

<b>Report on</b>	<b>Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP) 2023-24 Funding</b>
<b>Date of meeting</b>	5 July 2023
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Fiona McKeown, 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>
<b>1.1</b>	To update Members on Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP) 2023-34 funding.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
	<p>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.</p> <p>The Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP) was established in October 2021 and is focused on improving Mid Ulster's employability outcomes and labour market conditions by working with a wide range of partners, being flexible to meet local needs and helping to connect employers with employees. 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> <p>Members will be aware that the Department for Communities (DfC) previously issued correspondence to LMP Chairs and Council Senior Officers in May 2023 advising that due to a significant budget shortfall of around £111m or 15.5% of its budget requirement this financial year, funding for LMP activity would be paused from 30 June 2023 and LMPs would receive only 25% of their anticipated budget.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
	<p>On Wednesday 21 June 2023, DfC issued a letter to LMP Chairs advising that the Department received over 185 responses to the initial phase of the consultation around the Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) on the budget proposals for 2023/24.</p> <p>The Department considered the responses and despite the challenging budget position and continuing financial constraints, confirmed funding will be sustained at last year's levels for Labour Market Partnerships (<b>see Appendix 1</b>).</p> <p>The Department will now move to complete approvals for 2023/24 Action Plans to progress funding offers to enable the progression of LMP delivery. Members will</p>

	be aware that an Action Plan for 2023-24 was approved by Council and submitted to the Regional LMP Board for approval in March 2023.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	<b>Financial:</b> Council is awaiting a Letter of Offer for £369,005.21 for 2023-24.
	<b>Human:</b> Officer time.
	<b>Risk Management:</b> LMP activity is 100% externally funded by DfC.
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	<b>Equality &amp; Good Relations Implications:</b> It is not anticipated LMP activity will have an adverse impact upon equality or good relations.
<b>4.3</b>	<b>Rural Needs Implications:</b> To be considered.
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
<b>5.1</b>	It is recommended that Members:  (1) <b>Note</b> the content of the report.  (2) <b>Note</b> correspondence from the Department for Communities dated 21 June 2023, re: Labour Market Partnership (LMP) 2023/24 funding.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
	<b>Appendix 1</b> – Letter from DfC to LMP Chair - 21.6.23