprenticeship (UU Magee / MEGA) In conjunction with Ulster University attained £33,213 from the Department for the Economy Challenge fund to develop Northern Ireland's first Degree Apprenticeship in Manufacturing Engineering. 14 apprentices commenced the course in September 2021 (12 are placed in a Mid Ulster manufacturing company).		
				2. Promote investment in apprenticeships and vocational training to meet local industry needs (manufacturing and engineering). - Industrial Training Centre (ITC) – Welding Academy 4/9 Cohorts have been delivered. Cohort 5 started in September. 43 trainees have successfully completed the course and 38 are still welding.		

				<p>3. Promote investment in apprenticeships and vocational training to meet local industry needs (manufacturing and engineering) - MEGA Apprenticeship Booklet An Apprenticeship booklet has been published to highlight the range of apprenticeship courses within local Mid Ulster manufacturing companies. This has been circulated to all post primary schools in Mid Ulster and is available on the MEGA website. There are 117 apprenticeship places at various levels of entry.</p>		
				<p>4. Promote investment in apprenticeships and vocational training to meet local industry needs (manufacturing and engineering) - MEGA Education &amp; Industry Engagement Manager A new post 100% funded by industry has been created. They will work with the 19 Post primary schools in Mid Ulster and coordinate the Mega Ambassador Programme.</p>		
				<p>5. Promote investment in apprenticeships and vocational training to meet local industry needs (manufacturing and engineering) - Proposal submitted to create a Pre-Apprenticeship Programme (HLA) Targeted at students dropping out of university after Christmas. Embed short training programmes into the course e.g. welding, hydraulics.</p>		
				<p>6. Promote investment in apprenticeships and vocational training to meet local industry needs (manufacturing and engineering) - Mentor The Mentors Training Collaborating with SWC to provide mentor training for 24 company reps to ensure industry enhance the apprentices learning with quality off the job training. (Flexible Skills Fund). The aim is to provide smaller companies with additional support in establishing apprenticeships.</p>		
			Marissa Canavan	<p>Council apprenticeship scheme developed in September 2021. To align with the Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership Action Plan around skills development.</p>		



Education and Skills	Skills and Educational Development	Link the Steps to Success training and support programme to the Mid Ulster Skills Forum, for a local industry led approach. Establish and facilitate a multi-agency Local Labour Market Partnership (LMP) and action plan of skills development.	Fiona McKeown	Mid Ulster LMP established using the Mid Ulster Skills Forum as a delivery vehicle. Work has commenced to develop an Employability Action Plan for the Interim period 2021-23.		
Education and Skills	Skills and Educational Development	Extend the Area Learning Support model and intervention programmes targeting low attainment. Improve educational attainment in schools with disadvantaged young people through best use of targeted resources, EA partnership.	Community Planning			
Education and Skills	Skills and Educational Development	Develop a Primary School Homework Club model in areas of disadvantage. Develop pilot after-schools, home-work clubs and exam support initiatives. Lobby for afterschool's programmes.	Community Planning	(CD) Grant aid being considered to PTAs to after schools on a voluntary basis (free at point of access)		

Education and Skills	Skills and Educational Development	Consider a libraries engagement programme for vulnerable groups including migrant women, and children in areas of disadvantage.			Libraries NI - Partnership with The Junction, STEP Dungannon – tour of the library for refugees, membership and information sessions. First Steps Women’s Centre, Dungannon. Surestart – Regular Rhythm & Rhyme for disadvantaged groups. Free membership and access to computers – Digital Hubs in all libraries with Zoom software, headphones and camera/privacy and acoustic screens for attending interviews, training, social reasons. <b>Browsealoud</b> on each computer which adds speech, reading and translation tools to websites and online content. Translate into other languages/helps those with dyslexia and low levels of literacy Future events <b>November 2021</b> Booker Prize promotion – shortlisted books available to borrow in Dungannon Library Homeless Awareness Week 14-20 November <b>December 2021</b> Christmas Reading Challenge <b>January 2022</b> Festival of Learning – Give it a Go Month. 10-31 January – various events and activities in all libraries. Blue Monday 17 January. <b>February 2022</b> Children’s Mental Health Week 4-11 February. NI Science Festival 14-27 February. Fact February Month – promotional of factual, non-fiction books. Harry Potter Day <b>March 2022</b> Literature Month World Book Day 4 March World Poetry Day 21 March Shakespeare week 14-20 March
Education and Skills	Young People’s Mental Health & Resilience	Promote the first thousand days research & actions re impact on mental health.	Claire Linney	Included in consultation response to Mental Health Strategy March 2021. Exploring potential options for roll out of the Schools for Hope model; awaiting Business Case model from Venturei consultants.	
Education and Skills	Young People’s Mental Health & Resilience	Lobby for the co-ordination and quality checking of mental health programmes available to primary and post primary schools to ensure the right provision.	Community Planning	Schools for Hope Programme – UUJ Research paper. Write to DE re Schools for Hope linking with Covid19 recovery MH funding.	All FE students have access to mental health and counselling support 24/7 from Inspire Wellbeing.

Education and Skills	Young People's Mental Health & Resilience	Develop 'Education for Life' courses for young people to include money management, driving, positive relationships, mental health and wellbeing etc. Develop coaching, life guard, first aid courses, etc. for young people to increase youth leisure skills and employment opportunities.	Kieran Gordon	Proposal developed. Funding to be sourced. CP shared Martin Lewis Financial Education Textbook initiative to all post primary schools. Engagement with the Credit Union Network took place in October 2021. DFC funding allocation proposal to CU's to Council December 2021.		
Health and Wellbeing	Leisure and Wellbeing	Review reduced rates for leisure activities, with support to engage, people in poverty. Increase use of and access to leisure facilities for disadvantaged young people, partner EA Youth. Provide access to leisure services facilities for young people, at key times, for £1.00 per session.	Kieran Gordon	5,743 participants in the £1 reduced leisure sessions scheme during Summer 2021. Southern Trust - Contracts established with Dungannon Leisure Centre and Care Experienced Young People are able to access activities that are free at the point of contact. Up to 40 Care Experienced Young People will have increased levels of physical activity through contracts established with local leisure centres. Investment of £3,000 between June 21 – March 2022. These young people will also receive vouchers to buy appropriate sportswear and equipment.		
Health and Wellbeing	Leisure and Wellbeing	Provide free leisure during set times in the summer for children/young people on FSM/ low income. Food Poverty: Partners to ensure coordinated approach on food poverty programme delivery. Deliver a pilot voucher <del>scheme for older children aged 12 – 18</del>	Kieran Gordon	4000 vouchers issued - 188 vouchers used. Analysis of possible reasons for non-usage - transport limitations, times when vouchers could be used, stigma attached to free vouchers. Instead of the Free Voucher scheme, the focus will move to the promotion and delivery of the £1 reduced rate <del>session scheme each year as this has proved to be</del>		
Health and Wellbeing	Leisure and Wellbeing	Encourage/support play development in disadvantaged communities to support wellbeing of children. Include disadvantaged areas in the Play Near Me scheme for annual play activity (potential Peace Plus).	Claire Linney	Pilot Free Play Summer Scheme delivered in July and August 2021 to 650 children aged 7 to 11 in 6 primary schools and 4 external facilities with food provided each day. Engagement with all partners re summer scheme delivery. Engagement for 2022 has commenced.		

			Kieran Gordon	No Play Near Me events were held in 2021 due to Covid19 pandemic, plan to hold small scale events in 2022. Leisure's Participation paper to Council -Sept 2021. Sports Small Grant (Threshold £1,500) To support recognised Sports NI sports clubs (affiliated to their governing body of sport) to develop and promote their sports and recreation provision within their club and to seek to increase participation through a range of activity including the target groups; Women & Girls, People with Disabilities and Areas of Social Need complementing general Sports Development. Funding will also support activity in promoting lifelong participation in sport, health & wellbeing and the non-competitive side of sport that characterises the added value of what many clubs involve themselves in (eg Club Health Plans)		
Health and Wellbeing	Leisure and Wellbeing	Encourage sports clubs to offer greater informal sporting opportunities (e.g. walking clubs, over 50's games) for hard to reach groups, through targeting sports grant funding. Give consideration to streamlining <u>Community Sports Grants and amend</u>	Kieran Gordon	Already integral to Sports Grants Assessment and awards.		
Health and Wellbeing	Leisure and Wellbeing	Health and Wellbeing House Checks - agree with partners a whole house check and key contact point for all health and wellbeing (targeted at those in poverty and most vulnerable).	Environmental Health	Close linkages HAP/EE/Affordable Warmth including signposting to other agencies as required		
Health and Wellbeing	Leisure and Wellbeing	Work towards the development of Health Hub in each area of disadvantage (Gortgonis Health Hub model). Develop Health Hubs in areas of disadvantage – (Dungannon West, Coalisland, Pomeroy, Maghera, Ardboe).	Kieran Gordon	To be developed.		

Health and Wellbeing	Leisure and Wellbeing	Support local community mental health organisations in the district, including low cost/no cost counselling, which contributes to people awaiting statutory provision. Support and network the existing community counselling services in the district.	Claire Linney	7 Community led Counselling organisations supported with DFC monies in a pilot project- all have been signposted to the DOH mental health support fund. A Community Led Counselling network has been formed and groups are being supported with any suitable funding. DOH consulted on Draft ten year Mental Health Strategy NI designed to improve mental health outcomes for people in Northern Ireland. This includes commitment to enhance talking therapy hubs aligned to primary care to increase provision of psychological therapies		
Health and Wellbeing	Leisure and Wellbeing	Co-ordinate a holistic approach to mental health through partnership with the key agencies.				
Health and Wellbeing	Leisure and Wellbeing	To review and develop a pathway model (for different levels of intervention) for addressing mental health. Mental Health Strategy 2021-31 – lobby and seek partner support for the delivery of a pathway model (for different levels of intervention) for addressing mental health.	Community Planning			

Health and Wellbeing	Leisure and Wellbeing	Consider the services which are required locally in response to the new Substance Use and Mental Health Strategies				DOH leads on the New Substance Use Strategy launched "Preventing Harm, Empowering Recovery" launched October 2021. Outcome A – Through Prevention and Reduced Availability of Substances, Fewer People are at Risk of Harm from the Use of Alcohol & Other Drugs across the Life Course; Outcome B – Reduction in the Harms Caused by Substance Use; Outcome C – People have Access to High Quality Treatment and Support Services; Outcome D – People Are Empowered & Supported on their Recovery Journey; Outcome E – Effective Implementation & Governance, Workforce Development, and Evaluation & Research Supports the Reduction of Substance Use Related Harm. New NI Mental Health Strategy 2021 – 2031 launched June 2021
Health and Wellbeing	Leisure and Wellbeing	Lobby and seek partner support for the continued review of the regulatory laws on the gambling industry particularly access by young people.	Community Planning	Info sent to all Post Primary Principals and EA Youth Service on GamCare who offer gambling support and awareness training to young people and teachers.		The first "significant changes" in 35 years will be made to gambling laws in Northern Ireland. The legislation will: Create new offences in relation to allowing children to play gaming machines. Create powers to impose a statutory levy on gambling operators. Establish a mandatory code of practice for those holding gambling licenses. Broaden the definition of cheating to include attempted cheating. Make gambling contracts enforceable in law. Phase two will require a much longer timescale and will include a completely new regulatory framework which will regulate online gambling, including gaming machines.

Health and Wellbeing	Leisure and Wellbeing	Address Health Inequalities in Deprived Areas in line with DoH Health Inequalities Annual Report 2021 Priorities. Develop programmes with partners to address Health Inequality gaps in Mid Ulster for Men's Health, Year 8 Obesity, Respiratory Health in targeted areas of disadvantage	Environmental Health			<p>Young men's health programme planned for late January 2022. Two Cancer focus health check days completed in NR areas, 4 more health days planned for February with the Chest heart and Stroke organization. Holistic programme working with homelessness support group working on Mental Health, Nutrition, Domestic Violence and self-esteem ongoing. Programme completed with BAME community focusing on personal health, mental health, Take 5 nutrition and skills development completed in NR areas. Linking with SPN network in relation to drug and alcohol and signposting for relevant groups. Programme with Action Mental Health and Men's Alliance in relation to young men regarding self esteem and domestic violence. Promotion of PANTS campaign in partnership with local community groups. Delivery to 9 schools and 1400 children Daily mile messages, programme to be expanded in 2022. Take 5 ambassador training planned in partnership with SHSCT x3 for 2022 ( session 1 in March). Rurality programme underway in rural community, focusing on male health, Take 5, daily mile and nutrition components. Current development and linking with SHSCT sexual health lead on a period poverty initiative with an emphasis on the BAME community.</p>
Health and Wellbeing	Vulnerable Groups	Target programmes to vulnerable groups at higher risk of poverty. Seek to continue fuel support to families living in poverty.	Environmental Health	Affordable Warmth scheme helps address fuel poverty and targets low income households. Delivery of 80 warm packs to various community support groups within both NR and Rural areas. The Energy Efficiency Advice scheme provides tailored support for clients including the generation of referrals to other available support schemes.		

Leisure and Wellbeing		Partner organisations to ensure facilities and services are accessible to the most vulnerable eg Age Friendly, Dementia Friendly, Autism Friendly and Financially Accessible. Facilitate and deliver disability showcase performances and targeted programmes.		New Arts Outreach Plan developed which will facilitate and deliver disability showcase performances and targeted programmes. 1. Increase availability of virtual productions for schools. 2. Source theatrical productions that are relevant to the School Curriculum and apply child rate ticket pricing. (schools/parents do not incur additional transport/food costs). 3. Deliver Outreach Street Art and Community Theatre in disadvantaged areas, targeting young people. 4. Align Carers' policy across Departments ie free entry for accompanying carers to performances.		
					SHSCT	SHSCT provide an online Incredible Years Autism & Speech & Language Delay Programme (2-5 years) for families awaiting diagnosis with Autism Services. SHSCT progressing training to provide a <b>Parents Plus</b> programme for families of children/young adults with special needs( 11-25 years)
Health and Wellbeing	Vulnerable Groups	Support the delivery through partnership of social housing for people experiencing domestic violence, including access to supported housing	Claire Linney	Women's Aid Move On Accommodation Scheme progressing. Positive Relationships programme in all post primary schools, delivered annually (led by PCSP.		
Health and Wellbeing	Vulnerable Groups	Co-ordinate partner delivery which assists people experiencing domestic violence; including access to supported housing.	Claire Linney	MUDC and CMU Women's Aid working on Move On Housing project in Cookstown.	SHSCT	SHSCT have a Workplace Policy On domestic abuse policy and guide to raise awareness and identify the impact of domestic abuse on employees
Health and Wellbeing	Vulnerable Groups	Lobby partner organisations to ensure facilities and services are affordable to	Environmental Health	MUDC currently pursuing WHO Age Friendly Status for district	SHSCT	Southern Trust area has an established Access to Information service.



		the most vulnerable eg Age Friendly, Dementia Friendly, Autism Friendly.			Libraries NI -	Libraries offer face to face Knit and natter/book groups/tea and newspapers/Rhythm and Rhyme, Lego club activities/digital help/study space. Free access to books and library computers. All events and activities can be found at Events (librariesni.org.uk). Digital Poverty. Free membership and access to computers – Digital Hubs in all libraries with Zoom software, headphones and camera/privacy and acoustic screens for attending interviews/training/social reasons. Browsealoud on each computer which adds speech, reading and translation tools to websites and online content. Translate into other languages/helps those with dyslexia and low levels of literacy. Online computer sessions/monthly Zoom classes/one to one IT help available virtually and in libraries. Available on our computers is Access to Research – research papers for study. Health Literacy Read yourself Well collection. Books available for all ages. Dementia Friendly Collection of books. Reminiscence sessions. Reading Well for children collection recommends reading to help children understand their feelings and worries and cope with tough times. Libraries NI Health Activities July 2021 – March 2022 online health events. As part of Libraries NI's Take 5 steps to wellbeing, opportunity to take part in a
Health and Wellbeing	Vulnerable Groups	Support partners to target programmes to vulnerable groups at higher risk of poverty.	CP	Community Development - NIHE Discretionary payment info shared with foodbanks and counselling networks and on MUDC Emergency Support Chart.		
Health and Wellbeing	Vulnerable Groups	Review the existing Health Improvement Programme Model (eg Make a Change, Energy Efficiency) in partnership with PHA to ensure that programmes target poverty in Mid Ulster.	Environmental Health	Progress monitoring reports to PHA include details of how the programmes have targeted inequalities in health.		

Health and Wellbeing	Food Poverty	Coordinate support for front line poverty charities including financial support and development of foodbanks. Co-ordinate and support a food poverty network. Partners to ensure coordinated approach on food poverty programme delivery.	Claire Linney	Ongoing foodbank networking meetings - 15 Sept 2021.		
Health and Wellbeing	Food Poverty	Encourage Social Supermarkets and Community Food Cupboards in the district. Develop social supermarkets and community food cupboards in partnership with DfC.	Claire Linney	CD ongoing engagement with DFC re resourcing for social supermarkets. Funding received - £74k from DFC.		
Health and Wellbeing	Food Poverty	Lobby for continued summer food support for those on Free School Meals	Community Planning	DE currently reviewing FSM and possibility of Free For All. MUDC will make a response to consultation		

<b>Report on</b>	Sports Representative Grants
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> March, 2022
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Leigh Gilmore, Participation Manager Margaret McCammon Community Development Officer

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To present to Members the proposed community grant allocations for the range of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sports Representative Grant - Team and Individuals (February 2022)</li> </ul>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	The Sports Representative Grants (Individual and Team) is a continuous rolling programme.
2.2	Previously in February 2022, Members approved the recommendation for the period up to January, 2022.
2.3	Eligibility criteria compliance was completed by officers followed by grant programme assessment.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	Detailed analysis of the proposed grant awards are attached with Appendix A for information.
3.2	Summary detail is as follows: The Sports Representative Grant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 Individual application were received during this period but one of these was deemed ineligible as the event had already taken place.</li> <li>1 Team application was received during this period</li> <li>Proposal to award a total of £850 in respect of the above 3 eligible applications.</li> </ul>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	Financial:  The Sports Representative Grant is a continuous rolling programme with an annual allocation for 2021/2022 of £15,000; however £8,000 was allocated in June 2021 to Small Sports Grants leaving a revised budget of £7,000.

	£2,275 was approved in September 21, £1,650 In October 21, £650 in November 21; £200 in December 22, £250 in January 22, £475 in February 22 leaving a balance of £1,500. Should the grant recommendation contained within this report be approved, £650 remains available to be allocated for the remainder of this financial year until March 2022.
	Human: Officer time.
	Risk Management: In line with Council policies and procedures.
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	To note the contents of this report and give approval for the sports grant allocations as recommended within this report.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	Appendix A: Grant recipients and amount of grant award.

**Appendix A: 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
Mark	Cuddy	Irish U18 Hockey	£525	2	£225
Daniel	Scott	Ulster Youth Cycling	£250	2	£225
Total					<b>£450</b>

Band	Amount
1	<b>£250.00</b>
2	<b>£225.00</b>
3	<b>£200.00</b>
4	<b>£175.00</b>
5	<b>£150.00</b>

**Ineligible Sports Representation**

Abigail	Rafferty	Ireland Women's Basketball	Applied after event had taken place – retrospective funding ineligible
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**Sports Team Representative on eligible cost to a max of £500**

Name		Project Title	Amount Requested	Band	Amount Awarded
Derrylaughan Kevin Barrys GAC		Ireland Junior Camogie Championship Semi final	£500	3	£400
Total					<b>£400</b>

Band	Amount
1	<b>£500.00</b>
2	<b>£450.00</b>
3	<b>£400.00</b>
4	<b>£350.00</b>



<b>Report on</b>	Macmillan Move More Programme
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	10th March, 2022
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Leigh Gilmore, Participation Manager

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To provide information on the funded Macmillan Move More programme, current contract end date and details of an opportunity to extend the programme.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	Previously in November 2018, Members at the Development Committee resolved to enter into a partnership for the delivery of a new programme – Macmillan Move More (minute reference D214/18).
2.2	Following Council approval, Mid Ulster District Council and Macmillan entered into a 3 year agreement, commencing August 2019 with a contract end date of 31 <sup>st</sup> July 2022. Macmillan agreed to provide 100% funding to Mid Ulster District Council for the employment of one full time Move More Coordinator for the 3 year term to a maximum of £123,418.00.
2.3	The role of the coordinator is to engage with District residents who have had received a cancer diagnoses with the aim of promoting physical activity prior to treatment or after treatment that could yield benefits and improvements whether mentally, physically or recovery/rehabilitation. Council support the project by employing and hosting the Move More Coordinator, providing access to leisure facilities for the Coordinator to deliver physical activity sessions for people with cancer, and providing a range of incentives (e.g. discounted membership rates)
2.4	The Move More Coordinator plays a key role in the development and delivery of the project by facilitating consultations with people with cancer, supporting them to access physical activity opportunities (both cancer specific, and non-cancer specific), and providing ongoing behaviour change support to each individual for a minimum of 12 months.
2.5	Recently, Macmillan have advised all NI Councils that they were not in a position to continue to 100% fund the programme after the anticipated year 3 contract end date.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	To ensure a continuation of service, NI Councils commenced discussions with Macmillan and Macmillan have subsequently proposed to fund 50% of the costs for a further 20 months for Mid Ulster District Council commencing 1st August 2022 and ending 31st March 2024.

3.2	Macmillan are not directly financially contributing but have alternatively sought funding via a successful bid to the Department of Health Northern Ireland: Cancer Charities Support Fund, and were awarded a grant of £926k with almost half of this allocation being earmarked to provide 50% funding to the Council partners across Northern Ireland to 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024.
3.3	The above is dependent on Councils contributing the remaining 50% therefore the purpose of this report is to seek approval to match fund and to enter into a revised/extended agreement with Macmillan to secure continuation of the current Mid Ulster Move More programme from 1st August 2022 – 31st March 2024 (20 months)
3.4	With specific reference to Mid Ulster District Council, Macmillan invite Council to apply for a maximum investment of £33,333.00 towards costs for the stipulated 20 month period. This would be subject to the necessary contractual arrangements and agreement with the remaining 50% coming from Council (approx £10k Aug 22-March 23 and approx. £20k for April 23-March 24).
3.5	The Health, Leisure and Wellbeing Department anticipate that it could generate a small income that could contribute towards these costs through participant fees and membership sales. At present participants are entitled to once weekly Move More sessions free of charge over a 12 week period. Participants have the option to avail of a full membership package at the discounted rate of 50% which works out at less than £15 per month. It is envisaged that the target set for enrolled participants into the programme will be in the range of 250+ over the 20 month period.
3.6	Recently through the recent rates estimates process, the proposed Council funding contribution was highlighted as a budget pressure over an 8 month period (£9k) and therefore was agreed to be included within the district rate that was struck for the April 22 – March 23 financial year.
3.7	This will need to be considered again via the rates estimates process for April 23 – March 24 as a budget pressure of approx. £18k over the extended 12 month period.
3.8	<p>Macmillan have indicated that their aims of this investment will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• enable the Cancer Recovery Plan and early priorities identified within the NI Cancer Strategy to be addressed. Added to this, the project will help to achieve the vision of community planning by providing an opportunity for public services to work in partnership to deliver better services and make a real difference to people's lives</li> <li>• test and evaluate an integrated model for personalised, early-intervention support, adopting the principles of prehabilitation for adults diagnosed with cancer across NI. The aim is to establish prehabilitation as a cornerstone of the cancer pathway, with tailored support as early as possible, integration across health, local councils, and leisure services, and ensure equity of access across the region</li> <li>• strengthen engagement between health trusts and their coterminous local councils and leisure services. This will ensure shared purpose and learning which will provide clarity of vision, best practice, and perspective of how these programmes are sustained into the future</li> <li>• achieve a multidisciplinary, interagency, cross-sector collaboration. The delivery of this partnership project will be supported by a team of 11 Move More Coordinators and five Clinical Project Managers across NI; and it will be directly informed and co-produced by people living with and affected by cancer</li> <li>• support approx. 3,000 people living with cancer, and a further approx. 13,500 people affected by cancer, transforming both outcomes of treatment and patient</li> </ul>



3.9	<p>experience. The aim is to evidence the impact and cost-benefit to support a case for delivery of the model at scale, sustainably, across NI.</p> <p>Should Council decide not to enter into this arrangement, the current agreement with Macmillan to provide the Move More service for Mid Ulster District Council residents will end on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	Financial: Match funding sought from Council of a max £33,333.00 over the 20 month period. Estimated at approx £10k Aug 22-March 23 and approx. £20k for April 23-March 24).
	Human: Currently there is a postholder in place – option to extend the scheme for 20 months would be made available to the current staff member.
	Risk Management: Considered in line with relevant policies and procedures. Additional staffing costs for sickness or extended absence is Council responsibility. Currently there is no plan indicated nor funding proposal for the scheme after the proposed end date of 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024.
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: None anticipated.
	Rural Needs Implications: None anticipated.
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	<p>To note the contents of this report and give approval for Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to apply to Macmillan for a maximum investment of £33,333.00 towards costs for the period August 2022 – March 2024</li> <li>to match fund remaining 50% via Council for the above period (approx £9k Aug 22-March 23 and approx. £18k for April 23-March 24, subject to agreement in the rates estimates process for April 23 – March 24).</li> </ul>
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	N/A



<b>Report on</b>	Service Level Agreement with the Drinking Water Inspectorate
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	10th March, 2022
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Anne Caldwell, Principal Environmental Health Officer

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To seek Members approval for Mid Ulster District to sign an updated Service Level Agreement (SLA) and associated Data Processing Contract with the Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI).
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	The DWI are a unit within the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) that have a regulatory responsibility for private water supplies which are used for: drinking, cooking, food preparation or other domestic purposes; or those used in commercial food production; the manufacture, processing, preservation, or marketing of food or drink for sale for human consumption. This includes monitoring and enforcement at these supplies.
2.2	The DWI holds a register of all known private water supplies in Northern Ireland that come under the Private Water Supplies Regulations. The regulations apply to private supplies that serve more than one household for purely domestic purposes, or are used in commercial food and drink production.
2.3	In implementing the requirements under the regulations, the DWI work closely with Environmental Health teams in Councils who carry out work on behalf of DWI that includes sampling and risk assessment of private water supplies and ongoing liaison with owners/users of these supplies during the investigation of exceedances of water quality standards. Within Mid Ulster District Council, a number of Environmental Health officers are trained and authorised to either take samples and/or complete Risk Assessments. An annual sampling programme is issued to Councils which details the frequency of sampling for each site. The frequency of sampling is set within the Regulations and is proportionate to the volume of water used or the population served by the supply. DWI pay Councils to complete this work on their behalf.
2.4	Previously in July 2020, Members at the Environment Committee resolved to approve the signing of the Service Level Agreement and associated Data Sharing Agreement with the DWI that was in date and valid at that point in time (minute reference E137/20).
2.5	DWI have recently consulted with NI Council Environmental Health services via Environmental Health NI (EHNI) on a revised Service Level Agreement and the revised SLA Version 3 is enclosed within the appendix.
<b>3.0</b>	

3.1	There are currently 23 registered private water supplies in Mid Ulster District Council ranging from hotels, commercial businesses to private water supplies serving 2 or more domestic dwellings.												
3.2	The SLA and Data Processing Contract enclosed within the appendix outlines the arrangement between the DWI and Mid Ulster District Council, appointed as a competent person, for the purpose of undertaking on behalf of the DWI risk assessments and sampling of private water supplies under The Private Water Supplies Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017.												
3.3	The SLA also sets out the agreed schedule of fees and the arrangements for Council to invoice DWI on a quarterly basis for the sampling/risk assessment work undertaken by Council Environmental Health staff. The Data Processing Contract governs the transfer and sharing of information collected and retained by local Council Environmental Health Departments (EHDs) on behalf of the DWI.												
3.4	A number of amendments have been made to the previous version of the document and these have been referenced in the Schedule of Amendments on page 2 of the enclosed SLA document within the appendix. In addition there have been changes to Annex A which sets out the responsibilities for the Operational Delivery of Services.												
3.5	DWI consulted with EHNI on the draft changes and following some discussions and amendments, the enclosed Version 3 was agreed by EHNI and through this report presented to the Development Committee, Officers are recommending that Mid Ulster District Council approve the agreements and continue the ongoing partnership with the DWI.												
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>												
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>												
	Financial: Council invoice DWI for services provided at the following rates:												
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Activity</th><th>Unit Cost</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Scheduled Sample Collection</td><td>£75/sample</td></tr> <tr> <td>Resample Collection (Investigation)</td><td>£75/sample</td></tr> <tr> <td>Completion of Full Risk Assessment</td><td>£450/risk assessment</td></tr> <tr> <td>Review of Risk Assessment (with site visit)</td><td>£200/risk assessment review</td></tr> <tr> <td>Review of Risk Assessment (without site visit)</td><td>£100/risk assessment review</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Activity	Unit Cost	Scheduled Sample Collection	£75/sample	Resample Collection (Investigation)	£75/sample	Completion of Full Risk Assessment	£450/risk assessment	Review of Risk Assessment (with site visit)	£200/risk assessment review	Review of Risk Assessment (without site visit)	£100/risk assessment review
Activity	Unit Cost												
Scheduled Sample Collection	£75/sample												
Resample Collection (Investigation)	£75/sample												
Completion of Full Risk Assessment	£450/risk assessment												
Review of Risk Assessment (with site visit)	£200/risk assessment review												
Review of Risk Assessment (without site visit)	£100/risk assessment review												
	Human: Staff time to complete sampling and Risk Assessments – derived from within existing resources.												
	Risk Management: Considered in line with relevant policies and procedures.												
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>												
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A												

	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	To note the contents of this report and give approval for the signing of the updated Service Level agreement with the Drinking Water Inspectorate, for the purpose of undertaking on behalf of the DWI, risk assessments and sampling of private water supplies under The Private Water Supplies Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	Appendix A: Service Level Agreement Version 3 and associated Data Processing Contract with the Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI).



## **SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT**

**For the provision of services by:**

**The Environmental Health Department of**

**Mid Ulster District Council**

**to The Drinking Water Inspectorate for Northern Ireland**

**BETWEEN:**

- (1) Mid Ulster District Council of Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon, BT71 8DT (hereinafter known as 'The Council') and**
- (2) Drinking Water Inspectorate for Northern Ireland acting on behalf of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) of Klondyke Building, Cromac Avenue, Belfast, BT7 2JA (hereinafter referred to as DWI) together known as 'the Parties'.**

## Schedule of Amendments

Version Number	Issue Date	Detail of amendments from previous version	
		Section	Amendment
1.0	17 May 2017	N/A	
2.0	27 May 2020	1.2	Updated link to most recent version of Drinking Water and Health Guidance Document
		2.1	Replace <i>'take effect from'</i> with <i>'replace the current agreement'</i>
		3.2	Insert <i>'including reviews'</i> after <i>'Private Supplies Risk Assessment'</i>
		6.3	Replace <i>'from time to time with the agreement of both Parties'</i> with <i>'in line with the review of this SLA'</i>
		7.1	Replace paragraph
		8.0	Insert <i>'A Data Sharing Agreement will be signed between the parties outlining how the information which is shared is stored and used.'</i>
		11.0	Insert <i>'pandemic'</i>
		Annex A, Page 9: Private Supplies Investigations	Replace paragraph
		Annex B	Updated references to year of Regulations
		Annex C	Replace <i>Updated Schedule of Fees</i>
		Annex D	Insert new Annex
3.0	15 December 2021	Appendix 1	<p>Amendment to Section 8.1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Insert wording <i>'2018 and the UK General Data Protection Regulation'</i> after <i>'Data Protection Act'</i></li> <li>• Replace the wording <i>'A Data Sharing Agreement'</i> with <i>'A Data Processing Contract (Appendix 1).'</i></li> </ul> <p>Insert the word <i>'processed /'</i> before <i>'shared'</i></p> <p>Add Appendix 1 – Data Processing Contract</p> <p>Remove Schedule of Amendments from Annex D to front of document</p>
		Annex A	Amendments to Annex A: Private Supplies Risk Assessments; Private Supplies Investigations; Private Supply Training / Competency



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## 1.0 LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND AND AUTHORISATION

- 1.1 This agreement outlines the arrangement between the Drinking Water Inspectorate for Northern Ireland and Mid Ulster District Council, appointed as a competent person, for the purpose of undertaking on behalf of the DWI risk assessments and sampling of private water supplies under The Private Water Supplies Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017.
- 1.2 The ['Drinking water and health: a guide for public and environmental health professionals and for those in the water industry in Northern Ireland'](#)<sup>1</sup> document (hereinafter referred to as 'the Framework'), produced by the Drinking Water and Health Liaison Group outlines the roles and responsibilities of the key partner organisations and provides the basis for this agreement.

## 2.0 TERMS OF AGREEMENT

- 2.1 The Agreement shall replace the current agreement from the date of signature by both parties and shall remain in force for a period of two years (unless terminated in accordance with 2.2). At the expiry of the two year period, the parties may agree to extend the SLA on a bi-annual basis thereafter.
- 2.2 The Agreement may be terminated or not extended (as in Section 2.1) by either party on 12 months' written notice.
- 2.3 The Agreement shall be reviewed at least every two years, or on request at any time by either party (in accordance with Section 12.0). Any revised Agreement must have the approval of both Parties.
- 2.4 Any dispute in relation to the operation of the Agreement can be raised at the Annual Meeting (Section 7) for resolution. Any dispute requiring urgent resolution should be raised in writing by the relevant signatory(s) to the Chief Inspector of Drinking Water for resolution.

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<sup>1</sup> Drinking Water and Health – A guide for public and environmental health professionals and for those in the water industry in Northern Ireland.  
<https://www.niwater.com/sitefiles/resources/pdf/reports/2020/guidancedocumentondrinkingwaterandhealth2020.pdf>

### **3.0 OBJECTIVES**

3.1 The objectives of the Agreement are to establish administrative provision under which the Council will provide the professional services of council staff in roles where they are acting as agents of the DWI. It will enable the Council to provide sampling, risk assessment, and investigatory services, including staff and resources to DWI as defined in 3.2, and to define each party's role, responsibilities and obligations as detailed in the Annex A to this document. It will enable the DWI to individually authorise the Council to carry out duties on their behalf.

3.2 The services being provided by each of the Parties hereto are as listed below hereinafter referred to as the "Services". Further detail of the exact nature of the Services being provided is set out in Annex A hereto.

