

Report on	1) Caledon Regeneration Partnership Proposal 2) Donaghmore Traders Meeting Update 3) Dungannon Regeneration Partnership Proposal 4) Dungannon Town : Branded Merchandise and Jute Shopping Bags 5) Interreg VA Faster Project 6) Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes – 1.7.19 7) Mid Ulster Skills Forum Minutes – 8.3.19 8) Brexit Working Group Minutes – 27.2.19
Date of Meeting	10 October 2019
Reporting Officer	Fiona McKeown, Head of Economic Development

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To provide Members with an update on key activities as detailed below.
2.0	Background
2.1	<p>Caledon Regeneration Partnership Proposal In January 2019, the Council agreed to provide financial support to the value of £5,000 to Caledon Regeneration Partnership towards exploring the viability of a day-care facility in the former Wool Store building at Mill Street, Caledon. CRP secured match funding from the Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF) which enabled the group to appoint professional support to complete a feasibility study and condition report and business plan. The project has been identified by AHF as a priority project under DAERA's Village Catalyst Programme.</p>
2.2	<p>Donaghmore Traders Meeting Update On the 17th July 2019, Officers met with the Traders in Donaghmore to discuss various issues. Council had agreed to follow up on two actions raised below.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Meeting to be set up with a representative from Department for Infrastructure to discuss car parking regulations with regards to the main street in Donaghmore and car parking. 2. Grants information and advice on becoming a constituted body.

<p>2.3</p> <p>2.4</p> <p>2.5</p> <p>2.6</p> <p>2.7</p> <p>2.8</p>	<p>Dungannon Regeneration Partnership Proposal Members will recall that Dungannon Regeneration Partnership previously sought funding from Council to appoint a Town Centre Manager to reduce the vacancy levels in Dungannon town.</p> <p>Dungannon Town : Branded Merchandise and Jute Shopping Bags To maintain the longevity of the town centre brand there is a need to sustain its profile within the town through the medium of town centre merchandise and jute shopping bags.</p> <p>Interreg VA Faster Project The East Border Region (EBR) submitted an application to the Interreg VA Programme for the FASTER Project, which seeks to install a network of Rapid EV chargers throughout the Interreg VA eligible area and have invited local authorities to be an Associate Partner.</p> <p>Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes – 1.7.19 Coalisland Town Centre Forum was established in March 2019 and acts as a strategic body that provides advice and guidance to town centre stakeholders regarding the development of Coalisland town centre.</p> <p>Mid Ulster Skills Forum Minutes - 8.3.19 The Mid Ulster Skills Forum was established in April 2017 to address the skills gaps in local industry and foster stronger linkages between the business and education sectors. A new Action Plan was launched in October 2018 and a range of initiatives are now being taken forward.</p> <p>Brexit Working Group Minutes – 27.2.19 Council has established a new Brexit Working Group to help the organisation get prepared to exit the EU.</p>
<p>3.0</p>	<p>Main Report</p>
<p>3.1</p>	<p>Caledon Regeneration Partnership Caledon Regeneration Partnership (CRP) have been progressing plans to bring the historic former Wool Store building (dated 1823) back into productive use a rural childcare facility. The re-purposing of the Wool Store into this much needed facility will conserve an important heritage building while delivering positive economic and social benefits for the local community. Considerable work has been made by CRP in respect of the project as outlined below: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Feasibility study and Condition report has been completed with funding from Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF) and Mid Ulster District Council

- A Project viability report has been completed
- A Business plan has been completed
- A planning application has been submitted to the Planning Section
- Potential funding sources have been identified.

Caledon Regeneration Partnership submitted a proposal on Appendix 1, which states the overall project costs are £515,000. CRP have made a request to Mid Ulster Council to provide funding of £50,000 to close the funding gap and allow the project to proceed.

3.2 **Donaghmore Traders Meeting Update**

Officers from Council's Economic Development and Community Development sections met with the Traders Group in Donaghmore on 13th August 2019 to advise on all funding opportunities within Council and provide guidance on how to become a constituted body.