- **Private Supplies Registration**
- **Private Supplies Risk Assessment (including reviews)**
- **Private Supplies Sampling**
- **Private Supplies Investigations**
- **Private Supplies Training / Competency**

### **4.0. OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR THE COUNCIL**

4.1 The Council shall ensure that delivery of the Services is carried out expeditiously and competently, in accordance with such timescales, conditions and costs as may be agreed with DWI.

4.2 The Council shall use reasonable endeavours to ensure that the staff resources necessary to discharge the Services are available.

4.3 Both the DWI and the Council have a legal obligation for the Health and Safety of their respective staff. The Parties hereto shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that all employees involved with the Services comply with the requirements of the Health & Safety at Work (Northern Ireland) Order 1978 and such other regulations as required.

## **5.0. OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR DRINKING WATER INSPECTORATE (DWI)**

- 5.1 DWI is responsible for specifying the exact nature of the service required of the Council; monitoring the delivery of these services in accordance with this Agreement and subject to satisfactory completion of services, ensuring payment of agreed costs within 30 days from receipt of invoice.
- 5.2 DWI will issue quarterly invoice requests to the Council detailing the sampling and risk assessments undertaken in the previous quarter (3 months).
- 5.3 An annual programme of sampling will be issued by 31 December each year. This schedule will be subject to review and updated at least quarterly.
- 5.4 DWI will provide the Council with training, equipment and all sampling kit consumables as required to conduct sampling and risk assessments of registered private water supplies.
- 5.5 DWI will provide technical advice and guidance to the Council in relation to private water supplies.
- 5.6 All council staff carrying out duties on behalf of the DWI should be individually authorised by the DWI to perform those duties. A sample authorisation document is attached at Annex B.

## **6.0. BILLING ARRANGEMENTS**

- 6.1 The Council will provide quarterly invoices to DWI based on the invoice requests issued by DWI for each quarter. DWI will ensure invoices are paid within 30 days of receipt.
- 6.2 The Chief Inspector of Drinking Water in consultation with the Council through Environmental Health NI (EHNI) will agree a Schedule of Fees which would be standard for all Councils.
- 6.3 The Schedule of Fees is given in Annex C and shall be updated in line with the review of this SLA, with the agreement of both Parties.

## **7.0 ANNUAL MEETING & ONGOING ENGAGEMENT**

- 7.1 DWI will engage with the Council through Environmental Health (NI) (EHNI) and agree the membership and Terms of Reference for a Drinking Water Working Group. DWI will attend the EHNI every two years or as required at the request of either party. The Drinking Water Working Group will meet annually to discuss the provision of services covered by this agreement.
- 7.2 All day-to-day matters relating to the services covered by this Agreement shall be conducted by officers of either party operating under the terms of the Agreement.

## **8.0 CONFIDENTIALITY**

- 8.1 Information relating to private drinking water supplies will be subject to the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK General Data Protection Regulation. All information received by or gathered by the Parties as a result of performing the Services shall be held in accordance with the Parties' respective Records Management / Information policy. A Data Processing Contract (Appendix 1) will be signed between the parties outlining how the information which is processed / shared is stored and used.

## **9.0 LIABILITY**

Each Party shall indemnify and keep indemnified, the other, against all claims, proceedings actions, damages, legal costs, expenses, fines, penalties, demands, loss or damage and any other liabilities, howsoever arising, whether in contract, tort, under statute, common law or otherwise directly or indirectly out of or in the course of or in connection with any provision or failure to provide those Services set out in this Agreement which are the responsibility of that party.

## **10.0 COMPLAINTS**

If a complaint is received by either party in respect of the services carried out under this agreement, the Party receiving the complaint will inform the other in writing and the Parties will agree which Party will investigate the complaint.

## **11.0 FORCE MAJEURE**

Neither party to this Agreement shall be liable to the other or shall be held to be in breach of this Agreement to the extent that it is prevented, hindered or delayed in the performance or observation of its obligations hereunder due to any cause beyond its control (including industrial action, strike, walk out, riot, civil disobedience, inclement weather, inability to obtain supplies, accident, pandemic or any other contingency whatsoever beyond its reasonable control).

## **12.0 AGREEMENT VARIATIONS**

Both parties may request amendments to the scope of Services at any time by submitting a written request to the other party. Any variations will be made only with the consent of both Parties in writing. PROVIDED ALWAYS that DWI can agree that a variation can be implemented across all local Councils in Northern Ireland.

## **13.0 DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

A dispute shall be deemed to have arisen when either Party notifies the other Party in writing to that effect.

The Parties shall use all reasonable efforts to resolve any dispute that may arise under this SLA through good faith negotiations. Each party shall nominate a senior representative of its management to meet at any mutually agreed location to resolve the dispute.

Where an attempt to resolve any dispute under this SLA and where initial contact between representatives of management of either Party has failed, the matter will be escalated to a discussion between a member of senior management from both parties hereto.

## **14.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

In the circumstances where the Council is providing the Service on premises which are in the ownership or control of the Council it is acknowledged that there may be a conflict of interest arising. The Council shall inform the DWI, if it believes that there may be a conflict of interest. The DWI shall, in consultation with the Council provide

such staff as are necessary to assist with or carry on the Services in order to investigate a failure on the Council premises.

## **15.0 GOVERNING LAW**

It is hereby agreed that this Agreement shall be governed by Northern Ireland law and that the Courts of Northern Ireland shall have exclusive jurisdiction in all matters arising hereunder.

## 16.0 AUTHORISATION

16.1 The authorised person<sup>2</sup> within the council and the Chief Inspector of Drinking Water authorise this agreement.

Council	Print Name	Signature
<i><b>[Insert the position of relevant authorised person for XXXX Council]</b></i>		

Drinking Water Inspectorate	Print Name	Signature
Chief Inspector of Drinking Water for Northern Ireland	<b>CATRIONA DAVIS</b>	

16.2 The Agreement will take effect from ***[Insert Date]***

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<sup>2</sup> Chief Executive, Director or Head of Service, as appropriate



## OPERATIONAL DELIVERY OF SERVICES

### Private Supplies Registration

#### Councils to:

- Advise DWI of new private water supplies when identified;
- Inform DWI of any changes to registered private supplies;
- Provide information on the annual review of the register of supplies and potential new supplies within required timescales.

#### Drinking Water Inspectorate to:

- Provide private water supply registration forms for completion;
- Notify council of newly registered supplies where received directly and provide copies of completed registration forms;
- Provide details of registered sites and any known potential new supplies to councils annually for review;
- Manage and maintain register of private water supplies.

### Private Supplies Risk Assessment

#### Councils to:

- Liaise with owner/users to collate information in preparation for the risk assessment;
- Undertake site visit to carry out risk assessment of private water supply;
- Complete/review a risk assessment of private water supply within the required timeframe (within 6 months for new supplies, and review every 5 years or sooner if circumstances change at a site or following an event or critical failure as instructed by DWI);
- Follow up with owner/user on any information outstanding to complete risk assessment/review of the supply;
- Recommend risk assessment actions to DWI.

#### Drinking Water Inspectorate to:

- Provide methodology and guidance for completion of risk assessments;
- Provide electronic system for collation of risk assessment information;
- Provide historical data, where available, in preparation for risk assessment;
- On request, accompany councils on completion of risk assessments;
- Verify and agree risk assessment actions;

- Issue agreed actions to supply owner;
- Follow-up with supply owner to ensure risk assessment actions implemented;
- Instruct councils on when to complete a risk assessment for new supplies and when to review a risk assessment for existing supplies (every 5 years or sooner if circumstances change at a site or following an event or critical failure).

### **Private Supplies Sampling**

#### **Councils to:**

- Liaise with the appointed contractor on the receipt and storage of sample bottles;
- Collect, transport and store samples in accordance with guidance provided by DWI;
- Undertake on-site testing with validated instrumentation and in line with the manufacturer's instructions for equipment being used;
- Ensure accurate completion of field sheets;
- Care for and store sampling kit and meters in accordance with manufacturer's instructions;
- Provide on-site meters for annual validation by DWI and sampling kits for inspection if required;
- Ensure consumables within sample kit are within expiry date;
- Advise DWI or appointed contractor as soon as possible if unable to collect scheduled samples;
- Adopt a flexible approach and liaise with DWI and the appointed contractor in the collection of scheduled monthly compliance samples.

#### **Drinking Water Inspectorate to:**

- Provide sampling kits and appropriate meters to councils for the purpose of sampling registered private supplies;
- Replenish sampling consumables on an annual basis or sooner if required;
- Validate on-site meters annually;
- Provide guidance on sampling and identification of appropriate sample points;
- Provide annual sampling schedule for the year and at least quarterly updates;
- Through contractor, arrange the provision of the necessary sample bottles and field sheets for the collection of samples each month;
- Adopt a flexible approach and liaise with councils and the appointed contractor in the collection of scheduled monthly compliance samples.

## Private Supplies Investigations

### Councils to:

- Provide points of contact to be notified in the event of failure;
- Adopt a flexible approach and liaise with DWI and the appointed contractor in the collection of resamples or other adhoc samples to ensure they are taken in a timely manner and in response to any public health concerns;
- Work in conjunction with DWI and other agencies in the investigation of failures as outlined in the Framework referred to in Section 1.2;
- Accompany DWI staff on request, to investigate failures;
- Follow-up with owners/users to ensure the ongoing protection of public health.

### Drinking Water Inspectorate to:

- Take the lead role in private water supply investigations. Where Councils have a regulatory duty (eg. food / H&S) both Parties will collaborate to achieve compliance through the most appropriate legislation;
- Notify owners / users of sample failures and provide public health advice;
- Adopt a flexible approach and liaise with councils and the appointed contractor in the collection of resamples or other adhoc samples to ensure they are taken in a timely manner and in response to any public health concerns;
- To notify and liaise on public health failures to Public Health Agency;
- Provide onward advice in relation to public health to councils;
- Work in conjunction with council and other agencies in the investigation of failures as outlined in the Framework referred to in Section 1.2.

## Private Supplies Training/Competency

### Councils to:


- Permit only competent, authorised staff to undertake sampling and risk assessments;
- Complete designated DWI training courses to ensure ongoing competency in relation to private water supplies;
- Maintain appropriate auditable training records for staff;
- Facilitate DWI audits to ensure competency under the regulations;
- Advise DWI of council staff training needs.

### Drinking Water Inspectorate to:

- Authorise all individual Council staff to carry out duties on behalf of the DWI;

- Provide staff undertaking sampling and risk assessments of private water supplies with the necessary training to ensure competency;
- Provide training for council staff on request and as required to enable Council to fulfil its responsibilities and obligations under the Service Level Agreement with DWI;
- Provide technical support/guidance in relation to risk assessments and private water supplies in general;
- Conduct annual audit of the service provided within parameters of audit terms of reference.

## SAMPLE AUTHORISATION DOCUMENT

 <p>Card No.PWSXXX</p> <p>Expires: XX/XX/XXXX</p> <p>THE WATER AND SEWERAGE SERVICES (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 2006: ARTICLE 124 RIGHTS OF ENTRY</p> <p>THE PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2017:</p> <p>REGULATION 7—RISK ASSESSMENT</p> <p>REGULATION 12—SAMPLING</p>	<p>Issued by: The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Northern Ireland Environment Agency Klondyke Building Cromac Avenue Gasworks Business Park Belfast BT7 2JA Tel No. 0845 302 0008</p> <p>if found should be returned to this address or handed in to your local police station</p>
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<p>This is to certify that ..... is authorised to act on behalf of The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs to exercise and perform the powers and duties conferred upon him/her by the aforementioned legislation and as detailed below:</p> <p>..... Authorised Officer (DAERA)</p>	<p><b>Rights of entry, under Article 124 of The Water &amp; Sewage Services Order (Northern Ireland) 2006 to enter any premises for the purpose of Regulation 7 Requirement to carry out a Risk Assessment and of Regulation 12 Sampling and Analysis under The Private Water Supplies Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017.</b></p>
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*Each Officer's Warrant card will reflect their level of authorisation*

## SCHEDULE OF FEES

Activity	Unit Cost
Scheduled Sample Collection	£75/sample
Resample Collection (Investigation)	£75/sample
Completion of Full Risk Assessment	£450/risk assessment
Review of Risk Assessment (with site visit)	£200/risk assessment review
Review of Risk Assessment (without site visit)	£100/risk assessment review



## **DATA PROCESSING CONTRACT**

**Between**

**Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA)  
Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI)**

**And**

**Northern Ireland Councils'  
Environmental Health Departments (EHDs)**

1.0	<b>Parties to the Agreement</b> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>           DAERA, NIEA, Drinking Water Inspectorate,            Klondyke Building, Cromac Avenue,            Gasworks Business Park,            Malone Lower,            Belfast, BT7 2JA.   <b>(the Data Controller)</b> </td><td>           Northern Ireland Councils',            Environmental Health Departments   <b>(the Data Processor)</b> </td></tr> </table>	DAERA, NIEA, Drinking Water Inspectorate, Klondyke Building, Cromac Avenue, Gasworks Business Park, Malone Lower, Belfast, BT7 2JA.  <b>(the Data Controller)</b>	Northern Ireland Councils', Environmental Health Departments  <b>(the Data Processor)</b>
DAERA, NIEA, Drinking Water Inspectorate, Klondyke Building, Cromac Avenue, Gasworks Business Park, Malone Lower, Belfast, BT7 2JA.  <b>(the Data Controller)</b>	Northern Ireland Councils', Environmental Health Departments  <b>(the Data Processor)</b>		
	<p>HAVE AGREED on the following Contractual Clauses (the Clauses) in order to meet the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA 2018) and UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) to ensure the protection of the rights of the data subject.</p> <p>Each organisation referred to in this document is a 'Party'; together 'Parties'.</p>		
2.0	<b>Introduction</b> <p>The Contract relates to <b>the provision of Services by Northern Ireland Councils' Environmental Health Departments (EHDs) to the Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI) for Northern Ireland as outlined in the Service Level Agreement (SLA) between the Parties.</b></p> <p>The Clauses set out the rights and obligations of the Data Controller and the Data Processor, when processing data, including personal data<sup>3</sup> on behalf of the Data Controller.</p> <p><b>For the purpose of this agreement, the DWI is the Data Controller and EHDs are the Data Processors.</b></p> <p>The Clauses have been designed to ensure the Parties' compliance with Part 3 of the DPA 2018. The terms <b>Controller</b> and <b>Processor</b> are defined in Section 32 of the DPA 2018.</p> <p>The Data Controller determines the purposes and means of the processing of data, including personal data. The Data Processor will process data, including personal data on behalf of the Data Controller in accordance with the Clauses. The Clauses shall take priority over any similar provisions contained in other agreements between the Parties. The Clauses shall be retained in writing, including electronically, by both Parties.</p> <p>The Clauses shall not exempt the Data Processor from obligations to which the Data Processor is subject pursuant to the UK General Data Protection Regulation (the UK GDPR) or other legislation.</p>		
3.0	<b>Purpose</b> <p>The primary purpose for processing the information referred to in the Clauses is for <b>law enforcement</b><sup>4</sup> purposes as defined in Section 31 of the DPA 2018.</p> <p>The DWI has a legal vires to collect this information as the regulatory authority for:</p>		

<sup>3</sup> 'personal data' means any information relating to an identified or identifiable living individual ('data subject'); an identifiable living individual means a living individual who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data, an online identifier or to one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of the individual; **data subject** means 'the identified or identifiable living individual to whom personal data relates.' (S3(5) DPA 2018)

<sup>4</sup> 'The prevention, investigation, detection or prosecution of criminal offences or the execution of criminal penalties, including the safeguarding against the prevention of threats to public security.'



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Water and Sewerage Service (NI) Order 2006;</li> <li>• The Private Water Supplies Regulations (NI) 2017;</li> <li>• The Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations (NI) 2017; and,</li> <li>• The Water Supply (Domestic Distribution Systems) Regulations (NI) 2010.</li> </ul> <p>The information that is processed by the EHDs on behalf of DWI will be used to assess compliance with the legislation.</p> <p>DWI also has a duty under the legislation to provide <b>advice and guidance</b> to owners and users of individual private water supplies that are exempt from the monitoring requirements. This may require EHDs to share personal information to enable DWI to fulfil this duty.</p> <p>EHDs may hold similar information for the purposes of law enforcement under other statutory obligations (eg food safety legislation). This is outside the scope of these Clauses, however where the information processed by EHDs on behalf of DWI is not independently collected by councils and has the potential to impact on public health under other statutory obligations for which the council has a regulatory duty, that information will be shared in the interests of <b>public health protection</b>.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<p><b>Legal purpose for Data Processing / Sharing</b></p> <p>As the competent authority for the enforcement of drinking water legislation, DWI is required to take appropriate enforcement action to ensure the water supplied by a ‘relevant person’<sup>5</sup> in relation to a private water supply (PWS) meets the requirements of the regulations and is safe.</p> <p>Personal information is therefore required to identify a ‘relevant person’. As it can be difficult to determine the category of a private water supply owner or user, (e.g. some may be sole-traders, limited companies, public bodies and some are private householders), all information will be treated as though it is personal data.</p> <p>Information to be processed / shared will include details of owners and users of a PWS and information concerning compliance with drinking water quality regulations.</p> <p>The processed / shared information enables DWI to maintain a record of PWS sites and manage the risk assessment and monitoring programme for these supplies as required under the regulations.</p> <p>The information to be processed / shared is that which is detailed on the PWS Registration Form as detailed in <b>Clause 6.0</b>.</p> <p>Not sharing this data could result in an unsafe PWS being used for drinking water and other domestic uses, posing a risk to public health and a breach of the drinking water legislation.</p>

<sup>5</sup> “relevant person” means – (a) the owner or occupier (who may be the same or different persons) of premises which are supplied with water for domestic or food production purposes by means of a private supply; (b) the owner or occupier (who may be the same or different persons) of land on which any part of the supply is situated; (c) any other person who exercises powers of management or control in relation to that supply. (Private Water Supplies Regulations (NI) 2017)

5.0	<p><b>Organisations Involved</b></p> <p>The Parties to the Agreement are outlined in <b>Clause 1.0</b></p> <p>EHDs will process information on behalf of, and share information with DWI and DWI will share information with EHDs.</p>
6.0	<p><b>Data to be Processed / Shared</b></p> <p>Information processed<sup>6</sup> / shared in respect of and as a requirement of the SLA between DWI and EHDs is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact details (including name, full address details, and telephone numbers) of PWS owners and users (or other relevant persons) for sites, of which DWI is the regulatory authority;</li> <li>• Location and description of the supply, including the grid reference of the PWS source;</li> <li>• Nature of the premises, volume used, number of persons served, purpose of the supply at the site;</li> <li>• Schematic layout of the supply source, treatment and distribution;;</li> <li>• Monitoring schedule and test results;</li> <li>• Risk assessment information;</li> <li>• Letters and general correspondence on the data subject;</li> <li>• All relevant information required by DWI to carry out its role as the regulatory authority;</li> <li>• All relevant information required by DWI for audit purposes; and,</li> <li>• Investigation reports and information generated relating to potential and ongoing enforcement.</li> </ul> <p>The information is gathered from the relevant person(s) responsible for the PWS by EHDs on behalf of DWI, or it may be gathered directly by DWI and shared with EHDs.</p> <p>Information may be shared or transferred between the Parties to this agreement: on an ongoing basis; as sites are identified and require to be registered; as monitoring is required according to the annual schedule; communications are issued in relation to monitoring results; risk assessments are completed; during completion of the annual review; when advice is provided to sites etc.</p> <p>The Regulations require monitoring information to be retained for at least 30 years, however there is no such requirement to retain personal information for this period of time. Personal information will be removed from the site record where a site ceases to operate or where it is no longer relevant to the regulatory duty that DWI has in relation to the site, eg historical information of a relevant person after 10 years.</p>

<sup>6</sup> 'Processing' means any operation or set of operations which is performed on information, or on sets of information, such as collection, recording, organisation, structuring, storage, adaptation or alteration, retrieval, consultation, use, disclosure by transmission, dissemination or otherwise making available, alignment or combination, restriction, erasure or destruction;

7.0	<p><b>Duty of Confidence</b></p> <p>EHDs shall only grant access to the personal data being processed on behalf of DWI to persons under the Data Processor's authority or are under an appropriate statutory obligation of confidentiality, and only on for the purposes of law enforcement or provision of advice and guidance under drinking water legislation. The list of persons to whom access has been granted shall be kept under periodic review, and the Data Controller can withdraw such access to personal data if access is no longer necessary. Where access is withdrawn, personal data shall consequently not be accessible anymore to those persons.</p>
8.0	<p><b>Information use</b></p> <p>EHDs will process the information on behalf of DWI. DWI will primarily only use the information for the purposes for which it is collected as detailed in <b>Clause 3.0</b>.</p> <p>DWI may also use this information for other legitimate purposes in line with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and The Environmental Information Regulations 2004 where such disclosure is in the public interest and in compliance with DAERA Privacy Statement referred to in <b>Clause 4.0</b>.</p> <p>No information collected on behalf of DWI should be released to a third party without the express written authority of DWI. EHDs will inform DWI of any information requests it receives relating to DWI data, and will refer that request to DWI for a response where that data is not publically available in accordance with <b>Clause 11.0</b>.</p>
9.0	<p><b>Responsibilities of Each Party</b></p> <p><b>9.1 The Rights and Obligations of DWI (the Data Controller):</b></p> <p>DWI is responsible for ensuring that the processing of personal data takes place in compliance with the UK GDPR and DPA 2018.</p> <p>DWI has the right and obligation to make decisions about the purposes and means of the processing of personal data.</p> <p>DWI shall be responsible, among others, for ensuring that the processing of personal data, which the Data Processor is instructed to perform, has a legal basis.</p> <p><b>9.2 The Rights and Obligations of the EHDs (Data Processor):</b></p> <p>The EHDs shall only process data on documented instructions from DWI. Subsequently instructions can also be given by the Data Controller throughout the duration of the processing of personal data, but such instructions shall always be documented and kept in writing, including electronically, in connection with the Clauses.</p> <p>The EHDs shall immediately inform DWI if instructions given by the Data Controller, in the opinion of the EHDs, contravene the UK GDPR or DPA 2018.</p> <p>The EHDs shall assist DWI by appropriate technical and organisation measures, insofar as this is possible, in the fulfilment of the DWI's obligations to:</p>

- Keep personal data secure;
- Notify personal data breaches to the supervisory authority;
- Notify personal data breaches to the data subjects;
- Carry out data protection impact assessments (DPIAs) when required;
- Consult the supervisory authority where a DPIA indicates there is a high risk that cannot be mitigated; and
- Respond to subject access requests for exercising the data subject's rights laid down in Chapter III UK GDPR.

This requires that the EHDs shall, insofar as this is possible, assist DWI in the DWI's compliance with:

- The right to be informed when collecting personal data from the data subject;
- The right to be informed when personal data has not been obtained from the data subject;
- The right of access by the data subject;
- The right to rectification;
- The right to erasure (the right to be forgotten);
- The right to restriction of processing;
- Notification obligation regarding rectification or erasure of personal data or restriction of processing;
- The right to data portability;
- The right to object; and
- The right not to be subject to a decision based solely on automated processing, including profiling

In addition to the EHD's obligation to assist DWI, the EHD shall furthermore, taking into account the nature of the processing and the information available to the EHD, assist the DWI in ensuring compliance with:

- The Data Controller's obligations to notify the Competent Supervisory Authority in the event of a data breach as detailed in **Clause 14.0**;
- The Data Controller's obligation to without undue delay communicate the personal data breach to the data subject, when the personal data breach is likely to result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of natural persons;
- The Data Controller's obligation to carry out an assessment of the impact of the envisaged processing operations on the protection of personal data (a data protection impact assessment); and
- The Data Controller's obligation to consult the competent supervisory authority, the Information Commissioner's Office prior to processing where a data protection impact assessment indicates that the processing would result in a high risk in the absence of measures taken by the Data Controller to mitigate the risk.

10.0	<b>Use of Sub-processors</b>
	<p>The EHDs shall meet the requirements specified in Article 28(2) and (4) UK GDPR in order to engage another processor (a sub-processor).</p> <p>The EHDs shall therefore not engage another processor (sub-processor) for the fulfilment of the Clauses without the prior specific written authorisation of the DWI.</p> <p>The EHDs shall engage sub-processors solely with the specific prior authorisation of the DWI. The EHDs shall submit the request for specific authorisation at least 28 working days prior to the engagement of the concerned sub-processor. There are currently no sub-processors approved by DWI for use by EHDs.</p> <p>Where the EHDs engages a sub-processor for carrying out specific processing activities on behalf of the DWI, the same data protection obligations as set out in the Clauses shall be imposed on that sub-processor by way of a contract or other legal act under domestic law, in particular providing sufficient guarantees to implement appropriate technical and organisation measures in such a manner that the processing will meet the requirements of the Clauses and UK GDPR.</p> <p>The EHDs shall therefore be responsible for requiring that the sub-processor at least complies with the obligations to which the EHDs is subject pursuant to the Clauses and the UK GDPR.</p> <p>A copy of such a sub-processor agreement and subsequent amendments shall, at the DWI's request, be submitted to the DWI, thereby giving the DWI the opportunity to ensure the same data protection obligations as set out in the Clauses are imposed on the Sub-processor. Clauses on the business related issues that do not affect the legal protection content of the Sub-processor agreement, shall not require submission to the DWI.</p> <p>The EHDs shall agree a third-party beneficiary clause with the Sub-processor where, in the event of bankruptcy of the Data Processor, the DWI shall be a third party beneficiary to the Sub-processor agreement and shall have the right to enforce the agreement against the Sub-processor to delete or return the personal data.</p> <p>If the Sub-processor does not fulfil their data protection obligations, the EHDs shall remain fully liable to the DWI as regards the fulfilment of the obligations of the Sub-processor. This does not affect the rights of data subjects under the UK GDPR, in particular those unforeseen in Articles 79 and 82 GDPR, against the DWI and the EHDs, including the Sub-processor.</p>
11.0	<b>Requests for information</b>
	<p>DWI will retain responsibility for handling requests for information under DPA 2018, FOI, and EIR where the requested information is not publicly available. DWI will apply all necessary checks prior to the release of information to identify exemptions, including the Public Interest test.</p> <p>Where a request for information is submitted to EHDs, and that information is publicly available or published by DWI, the EHDs shall provide that information or links to where it can be found directly to the requestor and inform DWI accordingly.</p>

	<p>It is the responsibility of the Data Processors to assist the Data Controller with responding to Subject Access Requests using appropriate technical and organisational measures.</p>
<b>12.0</b>	<b>Security of Processing</b>
<b>12.1</b>	<p><b>How will data be shared?</b></p> <p>Information will be transferred / shared on both a routine and ad hoc basis.</p> <p>As Data Processor, EHDs will process information as instructed by DWI.</p> <p>Data will be transferred in a format compatible with DWI information technology systems. This includes transfer electronically via the Risk Assessment Web Application (each user has a unique password), via email across the secure government network and occasionally in paper format via post or hand delivered (i.e. at meetings), in all cases an acknowledgement of receipt will be provided.</p> <p>Where necessary, information will be protectively marked in line with <u>Government Security Classifications</u> (Official, Secret, and Top Secret).</p> <p>DWI and EHDs shall implement appropriate technical and organisational measures to ensure a level of security appropriate to the risk as outlined in Article 32 of UK GDPR. DWI shall evaluate the risks to the rights and freedoms of natural persons inherent in the processing and implement measures to mitigate those risks. Depending on their relevance, the measures may include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pseudonymisation and encryption of personal data;</li> <li>• The ability to ensure ongoing confidentiality, integrity, availability and resilience of processing systems and services;</li> <li>• The ability to restore the availability and access to personal data in a timely manner in the event of a physical or technical incident;</li> <li>• A process for regularly testing, assessing and evaluating the effectiveness of technical and organisational measures for ensuring the security of the processing.</li> </ul> <p>DWI shall also evaluate the risks to the rights and freedoms of natural persons inherent in the processing and implement measures to mitigate those risks. To this effect, the DWI shall provide the EHDs with all information necessary to identify and evaluate such risks.</p> <p><b>12.2 DWI and EHDs shall ensure that:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unauthorised staff and other individuals are prevented from gaining access to personal data;</li> <li>• Visitors are received and supervised at all times in areas where personal data is stored;</li> <li>• All computer systems that contain personal data be password-protected (the level of security should depend on the type of data held, but ensure that only those who need to use the data have access);</li> <li>• Appropriate training is provided for the staff who access the information;</li> <li>• Workstations / PCs are not left signed on when not in use;</li> <li>• All disks, tapes or printouts are locked securely away when not in use;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All new software is virus-checked prior to loading onto a Council machine;</li> <li>• No personal data is transmitted by open email;</li> <li>• Paper files are stored in secure locations and only accessed by those who need to use them;</li> <li>• Personal data is not disclosed to anyone other than the Data Subject unless you have the Data Subject's consent, or it is a registered disclosure, required by law, or permitted by a Data Protection Legislation exemption;</li> <li>• No information is left on public display in any form; sensitive material is locked away safely at the end of each day;</li> <li>• No information is exploited for commercial purposes; and</li> <li>• Crown Copyright and any intellectual property rights are invested in the information provided.</li> </ul> <p><b>12.3 DAERA Privacy Statement</b></p> <p>DWI takes data protection, freedom of information and environmental information issues seriously. It takes care to ensure that any personal information supplied to it is dealt with in a way which complies with the requirements of the DPA 2018. This means that any personal information supplied will be processed principally for the purpose for which it has been provided.</p> <p>DWI and EHDs have a statutory duty to process personal data in compliance with this Act.</p> <p>The Department however, is also under a duty to protect the public funds it administers, and to this end may use the information provided by EHDs for this purpose. It may also share this information with other bodies responsible for the audit or administration of public funds, in order to prevent and detect fraud.</p> <p>In addition, the Department may also use it for other legitimate purposes as outlined in the <u>DAERA Privacy Statement</u>.</p> <p>A Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) screening assessment has been completed and determined a full DPIA is not required for this Contract.</p>
<p><b>13.0</b></p>	<p><b>Retention and Disposal</b></p> <p>The Private Water Supplies Regulations (NI) 2017 require that records for sampling and analysis be retained for 30 years, and all other information in relation to the site be retained for 10 years according to information retention procedures.</p> <p>Records are retained according to DAERA's record retention schedule which is reviewed annually. Data relating to subjects should only be retained by the EHDs whilst the site is in operation and requires active data processing. When the site is removed from the requirements of the Regulations and the Order (no longer using a private water supply), the EHD will be advised in writing by the DWI and Clause 15 will be enacted.</p> <p>Information processed on behalf of DWI by EHDs in relation to other regulations shall be dealt with in a similar manner and disposed of after 10 years.</p>
<p><b>14.0</b></p>	<p><b>Notification of a Personal Data Breach</b></p>

	<p>In case of any personal data breach, the EHDs shall, without undue delay after having become aware of it, notify DWI of the personal data breach.</p> <p>The EHD's notification to DWI shall, take place without undue delay and in any case within 24 hours after the EHDs has become aware of the personal data breach to enable the DWI to comply with the Data Controller's obligation to notify the personal data breach to the Competent Supervisory Authority, within 72 hours as required by Article 33 of UK GDPR.</p> <p>In accordance with <b>Clause 9.2</b>, the EHDs shall assist the DWI in notifying the personal data breach to the Competent Supervisory Authority, meaning that the EHD is required to assist in obtaining the information listed below which, pursuant to Article 33(3) UK GDPR, shall be stated in the DWI's notification to the Competent Supervisory Authority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The nature of the Personal data including where possible, the categories and approximate number of data subjects concerned and the categories and approximate number of personal data records concerned;</li> <li>• The name and contact details of the Data Protection Officer or other contact where further information may be obtained;</li> <li>• The likely consequences of the personal data breach;</li> <li>• The measures taken or proposed to be taken by the DWI to address the personal data breach, including, where appropriate, measures to mitigate its possible adverse effects.</li> </ul> <p>The EHDs must be fully engaged in the resolution of an incident by assisting in the investigation being carried out by DWI.</p> <p>DWI will report any data breaches immediately, according to the DWI Information Loss Handling Plan.</p>
<p><b>15.0</b></p>	<p><b>Audit and Inspection</b></p> <p>The EHDs shall make available to DWI all information necessary to demonstrate compliance with the obligations laid down in Article 28 and the Clauses and allow for and contribute to audits, including inspections, conducted by DWI or another auditor mandated by DWI.</p> <p>Procedures applicable to the DWI's audits, including inspections, of the Data Processor and Sub-processors are specified in Annex 1 of the SLA.</p> <p>The Data Processor shall be required to provide the supervisory authorities, which pursuant to applicable legislation have access to the DWI's and EHD's facilities, or representatives acting on behalf of such supervisory authorities, with access to the Data Processor's physical facilities on presentation of appropriate identification.</p>
<p><b>16.0</b></p>	<p><b>Commencement and Termination of Data Processing Agreement</b></p> <p>This agreement will be reviewed every two years in line with the review of the SLA and can only be amended with agreement of both Parties. The Clauses shall become effective on the date of both Parties signature.</p> <p>Both Parties shall be entitled to require the Clauses to be renegotiated if changes to the law or inexpediency of the Clauses should give rise to such renegotiation.</p> <p>The Clauses shall apply for the duration of the provision of data processing services. For the duration of the provision of personal data processing services, the Clauses cannot be</p>



	<p>terminated unless other Clauses governing the provision of the personal data processing services have been agreed between the Parties.</p> <p>If the provision of data services is terminated, and the personal data is deleted or returned to the DWI pursuant to <b>Clause 17.0</b> (erasure and return of data), the Clauses may be terminated by written notice by either party.</p>
<b>17.0</b>	<p><b>Erasure and Return of Data</b></p> <p>On termination of the provision of data processing services, the EHDs shall be under obligation to delete all personal data processed on behalf of DWI and certify to DWI that is has been done in a secure manner and in accordance with the security requirements of Article 32 of the UK GDPR.</p>
<b>18.0</b>	<p><b>Indemnity</b></p> <p>In the event of a breach of this agreement which results in a financial penalty, claim or proceedings, the Parties agree to co-operate to identify and apportion responsibility for the breach and the defaulting party will accept responsibility for any such claim.</p>
<b>19.0</b>	<p><b>Signatures</b></p> <p>I have read, understood and agree to abide by the terms and conditions of this agreement. All information received will only be used for the purpose defined and listed in the agreement.</p> <p>Signed on behalf of Drinking Water Inspectorate (<b>Data Controller</b>)</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Name (block capitals): <b>CATRIONA DAVIS</b></p> <p>Date:</p> <p>Signed on behalf of Local Council Environmental Health Department (<b>Data Processor</b>)</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Name (block capitals):</p> <p>Date:</p>

## Notification of Data Breach by Data Processor to Data Controller

The Processor shall notify the Controller without undue delay after becoming aware of **any** data breach. Where, and in so far as, it is not possible to provide the information at the same time, the information may be provided in phases without undue further delay.

<b>Date &amp; Time of Notification</b>	
<b>Name &amp; Contact of Person Making Notification</b>	
<b>Extent Nature and cause of the data / information loss</b>	
Describe the nature of the data breach including where possible: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the categories and approximate number of data subjects concerned</li> <li>• the categories and approximate number of <b>personal data records</b> concerned</li> </ul>	
<b>Contact Details</b>	
Name and contact details of the data protection officer or other contact point where more information can be obtained	
<b>Cause</b>	
Detail the cause of the data loss: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What happened</li> <li>• Human error</li> <li>• IT system failure</li> <li>• Fraud</li> <li>• Theft</li> </ul>	
<b>Containment and Recovery</b>	
Has it been stopped? Has the data been recovered? Damage limitation?	
<b>Consequences</b>	
Detail the likely consequences of the data breach; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Did it include <b>personal data</b>?</li> <li>• Did it include <b>sensitive personal data</b>?</li> </ul>	
<b>Data Subjects</b>	
Who is affected? Have they been informed?	
<b>Actions taken</b>	
Measures taken / proposed by the Processor to address the personal data breach, including, where appropriate, measures to mitigate its possible adverse effects	

<b>Report on</b>	1. Rural Micro Business Development Scheme 2022 2. Lough Neagh Rescue (LNR)
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	10 March 2022
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To provide Members with an update on key activities as detailed below.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	<p><b>Rural Micro Business Development Scheme 2022</b> The Rural Micro Business Development Scheme funded through DAERA's Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation programme (TRPSI) will run again in 2022 subject to approval of a business case and budget within the Department. This Scheme will offer a capital grant at 50% of eligible project costs up a maximum of £4999 for business development and recovery activities.</p> <p>This Scheme has been running annually since 2019 and has proved very popular with rural businesses across the district with 289 letters of offer issued to the value of just over £982,000 in grant aid.</p>
2.2	<p><b>Lough Neagh Rescue (LNR)</b> Lough Neagh Rescue (LNR) operates a 24/7 all year service of search and rescue activities for Lough Neagh and its tributaries. As a registered charity LNR operate on a voluntary basis and has 3 stations around the Lough, with one established at Battery Harbour, Ardboe. Each station endeavours to finance their needs, sharing costs, such as, insurance, audit and accounting. LNR receives funding from Councils surrounding the Lough and other public bodies. Majority of annual running costs are met through voluntary fundraising.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p><b>Rural Micro Business Development Scheme 2022</b> DAERA has indicated a preference for an earlier opening date of May for the 2022 Rural Business Development Grants Scheme. This is subject to DAERA approval of a business case which will be jointly prepared by all Councils participating.</p>

	<p>Subject to DAERA approving the business case, a contract will be issued to each participating Council. Council acceptance of the contract will be needed before the Scheme can be opened.</p> <p>The indicative budget for this year's scheme is £1m across all Councils participating with individual Council allocations to be confirmed once the business plan has been completed. Based on the volume of applications received in previous years of this scheme it is highly likely that the value of approved projects will again exceed the level of funding available. Additional funding may become available for the 2022 scheme subject to DAERA approval.</p> <p><b>3.2 Lough Neagh Rescue (LNR)</b>  Covid19 has impacted Lough Neagh Rescue's ability to voluntarily fundraise to meet annual running costs.</p> <p>Mid Ulster Council previously provided £12,000 funding towards Lough Neagh Rescue in 2020/21, and proposed that the SLA for future service level requirements and associated funding be reviewed on an annual basis.</p> <p>Lough Neagh Rescue has submitted their request to Council for £12,000 financial assistance for 2021/22 (<b>See Appendix 1</b>) seeking support towards eligible operating costs of running the service from Battery Harbour from April 2021 to March 2022. It is recommended that £12,000 financial assistance is provided to LNR via a Service Level Agreement for 2021/22 financial year.</p> <p>The financial assistance will benefit the Lough Shore area within Mid Ulster by providing faster response times for rescues and other operations carried out in and around the Western Shores of Lough Neagh, and provide an emergency flood response service for Mid Ulster (subject to receipt of the necessary accreditation to provide the service).</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<p><b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b></p> <p>Financial:</p> <p><b>Rural Micro Business Development Scheme 2022</b>  N/A – all grant aid will be paid through DAERA.</p> <p><b>Lough Neagh Rescue (LNR)</b>  £12,000 in respect of 2021/22 expenditure.</p> <p>Human: Officer Time</p> <p><b>Rural Micro Business Development Scheme 2022</b>  Officer's time. An administration budget is to be agreed with DAERA. For the 2021 Scheme this was based on 10% of the total value of letters of offer issued.</p> <p>Risk Management:</p>

	<p><b>Rural Micro Business Development Scheme 2022</b> Council policies and procedures will be adhered to in the roll out of this scheme.</p> <p><b>Lough Neagh Rescue (LNR)</b> Potential damage to Council's reputation were it not to fund LNR and the decision resulted in a reduction in service to users of the Lough.</p>
<b>4.2</b>	<p><b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b></p> <p><b>Equality &amp; Good Relations Implications:</b></p> <p><b>Rural Micro Business Development Scheme 2022</b> Equality and Good Relations screening will be carried out prior of commencement of the Scheme.</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications:</p> <p><b>Rural Micro Business Development Scheme 2022</b> Screening will be carried out prior of commencement of the Scheme.</p> <p><b>Lough Neagh Rescue (LNR)</b> Mid Ulster Council is committed to the promotion of equality of opportunity in all its activities with a focus on all citizens living within the Mid Ulster.</p>
<b>5.0</b>	<p><b>Recommendation(s)</b></p> <p>It is recommended that Members:-</p>
<b>5.1</b>	<p><b>Rural Micro Business Development Scheme 2022</b> <b>Approve</b> Councils participation in the 2022 Rural Business Development Grants Scheme and subject to the business case being approved for funding, seek permission for the Chief Executive to sign and return the contract document when received from DAERA in due course.</p>
<b>5.2</b>	<p><b>Lough Neagh Rescue (LNR)</b> <b>Approve</b> funding request of £12,000 from Lough Neagh Rescue for 2021/22.</p>
<b>6.0</b>	<p><b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b></p> <p>Appendix 1 – Financial Request from Lough Neagh Rescue 2021-2022</p>





Adrian McCreesh  
Chief Executive  
Mid-Ulster District Council  
Burn Road  
Cookstown  
Co Tyrone  
BT80 8DT

15<sup>th</sup> January 2022  
Dear Adrian,

Lough Neagh Rescue wishes to make a formal request for an annual Council contribution of £12,000 towards our Search and Rescue expenditure for the incoming financial year 2021/22. This request would represent £12,000 from last year, which will keep Mid Ulster Council contribution in line with both ABC and Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Councils. In order to provide backing information, I have outlined below our actual incurred expenditure for 21/22. This expenditure is based on pro rata apportionment for general costs or specific Ardboe station costs which fall clearly within the Mid Ulster area. Attached also is a current reconciliation/recent accounts of our financial position for your review which demonstrates need.

As an independent and competent organisation declared to the Coastguard through the PSNI we have a pivotal and central role in all Search and Rescue activity for Lough Neagh and its tributaries and we operate a 24/7, 365 voluntary service on behalf of the community and other statutory Rescue agencies. As a voluntary organisation we are very dependent on our volunteers giving much of their time to become skilled operators to the levels consistent and required with our Declared Operational status as recognised by Coastguard. Our station at Ardboe covers all of the Western and SW shores contiguous with Mid Ulster District Council's area and which represents the largest coverage of Lough Neagh.

Over this past 30 years we have had tremendous financial support from all riparian councils around the Lough to include the three former councils which now form the Mid Ulster District Council. As a result of this support over those years we have surpassed our strategic 10 year planned targets and are now embarking on our new strategy which will see us into 2030. Our SAR and Flood/Swift water teams based in Ardboe, Antrim and Kinnego are recognised as key leaders in the voluntary rescue

services on these islands and we operate not only to local NISAR competencies but to the UK DEFRA boat code for Search and Rescue operations.

In 2021 the Council reviewed it's contribution level and set it at £12,000. This much appreciated contribution has indeed helped bring us into the next decade but now with two imminent sets of major boat rehaul required, a new active Flood Water Response team in situ and increased activity we find ourselves having to liaise with our Councils in an attempt to meet the SAR needs of the Mid Ulster area.

It is our aim to have each of the three main riparian Councils match-fund the organisation at a similar level on an annual basis. We would wish to revisit our Service Level Agreement with Mid Ulster District Council since over this past 3 years major increases in costs and subsequent uplifts in contributions from both other Councils have created a match fund anomaly across Lough Neagh and particularly for our station in Ardboe, Mid Ulster.

As always , we welcome visits from your Councillors and officials to see first -hand the work being carried out in the area and to this end we would welcome the Council's Chairperson and the Chair of your Development committee to a visit to the Ardboe station. Mr Wilson, as former Council Chair had previously indicated towards the end of his tenure that he would still be interested in visiting us formally and we would welcome their visit.

In the meantime, if you require further information, please call myself on 07858523718 or by visiting any of the three stations during training scheduled on each Tuesday evening at 7.30pm.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours Sincerely,  
Matthew Crozier  
Director  
Lough Neagh Rescue

Councils that provide assistance:

- **ABC – 12k**
- **Mid-Ulster – 12k**
- **Antrim – 12k**



<b>Report on</b>	<b>Covid Small Settlement Regeneration Programme</b>
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> March 2022
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To provide Members with an update on key activities relating to the Covid Small Settlement Regeneration Programme.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	<p><b>Covid Small Settlement Regeneration Programme</b></p> <p>At the January 2021 Development Committee, the Members approved the inclusion of 11 projects within the COVID Small Settlement Regeneration Plan to be delivered in 22/23 subject to funding from DfC. Council's regeneration Plan under this Scheme was submitted to DfC before the deadline of 21<sup>st</sup> December subject to any further changes agreed by the members at the January committee meeting. The submission also included a further 13 projects to be developed as potential projects for a 23/24 COVID Small Settlements Scheme. (<b>See Appendix 1</b>)</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p><b>COVID Small Settlements Regeneration Programme</b></p> <p>On the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2022 Council received correspondence from DfC (<b>Appendix 2</b>) stating that four of the projects listed for delivery in 22/23 were considered ineligible due to geographical location being outside of settlement boundaries namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fivemiletown Rugby Club:</li> <li>• Drumcairne Forest</li> <li>• Altmore Forest</li> <li>• Kildress Community Breathing Space</li> </ul>

	All other projects listed in Appendix 2 were approved by DfC.
3.2	On the back of receiving this correspondence from DfC, Councils Deputy Chief Executive and Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism & Strategic Programmes met with senior DfC officials for discussion on the decision regarding the four ineligible projects. During this meeting Council officers put forward a robust justification for the inclusion of all four projects and with the agreement of the DfC officials a revised regeneration plan was submitted on Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> February 2022 accompanied by a letter from the Council Chair reiterating the justifications for their inclusion and approval ( <b>see Appendix 3</b> ).
3.3	Following this submission a further meeting was called by DfC senior management and attended by the Chief Executive and senior Council officers where DfC informed there had been no change to the initial decision to rule the four projects listed above as ineligible again due to geographical location being outside of town/village centres. Despite strong counter arguments by Council officers during this meeting there has been no change to this position by DfC as confirmed by further correspondence received on 28 <sup>th</sup> February ( <b>See Appendix 4</b> )
3.4	DfC has stated within its correspondence of 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2022 that the Department remains committed to ensuring Mid Ulster District Council receives its full allocation of £2.7m (including resource funding) under this Programme and that value of funding allocated to the four projects deemed ineligible should be reallocated to another project(s) which meet the programmes eligibility criteria.
3.5	<p>In light of DfC's decision, two replacement projects have been brought forward from the 23/24 list previously approved by Council namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moy – 4G multi use floodlight pitch</li> <li>• Bellaghy- recreational amenity within the village (in addition to walking trail to Long Wood already approved by DfC)</li> </ul> <p>These projects fit with programme eligibility criteria, are identified on the basis of local need and are deliverable within the timescales of this Programme.</p> <p>The revised list of projects for the 22/23 COVID Small Settlement Programme is now as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Castlecaulfield Recreation Area</li> <li>• Castledawson (Riverside)</li> <li>• Manor Park, Moneymore</li> <li>• Coalisland Canal</li> <li>• *Clogher walking trail</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bellaghy - walking trail and recreational area</li> <li>• Clady recreational area</li> <li>• Moy 4G multi use floodlight pitch</li> </ul> <p>*Note – there is potential for Clogher walking trail to be funded under the COVID Active Travel Programme – awaiting confirmation. Should this be permissible costs attributed to Clogher walking trail could be allocated to other projects within this scheme.</p>
3.6	The Department has reiterated that there is now an urgency with approving Councils regeneration plan to secure funding with a letter of offer to be issued to Council, accepted and returned to DfC and funds transferred from DfC to Council <u>before</u> the 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2022.
4.0	<b>Other Considerations</b>
4.1	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	<p>Financial:</p> <p><b>COVID Small Settlements Regeneration Programme</b> 10% match funding from Council on an overall allocation of £2.78m (capital and resource) approved by the P&amp;R Committee on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022 subject to ratification at full Council on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2022.</p>
	<p><b>Human:</b></p> <p><b>COVID Small Settlements Regeneration Programme</b> Officer time to co-ordinate, implement and monitor delivery of the Regeneration Plan conjunction with the DfC.</p>
	<p><b>Risk Management:</b> <b>Active Travel Projects</b> Considered in line with Council Policies and Procedures.</p> <p><b>COVID Small Settlements Regeneration Programme</b> Considered in line with Council Policies and Procedures.</p>
4.2	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications:

	<b>COVID Small Settlements Regeneration Programme</b> NA
	Rural Needs Implications:  <b>COVID Small Settlements Regeneration Programme</b> This Programme is specifically targeted at rural areas of the District.
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	It is recommended that Members:  <b>COVID Small Settlements Regeneration Programme</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Approve the inclusion of projects detailed for Moy and Bellaghy for delivery in 2022/23 under the Covid Small Settlements Regeneration Programme.</li> <li>b) Grant delegated approval for the Chief Executive to submit Council's revised regeneration plan to DfC immediately following Committee approval given pressures on timescale for the issue of a letter of offer.</li> <li>c) Grant delegated approval for the Chief Executive to accept a Letter of Offer from DfC should acceptance timescales fall outside of normal Committee or full Council approval timescales.</li> </ul>
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
	<b>COVID Small Settlements Regeneration Programme</b>  Appendix 1 – List of 2022-23 projects and 2023-24 potential projects Appendix 2 – DfC correspondence 20th January 2022 Appendix 3 – Response to Gerard Murphy DfC 4.2.2022 Appendix 4 – Correspondence from DfC 28th February 2022

## Appendix 1- Summary of 22/23 projects and potential projects for 23/24

Projects proposed for delivery in 22/23
Castlecaufield Recreation Area
Castledawson (Riverside)
Manor Park, Moneymore
Coalisland Canal
Clogher Valley Rugby Club -Fivemiletown
Clogher walking trails
Bellaghy walking trail
Drumcairne Forest
Altmore Forest
Clady recreation area
Kildress Community Breathing Space walking trail
Potential options for <u>23/24</u> (subject to availability of funding)
Bush - Dungannon road realignment
Bellaghy outdoor recreational facility
Benburb Recreation Area
Draperstown - Plantin and Fairhill Phase II public realm
Dungannon - Railway Park to Ballysaggart Lough to link Railway Park
Dunmoyle Forest
Fivemiletown (King George V) - 3G facility with floodlights
Glenone trim trail and a green space area,
Lower Bann Green/Blue way -
Maghera Development of Lands at Mullagh
Moy 3G Project,
Roundlake to improve path network around the lake
Tullyhogue to Tullyhogue Fort/Loughrey College/MUSA - community trail linking the sites

## APPENDIX 2



Adrian McCreesh  
Chief Executive  
Mid Ulster District Council

Regional Development Office  
Level 4, North  
Nine Lanyon Place  
9 Lanyon Place  
Belfast  
BT1 3LP  
Phone: 028 9082 9307  
Email: [Gerard.Murray@communities-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Gerard.Murray@communities-ni.gov.uk)

Our ref: CO1-21-23485

(By e-mail) [Adrian.McCreesh@midulstercouncil.org](mailto:Adrian.McCreesh@midulstercouncil.org)

20 January 2022

Dear Adrian

### COVID RECOVERY SMALL SETTLEMENTS REGENERATION PROGRAMME

Thank you for submitting a draft Small Settlements Regeneration Plan for the Mid Ulster District Council.

The Strategic Oversight Group has reviewed your draft Plan and has identified a number of areas where the plan requires further refinement. These are set out below and your DfC regeneration contact will be in touch with you shortly to discuss how these issues can be addressed.

#### Projects Requiring Further Refinement or Clarification

The following proposed interventions require further clarity to determine how they will deliver value for money and fit with the outcomes of the Programme.

Castlecaulfield	Clarification required on geographical location. Needs to provide stronger evidence of value for money and alignment with the objectives of the Programme.
Castledawson	Clarification required on geographical location. Needs to provide stronger evidence of value for money and alignment with the objectives of the Programme.

Moneymore	Needs to provide stronger evidence of value for money and alignment with the DfC/DAERA objectives of the Programme.
Coalisland	Further detail required. As the population of the town is greater than 4,999 it is ineligible for DfC/DAERA funding under this Programme. To be eligible for DfI funding, it would need to demonstrate how it connects to other towns/villages in the area.
Bellaghy	Clarification required on geographical location, as project appears to be ineligible. Needs to provide stronger evidence of value for money and alignment with the DfC/DAERA objectives of the Programme. Further detail required on how the proposal connects to towns/villages to demonstrate alignment with DfI objectives.
Clady	Further detail required on alignment with the objectives of the programme. DfI suggested project should consider reducing parking via the alternative use of parking spaces.

In general, the Strategic Oversight Group felt that the plan needs to set out a stronger strategic vision for the economic regeneration of these towns. Projects are predominantly of a recreational nature, and do not show noticeable improvements to the areas from a regeneration perspective.

### **Projects not aligned to Programme Outcomes**

The following proposed projects do not align sufficiently with Programme objectives and are, therefore, ineligible for funding.

Fivemiletown	Geographical Location
Stewartstown Drumcairne Forest,	Geographical location.
Cappagh Altmore Forest,	Geographical location.
Kildress	Geographical location – Kildress a hamlet only (not deemed a small settlement and no population stats available)

### Revised Budget Allocations and Plan Costings

I am pleased to advise that some additional funding has been secured for the CRSSRP which increases the indicative financial allocation for your Council. Your revised indicative financial allocation is now broken down as follows:

Capital Allocation				Revenue Allocation			
DfC	DAERA	DfI	Capital Total	DfC	DAERA	Total Revenue	Overall Total
810,000	1,050,000	730,000	2,590,000	115,000	76,000	191,000	2,781,000

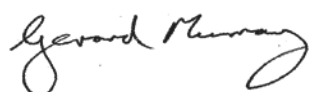
Please update your plan in line with this revised budget. The costings section of your plan should provide exact amounts of how each Departments' capital budgets have been allocated and a breakdown of how the resource budget has been allocated. Please also ensure that it sets out how the Council's contribution is to be allocated. The total Departmental allocation should be 90% of the plan costs with council contribution being 10%.

It is important that a Small Settlements Regeneration Plan for your Council area is agreed as soon as possible so that a letter of offer can issue and rollout of the programme can commence. **I should be grateful, therefore, if your revised plan could be submitted to the Department by 31 January.**

The next step will be for you to liaise with colleagues from the appropriate policy areas within DfC, DAERA and DfI to consider how your plan can be refined to best fit the Programme. I would add that support and advice is available from the Ministerial Advisory Group, DfC's Historic Environment Division and other policy expert functions as required and your departmental point of contact can provide contact details.

Thanks again to you and your teams for the excellent collaboration on the development and delivery of this much needed investment programme.

Yours sincerely



**Gerard Murray**

Director, Regional Development Office





4 February 2022

Mr Gerard Murray  
Regional Development Office  
Level 4, North  
Nine Lanyon Place  
9 Lanyon Place  
Belfast  
BT1 3LP

By Email: Gerard.Murray@communities-ni.gov.uk

Dear Gerard

I refer to your letter of 20<sup>th</sup> January providing feedback on Councils submission under the COVID Recovery Small Settlements Regeneration Programme. We are extremely disappointed that you deemed four of the projects included within our draft regeneration plan as being ineligible due to geographical location. Our guiding principle in the selection of these projects is that of addressing local need. All of the projects included within our Regeneration Plan have full support of the local communities they will serve and the elected representatives of each respective area.

In relation to the general view of the Strategic Oversight Group that the projects within the plan do not show noticeable improvement from a regeneration perspective I would note the following:

- Firstly, our Council would contest this view on the basis that each project within the draft plan can clearly demonstrate physical, social and economic regeneration benefits which combine to bring about a positive change for each settlement that is in keeping with the overall aims of the programme.
- Secondly, the regeneration potential of the projects selected has been fully recognised by the communities they will benefit. Supporting letters from key stakeholders have been received which provides a clear endorsement for their inclusion.
- Thirdly, the concept of village renewal is more than physical regeneration strictly limited to within village boundaries. Opportunities to develop key local assets which lie marginally outside development limits should not be excluded if there is a clear positive regeneration impact for the local community. We must not lose sight of the fact that it is our villages and the communities they serve that make up the fabric of rural areas.

Under the 2014-2020 LEADER RDP in Mid Ulster there are numerous examples of village renewal funded projects located outside settlement limits due to their inclusion within village plans. These were identified as priority projects by the local community such as those completed in Broughderg community centre, Ballinderry GFC grounds, Killeeshil, Moortown

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GFC grounds and Desertmartin GFC grounds. Of most note is the re-development of Round Lake in Fivemiletown, completed as a strategic scale project at a cost of £1m which has transformed this site and draws in visitors from across the district generating an economic spin off for businesses within the village itself.

We have therefore presented a strong case within the revised submission which clearly demonstrates the regeneration potential of all selected projects and the benefits they will bring locally.

Coalisland Canal is one of a number of key strategic regeneration projects within Council and has full support of all elected representatives of Mid Ulster. In the region of 22,000 users walk the tow path annually, a clear indication of its popularity and importance as a local recreational asset for the entire community of the area. Preserving the rich industrial heritage associated with the Canal, which is a major draw for those who use it, is something this Council and the many local groups who share a passion for the Canal are striving for. This project represents a unique opportunity to realise the full potential of this valuable local asset.

In relation to the projects deemed ineligible due to geographical location, Altmore and Drumcaine Forest projects both have overwhelming local support evidenced through feedback from local consultations carried out during the preparation of scoping studies for each site. As a Council we cannot ignore the voice of the local community nor that of elected members. Both projects have significant regeneration potential and fit well within the spirit of the small settlements regeneration scheme. On this basis we urge the Oversight Committee to reconsider its decision as both these projects will result in a seismic regeneration benefit to their respective villages.

The project identified for Clogher Valley Rugby Club in Fivemiletown has also been deemed ineligible by the Strategic Oversight Group based on geographical location. Rural communities by nature are dispersed and more often than not sports clubs, be they rugby, Gaelic or soccer are not located inside village boundaries. This in no way detracts from their importance within the community and they are integral to village life through association. Again, this project can evidence widespread cross community support purely on the basis of the good it will do and the benefits it will generate. The fact that it lies less than half a mile beyond the settlement limit has no bearing on the regeneration impact it can achieve for the local community and village.

The Kildress Community Breathing Space project is located within the settlement of Gortacladdy, which is officially listed on NISRA. I note within the guidance notes for this programme that settlements with under 1000 residents are not precluded. This project will serve a catchment of 2,500 residents from the surrounding rural area. The same residents live within the sixth most deprived part of Northern Ireland in term of access to services and this stark fact alone is justification for this project and fully supports the value for money argument.

It is important that the Strategic Oversight Group takes cognisance of these critical points and reconsiders its decision on these four projects. It is equally important that across the three Departments there is a recognition that village renewal and regeneration in rural areas is about maximising benefit for the communities they service. There must be flexibility within

Departmental policy objectives to accommodate projects which have clear regeneration potential based on local need.

As always we welcome the funding which has been allocated to Mid Ulster District Council by all three Departments and we look forward to working in continued partnership to deliver projects which can maximise the benefits for funding for our communities. I trust our revised regeneration plan provides the clarification needed to progress all projects included. If it does not, we will be issuing a request to all three Departments to attend a special Council meeting to present the decisions of the Oversight Group directly to our members for further feedback and discussion.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Paul McLean', is positioned above the printed name.

Cllr Paul McLean  
Chair

CC:  
Minister Deirdre Hargey - DfC  
Minister Edwin Poots – DAERA  
Minister Nichola Mallon - DfI



## DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES COVID-19 RECOVERY SMALL SETTLEMENTS REGENERATION PROGRAMME

### COVID-19 RECOVERY SMALL SETTLEMENTS REGENERATION PLAN

Please complete this template and return to [ryan.o'neill@communities-ni.gov.uk](mailto:ryan.o'neill@communities-ni.gov.uk) no later than noon on 21 DECEMBER 2021

*The form should be completed electronically*

Please note that information provided may be made available to other departments, agencies or funding bodies for the purposes of preventing or detecting fraud.

The completed template may also be subject to requests for disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act.

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#### 1. CONTACT DETAILS

Name of Council    Mid Ulster District Council

Project Officer/Lead    Fiona McKeown  
Contact

Telephone Number (incl.    03000 132 132  
code)

E-mail address    fiona.mckeown@midulstercouncil.org

Council Address    Burn Road  
Cookstown

Post Code    BT80 8DT



## 2. DELIVERY OF YOUR COVID RECOVERY SMALL SETTLEMENTS REGENERATION PLAN

*Please identify the individual projects within your regeneration plan, together with information on the nature of the funding (capital or revenue) and how it will be delivered (grant scheme/direct procurement/framework etc). Information on your proposed approach to procurement should also be included, together with proposals for the retention or disposal of assets procured under the fund.*

*You should also indicate how the plan meets the 7 objectives of the fund as set out in Annex A to this document, and also how it will contribute to the delivery of Outcome 10 of the Programme for Government ("We have created a place where people want to live and work, to visit and invest.").*

The projects detailed in this Plan have emanated directly from the communities they are intended to benefit. They have been informed by extensive local engagement across the District during the Village Planning process and public consultation exercises carried out during the preparation of our strategies for local economic development, outdoor recreation and tourism.

The projects included below will be designed to meet local needs and achieve maximum impact when delivered. We will utilise Council owned property where possible to ensure delivery within timescale and continue to work in partnership with Forest Service NI to further develop our forests as a source of outdoor recreation – as expressly desired by the community.

The projects listed below are proposed for delivery in 22/23.

In tandem with delivery of 22/23 listed projects, there will be significant time and resource invested by Council to develop further projects to a state of readiness in preparation for delivery in 23/24 (see potential options at Appendix 1). Further commitment from DfC/DAERA and DfI will be needed to provide funding for 23/24 therefore we will continue discussions with all three Departments in this regard.

The development of the projects listed below fulfils the aims and agendas of several government departments, agencies and strategic organisations. Mid Ulster District Council has taken care to ensure that the proposed developments aligns with these policies and strategies at a regional and local level. The following policies are identified as having the most strategic relevance

Theme	Policy / Strategy
Overarching Strategies	Draft Programme for Government 2016 – 2021 (NI Executive, 2016) Regional Development Strategy 2035: Building a Better Future (DfRD 2010) Mid Ulster District Council Corporate Plan 2020 – 2024 (MUDC, 2020) Our Community Plan: 10 year plan for Mid Ulster (MUDC, 2017) Mid Ulster Local Development Plan 2030, Draft Plan Strategy (MUDC, 2020)
Health & Well-Being	A Fitter Future for All: Preventing and Addressing Obesity 2012 – 2022 Health & Wellbeing 2026: Delivering Together (DoH, 2016)
Economy & Tourism	Mid Ulster Economic Development Action Plan 2021/22 (MUDC, 2021) Our Plan to Develop Tourism in Mid Ulster to 2021 (MUDC, 2017)
Culture, Sport & Outdoor Recreation	Our Great Outdoors: The Outdoor Recreation Plan for NI (2014) A New Sport & Physical Activity Strategy for NI (DfC, Consultation Document, 2021) Sport NI Corporate Plan (Draft) 2020-2025 Outdoor Recreation Strategy (MUDC, 2021) Parks & Play Strategy (MUDC, 2021)



	MUDC Sports Strategy 2018 Pitch Strategy 2021/22 (draft)
Natural Environment & Heritage	Sustainability for the Future, DAERA's Plan to 2050 NIEA 'Our Passion, Our Place' Strategic Priorities 2012 – 2022 Anti-Poverty and Social Inclusion Strategy for NI, 2006 The Volunteering Strategy for NI (DfC, 2011) Our Strategy 2021-2046 (NI Water, 2021) Recreation & Access Policy (NI Water, 2020)
Community Planning	Village Plans for Castlecaulfield, Castledawson, Moneymore, Clogher, Bellaghy, Cappagh & Galbally, Stewartstown, Fivemiletown and Kildress / Gortacladdy.
<b>Individual Projects</b>  (All require <b>capital funding</b> delivered via public procurement.)	<b>Which objective(s) are met (1-7), and how?</b> (refer to Annex A attached for Objectives)
<b>Castlecaulfield Recreation Area</b>	
<b>Castlecaulfield Recreation Area:</b> Upgrade to current pavilion, this would include a new extension to increase the sports hall usage numbers, upgrade to the existing kitchen & possible increase of kitchen size. Modernize the football changing block, which may require an extension. Develop a Trim Trail with low level lighting (710 metres), possible integration newly completed community river walk (options along river which may require land purchase or transfer/ public footpath on to Council site. This will encapsulate the children's teddy bear picnic walk and also look at developing a bio-diversity area on the grounds. The carpark will also need re-configured to increase car parking spaces and improvements to site lighting. Develop the grass area (old 2nd pitch e.g. additional car parking / pocket park (Council Property)	<b>Objectives 1,2,3,4,5 are met through the following outcomes:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater community and recreational activity in rural villages/communities</li> <li>• Increased activities focused on children and young people</li> <li>• Aesthetics of the village area improved</li> </ul> <p>In relation to objective 5 – positive impact on sales, best endeavours will be made to test this objective however the focus of the project is on village infrastructure for local community use may not translate into any improvement in sales for local businesses.</p>
<b>Project location</b> Project location is shown on map at Appendix 2. Castlecaulfield is a village in County Tyrone, Northern Ireland. It lies about 2 miles west of Dungannon and is part of the Mid Ulster District Council area.	
<b>Alignment with the objectives of the Programme</b> Physical, social and economic regeneration are three core contributors to achieving noticeable and tangible regeneration impacts therefore all three aspects need to be considered is assessing the contribution of this project to programme objectives.	



### Physical regeneration

This project is located within the settlement development limit of Castlecaulfield at the village's recreational site owned by Council. This is approx. 300m's from the centre of the village.

The current facilities at the recreational site include:-

- Small Pavilion (small minor hall, meeting room/store, 2x changing room)
- Full size soccer pitch
- Teddy Bear Picnic Trail
- Small carpark
- Play Park ( 9 stations)
- Small floodlight "3G" training pitch (community group maintained/run)
- Obsolete training pitch (under the Pitch Strategy, is now a green space)

It is the only recreational site for the local population which is extensively used on a year round basis e.g. local football clubs, Horticultural Society, local Community Associations and residents.

The limited floor space within the pavilion hinders the range of activities it can accommodate which impacts on current and potential user groups. Externally, there is significant potential to enhance the site through the installation of trim trails and linkages to existing walking trails.

There is a strong sense of community within the village exemplified through achievements such as winning the gold Champion of Champions award in the **Royal Horticultural Society's Britain in Bloom** contest in 2019 which was hailed as a victory for the whole community. The project proposed for the recreation site will lead to further regeneration within the village for the benefit residents within both the village itself and its outlying hinterland. It will build on the current status of the village, add to other facets of village life such as its rich local history (Castlecaulfield Castle) and walking links to Parkanaur Forest, thus generating potential to attract visitors to the village.

This project will facilitate physical regeneration within the village through

- Pavilion Extension/ Upgrade
- 750m Trim Trail with low level lighting, with links to the current "Teddy Bears Picnic" walk
- Small allotment area/ developing a bio-diversity area on the grounds
- Trim Trail linkage to Torrent River walk (to be investigated)
- Upgrade of existing carpark (possibly undertaken by Council contribution)
- Pocket Park, for social interaction.
- Improve linkages and walking cycling routes within the village to other key sites, namely Caulfield Castle and Parkanaur Forest

Physical regeneration will also generate social and economic regeneration benefits within the village and surrounding hinterland.

### Social regeneration

Social regeneration will be achieved by:

- Provision of a Trim trail with lighting to encourage more active lifestyles, in a safe environment to aid the health and wellbeing of all users.
- Improvements to the size and standard of pavilion to provide a greater offering for a wider range of users in terms of the activities it will accommodate not only for residents in Castlecaulfield but for the wider hinterland and neighbouring settlements;
- maximising the potential of the natural environment to increase visitor access while protecting the environment – which a key aim of Councils Tourism Strategy





- Providing a natural hub and a meeting point within the village **for all ages**. This can be further enhanced with heritage walking routes linking the site to the village, castle ruins, and the Parkanaur with a particular emphasis on rambling groups as the end user;
- Providing local access to a high quality recreational facility (indoor/outdoor) for residents of the village and outlying areas.

### Economic regeneration

Castlecaulfield Village has strong cross-community groups dedicated to the physical, social and economic wellbeing of the village and its surrounding area. All of the villages Community Associations work to make Castlecaulfield a better place to live, work and visit.