The Department for Infrastructure (DfI) has advised that they are aware of issues with all day parking in Donaghmore and have already initiated a consultation process for 1 hour parking (and no return within 1 hour) restrictions in the village. This request came through the Traders Group in Donaghmore. A meeting was held in August 2019 with DfI, who requested Council Officers forward DfI's contact details to the Traders, which was actioned accordingly.

In relation to car parking provision in the village, the Group was liaising with the local Church to determine if lands were available. Council officers also furnished the Group with details on how to become a constituted body.

The Traders agreed to approach Council again if they required any further assistance following these meetings.

3.3 **Dungannon Regeneration Partnership Proposal**

The most recent proposal from Dungannon Regeneration Partnership (DRP) presented to the Development Committee in July 2019 was deferred to afford officers time to meet with DRP representatives to further discuss their proposal and associated funding.

The Head of Economic Development and Dungannon Regeneration Manager along with a representative from Department for Communities met with DRP representatives on 9 September 2019. This productive meeting centred upon finding a mutually agreed mechanism to reduce vacancy levels in Dungannon town centre, with involvement from both Mid Ulster Council and Department for Communities.

Following the above meeting, DRP Board met on 1 October 2019, and have subsequently submitted their Revised Proposal to Council (Appendix 2). The funding sought from each funder is summarised in the table below, of which Council is requested to provide funding of £125,000, broken down as follows;

- 2019/20 £5,000
- 2020/21 £40,000

- 2021/22 £40,000
- 2022/23 £40,000

Funder	Funding Activity	Apr 2019 to Mar 2020	Apr 2020 to Mar 2021	Apr 2021 to Mar 2022	Apr 2022 to Mar 2023	Total Costs Per Funder
Mid Ulster District Council	Professional support Advertising support	£980 £4,020				£5,000
	Management contractor costs		£40,000	£40,000	£40,000	£120,000
Dept for Communities	Management contractor Costs		£40,000	£40,000	£40,000	£120,000
Dungannon Enterprise Centre	Management contractor Costs		£5,000	£5,000	£5,000	£15,000
Dungannon Traders	Management contractor Costs		£5,000	£5,000	£5,000	£15,000
Total Costs		£5,000	£90,000	£90,000	£90,000	£275,000

The Proposal outlines that at the end of the funding period (March 2023), DRP will have reduced vacancy levels in Dungannon town by at least 5%, and have leveraged in £1.5 million town centre investment from developers.

3.4 **Dungannon Town : Branded Merchandise and Jute Shopping Bags**

At the September 2019 meeting of the Development Committee it was agreed to defer the decision with regard to purchasing the Dungannon branded merchandise and jute shopping bags until Dungannon Regeneration Partnership (DRP) resubmitted their funding proposal to Reduce Vacancy Levels in Dungannon town centre. As DRP's proposal will be considered at the October 2019 Committee Meeting, it is also now opportune to determine if Members wish to progress to tender and purchase the items below with the budget as specified, during the 2019/20 financial year;

- Dungannon branded merchandise £20,000
- Dungannon Jute Shopping Bags £20,000

Further to discussion at the last Committee meeting, Council cannot purchase branded jute shopping bags on behalf of other organisations, however, we can provide the name of the supplier to any group who is interested in purchasing their own bags. Additionally, Villages/Community groups may be able to avail of funding from the Department of the Environment's "Love Here Live Here" scheme (administered by Council) that can potentially provide small grants for environmentally friendly/reusable bags. The scheme is currently closed to applications however, interested Villages/Community groups should ensure their details are on the Community Development database so they can be notified once it opens.