Economic regeneration will be achieved by :-

- increased footfall resulting from the appeal of much improved local recreational facilities and associated spin off benefits to local shops/ cafes / restaurants within the village;
- Council's Outdoor Cluster & Tourism Development Group (restaurants, accommodation, outdoor recreation providers) encouraging local businesses to capitalise on the increased footfall attracted by the enhanced facilities;
- Castlecaulfields Community Groups capitalising on opportunities to work with cycling groups/teams, who are using the village as a main arterial route/ stop before heading to the Sperrins and further afield e.g. working with the Cycle NI initiatives and local businesses to encourage use of the village and the recreation site as a "pitstop"
- The opportunity to develop "Community Café" at the refurbished facility, identified by the Community Group

### **Value for money**

Value for money is demonstrated through:

#### Social benefits to be accrued:

- Planned investment will provide new opportunities for resident to engage in physical exercise, promoting **healthier lifestyles** and better **physical and mental health**. Residents who use green space (woods and forests) have a lower risk of poor mental health than non-users; and using green space in childhood is a predictor of use in adulthood (Miller and Morrice 2014). It is hoped that this vital link to quality green space will provide people with space they need to aid recovery from the recent pandemic;
- **Tackling Access to Services deprivation** – the village is located in the **top 25%** of Super Output Areas most deprived by access to services in NI. Planned works including trim trail development and upgrade of the pavilion will facilitate a wider range of end users by offering a wider range of indoor sports and local community events e.g. concerts/play, horticultural competitions;
- Potential to address **rural isolation** and encourage **inclusion**. This project will improve accessibility to outdoor recreation across abilities. Areas such as the pocket park are designed as informal meeting spaces to encourage social interaction across all age ranges for those who wouldn't normally use recreation / leisure centres. After two years of a pandemic, these type of facilities will play a key role in post-Covid recovery e.g. mental health, re-instating community confidence.





- **Community cohesion** – planned investment at this site will provide more opportunities for group activities through for example improvements to the pavilion and better access to outdoor spaces. Reference has already been made to strong sense of local community within the village.

#### Long term economic benefit

The aim of this project is to provide long term tangible benefits for residents. The physical regeneration planned for this site will develop permanent infrastructural improvements which are of practical everyday benefit to the community. The life expectancy of the assets to be developed demonstrates value for money for the investment required over the long term. Prior to Covid, the Village Plan indicated Castlecaulfield was entering a period of significant growth, primarily due to its proximity to the recently upgraded A4 with easy access for workers commuting to nearby towns and of course Belfast. This is evident from the recent surge of private dwellings.

#### Local population

The population benefitting from this project extends to the outlying hinterland of the village in addition to the population within the settlement limit. If taking the ward level population this is recorded as 2980 for 2020 for the Castlecaulfield ward which a further demonstration of value for money. Within this population are local groups such as the horticultural society, football clubs and primary schools all of which gain benefit from the site at present.

### **Castledawson (Riverside)**

**Castledawson (Riverside):** develop a Trim Trail around the perimeter of existing pitch, low level lighting, a pocket park area, designated natural area, and remedial works to carpark. Possible extension of current allotment provision to include meeting place/shed. Integration into new site with the current play park leaving a grass space area for locals to enjoy.(Council Property)

#### **Objectives 1,2,3,4,5 are met through the following outcomes:**

- Greater community and recreational activity in rural villages/communities
- Increased activities focused on children and young people
- Aesthetics of the village area improved

### **Project location**

Project location is within the village as shown on map at Appendix 2.

### **Alignment with Programme Objectives**

Physical, social and economic regeneration are three core contributors to achieving noticeable and tangible regeneration impacts therefore all three aspects need to be considered in assessing the contribution of this project to programme objectives.

The physical regeneration of the site will take account of the input from local residents as the community this space is intended to benefit. This will directly contribute to local place shaping objectives of the programme.

#### Physical regeneration

Physical regeneration will involve:

- develop a Trim Trail around the perimeter of existing pitch,
- low level lighting, a pocket park area,
- designated natural area, and
- remedial works to carpark.



### Social regeneration

Social regeneration will be achieved through:

- **Improved accessibility** to a high quality recreational facility which will encourage greater use by the resident population within the village;
- Adding value to the site – i.e trim trail and lighting to make the facility more appealing for **families** as a space to relax in and enjoy;
- Maximising the potential of the natural environment to increase visitor access while protecting the environment – which a key aim of Councils Tourism Strategy
- Improving the site as a natural hub and meeting point within the village **for all ages**.

### Economic Regeneration

- The aim of the project is to improve the current site in a manner which draws more people into the village. The site links to the main street within the village so offers easy access to shops and cafes for those using it.

### **Value for Money**

Value for money is demonstrated through:

#### Social benefits to be accrued:

- Planned investment will provide new opportunities for resident to engage in physical exercise, promoting **healthier lifestyles** and better **physical and mental health**. Residents who use green space (woods and forests) have a lower risk of poor mental health than non-users; and using green space in childhood is a predictor of use in adulthood (Miller and Morrice 2014). It is hope that this vital link to quality green space will provide people with space they need to aid recovery from the recent pandemic;
- **Tackling Access to Services deprivation** – the village is located in the **top 30%** of Super Output Areas most deprived by access to services in NI. This projects aims to develop a safe and welcoming outdoor space for the local population to enjoy.
- Potential to address **rural isolation** and encourage **inclusion**. This project will improve accessibility to outdoor recreation across abilities. After two years of a pandemic, these type of facilities will play a key role in post-Covid recovery e.g. mental health, re-instating community confidence.
- **Community cohesion** – planned investment at this site will provide more opportunities for group activities through for example walking / running groups – the installation of lighting at the site opens up the potential for year round use.

#### Long term economic benefit

The aim of this project is to provide long term tangible benefits for residents. The physical regeneration planned for this site will develop permanent infrastructural improvements which are of practical everyday benefit to the community. The life expectancy of the assets to be developed demonstrates value for money for the investment required over the long term.

**Local population**

The population benefitting from this project extends to the outlying hinterland of the village in addition to the population within the settlement limit. If taking the ward level population which Castledawson sits in, the population is recorded at 3522 which is a further demonstration of value for money.

## Manor Park, Moneymore

**Manor Park, Moneymore –**

Manor Park is a haven for health and wellbeing in the heart of Moneymore. The 2 hectare site is a well-used and valued local asset to the Moneymore Community. Plans to revitalise the site and provide the much needed community links include:

- Signage and interpretation
- Key safe linkages from Manor Park to Moneymore Recreation Centre and play park, Springhill Wood and the local housing areas
- Resurface & installation of low-level lighting on the path network to ensure it accessible for all and can be accessed safely throughout the year.
- Installation of lighting within the carpark area providing year round safe usage of the site
- Creation of an accessible picnic area
- Installation of low-level fencing alongside the River
- Redevelop the existing maze to ensure that it is accessible for all
- Art works to depict the heritage of the area
- Sluice and weir works to assist with river flow and prevent silting. Whilst this is not part of funding Council will make a commitment to develop this as part of the overall scheme.

**Objectives 1,2,3,4,5 are met through the following outcomes:**

- Greater community and recreational activity in rural villages/communities
- Increased activities focused on children and young people
- Aesthetics of the village area improved
- Safer access to local amenities
- Provide an environment that is inclusive and that will aid the health and well-being of all who visit it
- Provide opportunities for increased opportunities for social engagement and interaction with the aim of reducing social isolation
- Help to enhance the economic sustainability of the local area

**Project location**

Project location is shown on map at Appendix 2.

Manor Park is in the centre of village and covers an areas of approx 2 hectares.

The current facility at the site includes a circular walkway alongside the Ballymully River and pond, car parking for approx 8 cars, open grass areas, maze, picnic tables and bench seating.

**Alignment with Programme Objectives**

Physical, social and economic regeneration are three core contributors to achieving noticeable and tangible regeneration impacts therefore all three aspects need to be considered in assessing the contribution of this project to programme objectives.

**Physical Regeneration**

Physical regeneration at the site will involve:

- Signage and interpretation;
- Key safe linkages from Manor Park to Moneymore Recreation Centre and play park, Springhill Wood and the local housing areas;
- Resurface & installation of low-level lighting on the path network to improve accessibility and safety for all users throughout the year;



- Installation of lighting within the carpark area providing year round safe usage of the site;
- Creation of an accessible picnic area;
- Installation of low-level fencing alongside the river bank;
- Redevelop the existing maze to ensure that it is accessible for all;
- Art works to depict the heritage of the area
- Sluice and weir works to assist with river flow and prevent silting. Whilst this is not part of funding Council will make a commitment to develop this as part of the overall scheme.

The physical regeneration of the site will take account of the input from local residents as the community this space is intended to benefit. This will directly contribute to local place shaping objectives of the programme.

### Social regeneration

Social regeneration will be achieved through:

- **Improved accessibility** to a high quality recreational facility which will encourage greater use by the resident population within the village;
- Adding value to the site – i.e. an accessible picnic area and reimagining the maze to make the facility more appealing for **families** as a space to relax in and enjoy;
- Maximising the potential of the natural environment to increase visitor access while protecting the environment – which a key aim of Councils Tourism Strategy
- Improving the site as a natural hub and meeting point within the village **for all ages**.
- Linking key sites within Moneymore to provide greater opportunities for walking and cycling between these sites.

### Economic Regeneration

- The aim of the project is to improve the current site in a manner which draws more people into the village. The site links to the main street within the village so offers easy access to shops and cafes for those using it.

### **Value for Money**

#### Social benefits to be accrued:

- Planned investment will provide new opportunities for resident to engage in physical exercise, promoting **healthier lifestyles** and better **physical and mental health**. Residents who use green space (woods and forests) have a lower risk of poor mental health than non-users; and using green space in childhood is a predictor of use in adulthood (Miller and Morrice 2014). It is hope that this vital link to quality green space will provide people with space they need to aid recovery from the recent pandemic;
- **Tackling Access to Services deprivation** – the village is located in the **top 26%** of Super Output Areas most deprived by access to services in NI. This projects aims to develop a safe and welcoming outdoor space for the local population to enjoy.
- Potential to address **rural isolation** and encourage **inclusion**. This project will improve accessibility to outdoor recreation across abilities. After two years of a pandemic, these type of facilities will play a key role in post-Covid recovery e.g. mental health, re-instating community confidence.



- **Community cohesion** – planned investment at this site will provide more opportunities for group activities through for example walking / running groups – the installation of lighting at the site opens up the potential for year round use.

#### Long term economic benefit

The aim of this project is to provide long term tangible benefits for residents. The physical regeneration planned for this site will develop permanent infrastructural improvements which are of practical everyday benefit to the community. The life expectancy of the assets to be developed demonstrates value for money for the investment required over the long term.

#### Local population

The population benefitting from this project extends to the outlying hinterland of the village in addition to the population within the settlement limit. If taking the ward level population Moneymore village converges on two electoral ward with a combined population of 5575 which is a further demonstration of value for money.

## Coalisland Canal

#### **Coalisland Canal –**

Is a 6.5km linear cycle/walking path providing access to an off-road walking / cycling trail for rural communities of Ballynakilly, Tamnamore, Clonoe and outlying rural areas  
The project involves:

#### **Objectives 1,2,3,5,6 and 7 are met through the following outcomes:**

- One new walking/cycle path will be created creating to encourage a more active and healthy lifestyle
- Improved safety in rural areas.
- Greater community and recreational activity in rural villages/communities
- Safer access to local amenities

### **Project location**

Project location is shown on map at Appendix 2.

### **Alignment with Programme Objectives**

Physical, social and economic regeneration are three core contributors to achieving noticeable and tangible regeneration impacts therefore all three aspects need to be considered in assessing the contribution of this project to programme objectives.

#### Physical Regeneration

Physical regeneration at the site will involve:

- Upgrade of the existing path network to create a tarred 6.5km shared path (walking/cycle) from Reenaderry Road to Coalisland.
- Improve 2 x road crossings at Moor Road and Gortonis Road for enhanced safety of all path users.

#### Social regeneration

Social regeneration will be achieved through:





- **Improved accessibility** – tarmac surfacing will improve accessibility for all abilities and address current section of the trail which are uneven.
- **Adding value to the site** – improving road crossing at Moor Road and Gortonis Road will to address safety concerns and make the overall walking experience more pleasurable and appealing to families;
- **Maximising the potential of the natural environment** to increase visitor access while protecting the environment which a key aim of Councils Tourism Strategy. The tow path follows the route of the canal through open countryside which provides a peaceful quiet environment for users.
- The canal reflects the rich **industrial heritage** of Coalisland and the surrounding rural area. This project has an important role to play in keeping alive the story of how the canal came into being and its influence on local rural heritage and culture.

### Economic Regeneration

- This project is an extension of an existing Active Travel project which will complete resurfacing works along the length of the tow path. Coalisland Canal is a key strategic regeneration project and has the full support of Council for its potential to attract people in the area who are interested in the unique industrial heritage associated with the tow path. In the region of 22,000 users walk the tow path annually therefore the improvements planned through this project will only help to ramp up current usage. Additional footfall will in turn bring added spend potential to the surrounding rural towns and villages such as Tamnamore, Ballynakelly and Clonoe which lie along the course of Canal.

### **Value for Money**

#### Social benefits to be accrued:

- Planned investment will encourage residents from the surrounding rural communities to use the tow path for physical exercise, promoting **healthier lifestyles** and better **physical and mental health**. Residents who use green space (woods and forests) have a lower risk of poor mental health than non-users; and using green space in childhood is a predictor of use in adulthood (Miller and Morrice 2014). It is hoped that this vital link to quality green space will provide people with space they need to aid recovery from the recent pandemic;
- Potential to address **rural isolation** and encourage **inclusion**. This project will improve accessibility to outdoor recreation across abilities. After two years of a pandemic, these type of facilities will play a key role in post-Covid recovery e.g. mental health, re-instating community confidence.
- **Community cohesion** – planned investment at this site will provide more opportunities for group activities through for example walking / running groups.

#### Long term economic benefit

The aim of this project is to provide long term tangible benefits for residents. The physical regeneration planned for this site will develop permanent infrastructural improvements which are of practical everyday benefit to the community. The life expectancy of the assets to be developed demonstrates value for money for the investment required over the long term.

#### Local population

The population benefitting from this project extends to the outlying hinterland of three villages – Clonoe, Tamnamore and Ballinakelly. Ward level population for these areas total over 6400 based on NISRA



2020 mid-year estimates. It should be noted that this only reflects the two surrounding wards – the reality is that the canal attracts users from beyond these immediate boundaries.

### Clogher Valley Rugby Club -Fivemiletown

**Clogher Valley Rugby Club -Fivemiletown**, to assist the new multi-sport development project in the area

**Objectives 1,2,3,4,5 are met through the following outcomes**

- Greater community and recreational activity in rural villages/communities
- Increased activities focused on children and young people
- Aesthetics of the village area improved
- Safer access to local amenities

Clogher Valley Rugby Football Club is a cross community club registered as a charitable organisation. The club is actively involved in cross community non sporting activities that promote the health and well-being of the Clogher Valley community.

Access to a fit for purpose community hub has been identified by the club as a long standing barrier to progressing its efforts to engage the local community in health and wellbeing activities. The club has consulted with the local community and local elected representatives to secure support to progress a new build community hub project based on the benefits it will bring to the area.

The community hub will be built at the Clubs grounds which are located less than 0.5miles from the edge of the Fivemiletown settlement limit.

The basis for its inclusion within the Regeneration Plan is set out below:

- The regeneration potential for the whole of the Clogher Valley community. Its location outside the village settlement limit does not detract from this potential as the primary focus of the project is on building social capital within the community.
- One of the key aim of this programme is to deliver improvements that encourage people to live, work, visit and invest in the area. The physical investment in community infrastructure will achieve this benefit.
- The focus of the project is to act as a hub for local interest groups, providing them with the facilities they need to peruse their own specific goals. A wide range of interest have been received including mother and toddler, senior citizens, adult health and fitness, Sure Start, dance etc. These are typical of the types of activities that will engage the local community and help with issues such as isolation, exclusion and loneliness.

### Value for money

Value for money is demonstrated through:

#### Social benefits to be accrued:

- Planned investment will provide new community infrastructure for communities across the Clogher Valley – which accounts for over 4500 people;



- **Tackling Access to Services deprivation** – the FMT is located in the **top 35%** of Super Output Areas most deprived by access to services in NI. This project will work towards improving access to local services in the form of a community hub;
- Potential to address **rural isolation** and encourage **inclusion**. Consultation carried out by the club has identified a wide range of activities which would be hosted from the hub targeting all age groups.
- **Community cohesion** – planned investment at this site will provide more opportunities for group activities which will build relationships and strengthen a local sense of community.

#### Long term economic benefit

The aim of this project is to provide long term tangible benefits for residents. The physical regeneration planned for this site will develop permanent infrastructural improvements which are of practical everyday benefit to the community. The life expectancy of the assets to be developed demonstrates value for money for the investment required over the long term.

#### Local population

The population benefitting from this project extends to the outlying hinterland of the village in addition to the population within the settlement limit. If taking the ward level population this is recorded as 4672 for 2020 both the Fivemiletown and Clogher wards which a further demonstration of value for money.

### Clogher

**Clogher:** – Ballymagowan Road and Station Road - Creating a cycling and walking path from Ballymagowan Road to Station Road to create a 2km circular cycling & walking route for the Clogher residents.

#### **Objectives 1,2,3,4,5,6 and 7 are met through the following outcomes:**

- One new walking/cycle path will be created to encourage a more active and healthy lifestyle
- Improved safety in rural areas.
- Greater community and recreational activity in rural villages/communities
- Safer access to local amenities

### Bellaghy

#### **Bellaghy:**

Creation of a new walking and cycling path linking the GAC on Drumanee Road to Long Point Wood thereby increasing the opportunities for outdoor recreation by linking two outdoor recreational facilities.

#### **Objectives 1,2,3,4,5,6 and 7 are met through the following outcomes:**

- One new walking/cycle path will be created creating to encourage a more active and healthy lifestyle
- Improved safety in rural areas.
- Greater community and recreational activity in rural villages/communities
- Safer access to local amenities

#### **Location**





Long Point Wood is approx 1.6km from the village of Bellaghy. The wood sits on the shoreline of Lough Beg and is a very peaceful, tranquil place. The wood and connecting walkway attract approx 13,000 users per year (2021/22 user data projections). A map of the project location and proposed walking / cycle trail is shown on Appendix 2. This is phase 1 of a two phase project that will connect Long Point Wood to Bellaghy village.

The site is busy with families driving the short distance out of the village along a narrow country road. Last year there was over 83,000 visitors. It is envisaged that by connecting this asset to another recreational facility (GAA grounds) will encourage more people to walk and cycle to the site. This connectivity will provide a quality walking route for all from the village. It is envisaged that the path will encourage more users to visit the site thus increasing social engagement amongst the users. This section of walkway is highlighted on the map. DfC Active Travel funding has been used to develop design concepts for this trail.

Access to green space has been recognised across the world to be very important for people's health and especially mental wellbeing. Helping people to be active outdoors in groups or as individuals has proven potential to deliver on the issues associated with social exclusion, rural and urban deprivation and community cohesion. Other evidence – residents who use green space (woods and forests) have a lower risk of poor mental health than non-users; and using green space in childhood is a predictor of use in adulthood (Miller and Morrice 2014). It is hoped that this vital link to quality green space will provide people with space they need to aid recovery from the recent pandemic.

### **Alignment with Programme Objectives**

Physical, social and economic regeneration are three core contributors to achieving noticeable and tangible regeneration impacts therefore all three need to be considered in assessing the contribution of this project to programme objectives.

#### **Physical regeneration**

Physical regeneration at the site will involve in phase 1:

- Creation of a cycle/walking path approx 660 m in length – from the GAA training grounds at Drumanee Road to Long Point Wood. As this is a narrow country road it is intended that this will be an off-road path, running alongside the road but on the inside of the hedgerow.

The physical regeneration has taken account of the consultation as part of the Village Plan for Bellaghy. The development of the walkway will continue to seek input and buy-in from local residents and the wider Bellaghy Community. As it is this community that will benefit directly from the development of this area. This will directly contribute to local place shaping objectives of the programme.

#### **Social regeneration**

Social regeneration will be achieved through:

- Improved local access to a high quality recreational facility which will encourage residents to visit the village more regularly and provide safe access for residents
- The site development will provide an environment that is inclusive and that will aid the health and well-being of all who visit it
- The site development will link key sites within Bellaghy and provide greater opportunities for walking and cycling between these sites.
- An enhanced facility will provide more opportunities for social engagement and interaction with the aim of reducing social isolation



- Within the Village Plan there are aspirations to further enhance the heritage and wetlands of Bellaghy. As part of the pathways there are opportunities for walking tours around the village to emphasise these assets.

### Economic regeneration

Economic regeneration will be achieved by:

- It is anticipated that the increased footfall resulting from the appeal of much improved local facilities and associated spin off benefits to local shops/ cafes / restaurants within the village.
- Council will engage with the business community in the Bellaghy area through the Council's Outdoor Cluster & Tourism Development Group (restaurants, accommodation, outdoor recreation providers) to help them engage with site users riders & develop their business to cater for their needs.
- It is anticipated that the enhancements will help to provide more visitors thus resulting in a more economically prosperous community enabling a positive impact on poverty and social isolation

### **Value for money**

Value for money is demonstrated through:

#### Social benefits to be accrued:

- There will be improved outdoor recreation opportunities through development of an off-road path network linking two outdoor recreational resources thereby providing the community with better access to quality green space.
- These additional outdoor provisions will expand current visitor groups, and have the potential to offer exciting new activities to those individuals who wouldn't ordinarily use recreation /leisure centres.
- It is anticipated that this type of outdoor environment will help visitors meet new people, develop relationships and improve self-esteem. After two years of a pandemic, these type of facilities will play a key role in post-Covid recovery e.g. mental health, re-instating community confidence.
- The enhanced trails will encourage more users to visit the site thus increasing social engagement amongst the users.
- The site enhancement would further provide the opportunity for groups/meeting places/events thus helping to reduce social isolation and enhance community cohesion.

Social value will be measured through the outcome of resident surveys.

### Long term economic benefit

The aim of this project is to provide long term tangible benefits for residents. The physical regeneration planned for this site will develop permanent infrastructural improvements which are of practical everyday benefit to the community. The life expectancy of the assets developed demonstrates value for money for the investment required over the long term.

### Local population

The population benefitting from this project extends to the outlying hinterland of the village in addition to the population within the settlement limit. If taking the ward level population for Bellaghy has is recorded as having a population of 2810 which is a further demonstration of value for money.



## Drumcairne Forest and Altmore Forest

**Drumcairne Forest:** Develop the forest as a local multi recreational hub, a site developed primarily for the local community, to include a range of outdoor recreation and environmental products, accompanied by appropriate visitor servicing.

**And:**

**Objectives 1,2,3, 4 are met through the following outcomes:**

- Greater community and recreational activity for surrounding villages/communities
- Increased activities focused on children and young people
- Sustainable use of existing natural assets for encouraging more active and healthy lifestyles

**Altmore Forest:** Develop the forest as a local multi recreational hub, a site developed primarily for the local community, to include a range of outdoor recreation and environmental products, accompanied by appropriate visitor servicing.

MUDC does not accept that the proposed projects detailed for Drumcairne Forest and Altmore Forest do not align with key objective of the programme noted within the guidance notes of “creating vital and vibrant towns that meet the needs of the local citizens”

The inclusion of these projects within the Regeneration Plan is based on the following:

- Both were clearly identified within local village plans as opportunity sites for opening up new recreational opportunities
- Further consultation carried out during independently scoping studies prepared for both sites in July 2021 have substantiated the express desire of both local communities to move forward with forest based projects on the basis that they provide the best opportunity for local regeneration using local assets.
- Both projects will generate opportunities for local economic regeneration as they will attract visitors from across the district to both settlements. The opportunity here is to capitalise on the growing demand for outdoor recreational opportunities as more people seek to utilise local natural resources such as forests.

The scoping studies prepared for each site have provided a good insight on the potential social and economic regeneration benefits of both projects which include:

- Kick starting the regeneration of both settlements through investment in quality outdoor activities and experiences;
- Improving the health (both physical and mental) and wellbeing (including social inclusion) of local people and visitors by providing opportunities for people to engage in physical activity and to have better access to green spaces.



- Long term economic growth for both settlements through the development of sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities which will attract visitors to the area;
- Social Return on Investment – estimated at £10 for every £1 invested which equates to £10.4m for Drumcairne and £11m for Altmore over a 25 year period (based on a case study of Darkley Forest Community Trail in Armagh by ORNI)
- Addressing deprivation – access to services deprivation is particularly stark in Altmore which is within the top 7% in NI. Stewartstown falls within the top 20%.

Community surveys carried out as part of the scoping studies returned overwhelming support for both projects with 84% of the 704 responses receive for Drumcairne and 92% of the 488 responses for Altmore citing the development of both forest as “very important” for the local community.

There is therefore a clear contribution to be made from these projects to the overall regeneration of both villages. Limiting regeneration activity to within the settlement limits of these villages would be at odds with the wishes of the community and would be counterintuitive given the potential social, economic and environmental benefits to be gained from both.

## Clady

**Clady:** Extend existing play to create a public pocket park. Provide additional parking.

**Objectives 1,2,3,4,5 are met through the following outcomes:**

- Greater community and recreational activity in rural villages/communities
- Increased activities focused on children and young people
- Aesthetics of the village area improved

### Location

The project is located within the village but on the boundary of the settlement limit -as shown on the map for Clady at Appendix 2.

### Alignment with objectives of the Programme

Physical, social and economic regeneration are three core contributors to achieving noticeable and tangible regeneration impacts therefore all three need to be considered in assessing the contribution of this project to programme objectives.

The current facility at the site includes a small playpark adjacent to a playing field and open green space.

### Physical regeneration

The space available at this site offers the opportunity for regeneration by extending the existing play park to create a public pocket park. The pocket park concept seeks to utilise existing green space in order to encourage more people to use the outdoors in addition to users of the play park alone.

The physical regeneration of the site will take account of the input from local residents as the community this space is intended to benefit. This will directly contribute to local place shaping objectives of the programme.



### Social regeneration

Social regeneration will be achieved through:

- **Improved accessibility** to outdoor recreation which will encourage greater use by the resident population within the village and outlying hinterland;
- **Increased satisfaction** from residents with the quality of open green space available locally
- Adding value to the site – promoting the space to **families** as a space to relax in and enjoy;
- Improving the site as a natural hub and meeting point within the village **for all ages** to encourage locals to meet and engage with one another;

### Economic regeneration

- The aim of the project is to improve the current site in a manner which draws more people into the village. The site links to the main street within the village so offers easy access to shops and cafes for those using it.

### **Value for Money**

Value for money is demonstrated through:

#### Social benefits to be accrued:

- Planned investment will provide new opportunities for resident to engage in physical exercise, promoting **healthier lifestyles** and better **physical and mental health**. Residents who use green space (woods and forests) have a lower risk of poor mental health than non-users; and using green space in childhood is a predictor of use in adulthood (Miller and Morrice 2014). It is hope that this vital link to quality green space will provide people with space they need to aid recovery from the recent pandemic;
- **Tackling Access to Services deprivation** – the village is located in the **top 17%** of Super Output Areas most deprived by access to services in NI. This projects aims to develop a safe and welcoming outdoor space for the local population to enjoy.
- Potential to address **rural isolation** and encourage **inclusion**. This project will improve accessibility to outdoor recreation across all abilities. After two years of a pandemic, these type of facilities will play a key role in post-Covid recovery e.g. mental health, re-instating community confidence.
- **Community cohesion** – planned investment at this site will open up opportunities for resident to meet and engage with one another as well as encourage use of the facility for community led events.

Social value will be measured through the outcome of resident surveys.

#### Long term economic benefit

The aim of this project is to provide long term tangible benefits for residents. The physical regeneration planned for this site will develop permanent infrastructural improvements which are of practical everyday benefit to the community. The life expectancy of the assets developed demonstrates value for money for the investment required over the long term.

#### Local population

The population benefitting from this project extends to the outlying hinterland of the village in addition to the population within the settlement limit. If taking the 2020 ward level population (Valley) Clady is recorded as having a population of 2738 which is a further demonstration of value for money.



## Kildress Community Breathing Space

**Kildress Community Breathing Space** - A flat, slope-free lighted loop walkway, outdoor open air community activity spaces, fit-for-purpose public realm.

**Objectives 1,2,3,4,5 are met through the following outcomes:**

- Greater community and recreational activity in rural villages/communities
- Increased activities focused on children and young people
- Aesthetics of the village area improved

### Geographical location

This project is located within the settlement limit of Gortacladdy, which is a recognised settlement listed within NISRA settlement classification (see location map at Appendix 2). There is no official population figures listed for Gortacladdy due to the statistical methodology used (settlements with less than 20 households are aggregated).

The absence of official population statistics is not considered relevant as this project is focused on the regeneration of the rural area it will service which hosts 2500 rural dwellers **who live in the worst quartile of Northern Irelands most deprived communities.**

### Alignment with objectives of the Programme

#### Physical regeneration

This project is located within the settlement development limit of Gortacladdy (See map at Appendix 2).

The site of the project is within the grounds of Kildress Wolfe Tones GFC. Current facilities include two playing fields and a recently developed £1.45m community hub which acts as the focal point for community activity providing sporting, recreational, well-being and statutory outreach services for the community. This is the main centre of footfall within the settlement.

Physical regeneration through this project will involve the development of a 750m slop free lighted looped walkway around the site.

The physical regeneration of the site will take account of input from local residents as the community this space is intended to benefit. This will directly contribute to local place shaping objectives of the programme.

#### Social regeneration

Social regeneration will be achieved through:

- A safe high quality and fully accessible recreational facility for the residents of the surrounding rural area;
- Facilitating the growth of group activities such as walking / running club / mens shed/ physical activity for adults.
- Promoting opportunity for all abilities – surfacing will be wheel chair and buggy friendly
- Fostering community spirit and sense of belonging within a highly deprived area.





These benefits directly contribute to the stated programme aims of delivering *improvements that encourage people to live, work, visit and invest in the area* and *improvements that enhance walking, cycling and other associated facilities within the scheme area*.

### Value for money

Value for money is demonstrated through:

#### Social benefits to be accrued:

- Fully accessible outdoor recreation infrastructure
- More opportunities for group activities and social cohesion
- Civic pride from the delivery of a further community asset within such a deprived rural area.

Social value will be measured through the outcome of resident surveys.

#### Long term economic benefit

The aim of this project is to provide long term tangible benefits for residents. The physical regeneration planned for this site will develop permanent infrastructural improvements which are of practical everyday benefit to the community. The life expectancy of the assets developed demonstrates value for money for the investment required over the long term.

#### Local population

The population benefitting from this project extends to the outlying hinterland of the village in addition to the population within the settlement limit. The catchment to be served by this project contains 2500 residents which is a further demonstration of value for money for the level of investment planned.

## APPROACH TO PROCUREMENT

Procurement will be carried out in line with Councils procurement policy with contracts tendered via e-tendersni.

Due to delivery timescales it is considered that the use of a grant aid programme is not the best option for the implementation of this Plan. Council will utilise the services of an ICT to ensure the procurement process commences as soon as possible following receipt of a letter of offer to maximise time for contract delivery.

Council will liaise as required with CPD during the procurement phase.

## CONTRIBUTION TO DELIVERY OF PFG OBJECTIVE 10 –

*(“We have created a place where people want to live and work, to visit and invest.”)*

All of the projects listed in this Plan will help deliver Objective 10 the Programme for Government under the Priority Themes of:

### **Sports, Arts and Culture:**

Providing access to sports, arts and culture and encouraging and facilitating opportunities for people to get involved. Promoting built heritage, eco-tourism and outdoor recreation. Providing spaces and facilities for sports, arts and culture events and activities to take place. (Department for Communities, Department for Infrastructure, Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs)

### **Planning:**



Creating and shaping high quality, sustainable, places for people to live, work and spend leisure time. Furthering sustainable development and supporting positive place making and effective stewardship. (Department for Infrastructure, Department for Communities, Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs)

### 3. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

*Please provide details of any stakeholder engagement that has been carried out (or is planned) for this plan. Include details of any working groups or similar fora that have been established or will be established to oversee delivery of your plan.*

Stakeholder engagement in identifying need for the projects listed above has been carried out through:

➤ **The Village Planning Framework** – this encapsulated three distinct phases

Phase 1- Survey and Analysis

- Undertake a detailed socio-economic analysis of the area to include population, age structure, health, education and economic activity and physical assets;

Phase 2- Research and key ideas

- Hold pre-consultation meetings with key members of the community to make connections and understand how each village works.
- Host consultation meeting for the wider public, to provide maps, photographs and presentations to enhance the consultation and to ensure ideas are gathered.
- Questionnaire to gain a further response from the public.
- Analysis of ideas and separate them into groups and priorities.

Phase 3- Village Design and Development

- Highlight key ideas and look at ways to implement these putting in place a robust and realistic integrated village action plan identifying what needs to be done, why it is an issue, how it will be tackled, who will be involved and timescale.
- Validate Plan with those involved.

➤ **Public consultation exercises carried out during the preparation of Council development Strategies including:**

- Mid Ulster Economic Development Plan 2015-2020 “Our Plan for Growth” which identified the enabling of town and village Regeneration as one of four key Themes and,
- Mid Ulster Outdoor Recreation Strategy – which identified strong local community support for the development of recreational opportunities within forests due to the benefits this can bring to surrounding villages as a result of improved local access.
- Mid Ulster Council Pitches Strategy Development
- Mid Ulster Council Public Parks and Plan Five Year Strategy





- Masterplans for forest Development including Drumcairn, Altmore/Cappagh and Dunmoyle.

Stakeholder engagement will continue throughout the design development phase for the projects included in this Regeneration Plan. This allows opportunity for bottom up input on design concepts as they emerge and creates a sense of local buy in needed to meet public expectations.

#### 4.NEED FOR INVESTMENT

*Please describe briefly each proposed project and explain why it is needed. Provide details of other bodies/groups supporting the need for each project and what evidence or metrics are available to demonstrate the need? (E.g. Business Surveys, Chamber of Trade/Commerce request, Shopper/Visitor surveys, Village Plans, research etc.)In particular, please list any baseline data the council has that would be relevant to the objectives of the Programme.*

#### EVIDENCE OF NEED

##### Village Planning Process

As stated in Section 3, the Village Planning process has provided the framework from which the projects listed have emerged. The case for change in each instance falls under the broad headings of:

- The opportunity to build vibrant and competitive villages;
- The opportunity to improve local recreational opportunities especially for young people;
- The opportunity to improve the natural and build heritage within rural villages and outlying areas;
- The opportunity for residents of the District to live longer, healthier and more active lifestyles.

##### Community Plan for Mid Ulster

The headings above resonate with the priority themes identified within the Community Plan for Mid Ulster and reflect the findings of the extensive consultation exercise carried out during its preparation.

The projects within this Regeneration Plan will therefore contribute to achieving the Community Plans Vision for Mid Ulster as ... *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.*

##### Council Corporate Plan

Addressing rurality is a Corporate commitment for this Council. Close to 70% of Mid Ulster's population live in a rural setting, a fact which has strongly influenced the Council's approach to service delivery, investment and long-term planning. The importance of addressing the needs of a



rural region, whether socially or economically, is undiminished and remains one of the Council's corporate commitments.

Theme 5 of the Corporate Plan is about our communities and places a deliberate focus on accessibility of opportunities to help residents lead more active lifestyles. Here the priorities are on opening up opportunities for outdoor recreation tailored to community need which will be facilitated through the delivery of this Plan.

## **Mid Ulster Outdoor Recreation Strategy**

Linked to the Corporate Plan priorities for encouraging and facilitating active lifestyles, the Mid Ulster Outdoor Recreation Strategy identified forest development as one of the strongest propositions for building the outdoor recreation offer across the district. Utilising local forests for recreation has emerged time and time again within Village Plans which is evidence of local support for pursuing this course of action. This has helped to justify the inclusion of two forest based projects in this Regeneration Plan at Altmore and Drumcaine. In addition there is a strong value for money argument to be made for developing local assets which can be utilised by a number of surrounding villages which helps to maximise the impact of these interventions and the population served.

## **Project level deficiencies**

For each project, local level deficiencies have been identified within existing arrangements and the scope of each proposed project will be developed to address these deficiencies.

A brief description of each project is provided below:

### **Castlecaufield Recreation Area:**

Upgrade to current pavilion, this would include a new extension to increase the sports hall usage numbers, upgrade to the existing kitchen & possible increase of kitchen size. Modernize the football changing block, which may require an extension. Develop a Trim Trail with low level lighting (710 metres), possible integration newly completed community river walk (options along river which may require land purchase or transfer/ public footpath on to Council site. This will encapsulate the children's teddy bear picnic walk and also look at developing a bio-diversity area on the grounds. The carpark will also need re-configured to increase car parking spaces and improvements to site lighting. Develop the grass area (old 2nd pitch e.g. additional car parking / pocket park (Council Property)

### **Castledawson (Riverside):**

Develop a Trim Trail around the perimeter of existing pitch, low level lighting, a pocket park area, designated natural area, and remedial works to carpark. Possible extension of current allotment provision to include meeting place/shed. Integration into new site with the current play park leaving a grass space area for locals to enjoy.(Council Property)

### **Manor Park, Moneymore :**

Assess and remedy any flooding issues on the main Manor Park site, provide signage integrating Manor Park (provision of pedestrian crossing/ main road) for safe access to play park and trim trail at Recreation area (liaise with DfI re possibilities in this regard). Resurface path network, create accessible picnic area, sluice & weir works to assist with river flow and prevent silting, redevelop maze, install bird beak fencing alongside river, low level lighting will ensure that the site can be safely used in dark evening, carpark lighting.

### **Coalisland Canal:**

Upgrade to creating a tarred 6.5km mile walking/cycle path from Reenaderry Road to Coalisland. Plan to improve 2 x road crossing, widening and resurfacing of path and associated furniture;

**Fivemiletown Rugby Club:**

To assist the new multi-sport development project in the area;

**Clogher:**

Ballymagowan Road and Station Road. Creating a cycling and walking path from Ballymagowan Road to Station Road to create a 2km circular cycling & walking route for the Clogher residents.

**Bellaghy:**

Creation of a new walking and cycling path linking the GAC on Drumanee Road to Long Point Wood thereby increasing the opportunities for outdoor recreation. Green Space: develop a trim trail/ low level lighting/ activity area, link the two local developments to a "green space area" & improve the knock about area (Council owned). Planters throughout village.

**Drumcainne Forest:** Develop the forest as a local multi recreational hub, a site developed primarily for the local community, to include a range of outdoor recreation and environmental products, accompanied by appropriate visitor servicing.

**Altmore Forest:** Develop the forest as a local multi recreational hub, a site developed primarily for the local community, to include a range of outdoor recreation and environmental products, accompanied by appropriate visitor servicing.

**Clady:**

Extend existing play to create a public pocket park. Provide additional parking

**Kildress Community Breathing Space:**

A flat, slope-free lighted loop walkway, outdoor open air community activity spaces, fit-for-purpose public realm.

**BASELINE DATA****Rural Population**

- 82 rural village settlements are listed in NISRA settlement population statistics for Mid Ulster with a usually resident population of over 37,000 (this reflects the population within the settlement limits only and not open countryside)
- 70% or approx. 100,000 of the Districts total population live in rural areas (areas outside of the main towns of Dungannon, Magherafelt, Cookstown and Coalisland)
- Mid Ulster has a vibrant rural area consisting of active communities, a strong entrepreneurial spirit which contributes to the overall employment base and rural villages with considerable character and heritage importance. This vibrant rural area needs to be supported and sustained if it is to remain as a vitally important part of our district.

**Deprivation**

At a district level, statistically MUDC has areas of deprivation. At an SOA level, two areas - Coalisland South (rank 92) and Pomeroy (rank 167) - are classified within the most deprived areas within NI. This does not mean deprivation is limited to those areas, or all of those areas are deprived. MUDC has a number of SOAs among the most deprived 25% - 30% in NI.



Access to services deprivation is particularly prevalent in Mid Ulster which reaffirms the case for investment in rural services and facilities. A summary of the top 10 wards by deprivation indicator is show below.





## 5. COSTS

Please provide details of the work to be carried out for each project in your plan. Estimates are acceptable at this stage.

Capital	Project costs	Funder contribution		
		DFI	DAERA / DFC	Council
Castlecaufield Recreation Area	£ 671,000	£ -	£ 603,900	£ 67,100
Castledawson (Riverside	£ 241,500		£ 217,350	£ 24,150
Manor Park, Money more	£ 269,000		£ 242,100	£ 26,900
Coalisland Canal	£ 551,112	£ 496,001	£ -	£ 55,111
Fivemiletown Rugby Club	£ 55,000		£ 49,500	£ 5,500
Clogher	£ 130,000	£ 117,000	£ -	£ 13,000
Bellaghy	£ 130,000	£ 117,000	£ -	£ 13,000
Drumcaine Forest	£ 308,000	£ -	£ 277,200	£ 30,800
Altmore Forest	£ 308,000	£ -	£ 277,200	£ 30,800
Clady	£ 131,666		£ 118,499	£ 13,167
Kildress	£ 82,500	£ -	£ 74,250.00	£ 8,250.00
	<b>£ 2,877,778</b>	<b>£ 730,001</b>	<b>£ 1,859,999</b>	<b>£ 287,778</b>
<b>Resource</b>				
Staff costs for delivery	£ 212,222	£ -	£ 191,000.00	£ 21,222.00
<b>Overall totals</b>	<b>£ 3,090,000</b>	<b>£ 730,001</b>	<b>£ 2,050,999</b>	<b>£ 309,000</b>

## 6. PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING

Please indicate how the proposed projects will be monitored during and after implementation. It is important to note that an Outcome Based Accountability Framework will be used to evaluate this Programme during and post-delivery to capture how much was done, how well was it done, and the difference it made.

### MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

Monitoring arrangements will be based on the outcomes based accountability score card included within the guidance notes. The indicator and method of measurement to be used are included below.

Outcome	Indicator / method of measurement to be used
% of costed Small Settlements Regeneration Plans (SSRP) developed by councils within agreed timescales.	Submitted Regeneration Plan
% of projects completed on time	Works completion certs for each project



<p>% of projects that increased use of land for active travel which connects people with key services and ensures accessibility for all including those with disabilities –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• extended footways</li> <li>• cycle ways.</li> <li>• connecting pathways.</li> </ul>	<p>Extended footways / cycle ways/ connecting pathways measured within completed projects</p>
<p>% of residents in smaller settlements where projects have been delivered agree that the improvements to the area would encourage people to live, work, visit and invest in the area.</p>	<p>Outcome of a resident's survey carried out in settlements where projects are located.</p>
<p>% of people using smaller settlements where projects have been delivered for work, tourism or leisure, agree that the improvements to the area would encourage people to live, work, visit and invest in the area.</p>	<p>Outcome of a resident's survey carried out in settlements where projects are located.</p>
<p>Number &amp; % of businesses within the scheme areas who reported schemes funded through this Programme have positively impacted on sales figures</p>	<p>Outcome of a business survey carried out in settlements where projects are located.</p> <p>NOTE: In relation to objective 5 – positive impact on sales, best endeavours will be made to test this objective however the focus of the project is on village infrastructure for local community use and may not translate into any improvement in sales for local businesses.</p>





## PROJECT MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Project management arrangements will follow Councils Capital Procedural Guide. The project management structure is shown below:



The project management board will meet at regular intervals (usually monthly) throughout the duration of delivery period. Update reports from these meetings will be used to inform the funders on progress at individual project level.



## 7. CONTRIBUTIONS FROM COUNCIL AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

*Please identify any contribution that council or other stakeholders are making towards this regeneration plan.*

As required, Council will be contributing a minimum of 10% match funding towards the agreed allocation contained within a letter of offer.

Costs included within this Plan are indicative. As a contingency for price increases following procurement, Council is prepared to increase match funding to 20% in order to ensure full delivery of the Plan.





## 8. STATEMENT AND DECLARATION

*Please use the space below to add any additional information in support of your regeneration plan.*

**This projects included in this Regeneration Plan are those anticipated for delivery by March 2023. A degree of flexibility will be required in the event of changes in circumstances which may impact on the delivery of a particular project. Clear lines of communication will remain in place to inform DfC of such changes as they emerge.**

### Declaration

I hereby declare that the information contained in this form is accurate and that all persons party to this project understand their responsibilities regarding the Department's monitoring and evaluation processes.

I agree that this information may be made available to other funders including other Government Departments and Agencies and accept that this information may be published by the Department for Communities.

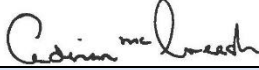
I confirm that any funding requested will be spent in accordance with the Council's procedures for capital expenditure, and will not duplicate any funding provided by other funders. In the event that **MID ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL** obtains further funding at a later date I will immediately inform the Department.

I understand I must inform the Department immediately if there are any changes to the information supplied in this form.

I understand that if the information contained in this form is proven to be intentionally false or misleading I or **MID ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL** may be prosecuted under the Fraud Act 2006.

I understand that the Department can at any time ask to see any supporting evidence in relation to this COVID Recovery Small Settlements Regeneration Plan, and future funding procurement procedures, payment information, minutes of meetings, letters of offer, contracts for funding etc as deemed necessary.



Signature	
Print name in capitals	ADRIAN MCCREESH
Position in Council	CHIEF EXECUTIVE
Date	4.2.2022



## **ANNEX A –OBJECTIVES**

### **Objectives**

1. To agree a costed COVID Recovery Small Settlements Regeneration Plan for each district council and enable programme spend by March 2022
2. To support each district council to deliver the project outcomes identified in its Regeneration Plan by March 2023.
3. By March 2024, 70% of residents surveyed, in smaller settlements where projects have been delivered, agree that funded works would encourage people to live, work, visit and invest in the area.
4. By March 2024, 70% of people surveyed while using smaller settlements where projects have been delivered for work, tourism or leisure, agree that the improvements to the area would encourage people to live, work, visit and invest in the area.
5. By March 2024, attitudinal surveys completed by businesses indicate that 70% believe that schemes funded through this Programme will have positively impacted on sales figures.
6. By March 2024, attitudinal surveys indicate 40% of the public (residents and visitors) agree that projects supported would encourage people to change from car use to more environmentally friendly choices such as walking and cycling for journeys of under two miles.
7. By March 2024, each Regeneration Plan will support projects which increase the use of land for active travel (i.e. extended footways, cycle ways, connecting pathways) which connects people with key services and ensures accessibility for all including those with disabilities.



## Appendix 1

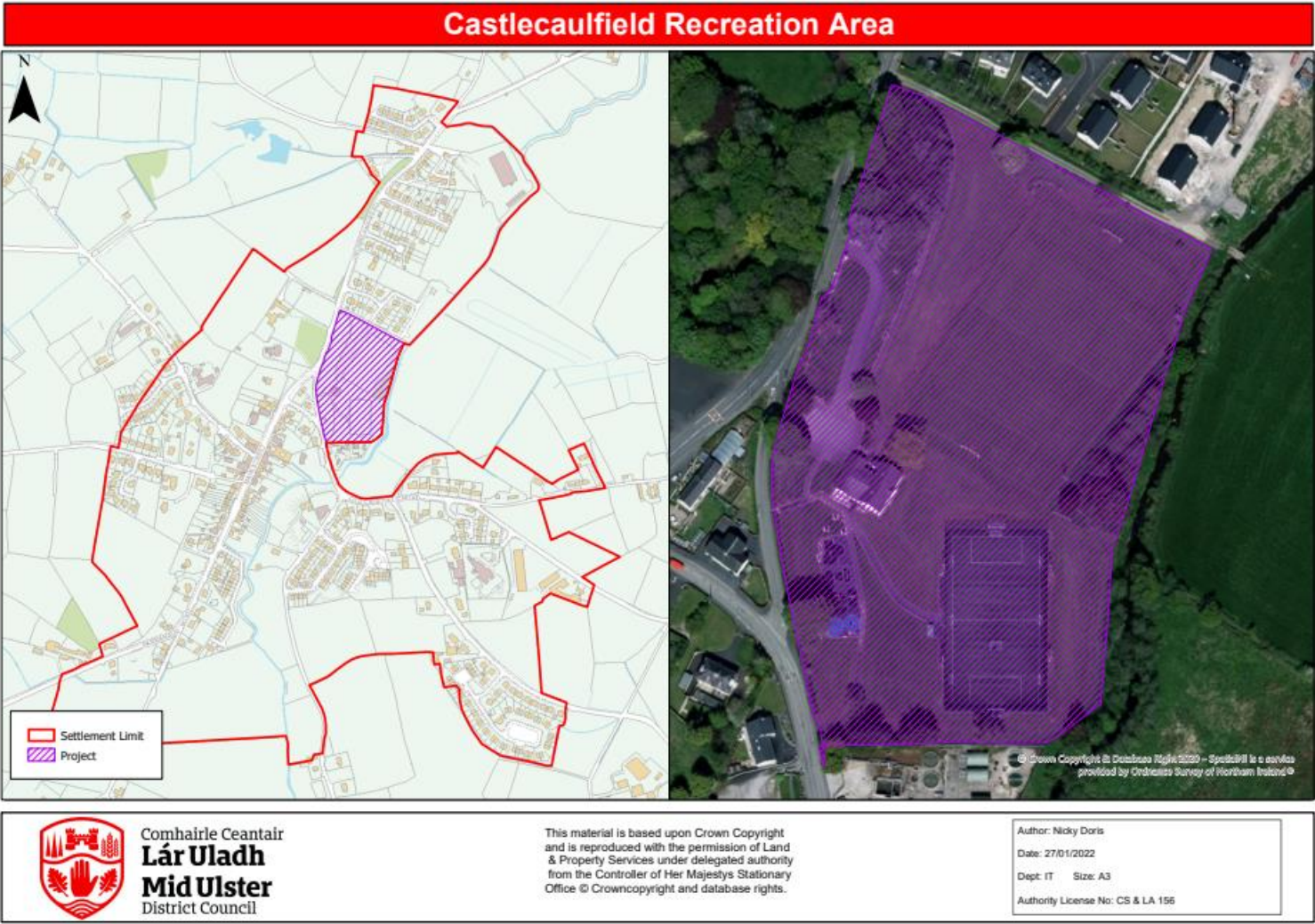
Potential options for <u>23/24</u> (subject to availability of funding)	DEA	DfC / DAERA	DfI	Total
<b>Bush</b> - Dungannon road realignment - 1.3km £400- (continuation of footpath from Dungannon to Bush to provide a safe walking/cycling route. The aim of this project is to: The outcomes will be as follows: • One new footpath will be created creating connectivity to encourage walking. • Improved safety in rural areas. • Reduced vehicle use in rural areas. Improved connectivity between Bush Village and the urban centre of Dungannon"	D'gannon	TBC	TBC	TBC
<b>Bellaghy</b> (Green Space) - create an outdoor recreational facility to include circular walking route, trim trail, low level lighting, outdoor gym equipment, create linkages to the two local developments to an open outdoor recreational space. Improve the existing kick about area and carparking (Council owned). Explore option to create a walking & cycling route from Bellaghy village to the GAC on Drumane Road to further increase the opportunities for outdoor recreation.	Moyola	TBC	TBC	TBC
<b>Benburb Recreation Area</b> - upgrade of a new 3g full-size playing surface with lights. This will assist in meeting the high demand for evening hire from the two local clubs. Currently having to travel to other parts of the district for accommodation. The long established club has in access of 300 members/ 17 teams.		TBC	TBC	TBC
<b>Draperstown</b> - Plantin and Fairhill Phase II – renewal of paths, extension of walkway through Plantin, play area at Fairhill	Moyola	TBC	TBC	TBC
<b>Dungannon</b> - Railway Park to Ballysaggart Lough to link Railway Park (a linear green space that runs from Mark Street, Milltown, Dungannon to Lisnahull Road, Dungannon) to Ballysaggart Lough. It further hopes to create a cycling and walking path around the Lough. Phase 1 – Railway Park to Ballysaggart Lough. A new footpath/boardwalk will be required to continue to the path from Windmill Hill Road to Ballysaggart Lough. Phase 2 – Widen & upgrade existing path around the Lough, until it meets the footpath on the Old Eglis Road. Phase 3 – New path along Manse Road. There currently is no footpath infrastructure along the Manse Road.	Dungannon	TBC	TBC	TBC
<b>Dunmoyle Forest</b> - Develop the forest as a local multi recreational hub, a site developed primarily for the local community, to include a range of outdoor recreation and environmental products, accompanied by appropriate visitor servicing.	CV	TBC	TBC	TBC
<b>Fivemiletown (King George V)</b> - site, upgrade pitch 1 to a 3G facility with floodlights, develop a pocket park on the old play park area. (Fields In Trust)	Clogher	TBC	TBC	TBC
<b>Glenone</b> - develop a trim trail and a green space area, with outdoor gym equipment/ pocket park. Develop the green space & leave a knock about area.	Carntogher	TBC	TBC	TBC
<b>Lower Bann Green/Blue way</b> - This proposal is for Phase 3 of the Greenway which will run from Portglenone to Newferry (west) located on the River Bann southwards along the western shore of Lough Beg , where it will connect with the recently developed Lock keepers Cottage Heritage Centre and Café, in Toome	Moyola	TBC	TBC	TBC



Potential options for <u>23/24</u> (subject to availability of funding)	DEA	DfC / DAERA	DfI	Total
Feasibility study completed Cost estimates completed				
<b>Maghera</b> Development of Lands at Mullagh - Feasibility Study currently being worked up. Development of site as an outdoor recreational facility.	Carntogher	TBC	TBC	TBC
<b>Moy</b> 3G Project, with lighting and changing (dependant on location and potential partners)- land issues	Dungannon	TBC	TBC	TBC
<b>Roundlake:</b> to improve path network around the lake, address flooding & drainage issues, install seating and other outdoor gym equipment.	CV	TBC	TBC	TBC
<b>Tullyhogue</b> to Tullyhogue Fort/Loughrey College/MUSA - community trail linking the sites. Feasibility Study currently underway to determine route, landowners etc	Cookstown	TBC	TBC	TBC



Appendix 2 – Project location maps



## Castledawson (Riverside)



Comhairle Ceantair  
**Lár Uladh**  
**Mid Ulster**  
District Council

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Author: Nicky Doris

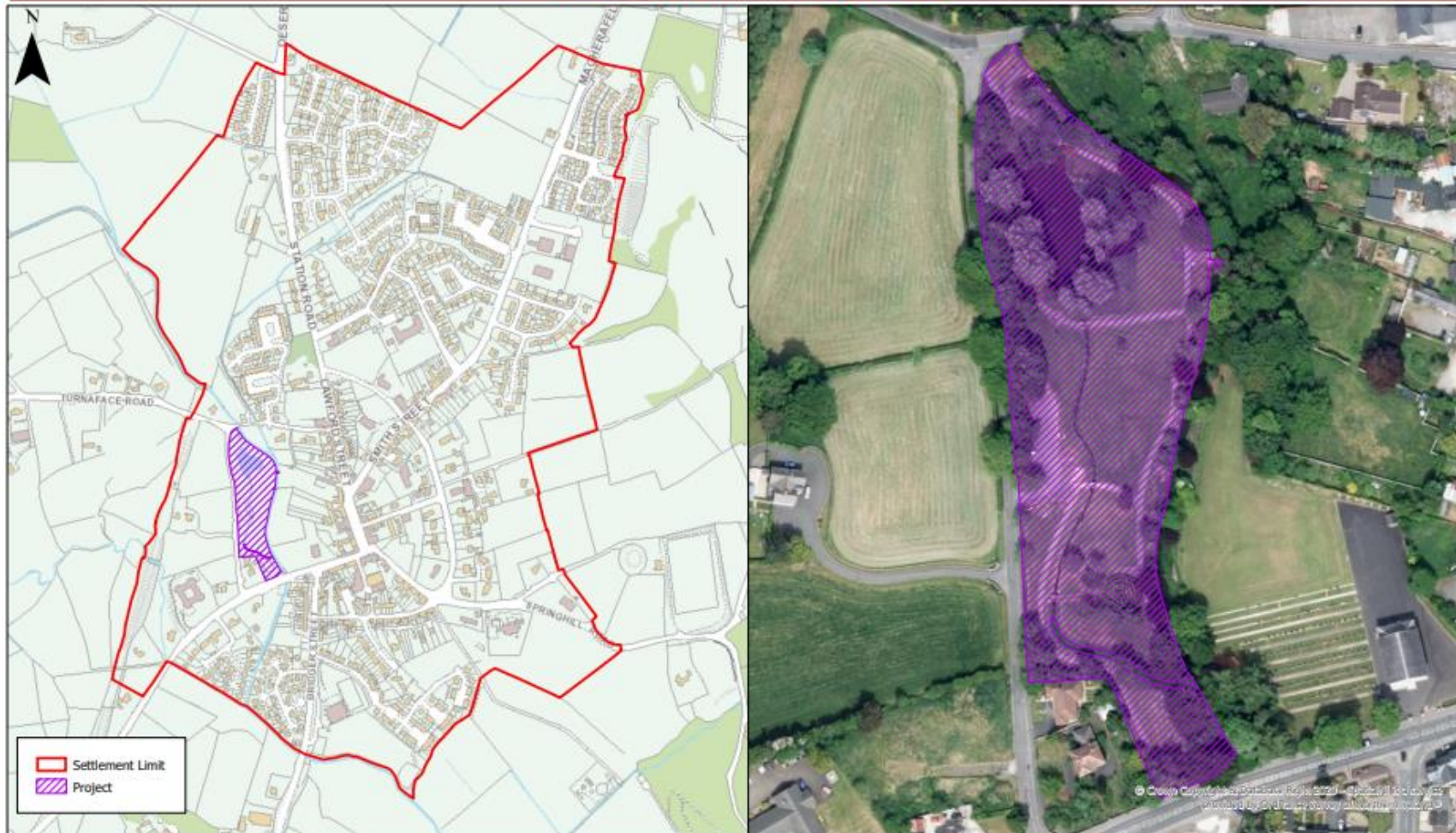
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## Manor Park Moneymore



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**Lár Uladh**  
**Mid Ulster**  
District Council

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Author: Nicky Doris

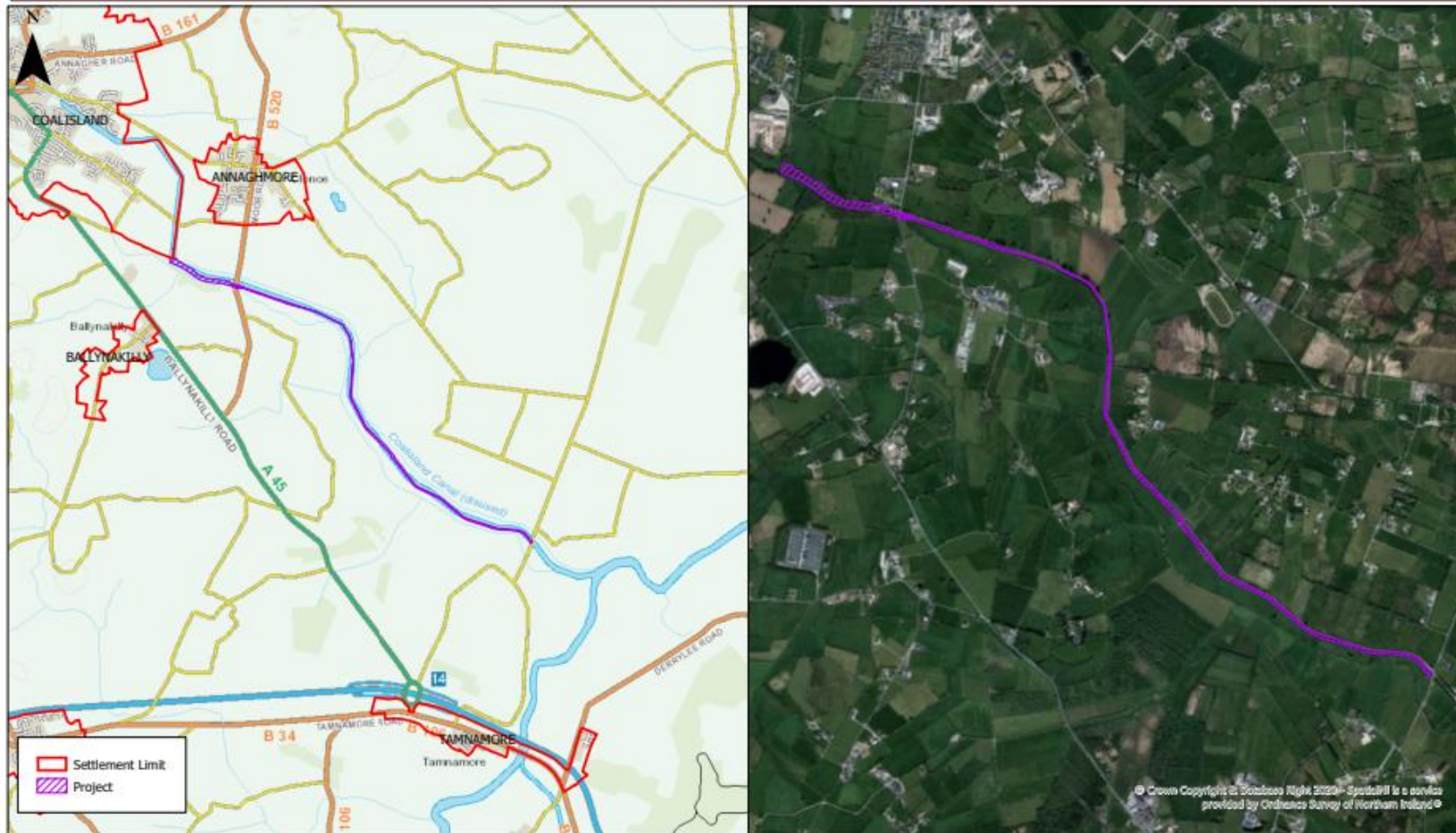
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## Coalisland Canal



Comhairle Ceantair  
**Lár Uladh**  
**Mid Ulster**  
District Council

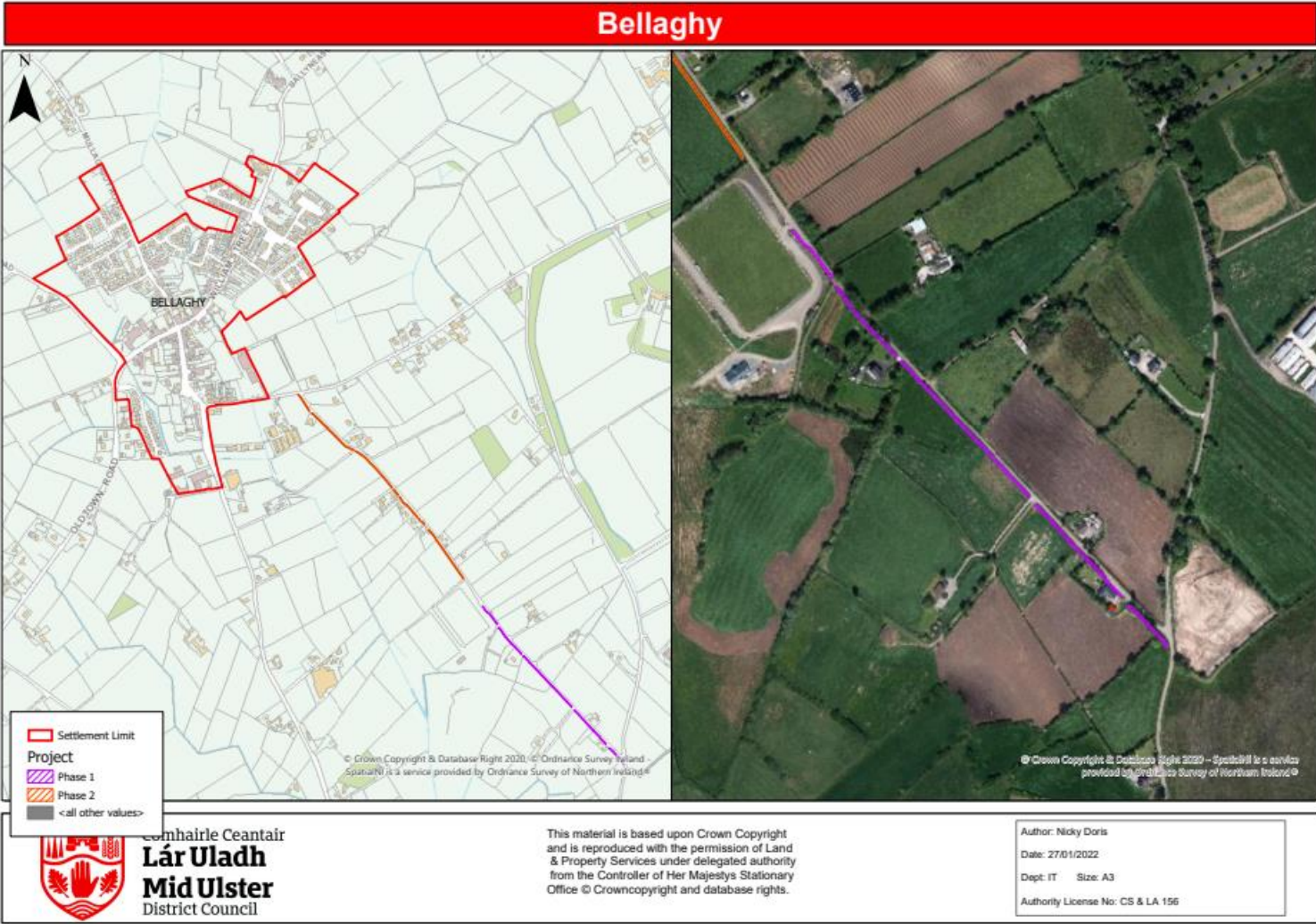
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Author: Nicky Doris

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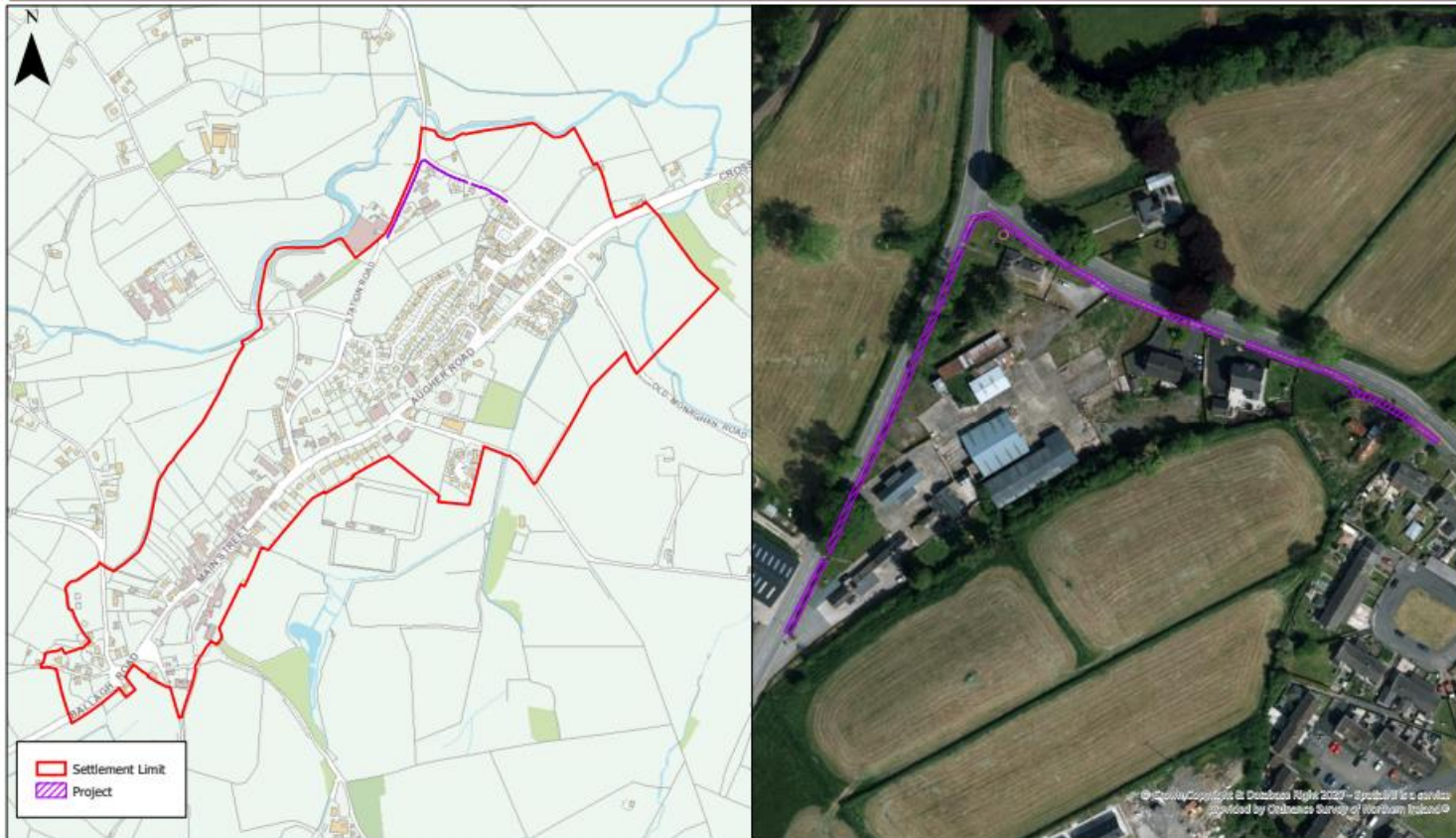
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## Clogher