<p>3.5</p>	<p>Interreg VA Faster Project</p> <p>The East Border Region (EBR) application was submitted in November 2018 and SEUPB have been working through the approval process which has been quite slow. SEUPB recently appointed an Independent Consultant to review the project and liaise with the Government Departments in the three jurisdictions to address a number of issues. The Consortium are working through these issues and are hopeful the project will be recommended for approval and presented to the Interreg Steering Committee before the end of December 2019. One of the requests from the Departments was for EBR to secure a letter of support from each of the Local Authorities for the project.</p> <p>The request from East Border Region and a copy of the draft letter of support they have sought from Mid Ulster Council is attached in Appendix 3.</p> <p>Members should note that this project does not seek any financial input from Council but instead asks for input in the following areas;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To participate in the Project Advisory committee to provide strategic support across the eligible region. 2) To assist with the scoping exercise to identify existing EV Charge points, and to work with the project steering committee to identify key strategic locations for new rapid charging points. 3) To assist with statutory approvals for the installation of the charge points e.g planning & connection to the grid 4) To provide support to the Steering Committee in relation to the Public Awareness campaign, utilising existing Council media and PR mechanisms where appropriate 5) To assist with the dissemination of the project outputs within our region and beyond. <p>Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes – 1.7.19</p> <p>Minutes of the meeting of Coalisland Town Centre Forum held on the 1st July 2019 are attached at Appendix 4.</p> <p>Mid Ulster Skills Forum Minutes – 8.3.19</p> <p>Minutes of Mid Ulster Skills Forum Meeting held on the 8th March 2019 are attached at Appendix 5.</p> <p>Brexit Working Group Minutes – 27.2.19</p> <p>Minutes of Council’s Brexit Working Group Meeting held on 27 February 2019 are attached at Appendix 6.</p>
<p>3.6</p>	
<p>3.7</p>	
<p>3.8</p>	

4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	<p>Financial: Dungannon Regeneration Partnership Proposal – Awaiting funding request</p> <p>Dungannon Branded Merchandise £20,000 Dungannon Branded Jute Shopping Bags £20,000</p>
	Human: Officer time
	Risk Management:
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications:
	Rural Needs Implications:
5.0	Recommendation(s)
	It is recommended that Members:
5.1	Caledon Regeneration Partnership Invite Caledon Regeneration Partnership to make a presentation at the next available Committee Meeting where representatives from the group can provide more details on their funding proposal to develop the Wool Store (Appendix 1).
5.2	Donaghmore Traders Meeting Update Note progress.
5.3	Dungannon Regeneration Partnership Proposal Approve the Revised Proposal from Dungannon Regeneration Partnership (Appendix 2) to reduce vacancy levels in Dungannon town centre, making provision of Council funding of £125,000 broken down as follows, subject to Department for Communities match funding of providing £120,000. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2019/20 £5,000 • 2020/21 £40,000 • 2021/22 £40,000 • 2022/23 £40,000
5.4	Dungannon Town : Branded Merchandise and Jute Shopping Bags <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve up to £20,000 (excluding Vat) from the economic development budget for officers to tender and purchase new town centre merchandise for Dungannon.

<p>5.5</p> <p>5.6</p> <p>5.7</p> <p>5.8</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve up to £20,000 (excluding Vat) from the economic development budget for officers to tender and purchase new jute shopping bags for Dungannon. <p>Interreg VA Faster Project Approve Mid Ulster Council act as an Associate Partner within the East Border Region's Interreg VA Faster Project and supply a letter of support as requested (Appendix 3).</p> <p>Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes – 1.7.19 Note minutes of Coalisland Town Centre Forum on 1 July 2019 (Appendix 4).</p> <p>Mid Ulster Skills Forum Minutes - 8.3.19 Note minutes of Mid Ulster Skills Forum meeting dated 8 March 2019 (Appendix 5).</p> <p>Mid Ulster Brexit Working Group Minutes – 27.2.19 Note minutes of Mid Ulster Brexit Working Group meeting on 27 February 2019 (Appendix 6).</p>
<p>6.0</p>	<p>Documents Attached & References</p>
	<p>Appendix 1 – Caledon Regeneration Partnership Proposal</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Dungannon Regeneration Partnership Proposal</p> <p>Appendix 3 – Interreg VA Faster Project</p> <p>Appendix 4 - Coalisland Town Centre Forum Minutes – 1.7.19</p> <p>Appendix 5 – Mid Ulster Skills Forum Minutes – 8.3.19</p> <p>Appendix 6 – Brexit Working Group Minutes – 27.2.19</p>