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**Lár Uladh**  
**Mid Ulster**  
District Council

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## Clady



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**Mid Ulster**  
District Council

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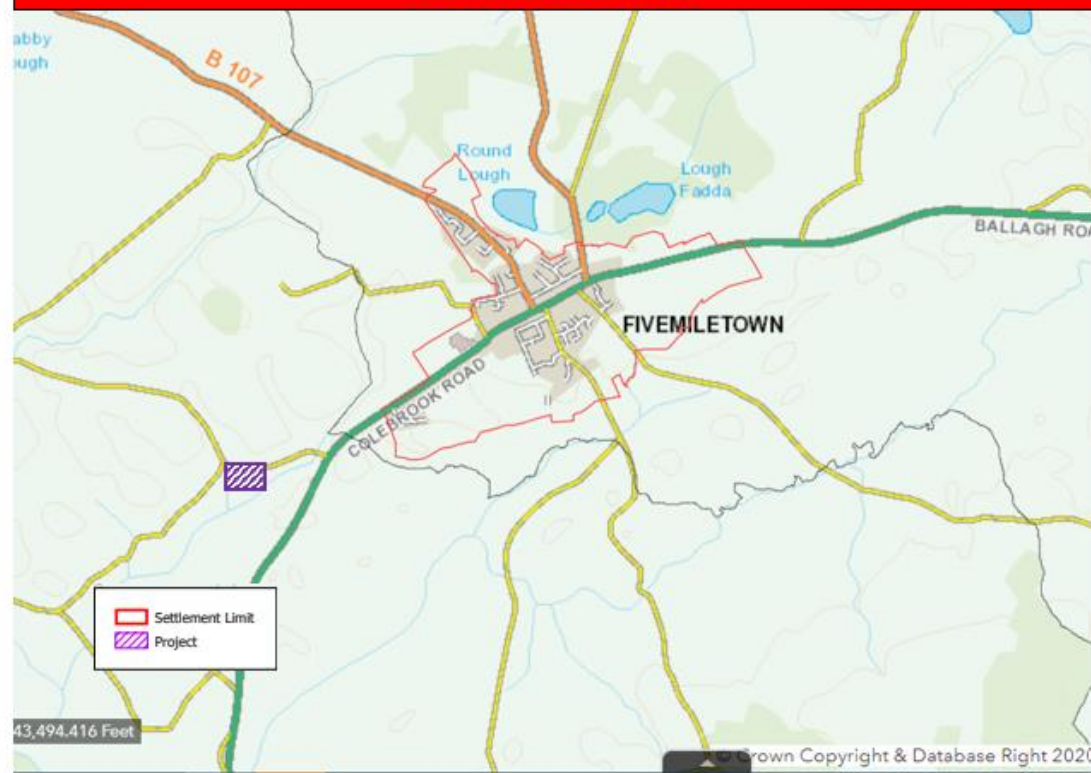
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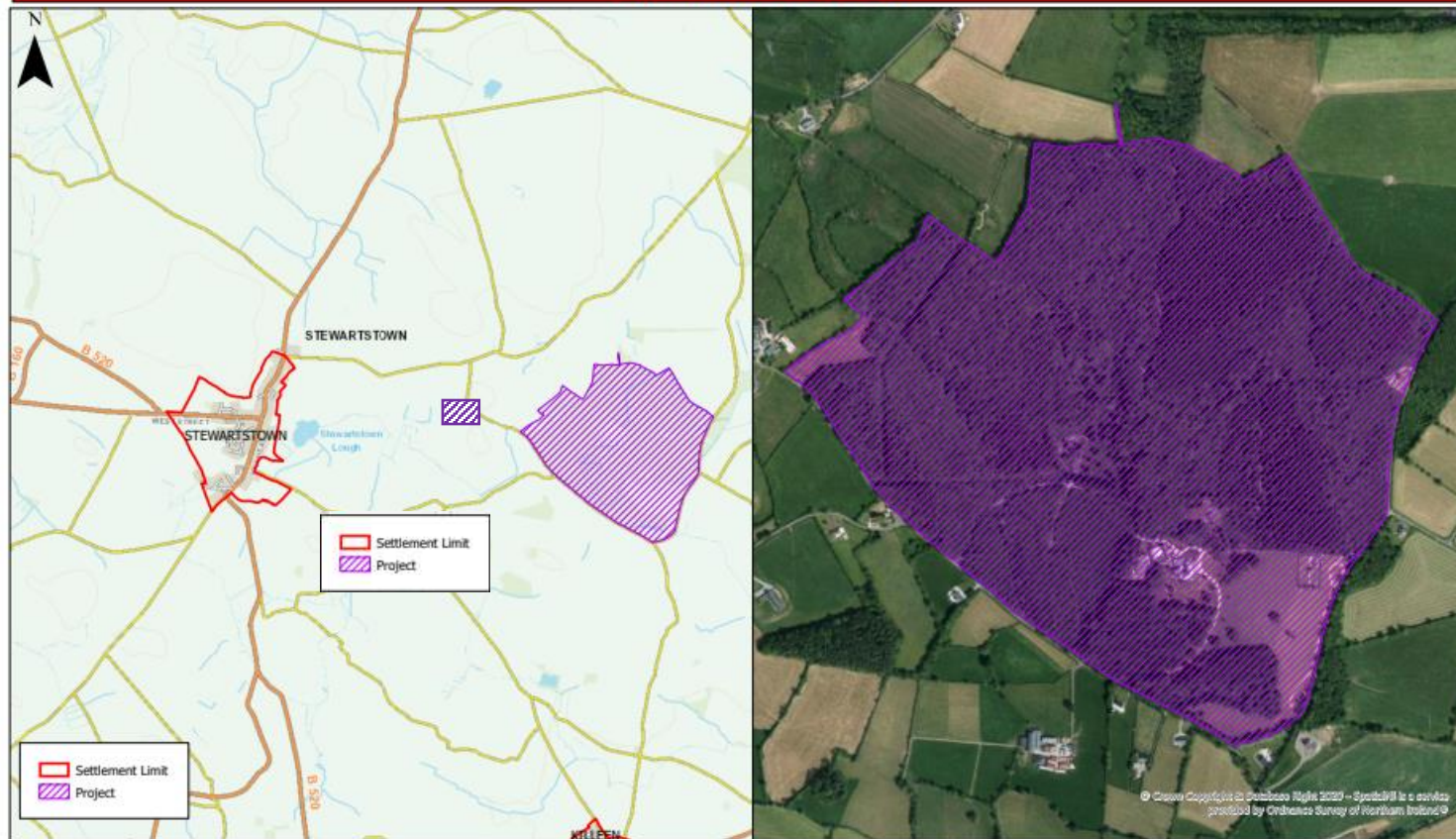
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## CLOGHER VALLEY RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB - FIVEMILETOWN



## Drumcairne Forest



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**Lár Uladh**  
**Mid Ulster**  
District Council

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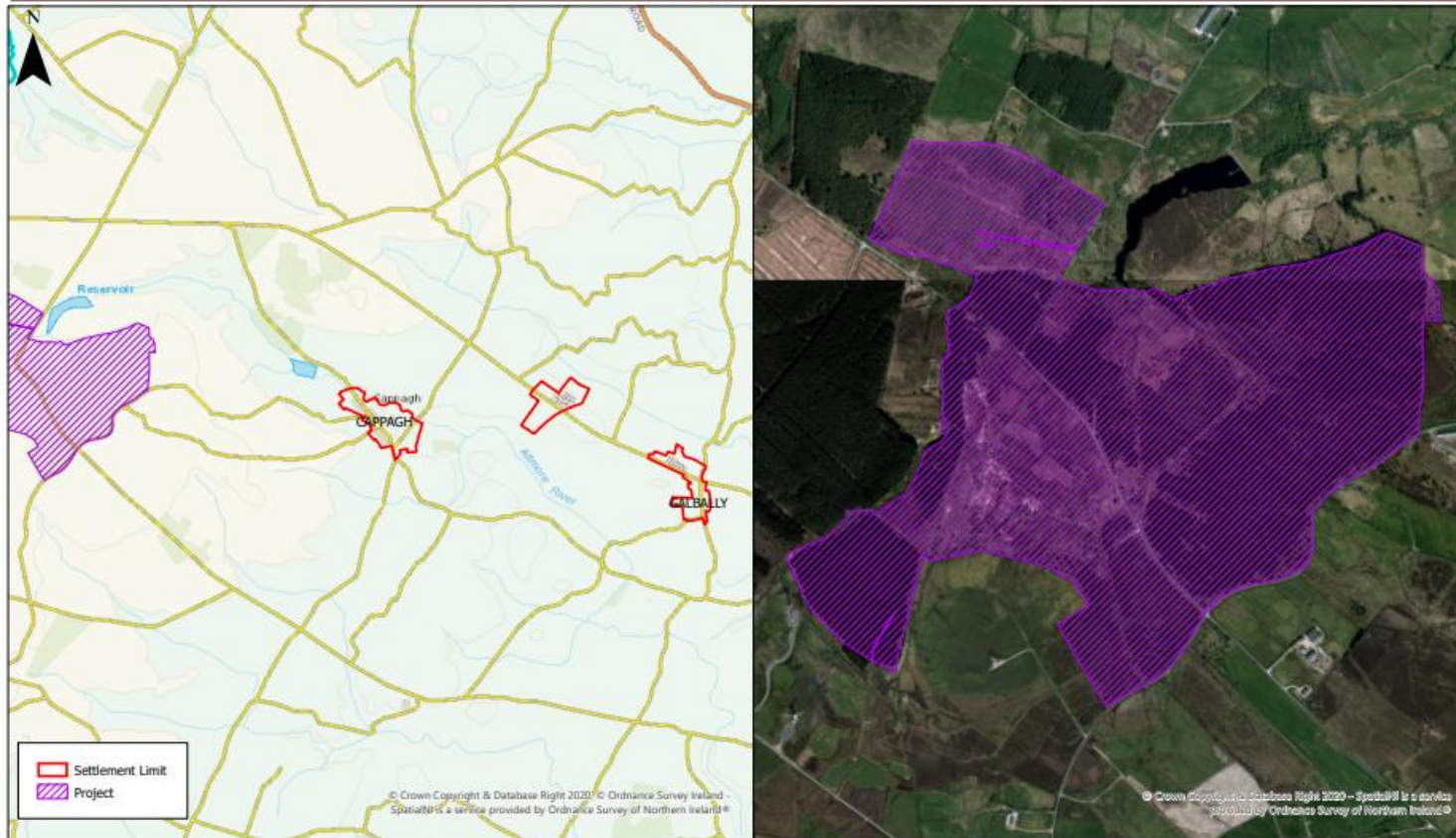
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## Altmore Forest



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**Mid Ulster**  
District Council

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## KILDRESS





## APPENDIX 4



Cllr Paul McClean  
Chair  
Mid Ulster District Council

Regional Development Office  
Level 4, North  
Nine Lanyon Place  
9 Lanyon Place  
Belfast  
BT1 3LP  
Phone: 028 9082 9307  
email: [Gerard.Murray@communities-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Gerard.Murray@communities-ni.gov.uk)

Your ref:

Our ref: CORR-0186-2022

28 February 2022

(By e-mail) [chair@midulstercouncil.org](mailto:chair@midulstercouncil.org)

Dear Cllr McClean

### **Covid Recovery Small Settlements Regeneration Programme**

Thank you for your email and letter of 4 February 2022 regarding the Covid Recovery Small Settlements Regeneration Programme (CRSSRP).

The CRSSRP was developed by DfC in conjunction with DAERA and DfI as a response to the economic impact of lockdown restrictions that had been imposed to tackle the COVID pandemic and to enable DfC to work with the other Department's to deliver regeneration projects in settlements with a population lower than 5,000, which is outside of DfC's policy remit. The DfC and DAERA elements of the funding aim to stimulate the post-pandemic recovery of the commercial centres of our rural towns and villages through regeneration interventions which include, but are not limited to, public realm works, environmental improvements, shop frontage and vacant to occupied schemes. The DfI element of the funding will be used to encourage active travel by enhancing connectivity of settlements and the local Blue/Green infrastructure to promote cycling and walking.

For any project to be considered for funding, it must demonstrate clearly that it contributes directly towards the physical and economic regeneration of town and village centres and therefore projects outside towns and villages are not eligible for funding under the DfC or DAERA stream. Projects that encourage active travel in rural settlements may be eligible for funding from the DfI stream of the Programme.

I note your comments regarding projects lying outside town and village centres that received funding from DAERA's Rural Development Programme (RDP). The CRSSRP has not been developed as a replacement for the RDP or any other funding stream currently

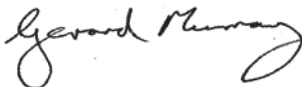
offered by the participating Departments, but rather it is envisioned that it will complement these programmes by stimulating the economic regeneration of town and village centres.

Departmental officials have continued to work closely with council officers to address the issues raised by the Strategic Oversight Group, and I am pleased to confirm that agreement has been reached to progress most of these projects under CRSSRP. There are, however, four projects that the Department continues to deem as outside the parameters of the Programme and that it cannot fund. These are the projects at Altmore (£280k) and Drumcairn Forests (£280k), the Clogher Valley Rugby Club project outside Fivemiletown (£50k), and the Kildress Community Breathing Space project (£75k). While I appreciate that these projects have considerable support from the local community, and have the potential to deliver significant benefits, it remains the Department's position that they do not address the Programme's objectives and therefore are ineligible for funding. DAERA colleagues have advised that the Altmore and Drumcairn Forest projects should be considered, by Council for funding under their Forest Park Enhancement and Community Trails Development Scheme which is currently open for Expressions of Interest.

The Department remains committed to ensuring that Mid Ulster District Council receives its full allocation from the Programme, however, to enable this the funding that had been identified for these four projects should be reallocated, either to other projects in the Plan or to alternative projects that meet the Programme objectives.

I would be happy to take up your offer to meet with you and other elected members to discuss this matter, however, I would caution also that under the conditions attached to the business case approval by the Department of Finance, the offer of funding is time limited and in order to ensure that sufficient time remains to consider any revisions to the plan and provide a letter of offer, this matter would need to be progressed with a degree of urgency.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gerard Murray', with a stylized, flowing script.

**Gerard Murray**  
Director, Regional Development Office

**Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council  
held on Thursday 10 February 2022 in the Council Offices, Ballyronan Road,  
Magherafelt and by Virtual Means**

<b>Members Present</b>	Councillor Molloy, Chair  Councillors Ashton*, Black*, Burton, Clarke*, Corry*, Cuddy, Doris*, Elattar*, Hughes*, Kerr*, McNamee, Milne*, Monteith*, Quinn* and Wilson
<b>Officers in Attendance</b>	Mr McCreesh**, Chief Executive Ms Campbell, Strategic Director of Environment Mr Gordon, Assistant Director of Health, Leisure and Wellbeing Ms Linney**, Assistant Director of Development Mr McCance, Head of Culture & Arts Ms McKeown**, Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism & Strategic Programmes Mr McGinley, ICT Support Mrs Grogan, Democratic Services Officer
<b>Others in Attendance</b>	Mrs Maria Curran***, MEGA Councillor McFlynn***

\* Denotes Members present in remote attendance

\*\* Denotes Officers present by remote means

\*\*\* Denotes Others present by remote means

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

*The Chair, Councillor Molloy welcomed everyone to the meeting and those watching the meeting through the Live Broadcast. Cllr Molloy in introducing the meeting detailed the operational arrangements for transacting the business of the committee in the chamber and by virtual means, by referring to Annex A to this minute.*

**D020/22      Apologies**

None.

**D021/22      Declarations of Interest**

The Chair Councillor Molloy reminded Members of their responsibility with regard to declaration of interest.

*Councillor McNamee declared an interest in Development Report – Strategic Grants – Cookstown AOH.*

*Councillor Kerr declared an interest in Development Report – DFC Emergency Funding– Coalisland Community Food Bank.*

## **D022/22      Chair's Business**

Councillor Corry said that it was a while from there was an update on the project relating to Women's Aid to provide accommodation and enquired if there was recent update on progress.

The AD: Development advised that presently there was a paper with SMT which was proposed to go to Policy & Resources Committee this month; discussions have been continuing with APEX, the partner proposed by Women's Aid, looking at the process for Council to engage with them re the provision of the housing for Women's Aid.

## **D023/22      Deputation: MEGA**

The Chair welcomed Mrs Maria Curran, Project Director from MEGA and invited her to make her presentation (appendix 1).

Mrs Curran advised members that the MEGA Network's vision was to advance and grow world-class manufacturing and engineering by attracting, developing and retaining our people.

MEGA's mission was:

- To promote the manufacturing and engineering sector as a source of high-value, long term employment
- To create transformational career opportunities that deliver skills for life
- To support our manufacturing and engineering sector with education and skills development aligned to industry needs.

Mrs Curran updated members on MEGA 2025 Strategy which included its strategic aim, key themes, strategic objectives, key projects and measured results.

The Chair thanked Mrs Curran for her impressive presentation and congratulated the group on the work done to date and wished them well for going forward going from strength to strength. He said that he heard the piece on Radio Ulster about MEGA this evening which was very good and sells what young people were getting out of it, being able to go through a degree course and come out at the other side without any debt and actually be paid for their training and their education as they go along. He said that it was a massive thing for young people to come out of their education without the burden of huge debt for most of their working life.

The Chair asked members if they had any comments to make.

Councillor Black thanked Mrs Curran for her attendance tonight as he had proposed a number of months ago that she would be invited to provide an update to members on the project. He said that it was obvious that the organisation was doing some great work and

putting in place a real attractive alternative career path for the young people in the Mid Ulster area. With the area having such a strong reliance on the manufacturing and engineering sectors, this is bible for the future of these companies and for the local economy. He thanked Mrs Curran for all the work the organisation was doing and looked forward to supporting them the best we can as a Council and wished the organisation well for the future.

Councillor Kerr thanked Mrs Curran for her report and to take this opportunity to congratulate and offer support to all the new and existing companies within MEGA in the Mid Ulster region. He stated that we had experienced an economical crisis which helped create employment opportunities and stability through the most difficult of times. He advised that successful companies could not operate on a vacuum and also paid tribute to the employees of these companies who had worked through the most difficult of times also and felt that this may be the time for employers and employees to start forging a new era in local industry. He suggested the employers and employees have a great opportunity to lay down the foundations for long-term relationships and for long term growth and sustainability in a post Covid world of industry. He said that there was a demand from many workers he had spoken to in relation to job security and stability and he would ask all industry representatives on MEGA to explore the potential for greater representation in what we all hope will be a thriving industry and industrial culture within Mid Ulster. He stated that this would be a perfect period for our Council to initiate a forum where representatives of industry, workers and communities could meet on a regular basis to firm up ideas on pursuing wealth creation, long term stable employment, workers protection and community development. It was his belief that a successful and thriving industrial region will work much better working with trade unions, employer federations and representatives from Council and trade councils.

Councillor Monteith said that it was off a similar line to previous comments and had raised this issue before in relation to funding. He said that it was slightly disappointing to see that there wasn't much input from workers and trade unions and asked what the plans were from MEGA to integrate workers views at a strategic level and not just at a consultative level. He said that it was imperative that trade unions were involved at a strategic level regarding this project as rightly or wrongly there was a perception out in the public domain that the engineering sector was not that welcoming to trade union organisations or for workers who seek trade union representation and a message needs to go out clearly to workers that they are free to and welcome to trade union representation throughout this sector and indeed throughout all other sectors.

Mrs Curran stated that this may not be within her remit to answer Councillor Monteith's question as she represented industry and this needed to be the industry voice themselves that would need to answer this on trade unions. She said that this hadn't been a huge topic of discussion within the MEGA network.

Councillor Cuddy advised that it was a very good presentation but enquired if there was any part for the three local enterprise centres within MEGA's future plans.

Mrs Curran said that she couldn't confirm as she had only dealings with Dungannon Enterprise Centre and enquired of Councillor Cuddy how he would see the organisation partner with enterprise centres.

Councillor Cuddy advised this was working towards the manufacturing and engineering sector and the presentation talked about existing members and new businesses starting up all the time with the enterprise centres doing their best and felt they should be part of the bigger process and something that we should be thinking about in the future.

The Chair thanked Mrs Curran for her attendance at the committee tonight and she withdrew from the meeting at 7.26 pm.

## **Matters for Decision**

### **D024/22      Development Report**

The AD: Development presented the previously circulated report to provide an update on key activities and sought approval for the following

- Community Grants - to agree the rolling grant awards – Local Community Festivals, Good Relations and the Strategic Events
- DFC Emergency funding – to approve the additional DFC emergency funding for the provision of the social supermarket concept
- Seamus Heaney HomePlace – to approve the new pricing plan for Seamus Heaney HomePlace and Open Ground
- Good Relations Plan 2022-2023 – to approve the plan for submission for funding under The Executive Office TBUC strategy
- Community Access and Inclusion – Accessible Benches Support – to agree the awards for accessible benches to community facilities
- DfC Real Living Wage Salary Uplift for the Welfare Reform Support Project – to approve the direct transfer of finance through the community support programme
- Generalist Advice Contract – approval sought for the tender award for the advice service
- Development - to update on Development.

Councillor Black said although this may be unrelated he wished to raise the issue of funding for Cookstown 100. He said that it had come to his attention that this year marked 100 years of this event being in operation and the organisers were quite keen to try and mark the event. He said that he was aware that the Council do support it financially, however with these further events would like this tied into the event this year and asked if it would be possible for officers to go away and have a look to see if there was any further funding which could be tapped into or potentially redirected to try and assist with this request.

The Chair said that he was confident that officers would investigate this.

The AD: Development said that in relation to the grant funding, this would be via the grants process but in relation to the additional receptions, these can be looked at.

Proposed by Councillor Doris  
Seconded by Councillor Clarke

**Resolved** To propose the Development Report as detailed below:

- **Community Grants**

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve the rolling grant awards from rolling programme for Local Community Festivals (1 application £720), Good Relations (2 applications totalling £1920) and Strategic Grants (1 application £3,000). Total amount awarded £5,640 as detailed in appendix 1 of the report.

- **DfC Emergency Funding**

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve additional DFC emergency funding of £74,580.89 for the provision of the social supermarket concept.

The Chair referred to the social supermarket concept and said that he was aware of some social housing associations delivering social supermarkets, with a particular one in Derry which some people had visited previously. He said that foodbanks do some excellent work, but they were exclusive to those which are referred largely to them and enquired if there was anything that this Council could look into to experience some of the social supermarkets which were out there in the different areas.

The AD: Development advised that the Derry City model had been looked at and was aware that a number of local social housing associations had went down to investigate and were liaising with DfC in relation to the potential to provide a similar structure here; but with the funding which was to be allocated this year it was too early for them and not well enough developed. When Council spoke to the foodbank network i.e. the foodbanks and St Vincent de Paul, they felt they weren't at the stage to move to the social supermarket element because they were still getting quite a number of referrals in relation to the actual people experiencing emergency and food poverty. She advised that a few organisations were currently looking at the model but for them it was still a very early concept, although still on the agenda.

- **Seamus Heaney HomePlace**

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve the new pricing plan for Seamus Heaney HomePlace and Open Ground.

- **Good Relations Plan 2022-2023**

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve the plan for submission for funding under The Executive Office TBUC strategy.

Councillor Monteith advised that the Council fund and help contribute to Mid Ulster Voice and previously they had raised the issue of democratic rights and voting for young people at the age of 16 and 17. He was aware of members receiving an email a few weeks ago from Students Deserve Better Campaign and was also aware of the group being in attendance previously regarding some welfare and poverty issues of students which they were experiencing.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith  
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to invite Students Deserve Better Campaign back to speak to members on their campaign to extend the democratic franchise to 16 and 17 year old. Mid Ulster Voice be also tied into that meeting and be given the opportunity to attend.

- **Community Access and Inclusion – Accessible Benches Support**

Councillor Doris said that this was greatly welcomed as there was a few places within her area of Brocagh, Donaghmore and Stewartstown which all have a disability friendly piece equipment in all of the parks. She said that this was a good addition and nice to see that we are being more conscious and going that extra mile to accommodate people so that they can be included. She thanked DfC and Minister Deirdre Hargey for the funding to implement this.

*Councillor Corry declared an interest in Community Access and Inclusion – Accessible Benches Support as a member of Moneyneena & District Development Association.*

Councillor Corry said that it was great to see these benches being implemented as it was a wide ranging area which would make a massive difference to people's lives.

*Councillor Burton declared an interest in Community Access and Inclusion – Accessible Benches Support – family link to Bawn Silver Band.*

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to agree the awards for accessible benches to community facilities

- **DfC Real Living Wage Salary Uplift for the Welfare Reform Support Project**

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve the direct transfer of finance through the community support programme

- **Generalist Advice Contract**

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council that approval be granted for the tender award for the advice service

Councillor Monteith referred to the generalist advice and asked if the Council could get involved to get answers for a section of our community; as he knew from speaking to different agencies and advice workers there is an issue around women's pensions and money they are entitled to and struggling with the process, this includes backdated pensions some of which go back decades. He said that he had been speaking to those who may or may not be applicable for backdated money and it was impossible to get any adequate information. He said that it was imperative that this is dealt with and that accurate information needed to be provided to get a resolution.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith  
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and



**Resolved** That it be recommended that Council write to DfC and the Head of the Pension Service requesting that a dedicated helpline be made available for people to obtain accurate information to make sure it was being dealt with appropriately.

- **Development Report**

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to note the update on Development.

## **D025/22 Sports Representative Grants**

The AD: HL&W presented previously circulated report to present to Members the proposed community grant allocations for the Sports Representative Grant – Teams and Individuals (January 2022).

Proposed by Councillor McNamee  
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to note the contents of the report and grant approval for the sports grant allocations as recommended to the value of two individuals £475.

## **D026/22 Health, Leisure & Wellbeing Scale of Charges 2022/23**

The AD: HL&W presented previously circulated report to provide information to members on the proposed Scale of Charges April 2022 – March 2023 for the Health, Leisure & Wellbeing service area and to seek approval to implement from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson  
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council that approval be given to:

- Appendix A: Health, Leisure & Wellbeing Scale of Charges 2022/23
- The adoption of the proposals outlined in section 3.4 for the National Pool Lifeguard Qualification
- Discretionary pricing flexibility to continue to be considered as and when required under the Scheme of Delegation to allow scope for sales promotions, official Council supported events, member service issues, site specific usage trends, etc.

## **D027/22 Corporate Events 2022**

The AD: HL&W drew attention to the previously circulated report to provide information on the proposed Mid Ulster District Council Corporate Events Programme for April 2022 – March 2023 and sought approval to proceed at risk in light of the changing circumstances with the Covid-19 pandemic.

In light of the Covid pandemic and due to the corporate events programme being “on hold” since March 2020, an opportunity exists to review the current portfolio of council corporate events within the wider tourism and economic context along with their capacity to deliver against key corporate objectives. Approval is sought to procure and engage specialist support to conduct a review and make recommendations for future consideration by Members.

Councillor McNamee wanted to thank the AD: HL&W for bringing this report tonight and would be happy to propose it. He said if the committee recalls at the last meeting in January, he had proposed that officers go away and look at this, particularly the Continental Market in Cookstown and then other members weighed in with events in their own areas. The whole thing behind this was we had to prepare ourselves like other organisations which were planning for events to take place this year and hoped with road closures and things like that, we would be well placed and was looking forward to a good few events this year.

Councillor Doris said that she would be delighted to second the report as the events had been a massive miss over the last two years and was looking forward to going to a lot of them particularly the Newell Stores 10k in Coalisland and great to have everyone back together again.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee  
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to note the contents of the report and grant approval for officers to:

- (a) Proceed “at risk” with the enclosed schedule of Corporate Events for 2022
- (b) Procure and engage specialist support to conduct a review on the current portfolio of Corporate Events and make recommendations for future consideration by Members.

In response to Councillor Cuddy’s query, the AD: HL&W advised that it was proposed that a specification be put together, there were bespoke events management companies which a number of Councils having gone through this process in the recent months. He felt that this could be an opportunity coming into the year end as we haven’t accrued a significant amount of expenditure this year towards the corporate events. It is proposed that a quick procurement process take place within the next few weeks, relatively short process, come in look at the viability, look at demographics and members suggestion to do a workshop also and then bring back a report. He said that the aim this year was to get back to work where we were pre 2020 and this was really about looking ahead to 2023 and any opportunities which may be available to council and also what funding mechanisms which may be available also.

Councillor Burton said that Councillor McNamee reminded her of the wider community which were trying to get involved in big events and probably was like starting all over again and a lot of things can change very quickly regarding Covid. She said that it was her belief that Clogher Valley Show was planning to go ahead in July of this year and felt that it would be very important if staff could engage early with the group to provide support to the show, especially with Covid, as it has been a huge loss to the rural towns and villages as it accumulated a large gathering of people to the area. She said that it was really good to

see some of these events coming back again and important to provide the best support we can.

**D028/22      Extension to the Partnership Liaison Officer Post Shared between Councils and HSENI**

The AD: HL&W drew attention to the previously circulated report to provide Members with information on the extension of the Partnership Liaison Officer post between the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI) and Councils and to seek approval to continue with the Mid Ulster District Council's financial contribution until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee  
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

**Resolved**      That it be recommended to Council to note the contents of the report and grant approval to continue with the provision of annual funding towards the Partnership Liaison Officer until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

**D029/22      Additional Funding from the Office of Product Safety and Standards**

The AD: HL&W drew attention to the previously circulated report to provide Members with information on additional funding that is available to Council from the Office of Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) to undertake a project on Construction Products and to seek approval to accept the funding letter of offer.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr  
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

**Resolved**      That it be recommended to Council to note the contents of the report and grant approval for Council to accept the letter of offer and funding up to £9,999 from the OPSS to complete the identified project, and that previously attached award letter between Mid Ulster District Council and the OPSS is signed and returned to OPSS.

**D030/22      Economic Development Report – OBFD**

The AD: EDT&SP presented previously circulated report to provide members with an update on key activities and sought approval for the items listed below.

It was

Proposed by Councillor Doris  
Seconded by Councillor Clarke

**Resolved**      That it be recommended to Council to approve the key activities as listed below in the Economic Development Report – OBFD.

- **Promotions and Shows 2022-2023:** The tourism team despite Covid continue to work in association with Tourism NI, Tourism Ireland and other strategic partners

to maximise tourism promotion of our key attractions, experiences and businesses targeting core ROI, UK & US markets.

These promotions are now delivered in a hybrid format with in some cases a virtual only platform while in others there may be a period of time in market and a virtual option for those not attending in person. In some cases the format of these events are yet to be finalised for 2022 – 2023, however, it is hoped with the lifting of Covid restrictions we will be back in market in the latter part of this year.

The key shows and events the tourism team plan to attend are listed as follows:

- European Tourism Association Britain & Ireland Marketplace, 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022 (online)
- Meet the Buyer, 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022
- Explore GB, 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 (format tbc)
- Clogher Valley Show, July 2022 (format tbc)
- Great Days Out, Autumn 2022, targeting the domestic market group business (format tbc)
- Irish Tour Operators Association workshop, November 2022 (format tbc)
- World Travel Market, London, November 2022 (format tbc)
- Holiday World, Dublin, January 2023 (in show)
- Celtic Connections, Glasgow, January 2023 (format tbc)
- Meet the Industry, networking across domestic tourism operators, January 2023

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to –

- (a) Note the contents of the report
  - (b) Approve permission for staff to attend all the aforementioned promotions and shows in 2022/2023.
- **ATCM Membership Renewal 2022-2023:** ATCM is a respected voice for town and city management at both a European and wider global level. They are a not-for-profit organisation with members across the public, private and third sectors. They include key stakeholders and thought leaders who develop and implement shared visions, strategies and action plans for town and city centres throughout the UK and Ireland.

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve Council's renewal membership with ATCM for 2022-2023 at a cost of £570 (excluding Vat).

- **Consultation: Statutory Performance Improvement Indicators/Standards:** 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 (specifically, in this case, Business Start), 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

10 – Development Committee (10.2.22 )

specified. As detailed on **Appendix 2**, Consultation Responses are to be submitted by 28 February 2022.

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to approve Council's draft response to the Consultation, subject to any comments from the Policy & Resources Committee (3 February 2022) and seek permission to submit to Department for Communities by 28 February 2022.

By way of update the AD: EDT&SP advised Members that Council's Policy & Resources Committee on 3 February 2022 recommended the report be approved and made no further comments.

- **Town Centres Cleansing:** At the Development Committee in December 2021, it was approved that a company be appointed to deep cleanse the 5 towns within Mid Ulster.

The AD: EDT&SP advised that since the report was circulated to Members there are four additional areas to be included in the Dungannon cleansing maps, these are Northland Row, Church Lane, Shambles Lane and Babe's Entry.

Councillor Doris said that she appreciated that the hand over from the contractor of the Coalisland public realm scheme to Council has yet to take place and that she understood that they should still be doing the cleansing at this moment in time but the dog dirt on some of the pavements were just clean rotten and was looking to see if the officers could put a push on them to address this huge problem.

The AD: EDT&SP advised that Fox Contracts has been requested to do the full clean of the public realm.

Councillor Monteith said that he was glad to see Babe's Entry and Shambles Lane included to the project. He referred to the top of Donaghmore Road which was a thriving retail area which consistently gets ignored despite the fact it was one of the few areas which has been a success story in the town in relation to open retail.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith

That Donaghmore Road be included in the programme of works.

Councillor Kerr said although again we were concentrating on the 5 larger settlements across Mid Ulster, he felt that the Council should be fighting for the larger villages hamlets in the area. In the Torrent area itself we have Donaghmore, Stewartstown and the Loughshore areas, there were also legacy issues there with the likes of the Cappagh Public Realm with the Council still maintaining a bit of ownership and maintenance and would like comments brought back if there were any further funding available for street cleansing can it be considered for larger villages and settlements.

Councillor Kerr advised that he had met the SD: Environment last year regarding the Cappagh Public Realm scheme and it was agreed that a report would be brought back to Environment Committee and asked that an update be provided. He said that he was

aware that powers were handed over from Environment to Development Committee and was unsure where it fell within the remit, but asked if this could be followed up.

The SD: Environment agreed to follow this matter up.

The Chair, Councillor Molloy said that he would be happy to second the recommendation as long as there was agreeability there.

Councillor McNamee said that he would like to add in other areas within Cookstown also and asked if this was an option or just the recommendation which was in front of members tonight.

The SD: Environment advised that the options outlined tonight was a specific piece of work, however it was something which has been highlighted in her role within Environment and some Councillors sitting on the Environment Committee in that. Currently, we just essentially pick up litter in the town centres and villages and not very much else. She said that now the public realms have gone in, one of the tasks she had asked her Assistant Director to look at was to put in a more proactive programme rather than reacting to issues which were raised by the public or by members. With some of the maintenance budget which was now available, a programme can be put together as part of this process to look at the main towns to see what needed to be done and how regular, as there was an onus on Council to keep these places well and a piece of work which will be engaging members views.

Councillor Wilson in following up from Councillor McNamee's comments referred to specifically Cookstown where there were a number of areas which could be added on but stated that some of these actually belonged to Road Service and was wondering if there was any piece of work which could be done in conjunction with Roads Service to try and tidy up various areas. He suggested that this should also include the Housing Executive to make it a multi-agency approach to it, due to the fact that the rates being put up by quite a bit, there might be more money available now.

The SD: Environment said that this would be followed up.

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to –

- (a) Note the contents of the report
- (b) Approve the deep cleansing of paved areas in Dungannon, Cookstown and Magherafelt as defined on the maps on Appendix 4.
- (c) Approve that Council proceed to procure the services required immediately to allow the works to be completed in this financial year at a cost in the region of £15,000. Subject to existing economic development budgets in 2021/22 being available, permission is sought to have the flexibility to increase the budget, if needed, should the said works cost in excess of the estimates, taking due care not to exceed tender threshold limits.
- (d) Northland Row, Church Lane, Shambles Lane, Babe's Entry and Donaghmore Road, Dungannon to be included on the programme of works for street cleansing.

- **Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP):** Council previously agreed to participate in the development and delivery of a Local Labour Market Partnership (LMP) under the Employability NI Programme led by the Department for Communities. The aim of LMPs is to improve employability outcomes and labour market conditions locally by working through coordinated, collaborative, multiagency partnerships. It is the Council's intention that the Mid Ulster LMP will be industry-led; developing and delivering activities relating to skills development, training and employability programmes in the local area.

Councillor Monteith referred to LMP and said that within the document plan it talked about the membership and he did appreciate that this document wasn't written by ourselves. He said that within the document there was no mention of any worker or trade union membership on the project at this stage and sought clarification if this was correct.

The AD: EDT&SP advised there was a trade union representative sitting on the LMP.

Councillor Monteith said that when he went through the document all he seen was 'employer, employer, employer' and seen nothing about employees, work place safety, terms and conditions amongst other things and most certainly a document in his mind that has been written by employers with very little workers input and not a document that accurately reflects the needs of the working population in this area.

Councillor Kerr concurred with Councillor Monteith's comments and referred to the welding academy and comments made by himself and said this was to be very welcomed. Whilst going through individual points as Councillor Monteith alluded to, it seemed to be very employer focused upon i.e. annual employer survey, improve employer participant knowledge, existing employability and key messages. He remembered taking part in the Food for Thought session and his issues were predominately trying for workers retention was to improve workers' rights, but there seemed to be very little mention of workers' representation, trade unions or even trade union councils. He said that he would like his comments brought back as he felt there was a significant amount of public money going into this investment and at the end of the day the masses needed to be asked the question on how we were going to improve the working conditions for the ordinary working class individual. He stated that there was a need to encourage trade union representation in all sectors and there was also the need to encourage employers collectivism and when workers' rights were compared to those in mainland Europe or Scandinavian countries, we are very far behind and there is a need to have a greater focus on what we can do to help the ordinary worker instead of it being directed towards bosses and Directors.

The Chair referred to 3.5 where it did list the members of LMP, with trade union being listed there. He said that he was unsure where it featured within the group itself but it was listed on the group of members.

The AD: EDT&SP stated that the critical point this evening was that agreement was needed on the plan to draw down the money, in the event that we don't get it submitted, then we are at risk of losing the funding. She said that elected representatives sit on the LMP board as well as all the other sectors that serve on the partnership and had fed into the consultations. She advised that the nature of the funding is to develop initiatives to assist the creation of jobs, training opportunities etc to improve opportunities in the local labour

market. She acknowledged members views on worker's rights but indicated this would not be eligible for funding under the scheme.

The Chair felt that as these conversations evolve, these would come out as part and parcel of it for employability of the area and the improvement of workers' rights and would be confident that this would sit hand in hand and would be disappointed if it didn't.

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to –

- (a) Approve the draft Interim Mid Ulster Employability Action Plan 2022-23 for submission to the Department for Communities (DfC).
- (b) In the event Council receives a funding offer from DfC to support LMP activity in 2022-23 to approve delegated authority be awarded to the Chief Executive to accept the Letter of Offer and proceed immediately to procure external delivery agents to implement the range of initiatives outlined in the draft Interim Mid Ulster Employability Action Plan 2022-23.
- (c) Approve a Letter of Offer for £50,471.40 from the Department for DfC for Administration costs 2021-22 and authorise the Chief Executive to sign and return the form.
- (d) Approve an allocation of £16k within Administration and set-up costs in 2021-22 to immediately procure professional technical to support the development of specifications for the range of initiatives outlined in the draft Interim Mid Ulster Employability Action Plan 2022-23.
- (e) Approve retrospectively a Letter of Offer for £50k from the Department for the Economy (DfE) and authorise the Chief Executive to sign and return the form by 8<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

## **Matters for Information**

### **D031/22 Minutes of Development Committee held on 13 January 2022**

Members noted Minutes of Development Committee held on 13 January 2022.

Councillor McNamee referred matter which was raised at Environment Committee regarding the new team which was brought in to monitor littering and dog fouling and was advised that this issue would be brought to this committee now. He asked that a report be brought to a future meeting on progress to date.

Agreed that an update be brought to a future meeting.

Councillor Monteith referred to discussion raised at the last meeting regarding the railways. He advised that there was quite a good response to the ongoing consultation, but there had been quite a number of the public which had been in touch with him since the closing date who were keen to get their views brought forward.

Councillor Monteith said that as it was agreed before that we would work with ABC Council who seemed to be leading the way for this. He proposed that there should be an opportunity to carry out our own consultation to feed this through as this had captured the public imagination.



He said that it would be beneficial to build up a bit of steam on this, it would be a very worthwhile project and something the vast majority of our community and others would welcome back and something worth doing.

He said that it would be important to investigate if there were opportunities to allow the public to still feed into the process and for us as a Council to open up something on our website for a time especially when the public were so enthused on the issue and important to capitalise on that. He said that there were plenty consultations out there which was like pulling teeth to try and get people involved in them, but the railway initiative was one which has captured peoples thoughts.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith

That the Council investigate opportunities for still allowing the public to feed into the process and the possibility of this Council opening up an avenue on our website for a time to allow this.

The Chair said that it was his understanding that this Council would open the process up to the public to allow for submission with creating those responses.

Councillor Monteith agreed and said that the Council would need to liaise with the organisers first to see if it was possible and if not possible then so be it.

Councillor Cuddy advised that he had proposed this the last time and said that no-one knew whether there was any success in it or not, but there were clever people out there and may not be talking about the path which was originally there. He said that when there was a bit of a push and a feel out there, especially when there was so much work being carried out by ABC Council, it was important that this Council carries out a certain amount of groundwork. He stated that this was not going to cost an absolute fortune and would be beneficial if we could get our case in behind ABC Council which would do no harm. He said that he would have pleasure in seconding Councillor Monteith's proposal and hoped that a quality paper could be brought forward to help ABC Council.

Seconded by Councillor Cuddy

**Resolved** That it be recommended to Council to investigate opportunities for still allowing the public to feed into the process of the railways consultation and the possibility of this Council opening up an avenue on our website for a time to allow for this.

Councillor Burton concurred with Councillor Monteith's comments and said that she had heard in Aughnacloy the previous day from a local man who gives historical talks, that there had been a meeting with the young people. She felt if we were ever going to move ahead with better railway infrastructure we needed to push forward the best we can when there was some mention and support for it. She said that it was her understanding that ABC Council were trying to get the railway extended from Portadown to Armagh which was their main focus, which may not be the original route which may be the way of it, but by the same token she still believed that we need to try and get less people travelling in cars, as she was aware of some people saying that if it was impossible to keep the roads how were they going to bring the railways back. She said if there was ever a better

system, there was definitely more people would use it and the best way to pursue this is to have a good connection where people, good connectivity right across the board would be amazing to have the railways back and a crime that they were ever taken away in the first instance. She referred to a previous meeting regarding tourism which ICBAN attended, she had enquired if they had fed into the consultation to try to ensure that everybody's singing of the one hymn sheet. She said that this wouldn't just be beneficial to tourism but also great for families and businesses right across the board.

The Chief Executive advised that the railway discussion was prominent within the Growth Deal membership across the three Councils and said that Councillor Wilson who was a member, would be aware that it was talked at length at the last governance reference group by the members. It was agreed that we would lobby hard as a sub-regional through Councils – ABC, Mid Ulster and Fermanagh & Omagh in relation to the response to that and hoped that our voices would be heard at a more strategic level also.

He stated that the current proposal for the lines through Dungannon, even though they are reasonable, they did exclude pretty much the rest of Mid Ulster which cannot be accepted. We want a railway line which serves the A29, Mid Ulster, Dungannon, Coalisland, Cookstown, Magherafelt and Coleraine as it used to be. He referred to the group who have been lobbying hard for this in West Tyrone and suggested that it may be worthwhile if they could be invited to the next Development Committee to try and get a response in. It might generate more media air time if we get the group into the Chamber and let them pitch to the members, who will then express through this committee their views and aspirations for the railway line and traction more publicity.

Councillor Clarke agreed with what the Chief Executive had said and should be pursued. He suggested bringing up which was proposed and agreed regarding the railway line from Cookstown to Gortin which never materialised. He said that it would be useful to include this on the agenda also.

Councillor Corry said that she would be happy to support the Chief Executive's suggestion. She said that she had also commented on the reasoning as to why a lot of Mid Ulster wasn't covered on any railway checks which was a missed opportunity and felt that this Council should be having a say as loud as we possibly can.

Proposed by Councillor Corry  
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council invite Into the West to the next Development Committee to update the committee on their future plans in trying to bring the railway to the north-west, where rail links are largely absent, particularly in counties Tyrone, Fermanagh and Donegal.

#### **D032/22 Update on Master Plan for Lands at Mullagh Road, Maghera**

Members noted update following the appointment of Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland (ORNI) to develop a Master Plan for the potential development of lands between Mullagh Road/Tobermore Road as an outdoor recreational green space for the Maghera area.

Councillor Corry wished to thank the team for taking the paper forward and was great to see this getting to this stage. She said that she was aware of the public survey online at the minute with a public engagement and would encourage people to participate as it was a great opportunity for the opening up of green space and recreation areas in the Maghera region.

#### **D033/22      Economic Development - OBFI**

Members noted update on key activities as detailed below:

- Mid Ulster Economic Recovery and Growth Plan
- ICBAN Report (2021/22)
- NI Apprenticeship Week (NIAW 2022)
- International Women's Events

*Live broadcast ended at 8.15 pm.*

#### **Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business**

Proposed by Councillor McNamee  
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and

**Resolved**      In accordance with Section 42, Part 1 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 D034/22

##### **Matters for Decision**

D034/22      Tender for Children's Play Park Facilities  
D035/22      Appointment of an Additional Public Analyst  
D036/22      Economic Development Report – CBFD

##### **Matters for Information**

D037/22      Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on  
13 January 2022.

#### **D038/22      Duration of Meeting**

The meeting commenced at 7 pm and concluded at 8.35 pm.

Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## **Annex A – Introductory Remarks from the Chairperson**

Good evening and welcome to the Council's [Policy & Resources/Environment/Development] Committee in the Chamber, [Dungannon/Magherafelt] and virtually.

I specifically welcome the public watching us through the Live Broadcast. The Live Broadcast will run for the period of our Open Business but will end just before we move into Confidential Business. I let you know before this happens.

Just some housekeeping before we commence. Can I remind you:-

- If you have joined the meeting remotely please keep your audio on mute unless invited to speak and then turn it off when finished speaking
- Keep your video on at all times, unless you have bandwidth or internet connection issues, where you are advised to try turning your video off
- If you wish to speak please raise your hand in the meeting or on screen and keep raised until observed by an Officer or myself
- Should we need to take a vote this evening please raise your hand in the normal way and keep raised until advised to lower it
- When invited to speak please introduce yourself by name to the meeting
- For any member attending remotely, if you declare an interest in an item, please turn off your video and keep your audio on mute for the duration of the item
- If referring to a specific report please reference the report, page or slide being referred to
- Lastly, I remind the public and press that taking photographs of proceedings or using any means to enable anyone not present to see or hear proceedings, or making a simultaneous oral report of the proceedings are not permitted

Thank you and we will now move to the first item on the agenda.

<b>Report on</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cookstown Town Centre Forum Minutes 3 &amp; 30.11.21</li> <li>2. Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes 29.11.21</li> <li>3. Tourism Development Group Minutes 25.11.21</li> <li>4. Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP) Minutes 7.12.21</li> <li>5. Tourism Spring Campaign 2022</li> </ol>
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	10 March 2022
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Assistant Director of Economy, Tourism & Strategic Programmes

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To provide Members with an update on key activities as detailed below.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	<p><b>Cookstown Town Centre Forum Minutes 03 &amp; 30.11.21</b></p> <p>Cookstown Town Centre Forum was established in 2002 to develop a partnership approach for the development and delivery of key town centre initiatives. The Forum meets at regular intervals throughout the year.</p>
2.2	<p><b>Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes 29.11.21</b></p> <p>Coalisland Town Centre Forum was established in March 2019. It is a partnership of public, private, community and voluntary sector organisations working together to deliver a range of strategic economic actions to develop Coalisland town.</p>
2.3	<p><b>Tourism Development Group Minutes 25.11.21</b></p> <p>The Tourism Development Group (TDG) was established to create a working forum between Council and private sector businesses. The TDG will assist with policy development and support the implementation of Council's Tourism Strategy and associated work in order to create economic growth, increase visitor numbers and create employment. The group meet on a bi-monthly basis and as per the</p>

	agreed Terms of Reference all business will be reported to Council through the Development Committee.
2.4	<p><b>Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP) Minutes 7.12.21</b></p> <p>The Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP) comprises senior representatives from all of our key industry sectors across Mid Ulster, Education Sector, Invest NI, DfC, Enterprise Agency, Trade Union and elected members. Council has agreed to participate in the development and delivery of a Local Labour Market Partnership (LMP) under the Employability NI Programme. The aim of LMPs is to improve employability outcomes and labour market conditions locally by working through coordinated, collaborative, multiagency partnerships. It is the Council's intention that the Mid Ulster LMP will be industry-led; developing and delivering activities relating to skills development, training and employability programmes in the local area.</p>
2.5	<p><b>Tourism Spring Campaign 2022</b></p> <p>As well as kick starting the tourism season in Mid Ulster (typically March through to October), the proposed spring 2022 campaign will be the first opportunity to promote the new 'Visit Mid Ulster' website, launch the associated social media channels and in so doing further consolidate the Unwinding Time brand.</p> <p>At its core, the campaign's visual and verbal identity will reflect the brand essence of Unwinding Time.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p><b>Cookstown Town Centre Forum Minutes 3 &amp; 30.11.21</b></p> <p>Minutes of the meeting of Cookstown Town Centre Forum held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> &amp; 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021 are attached at <b>Appendix 1</b></p>
3.2	<p><b>Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes 29.11.21</b></p> <p>Minutes of the meeting of Coalisland Town Centre Forum held on the 29<sup>th</sup> November 2021 are attached at <b>Appendix 2</b>.</p>
3.3	<p><b>Tourism Development Group Minutes 25.11.21</b></p> <p>Minutes of the Tourism Development Group held on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2021 are attached at <b>Appendix 3</b>.</p>
3.4	<p><b>Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP) Minutes 7.12.21</b></p> <p>Minutes of meeting of Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP) held on the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2021 are attached at <b>Appendix 4</b></p>
3.5	<p><b>Tourism Spring Campaign 2022</b></p> <p>The campaign will position Mid Ulster as an ideal staycation destination for NI domestic markets and a key gateway destination for ROI markets, centring on Mid Ulster's unique offering of open spaces and outdoor recreation sites, which provide a chance to escape and get away from it all.</p>

As well as profiling walking and other outdoor recreation experiences, the key focus of the campaign will be newly developed outdoor product which epitomises the Unwinding Time brand and which has not as yet been profiled extensively. This includes promoting the offering at OM Dark Sky Park and Observatory as a truly unique experience in the natural landscape, and the re-imagining of Ballyronan Marina with the unusual accommodation option provided by the on-water glamping pods.

The campaign will also include Seamus Heaney HomePlace Open Ground. Launched in June 2021 by Marie Heaney, it is a new outdoor visitor experience which for the first time brings Seamus Heaney's literature into the landscape of South Derry which so inspired him. While focusing on Open Ground, the campaign will always link back to Seamus Heaney HomePlace itself as integral to the overall experience.

Complementing these core visitor experiences will be the offerings from the local tourism industry as a whole, with the campaign featuring accommodation, food and drink which enhance and add value to any visit to Mid Ulster.

Campaign Content is detailed below and is set to run from Mid-March until April 2022.

<b>Content Item</b>	<b>Description/ Brief</b>	<b>Publication Date</b>	<b>Channels</b>	<b>Budget</b>
TV Advert	Unwinding Time generic focusing on key experiences across Mid Ulster	7 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup> March	UTV	3,600
Cinema Advert	Unwinding Time generic focusing on key experiences across Mid Ulster		NI Cinema: Belfast, Derry ROI Cinema: Monaghan, Cavan, Donegal	8,000
Outdoor advertising	Billboard 1: 'Time to Escape' Focus on open air, enjoyment of the landscape	NI: Cycle 6 – w/c 14 & w/c 21 March  ROI: Cycle 7 – w/c 28 & w/c 4 April	OOH	6,000

		Billboard 2: 'Time to Think' Focus on SHHP Open Ground			
	Radio Advertising	Unwinding Time generic focusing on key experiences across Mid Ulster with CTA visitmidulster.com	w/c 14 & 21 March  w/c 28 March and 4 April	Q Radio  Northern Sound	2,500  2,500
	Influencer Partnership	Make Me Time – depending on influencer availability	Tbc	Instagram	3,000
	Social Media Advertising	Short form limited copy adverts  Time to Escape: Find your own space between the shore and the high horizons CTA: Visit Mid Ulster website  Take Some Me Time/ Time to be free: Unwind the way you want. Along the shore, under the sky and amongst the stone.	Burst 1: 7 – 20 March          Burst 2: 21 March – 3 April	Primary: Visit Mid Ulster Secondary: Mid Ulster District Council/Seamus Heaney HomePlace	2,000



		CTA: Visit Mid Ulster website  Value Your Time: Time away from the stresses and strains of everyday is priceless, but does not have cost the earth. CTA: Visit Mid Ulster website	Burst 3: 4 April – 17 April		
	<b>Other Considerations</b>				
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>				
	<b>Financial:</b> <b>Tourism Spring Campaign 2022</b> £27,600 in respect of 2021/22 expenditure.				
	<b>Human:</b> <b>Tourism Spring Campaign 2022</b> Current staff structure sufficient to manage the project.				
	<b>Risk Management:</b> <b>Tourism Spring Campaign 2022</b> The project will be managed in accordance with MUDC policies and procedures.				
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>				
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A				
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A				
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>				
	It is recommended that Members:				
5.1	<b>Cookstown Town Centre Forum Minutes 3 &amp; 30.11.21</b> <b>Note</b> minutes of Cookstown Town Centre Forum held on 3 & 30.11.21				
5.2	<b>Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes 29.11.21</b> <b>Note</b> minutes of Coalisland Town Centre Forum held on 29.11.21				

5.3	<b>Tourism Development Group Minutes 25.11.21</b> <b>Note</b> minutes of Tourism Development Group held on 25.11.2021
5.4	<b>Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP) Minutes 7.12.21</b> <b>Note</b> minutes of Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP) held on 7.12.21.
5.5	<b>Tourism Spring Campaign 2022</b> <b>Note</b> content of the Spring Campaign and the mediums used within the campaign to promote Mid Ulster's Tourism offering.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
	Appendix 1 – Minutes of Cookstown Town Centre Forum 3.11.21 & 30.11.21 Appendix 2 - Minutes of Coalisland Town Centre Forum 29.11.21 Appendix 3 – Minutes of Tourism Development Group 25.11.21 Appendix 4 – Minutes of Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership 7.12.21

## Appendix 1

# **MINUTES OF COOKSTOWN TOWN CENTRE FORUM MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2021 AT 12.30PM VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

### **Present:**

Councillor McNamee	Mid Ulster District Council
Councillor Wilson	Mid Ulster District Council
Councillor Mallaghan	Mid Ulster District Council
Sharon McGowan	Department for Communities
Ursula Marshall	Cookstown Disability Forum
Annette McGahan	Mid Ulster PCSP
Andrew McConnell	Large Retailer
Paul Wilson	Large Independent Retailer
Mary McCullagh	) Mid Ulster District Council
Adrian McCreesh	
Colin McKenna	

**In attendance:** Deborah Ewing ) Mid Ulster District Council

### **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillor Wilbert Buchanan, Mid Ulster District Council; TP Sheehy, Small Independent Retailer; Conall McKee, DFI Roads NI; John Downey, PSNI; Peter Beckett, Large Retailer; Roisin McAllister, Mid Ulster District Council.

### **2. MINUTES OF TOWN CENTRE FORUM MEETING 15 SEPTEMBER 2021**

It was proposed by Cllr Wilson and seconded by Cllr McNamee to ADOPT the minutes of the Town Centre Forum Meeting held on 15 September 2021.

### **3. MINUTES OF TOWN CENTRE FORUM MEETING 19 OCTOBER 2021**

It was proposed by Cllr Wilson and seconded by A McConnell to ADOPT the minutes of the Town Centre Forum Meeting held on 19 October 2021.

#### **4. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

#### **5. UPDATE ON TOWN CENTRE RECOVERY PLAN/MID ULSTER TOWN CENTRE PROJECTS**

The Town Centre Managers Progress Report had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. M McCullagh provided an update on Mid Ulster Town Centre Projects as follows:

##### **a) Marketing & Promotion**

The proposed marketing and promotion in the lead up to Christmas will include the following:

- Promotion of Mid Ulster Gift Card through local press, billboards, social channels and radio campaign
- Shop local campaign will target people to shop in the local towns over the festive period and during Small Business Saturday. This will include promotion via local press, billboards, social media channels, radio. Consideration is also being given to the development of a TV advert to promote shopping in Mid Ulster.
- Christmas lights switch on will take place on Friday 26 November 2021. This will be a virtual switch on this year due to the ongoing concerns with Covid-19. A company have been employed to facilitate the virtual switch on.
- Additional activities will take place on the 3 Saturdays in December (4, 11 and 18) from 12Noon – 3pm and will include live music, street theatre and a town trail.
  - Live music will be located in the retail core.
  - Street theatre will be delivered by the Bardic Theatre.
  - The town trail will involve approx. 10 local businesses based in the main retail core and will take place from 1<sup>st</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

It was noted that there are additional activities taking place in Cookstown throughout the festive period:

- Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2021 – Burnavon Craft Fayre
- Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2021 – Hub Christmas event on Burn Road
- Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2021 – Killymoon Castle Craft Fayre

Cllr Wilson agreed that moving the location of the live music would be beneficial as the previous location was further removed from the centre of the town. M McCullagh advised that Apex Music Centre have been employed to provide the live music and the music will be moved into the retail core.

It was noted that moving forward the future and promotion of the Cookstown Saturday Market will need to be reviewed and promoted accordingly. M McCullagh advised

members that Council are currently collating information on the market and that they are identifying a way forward. A McCreesh advised that there is a meeting being held tonight with DEA members and a way forward will be discussed.

## **b) Business Support**

### **(i) Mid Ulster Gift Card Scheme**

Miconex have been employed to develop and deliver the Mid Ulster District Council's Gift Card Scheme. They hosted 3 webinars for businesses which provided an overview of the Gift Card Scheme and details of how to become involved.

To date over 100 businesses/venues have signed up to the Scheme and Council are actively promoting the Scheme to Mid Ulster businesses.

It is anticipated that the Scheme will launch on Monday 8 November 2021 and a promotional campaign will commence.

C McKenna advised that further clarification was sought after the pre-loaded Gift Card enquiry. He advised that at present this would be an online facility with the ability for customers to obtain empty gift cards from Council venues – namely Burnavon Arts & Cultural Centre, Cookstown; Ranfurly House, Dungannon; and Bridewell, Magherafelt, which then must be loaded by the purchaser through the gift card website.

JJ Tohill, Director of Finance advised that he requires satisfaction of the implications and safety for Council to be involved in this process. C McKenna advised that a meeting will be organised with Miconex to discuss the practicalities of Council involvement for selling pre-paid cards. Members will be advised of the outcome in due course. Cllr Wilson stated that it may be prudent for Council not to be involved in the pre-paid option.

### **(ii) Mid Ulster Business Marketing Scheme**

M McCullagh advised that the small grants 'Mid Ulster Business Marketing Scheme' is still open for applications. Eligible businesses can apply for revenue grants of up to £300, on a first come, first served basis until the funding is fully allocated. Applications can only be accepted through completion of an online form.

The Scheme aims to assist businesses with their marketing efforts as they recover from the effects of the pandemic and includes support towards developing improved online presence, click and collect services, promotional activity, merchandising and window displays, use of influencers/vloggers/bloggers etc.

To date 556 Letters of Offer have been issued with £80,000 still available for allocation. There is a 14 day turnaround from application to Letter of Offer. M McCullagh requested members to advise any Mid Ulster businesses of the scheme.

C McKenna stated that funding must be claimed within the 2021-2022 financial year.

## **c) Physical Regeneration/Improving Infrastructure**

### **(i) Rural Regeneration Projects**

Under the Rural Development Programme a total of 37 villages accessed funding to develop and deliver projects identified through their respective village plans. To date projects have been identified through the village planning process and consultation with the local community groups to determine projects that can access grant aid through the Programme.

A professional led design consultancy team was appointed to commence design schemes for the various projects identified in the villages. A cross council working group has been established for the lifetime of the project. Economic Development Officers are working alongside Technical Services to deliver the schemes. Assistance has been provided to 10 of the 11 villages in the former Cookstown District Council area. Projects have been completed in Ardboe, Ballyronan, Orritor, Lissan, Drumullan, Coagh, Rock, Sandholes, Moortown and Pomeroy. Broughderg is the only outstanding village at present and it is anticipated that works are due to commence in the near future.

### **(ii) Mid Ulster Town and Village Spruce Up Scheme**

Mid Ulster Town and Village Spruce Up Scheme offers discretionary grants of up to 75% eligible costs, capped at £5,000 per property for external and/or internal improvements. Knox and Clayton were appointed to assist in the delivery i.e. assessment of applications and management and monitoring of the successful projects.

The Scheme is now in year 3, Phase 3. Phase 1 and Phase 2 projects are now complete. In April 2021, 73 Letters of Offer were issued to businesses under Phase 3 to a total value of £250,000. To date 24 have been completed to the value of £84,610.81.

## **6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **(i) SGN Works**

M McCullagh advised that works on Drum Road are now complete.

Works are due to commence on 8/9 November 2021 on Fountain Road to establish a private connection. Works will take place during the hours of 9.30am to 4.30pm with a traffic system in place.

A meeting has been organised between Council and SGN senior officials on Tuesday 7 December 2021 at 3.30pm. This is an opportunity to discuss issues such as communication, permits and traffic management. M McCullagh requested members forward any issues they want to be addressed.

**(ii) Reval 2023**

M McCullagh advised that the deadline for businesses to complete their details for Reval 2023 is 31 December 2021. An email has been issued to Town Centre Database encouraging businesses to complete the questionnaire.

**(iii) High Street Taskforce – Call for Evidence**

The High Street Task Force call to evidence is now open. A workshop has been organised to take place in the Burnavon, Cookstown on Tuesday 9 November 2021 from 1pm – 3pm. M McCullagh has issued a registration link to members and encourages all to attend where possible. She advised that Council are seeking to employ a consultant to prepare Council's response. In order to facilitate this, it is recommended that a 1 item agenda is held on 29/30 November 2021 to review and sign off the final response. A meeting request will be issued in due course.

**(iv) Membership**

M McCullagh advised that she is currently working on the membership of the Forum. At present there is 1 vacant position for professional services and no recommendations have been received for the filling of the post.

It was agreed that M McCullagh provide a list of proposed businesses in confidence for the position and will issue to members for review and recommendation.

Cllr Wilson stated that it is imperative that the Forum is regenerated and invigorated to assist the town on the way out of lockdown. He requested that non-attendees are also contacted and membership reviewed.

**7. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will take place on 29/30 November 2021 on the High Street Task Force response and members will be notified accordingly.

The meeting ended at 12.55pm

## **MINUTES OF COOKSTOWN TOWN CENTRE FORUM MEETING HELD TUESDAY 30 NOVEMBER 2021 AT 12.30PM VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

### **Present:**

Councillor McNamee	Mid Ulster District Council
Annette McGahan	Mid Ulster PCSP
Sharon McGowan	Department for Communities
Tom Jebb	Vintners Association
Peter Beckett	Large Retailer
Joe Connaghan	PSNI
Ursula Marshall	Disability Forum
Mary McCullagh	) Mid Ulster District Council
Colin McKenna	

**In attendance:** Deborah Ewing ) Mid Ulster District Council

### **8. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillor Trevor Wilson, Councillor Mark Glasgow and Councillor Wilbert Buchanan, Mid Ulster District Council; Sean MacMahon, Property Developer; Conall McKee, DFI Roads NI; Andrew McConnell, Large Independent Retailer and TP Sheehy, Small Independent Retailer.

### **9. HIGH STREET TASKFORCE CALL FOR EVIDENCE**

Cllr McNamee welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that the purpose of the meeting is to discuss and review the draft findings of the response being prepared by Mid Ulster District Council in relation to the High Street Taskforce Call for Evidence.

M McCullagh provided a presentation to members on the findings to date. She provided a background on the High Street Taskforce, explaining that it was formed by the Executive Office to identify the challenges and issues that our high streets face and to oversee the development of solutions and actions that can be taken to support our high



streets. They identified 71 issues which were then grouped together and represented into 14 themes.

M McCullagh advised that a workshop was held in the Burnavon on Tuesday 9 November 2021 and an additional workshop with Cookstown Traders took place on Friday 26 November 2021. The results of each of these meetings, along with respective feedback from Dungannon and Magherafelt traders, enabled Council to pull together the findings which are being reviewed today.

M McCullagh provided an overview of each of the themes along with the findings received to date. Members were invited to comment at the end of the presentation.

### Theme 1 – Partnerships

Overview - The HSTF will seek to encourage partnerships public, private and third sector partners locally, regionally and nationally.

Response –

- What is the definition of partnership – indication of the importance of partnerships
- Need to have partnerships with incentives
- Need cross border collaboration
- HSTF are too Belfast-centred, needs to be a wider reach.

### Theme 2 – Follow Best Practice

Overview - The HSTF approach is to assess good practice from other places and adapt this so that 'best practice' becomes a unique 'right practice' for our High Streets.

Response –

- Need to have resources available to try to aspire to best practice principles.
- Place Shaping our towns
- Deliver initiatives such as 'Tidy Towns' (Republic of Ireland) – it was noted that Tidy Towns brought communities together and was a worthwhile project

### Theme 3 – Investment

Overview - More specific funding streams and schemes are required to promote and encourage residential living

Response –

- Living Over the Shops Initiative – very successful in Cookstown
- Urban Development Grants – used to develop premises i.e. building on Burn Road
- Empty to Occupied Schemes
- Extension of Rates Holiday – or gradual re-introduction/increase in rates
- Strategic Sites Acquisition Fund
- Business Incubation Units – but provide an incentive to businesses to come onto the High Street from the units once their business has been established

## Theme 4 – Planning

Overview – In addressing planning for the high street, our challenge will be to contribute to the delivery of a fair and inclusive planning system for people, communities and businesses.

Response –

- Town First approach
- Healthcheck our towns
- Business Improvement Districts (BIDs)
- Town & Village Masterplanning/Place Shaping

M McCullagh advised that Queens University provide work to companies to develop bids to help them attract to towns. She stated that there is potential for this to be utilised more.

## Theme 5 – Public Realm

Overview – These are the everyday spaces that we move through and socialise within and the places where we live, work and play.

Response -

- Often resistance to change and move to pedestrian-only zones.
- Regular Cleansing Routines – making the town more attractive via regular cleaning
- Car Parking/Linkages need upgrading- create safe spaces
- Enhance gateways to our towns/villages
- Consideration of traffic management/bypasses

M McCullagh noted that upgrading the linkages in Cookstown has proven difficult in the past due to private ownership but advised members that it was an issue that was raised to be addressed.

Another area for consideration under this theme would be the Cookstown Bypass. She advised members that the plans for the preferred route in regards to the Cookstown Bypass will be available to view in the Burnavon Tuesday 7 December and Wednesday 8 December 2021. This is the consultation period for the Bypass and members are encouraged to attend and review the proposed plans.

## Theme 6 – Fiscal including Rates

Overview - Fiscal policy is how government taxation and spending policies are used to influence economic conditions.

Response –

- Consider data from the COVID-19 rates holiday: - impact that has had on new businesses and for slow-down in shop closure rates.

- Online Sales Tax to large companies
- Ensure Property Tax is equitable
- Rates Relief/Holiday – M McCullagh advised that a report has been identified which will be quoted and used as a reference document in the final response

## Theme 7 – Capacity

Overview - Capacity refers to the built, social, spatial, and infrastructural strengths and opportunities to transform to produce significant and measurable change

### Response –

- Need to look at repurposing empty units, but also to incentivize businesses to come out of enterprise units and into the towns.
- Pop-up shops can work in certain towns
- Fresh and unique ideas for business areas, has to stand out and be different and unique. Flexible spaces - artisan markets, concerts etc. – also the potential of a business wrap around package for businesses in their first year
- The length of leasing terms should be addressed.

## Theme 8 – Energy, Climate Change and Sustainability

Overview - Our environment is our most important asset and is crucial to each and every one of us. It is one of the main reasons that people from other countries and regions visit, bringing money into local towns?

### Response –

- Practicalities of implementation – need investment and incentives by grants.
- Pedestrian streets hard to implement.
- Heritage assets – restrictive of change for heritage buildings
- Buildings not being utilised in prominent sites should be vested
- Environmental funding required

## Theme 9 – Housing & Other Infrastructure

Overview - Good quality affordable and sustainable housing is central to reducing housing stress, homelessness and improving 'sing' solutions for the m f e.

### Response –

- Green spaces for housing
- Night time economy essential on our high streets- café culture – it was noted that Cookstown had invested in the night time economy previously and this is something that will be included in the response as a lot of High Streets are not 9am-5pm
- Radical action need to be taken for Housing developments to tackle **deprivation in high streets, rural villages, town and city centres**

M McCullagh advised that Living Over the Shops also falls into this category.

## Theme 10 – Getting To and From the High Street

Overview - Getting to and within villages, towns and cities is at the heart of urban regeneration and positively impacts local and regional economies.

Response –

- Transport costs
- Cycle lanes
- Pedestrian streets
- Enhance infrastructure of our Town Centres
- Implement Purple Flag Scheme

## Theme 11 – Tourism

Overview - Tourism is a major contributor to the economic well-being of our villages, towns and cities

Response –

- Heritage – restrictions prohibitive
- No transfer of knowledge for communities.
- Need promotion of local assets.
- Towns have lost identity - need to be bespoke.
- Focus on main tourist attractions in area

It was noted that towns should be promoted with the link to local assets.

## Theme 12 – Digital High Street

Overview - Online shopping has impacted our high streets

Response –

- Hubs in towns/villages no need for a long commute – derelict buildings repurposed
- Fibre to premises as soon as possible.
- No connectivity for 4g/3g
- Investigate implementation Parking App
- Bespoke solutions needed quicker as [Project stratum](#) will be obsolete by time of roll out
- Local businesses should be online to compete online

## Theme 13 – Rural Settlements

Overview - Rural development is vital not just for individuals in rural areas but also for economic growth. Rural development will help improve productivity and stability in social and economic development

Response –

- Funding/support must be tailored to each areas and its needs
- Community initiatives must be supported, in rural and urban environments

- HSTF needs to get talking to rural people as they might not see their issues fitting with our call for evidence.
- Engagement with communities
- Require specific survey for rural settlements – the High Street Taskforce needs to engage with the rural areas also
- Villages local actions sustain the community

#### Theme 14 – People, Localism, Well-Being

Overview - Places need to be compelling, to encourage communities to support economies, products and services that promote and improve the local high street

Response –

- Rural initiatives need to connect with towns
- Localism is the core of 'place'
- Towns need a forward focus to keep the local connection and further develop
- Strengthening of Chamber of Commerce's/local community groups

It was noted that Theme 14 interlinks with a lot of the other themes i.e. working together.

Cllr McNamee thanked M McCullagh for the presentation and provided feedback as follows:

- Theme 1 Partnerships – the Council have had successful working partnerships with utilities and other departments in the past. Recently there has been issues with these partnerships which are now being reviewed. This breakdown only emphasises the importance of good partnership working.
- Tidy Towns is a great initiative which he advocates in taking forward
- There are not enough Urban Development Grants available to make significant impacts on the towns. He advised that businesses have approached him in the past complaining that the rural businesses have more funding opportunities open to them which is something that should be addressed.
- Bypass – he advised that Council's Growth Deal have provided the funding for the Cookstown Bypass and it is anticipated that the Scheme will commence within the next 2 years.
- Parking Charges – the pilot scheme which was planned to take place in Magherafelt for the 2 hour free parking and pay as you go options has been postponed due to the ongoing pandemic as it did not provide an accurate reflection of the parking requirements in the town. It is anticipated that if the scheme is successful that the pay as you go option will be located in the Union Street car park and the Burnavon side of the Burn Road car park.

U Marshall advised that one of the main issues is to ensure that the report is not Belfast centric. The majority of Mid Ulster is rural based and this needs to be reflected. She also advised that 21% of the Mid Ulster community is disabled and they should be taken into consideration and communicated with.

P Beckett stated that he had additional comments after his attendance at the workshop on Friday. He would like clarification on what is driving the shops to close and how support can be provided to stop this i.e. cutting costs such as rent/rates or increasing footfall to the towns. He stated that the Living Over the Shops scheme would provide additional income to relevant shops, which could be vital for them to succeed. Investment into the businesses would be beneficial and play a vital role in their sustainability i.e. assistance with exterior, interior and fit outs.

M McCullagh thanked the members for their input and advised that a report will be compiled and issued to them for their review. The report is being compiled from the Mid Ulster district as a whole. The report will be issued on Thursday and members are requested to submit any responses by close of play on Friday 3 December 2021. The final report is being issued to the High Street Taskforce on Monday 6 December 2021.

## **10.ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

M McCullagh advised that there will be light entertainment provided in the town centre on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> December. This is to create an ambience in the town but is not an encouragement for crowds to gather as Council are acutely aware of Covid-19. Council have taken over the previous Poundstretcher store on William Street and this will be utilised as a street performance by the Craic Theatre. In addition there will be live music located outside Brewery Lane Grill and card shop which is being provided by Apex Music. They are bringing a small marquee and the artists will be self sufficient.

Members were also advised that there will be a food cart in place on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December with cooking demonstrations being provided by Sean Owens.

## **11.DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Cllr McNamee thanked members and wished them a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

The next date will be set and members will be notified accordingly.

The meeting ended at 1pm

## **Appendix 2**

### **Minutes of Coalisland Town Centre Forum Meeting** **Monday 29 November 2021 at 5.30pm** **Microsoft Teams**

#### **Present**

Cllr J O'Neill	Mid Ulster District Council
Cllr Malachy Quinn	Mid Ulster District Council
Raymond O'Neill	Eden Blooms (Vice-Chair)
Ursula Marshall	Mid Ulster Disability Forum
Sharon McGowan	Department for Communities
Joe Connaghan	PSNI

#### **In Attendance**

Johnny McNeill	Mid Ulster District Council
Colin McKenna	Mid Ulster District Council
Catherine Fox	Mid Ulster District Council
Annette McGahan	Mid Ulster District Council

	<b>DISCUSSION</b>																														
<b>1.</b>	<b>Apologies</b> <table><tr><td>Cllr Niamh Doris</td><td>Mid Ulster District Council (Chair)</td></tr><tr><td>Cllr Dan Kerr</td><td>Mid Ulster District Council</td></tr><tr><td>Cllr Niall McAleer</td><td>Mid Ulster District Council</td></tr><tr><td>Cllr Robert Colvin</td><td>Mid Ulster District Council</td></tr><tr><td>Adrian McCreesh</td><td>Mid Ulster District Council</td></tr><tr><td>Mark Kelso</td><td>Mid Ulster District Council</td></tr><tr><td>Fiona McKeown</td><td>Mid Ulster District Council</td></tr><tr><td>Michael McGibbon</td><td>Mid Ulster District Council</td></tr><tr><td>Raymond Lowry</td><td>Mid Ulster District Council</td></tr><tr><td>Oliver Donnelly</td><td>Mid Ulster District Council</td></tr><tr><td>Francie Molloy MP</td><td>Coalisland Residents &amp; Community Forum</td></tr><tr><td>Brian O'Neill</td><td>Coalisland Credit Union</td></tr><tr><td>Aedamar McCrossan</td><td>PSNI</td></tr><tr><td>Peter Waugh</td><td>PSNI</td></tr><tr><td>Dermot McGirr</td><td>Translink</td></tr></table>	Cllr Niamh Doris	Mid Ulster District Council (Chair)	Cllr Dan Kerr	Mid Ulster District Council	Cllr Niall McAleer	Mid Ulster District Council	Cllr Robert Colvin	Mid Ulster District Council	Adrian McCreesh	Mid Ulster District Council	Mark Kelso	Mid Ulster District Council	Fiona McKeown	Mid Ulster District Council	Michael McGibbon	Mid Ulster District Council	Raymond Lowry	Mid Ulster District Council	Oliver Donnelly	Mid Ulster District Council	Francie Molloy MP	Coalisland Residents & Community Forum	Brian O'Neill	Coalisland Credit Union	Aedamar McCrossan	PSNI	Peter Waugh	PSNI	Dermot McGirr	Translink
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<b>2.</b>	In the absence of the Cllr Doris, the Vice Chair Raymond O' Neill chaired and welcomed everyone to the meeting.																														
<b>3.</b>	<b>Minutes of Previous Meeting - Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021</b>  Proposed by M Quinn Seconded by S McGowan and agreed: -  The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> October 2021 were a true and accurate record of proceedings.																														

4.	<p><b>Matters Arising from Previous Meeting – Monday 25 October 2021</b></p> <p>There were no matters arising that would not be dealt with in the Project Updates.</p>
5.	<p><b>Coalisland Project Updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Coalisland Public Realm</b></li> </ul> <p>M Leavey updated that the project is currently at the snagging list stage with the contractor. The Team were currently investigating the replacement of the Trees that had been vandalised. The Contractor was also to complete the planting in the planters and the paving at the Civic Space.</p> <p>At the previous meeting, it was highlighted that a buildout was required at Main Street as identified through the Road Safety Audit Stage 3. M Leavey advised following on street meetings with DfI and Traders, the build out was now not required. The car park on Barrack Street is now open and in use. NI water were carrying out some works in relation to the gullies on Kings Row.</p> <p>C Fox advised that once the snagging list has been completed, a launch of the project would be organised in conjunction with the Department for Communities (DfC).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Gortgonis</b></li> </ul> <p>The re-advertised PAN was completed during August 2021 and the capital team have now received the PACC report for Gortgonis with a view to submitting an application for Planning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>PEACE IV Shared Spaces Project</b></li> </ul> <p>J McNeill updated that the tender for a Contractor to complete the works was currently out to tender and Members would be updated once the procurement process had completed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Revitalisation Project</b></li> </ul> <p>J McNeill advised that the tender for this project is at the same stage as the Shared Spaces project and would update when process has completed. The project involves the upgrade to the 3m path with seating areas, resin bound gravel, links into the housing development, signage and some wildflower planting. New LED lighting would also be installed through the Active Travel project along the Canal.</p> <p>Cllr O'Neill asked whether they could link the path to Canal Quays and highlighted the flooding issued at the gate. J McNeill responded that they would be looking at the kissing gate and ensuring DDA compliant.</p> <p>R O'Neill raised the issue of flooding in the town and referred to his previously submitted 15-point objection letter. R O'Neill stated that the Town does not require</p>



	<p>any trees as the leaves block the drains and stated that the Civic Space should be in front of the Cornmill Building. He also referred to the diversion of an ambulance through Gortgonis and the potential of monitoring the carbon monoxide levels on Main Street. J McNeill advised that he would seek an update from R Lowry in relation to Monitors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Town Centre Progress Report</b></li> </ul> <p>C Fox delivered the Town Centre Progress Report highlighting that the Business Marketing Scheme was still open for applications and encouraged all businesses to apply.</p> <p>The Mid Ulster Gift Card Scheme had been launched on the 8<sup>th</sup> November with 120 businesses signing up for the scheme so far. Businesses can register at any stage and the Council Team were currently targeting corporate businesses to use the Gift Card for corporate gifts and employee rewards.</p> <p>The High Street Voucher project by the Department for Economy (DfE) had also been extended to the 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021.</p> <p>C Fox updated on the have scheduled a Revitalisation scheme for Coalisland Town Centre, focussing on the Festive lighting and the Branding. A specification had been prepared for the Festive Lighting and was currently progressing through the procurement process to issue to companies for tender proposals.</p> <p>In relation to the Marketing &amp; Branding, McCadden Design had been appointed following the procurement process and were tasked with delivering a brand for the Town. This will involve stakeholder consultation and the company will present draft brands in the New Year to the Forum for comment. A site visit took place on 18 November 2021 in Coalisland in order for the company to get familiar with the Town.</p> <p>C Fox updated that the virtual switch on of the Christmas Lights took place on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021. Craic Theatre will be delivering on street activities every Saturday until Christmas, commencing on Small Business Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> December 2021.</p> <p>A Town Trail will also be available for completion throughout the Christmas period. With festive window displays, families can follow an interactive trail through the town centre, (from Saturday 4 December 2021), stopping in at shops along the way to collect clues, and if you solve all the clues, receive a special message from Santa at the end. One winner will be picked to win a Mid Ulster Gift Card to the value of £50.</p>
6.	<p><b>High Street Task Force Call for Evidence</b></p> <p>C Fox outlined that the Executive Office had formed the High Street Task Force (HSTF) to identify the challenges and issues that our high streets face and to oversee the development of solutions and actions that can be taken to support our high streets.</p>

	<p>The Executive Office has launched a call for evidence and the document could be viewed online. The call for evidence process will run from 25 October to 6 December 2021. C Fox advised that Mid Ulster Council would be submitting a formal response and took Members of the forum through a presentation highlighting the 14 themes and responses to each. A meeting had been held on the 25<sup>th</sup> November 2021 with businesses in Coalisland to seek their views on the call for evidence, which would be collated and issued to the Department.</p>
<b>7.</b>	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>Cllr J O'Neill advised that there was green moss from the gutters on derelict buildings staining the pavements. J McNeill advised he would pass on to the Capital Team.</p> <p>U Marshall referred to the Disabled Peoples Parliament that was taking place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021.</p> <p><b>Meeting ended at 6.30pm</b></p>
<b>8.</b>	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>Next meeting would be scheduled in the New Year.</p>

### **APPENDIX 3**

#### **MID ULSTER TOURISM DEVELOPMENT GROUP** **Thursday 25 November 2021 at 9.30am via Zoom**

	Present
Cllr Frances Burton	Mid Ulster District Council (Chair)
Cllr Niamh Doris	Mid Ulster District Council
Cllr Sean Clarke	Mid Ulster District Council
Simon Wiggins	Education & Skills SWC
Norman Bell	Visitor Attractions
Claire Murray	Hospitality
Hugh McCloy	Tourism Services
Kieran Bradley	Hospitality
Dermot Friel/Cathy O'Neill	Hospitality
Richard Mulholland	Mid Ulster Cluster
Michael Browne	Mid Ulster District Council
Fiona McKeown	Mid Ulster District Council
Mary McGee	Mid Ulster District Council
Charmain Bell	Mid Ulster District Council
Genevieve Bell	Mid Ulster District Council
Allison O'Keefe	Mid Ulster District Council
Sharon Arbuthnot	Mid Ulster District Council

	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>ACTIONS</b>
	<b>Apologies</b> C Doherty, An Carn Mary McKeown, MUDC	
<b>1.</b>	<b>Minutes of Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021</b>  Proposed:    xxxx    Seconded: xxxx	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Matters Arising</b> Lumfords Glen Water has washed away the landscape. Cllr Burton suggested that that Lumfords Glen be tied in with Slieve Beagh. It was agreed that Lumfords Glen be kept on the Agenda.  G Derby from Lough Neagh Partnership would like to become involved with the Tourism Development Group.	
<b>3.</b>	M Browne welcomed Fiona McKeown to the team. He announced that he is formally leaving on 17 December 2021 after 37 years with Council. He wished the Department and Tourism team and the Tourism Development Group every success in the future and is	

	<p>looked forward to seeing tourism in Mid Ulster continue to grow and flourish. Cllr Burton wished Michael well for the future and thanked him for all his work and dedication over the years.</p> <p>F McKeown said she looked forward to working with the team and continuing the great work delivered over the last 6 years.</p> <p>Cllr Clarke said M Browne has been a tremendous person to work with, showed great vision and had done a tremendous amount of work, leaving a great legacy. He said there is still a lot to do but tourism will continue to go from strength to strength and he is looking forward to a bright future.</p> <p>N Bell thanked M Browne for all his work and wished him well for the future. He said Michael has brought MUDC tourism to a new level and welcomed F McKeown to her new role.</p> <p>H McCloy wished Michael well for the future, noted it had been great working with him over the years.</p> <p>M Browne thanked everyone and noted that the sector is safe with this strong tourism team.</p>	
<b>4.</b>	<p><b>Cluster Reports</b> In addition to Officers report circulated in advance of the meeting.</p> <p><b>4.1</b> <u>Seamus Heaney Cluster</u> M McGee outlined the report as circulated</p> <p><b>4.2</b> <u>Archaeology, History and Heritage Cluster</u> G Bell outlined the report as circulated and noted that Mid Ulster had two winners in the UAHS Heritage Angel Awards namely Killymoon Castle for best maintenance of a historic building or place. St Macartan's, The Forth Chapel, Augher, overall public vote on favourite project. Cllr Burton extended her congratulations to both winning projects.</p> <p><b>4.3</b> <u>Outdoor and Events Cluster</u> A O'Keefe outlined the report as circulated</p> <p><b>4.4</b> <u>Hoteliers Cluster</u> C Bell outlined the report as circulated</p> <p><u>Mid Ulster Business awards</u></p>	

	<p>Cllr Burton congratulated J McCloy, Glenshane Country Farm on winning 2 awards: Excellence in Tourism Award and Best Start-Up Business Award.</p>	
5.	<p><b>Business Engagement Programme</b></p> <p>M McGee outlined the report as circulated. In addition noted that the Mid Ulster Tourism Team were successful in winning Best Digital Initiative award at the Mid Ulster Business Awards for the work delivered online through lockdown and the Covid pandemic. This included the Whatsapp group that now has 140 businesses included plus webinars delivered. M McGee and M Browne expressed their thanks to Hugh McCloy for all his support over the year with this initiative.</p>	
6.	<p><b>District Wide Monitoring Results</b></p> <p>Report delivered as circulated.</p> <p>H McCloy enquired on July – Sept 2021 figures for Iniscarn Forest. He requested that this monitor be checked.</p>	M Browne agreed to review this monitor.
7.	<p><b>TNI Market Led Product Development Programme</b></p> <p>Mid Ulster Council Tourism have been successful in securing £265,000 from this programme. M Browne outlined the core areas of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Living History animation</li> <li>• Food &amp; Drink Programme – Fed &amp; Watered</li> <li>• Enhancement at OM Dark Sky Park &amp; Observatory with Light Show,</li> <li>• New Development Grant support for Experiences</li> </ul>	
8.	<p><b>Brown Signage</b></p> <p>M Browne confirmed a letter had been sent to Minister Mallon. It was agreed that this should be followed up on. Members spoke of ongoing vandalism of signs. Bellaghy to Ballyscullion Road, Ballydermot Road to Lough Shore</p> <p>Cllr Burton left the meeting at 10.15, H McCloy assumed the Chair.</p>	G Bell to follow up on this signage
9.	<p><b>Website Development &amp; Digital Collateral</b></p> <p>M Browne presented the new Visit Mid Ulster website to members. Developed by Simpleview who are market leaders in website development, it is very reflective of the EAGS brand and dovetails into TNI website.</p>	McCadden to be invited back to demonstrate how industry can utilize the new brand. Plan business workshops for Spring 2022
10.	<p><b>Update on Capital projects</b></p> <p>Blackwater to Ulster Canal</p>	

<p><b>10.1</b></p>	<p>Scoping study on this project ongoing. The potential for this project was outlined to members and highlighted. Cllr Clarke noted the need for access in terms of roads and the critical issue that the entry to Blackwater River from Lough Neagh blocked.</p> <p>C Murray commented that local fishermen have lobbied the Department to look at ways to develop Ulster Canal.</p> <p>M Browne commented that MUDC through Department want a resource to get it dredged and it is hoped this will trigger the opening of the Blackwater.</p> <p>Cllr Clarke stated that the Shannon Erne waterway is now coming to Smithborough, Co Monaghan, and there is a need to really push for a linkage in our region through to Monaghan.</p> <p><b>Industry Updates</b></p>	
<p><b>11.</b></p>	<p><u>Killymoon Castle</u> Arts &amp; Craft Fair planned for 4<sup>th</sup> December 2021 plus candlelight supper. Some coach trip bookings coming through.</p> <p><u>Friels Bar &amp; Restaurant</u> ITOA workshop with Tour Operators excellent. M Browne passed on sympathy to D Friel on the recent passing of his mother.</p> <p><u>Deli on The Green, Loft Coffee Shop</u> Very busy in the run up to introduction of Covid Cert checks. Would be useful to have greater information out there to help people understand how to download cert and access hospitality.</p> <p><u>South West College</u> College are rolling out a new programme to schools to try and encourage more young people to choose hospitality. 15 catering students currently but the image of the industry is improving, hours more realistic and pay improving. Apprenticeships also becoming more important for the sector.</p> <p><u>Embrace Tours</u> Some very positive leads from ITOA, interest in Slieve Gallion mountain tours now.</p> <p><u>Walshs Hotel</u> ITOA good despite uncertainty around Covid, some cancellations but positive outlook for the future.</p>	<p>MMG to discuss this suggestion with C Neill, Hospitality Ulster &amp; J Stuart, NITA</p>

12.	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>H McCloy raised issue of speedboats at Portglenone.</p> <p>K Bradley asked about fishing on the River Bann, currently not great and requested that it be improved.</p> <p>Date of next meeting: Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January at 10.00am</p>	<p>M Browne to raise these issues with Waterways Ireland at a meeting this afternoon.</p>
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## Mid Ulster Council Tourism Development Group Officers Cluster Report

**Thursday 25 November 2021**

### **1. SEAMUS HEANEY CLUSTER – M MCGEE**

The group are continuing to collaborate and work both individually and as a strong collective. Five of the members attended Irish Tour Operators Association workshop and sold both the region and their businesses across an average of 20 appointments each. Feedback has been very positive with members reporting strong bookings into next year and 2023. Operators note that enquiries and requests from groups are coming in very strong only in the past 4 weeks and next year all being well is looking extremely positive.

Key issues for many businesses are obviously Covid and staffing. The staffing situation is particularly grave with businesses not able to fully reopen due to lack of staff and no real pipeline for new people into the industry.

Members of the cluster met with representatives working on the Mid Ulster District Council Two-year Employability Action Plan for the Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP) and fed back their concerns and suggestions to help support the sector in terms of employability going forward. We have also agreed to survey the sector on this to help inform this work.

The group are working on the recruitment process for their Phase 2 Invest NI Collaborative Growth Programme facilitator. They have tendered this piece of work and are awaiting submissions.

## **2. OUTDOOR & EVENTS CLUSTER – S ARBUTHNOT / A O'KEEFE**

### **Outdoor**

It was agreed that meetings will only be held as and when required. Officers are always available to assist with any query on a daily basis. Additionally, cluster members have access to the What's App group to receive regular updates and also receive the weekly e-zine with updates from the Business Engagement Officer. This will be reviewed in the New Year and meetings will resume to organize the Wild Adventure Weekend.

### **Events**

Due to safety reasons and a number of uncertainties council agreed back in June not to host any large corporate events attracting mass gatherings. Council worked in partnership with a number of community groups over Halloween to enhance smaller more localized activities in addition to hosting a number for free Children's Workshops.

On Friday 26 November 2021 the Christmas Lights will be Switched on virtually in our five town centres in the Mid Ulster District. This will be followed up with atmospheric activities on Saturday 04, 11 and 18 December 2021. A TV campaign and Economic Development's Gift Card initiative will run concurrently over the festive season to promote small businesses, including tourism and hospitality.

## **3. ARCHAEOLOGY, HISTORY & HERITAGE CLUSTER – G BELL/M MCKEOWN**

The cluster group met virtually on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

### **DEARA Collaborative Experiential Programme – Rural Tourism, Heritage**

Kate Taylor is continuing to work with the heritage businesses successful in Phase 1. The group were informed to forward any ideas they may have for their own businesses as this experience concept is ever evolving.

Kate Taylor is working on the following concepts: The Emigrants Trail, An Apple a Day, The Milky Bar Commando - Killymoon's Military History, The Good Old Days of Donaghmore, Poetry & Painting, Immersive Coal Island Experience, The Windows to our Souls, Ahead of Her Time, Authentic Eel Fishing Experience, High Cow Tales, Poetry and Prayer, The Soul of the Shore, Sacred Spaces and Thin Places and The Lough Neagh Camino. An invitation will be forwarded to cluster members hopefully in Jan/Feb to allow them to come and trial and test the experiences.

### **Tourism NI, Delivery of Market Led Product Development Programme 2021-22TNI**

Under the Heritage element a script writer will be appointed to develop scripts for tours and/or living history at a selection of existing and new visitor experiences across Mid Ulster.

Also under the Heritage element there will be the provision of costumes/period costumes across a number of attractions and sites in Mid Ulster.



### **Heritage Angel Awards 2021**

The cluster group were informed that 2 local Heritage sites in Mid Ulster have been shortlisted in the Heritage Angel Awards and to get voting. Killymoon Castle have been shortlisted under Category One: Best Maintenance of a Historic Building or Place and St. Macartan's Church (Forth Chapel) has been shortlisted under Category Five: Best Craftsmanship or Apprentice on a Heritage Rescue or Repair Project. Officers and cluster members sent their best wishes to the 2 nominees.

### **Update from Cluster Members**

Interaction in the group continues to be very positive with most cluster members continuing to improve on their product and experience.

## **4. HOTELIERS CLUSTER – CHARMAIN BELL**

All hotel virtual tours have been completed and issued to each hotel for use. The removing of restrictions for the hospitality industry in October was a huge relief for the sector.

Although no cluster meeting has taken place communication continues with the hotel cluster members with regards to industry updates and other tourism programmes, such as the new TNI Kick Start Programme, participating in industry offers aligned with the Spend Local Scheme, and encouraging to sign up to the new Mid Ulster Gift Card.

Paula Wilson from the Glenavon Hotel participated in the Mid Ulster Enterprise Week as a guest speaker at the 'Light at the end of the Tunnel' webinar, along with Joanne Stuart from NI Tourism Alliance and James McCloy from Glenshane Country Farm. Paula discussed how they adapted their business to survive the pandemic, and what changes are here to stay for the hotel industry. The Glenavon have a number of tour groups and Tourism NI fam trips staying in the region to coincide with a visit to the nearby OM Dark Sky Park & Observatory.

As mentioned at previous meetings, there is a poor attendance at the cluster meetings, mainly due to the constraints on finding time to get released from the day to day operation of the hotel. With the development of a Mid Ulster food programme there will be the opportunity to expand the cluster.

## Appendix 4

### Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2021 at 11.00 am Venue: Zoom

**Present:**

<b>Industry</b>	Damian Power, Chair Susan Kuhn, Linden Foods Julie McKeown, Henry Brothers Kieran Bradley, Mid Ulster Tourism Development Group Angela Givan, Emerson Group
<b>MEGA</b>	Maria Curran, Project Director
<b>Education Sector</b>	Emma McKee, Northern Regional College Shane McKinney, CAFRE Brigid Heron, Area Learning Partnership (Magherafelt) Catherine McHugh, Area Learning Partnership (Dungannon & Cookstown) Jill Cush, South West College
<b>Public Sector</b>	Margaret Gallagher, Magherafelt Jobs & Benefits Office Bernie Broderick, Dungannon Jobs & Benefits Office Niall Casey, Invest NI Ethna McNamee, Invest NI Regional Office Colleen McCaughey, Department for the Economy Dawn Connolly, Southern Health & Social Care Trust Brian MacAuley, Mid Ulster Enterprise Partnership Fintan McAliskey, STEP Dungannon
<b>Elected Members</b>	Cllr Catherine Elattar, Mid Ulster District Council Cllr Trevor Wilson, Mid Ulster District Council
<b>Trade Union</b>	Aaron Hoey, Mid Ulster District Council

**In Attendance:**

<b>Council Officers</b>	Marissa Canavan, Director of Organisational Development Fiona McKeown, Assistant Director of Economy, Tourism & Strategic Programmes Paul McCreedy, Funding & Investment Manager Celene O'Neill, Community Planning Officer Joanne Millar, Economic Development
<b>Consultancy</b>	Alan McKeown, Food for Thought Emma Nelson, Food for Thought

<b>Apologies:</b>	Cllr Dominic Molloy, Mid Ulster District Council Jill Robb, Cicli Sport Colin Conway, Newell Stores Dawn Ferguson, Southern Health & Social Care Trust Lorna Currie, Cookstown Jobs & Benefits Office
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	<b>DISCUSSION</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>WELCOME AND APOLOGIES</b>  D Power opened the meeting, welcomed new attendees and invited them to introduce themselves.
<b>2.</b>	<b>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</b>  The minutes of the last meeting held on 26 October 2021 were proposed by N Casey and seconded by J McKeown.
<b>3.</b>	<b>MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES</b>  No matters were arising from the minutes.
<b>4.</b>	<b>MID ULSTER LMP TERMS OF REFERENCE</b>  P McCreedy presented an amended version of the LMP Terms of reference for approval, which was proposed by B MacAuley and seconded by M Canavan.  P McCreedy agreed to issue an updated final version to members.
<b>5.</b>	<b>ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRPERSON</b>  D Power advised that the election of the Vice-Chairperson was postponed until the December meeting. He referred to the Terms of Reference in that a Vice-Chairperson shall be elected from the private sector and subsequently requested nominations from the partnership.  Cllr T Wilson commented on the importance of the local construction sector to the Mid Ulster economy and nominated J McKeown (Henry Bros) as Vice-Chairperson. M Curran seconded this nomination.  J McKeown accepted the position of Vice-Chair and thanked members for the opportunity.
<b>6.</b>	<b>UPDATE ON MID ULSTER EMPLOYABILITY ACTION PLAN</b> <b>Alan McKeown, Director, Food for Thought</b>  A McKeown delivered a presentation to the group providing an update on statistical analysis, the key findings from stakeholder engagement and emerging themes.  <b>6.1 Update on Statistical Analysis:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research showed that the Furlough Scheme, which ended in September, had no significant impact on unemployment-related benefit claims within the MUDC district; this does not correlate with the demand for labour.</li> </ul>

- Mid Ulster saw a significant improvement in rankings within recent years regarding the impact of qualification on labour market structure, with an Economic Activity rate of 76.6% and a decrease of those with no qualifications from 17% to 13.1% in 2020.
- Mid Ulster is ranked second-best performing region in Northern Ireland in assessing the gender gap in economic activity, noting that 25% of economic inactively are women illustrating the requirements to reduce the barriers to employment.
- MUDC district was ranked lowest in employability for Disability Employment Gap (DEG).

## 6.2 Key Findings from Stakeholder engagement

A McKeown reported that Stakeholder engagement is now completed and encompassed all Key Industry, Enterprise, Education & Careers, and Community sectors. He thanked all parties who took part and reported that the sessions were highly constructive.

The key messages from Industry:-

- Facing a 'People Crisis' resulting in orders being declined, lost revenue, services under pressure and jobs unfulfilled.
- Mid Ulster has a very hungry labour market.
- Need to penetrate economically inactive labour pool.
- Loss of migrant workers is not being replenished.
- Government schemes such as Job Start are not aligned to industry needs.
- Industry would require assistance to employ staff with greater support needs.
- Careers advice over focuses on university pathways.
- There is a lack of engagement with JBOs (Jobs and Benefits Office).

The key messages from other LMP partners:-

- There is a need for a clearer and timelier understanding of industry and skills needs.
- Industry need to inspire young people with high impact resource & content.
- Offering young person/apprentice rates will not attract 16-18 year olds.
- Schools approach to career services with Industry engagement whilst bridging the engagement gap created due to Covid.
- Improving the working circumstance of 16-18year olds to entice alternatives to University.
- JBOs have appointed Employer Liaison Officers and are keen to engage.

6.3 Key areas of focus:-

- Availability of people is a major constraining issue for Mid Ulster's continued economic growth.
- Unemployment benefit claimants (2,700 claimants in the context of labour market demand).
- Bridging the gap for economically inactive women (25% in Mid Ulster).
- Removing barriers to target Disability Employment Gap (DEG) - a 10% improvement in Mid Ulster performance = 500 potential employees.
- Continuing the success in adult learning/ upskilling.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building confidence, social, and employability skills of young people.</li> <li>• The development of interconnections between schools, colleges and JBOs.</li> </ul> <p>D Power thanked A McKeown for his presentation, commenting that the comprehensive detail would be of great value in formulating the Action Plan. D Power invited questions from members to A McKeown.</p> <p>C McHugh advised that the perception of career advisors forcing people down an “A-level” route is not a fair representation and acknowledged that more work is required to build the confidence of parents about options other than a university route. She also made the following comments:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Circumstances regarding school leavers need to be improved to attract school leavers, as the University lifestyle is appealing.</li> <li>• Graduates do not know where to get jobs so a recruitment drive for graduates would be beneficial.</li> <li>• It is important to get the right people onto the right pathway for progression to avoid a stalemate.</li> <li>• Many young people not achieving A-Level grades needed to progress to higher-level courses enroll on lower-level courses.</li> <li>• More work needs to be done to develop engineering and manufacturing partnerships with the schools.</li> <li>• Young people need to see where they will fit; companies should employ people to meet the needs of schools and to work within the school curriculum.</li> <li>• Graduates do not know where to go for jobs/experience resulting in young people floating.</li> </ul> <p>C McHugh reported that St Patrick’s College would be launching a Careers Connection Programme in January 2022 and businesses should contact her if interested in participating.</p> <p>N Casey commended A McKeown on the quality of data and analysis. He highlighted the key theme of alignment with employer needs and there is an opportunity for the LMP platform to identify what jobs are available over the next 12-24 months and build the pipeline. He also commented on the need to create quality work experience opportunities that meet employer needs.</p> <p>C McGaughey referred to the mapping section and the missing connection between skills and careers. She advised that independent and impartial Careers Advisors speak with year 12 students to assist with skills pathways.</p> <p>A McKeown advised that he would now be focusing on developing the Action Plan in line with the timescales required for Council and DfC approvals.</p> <p>It was agreed that a copy of the presentation slides would be circulated to members.</p>
<b>7.</b>	<b>UPDATE ON FUNDING/STAFF RESOURCES</b>

	<p>P McCreedy reported that DfE has allocated £50,000 to each Council to support the delivery of their LMP Action Plan. Council is currently awaiting more information from the department.</p> <p>He reported that recruitment of a staff team would commence in the new year.</p>
<b>8.</b>	<p><b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b></p> <p>P. McCreedy referred to the LMP Members Code of Conduct and specific guidance on declaring a conflict of interest. He advised that all serving members would be required to declare a personal or business interest, financial or otherwise, immediately upon becoming aware of the potential conflict or before discussion on an agenda item begins. It is a requirement of the LMP Secretariat to maintain a Register of Interests for each Member. It was agreed to reissue the LMP Members Code of Conduct document to members.</p>
<b>9.</b>	<p><b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p>Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 11.00 am.</p>
	<p><b>ACTIONS</b></p> <p>LMP Terms of Reference to be circulated to members</p> <p>Draft Employability Action Plan to be issued ahead of the next meeting for consideration.</p> <p>LMP Members Code of Conduct to be reissued to members.</p>