

Report on	COVID Small Settlements Regeneration Programme
Date of Meeting	3 rd March 2022
Reporting Officer	Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing
Contact Officers	Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To provide Members with an update on the COVID Small Settlements Regeneration Programme, to approve 10% match funding from Council Capital Reserves (subject to approval of funding from DfC) and to grant approval to the officer team to progress the appointment of an ICT team to work up design details for project deliverables.
2.0	Background
2.1	The three government departments (DfC, DfI and DAERA) are proposing to jointly fund a COVID Recovery Small Settlements Regeneration Programme across 10 local authority areas targeting rural settlements with 1000 - 4999 inhabitants. This is predicated on each Council developing a Small Settlement Regeneration Plan.
2.2	A draft discussion paper has been received from the Department for Communities setting out arrangements for a proposed Small Settlements Regeneration Programme which will target investment in small settlements with population from 1000 - 4999 to aid recovery from the COVID pandemic. Settlements with populations below 1000 are not precluded provided supported projects align with programme outcomes and demonstrate value for money.
2.3	Under the proposed delivery arrangements, Local Authorities will be responsible for developing a COVID Recovery Small Settlements Regeneration Plan in conjunction with key stakeholders from across the Council area.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Previously in January 2022, Members at the Development committee considered and approved the draft Regeneration Plan (minute reference: D011/22).
3.2	The indicative allocation for Mid Ulster is 90% funding for capital costs up to a maximum of £2,590,000 and 90% funding for revenue costs up to a max of £191,000 giving an overall total of £2,781,000.

3.3	<p>Councils are required to provide match funding of 10% against the funding allocation. Funding under this programme is to be channelled to Councils via Local Government Finance Act (NI) 2011. 10% match funding contribution from Council Capital Reserves of £309,000 is required (based on a funding allocation of £2,781,000).</p> <p>It is envisaged that DfC will issue a letter of offer to Council before the end of March 2022. A decision from DfC on approval of funding is pending.</p>
3.4	<p>DfC has made it clear that Councils must endeavour to deliver their Regeneration Plan by March 2023 with all funding to be spent within this timescale.</p>
3.5	
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	<p>Financial: 10% match funding contribution from Council Capital Reserves of £309,000 (based on a funding allocation of £2,781,000)</p>
	<p>Human: Officer time</p>
	<p>Risk Management: Council policies and procedures will be adhered to in the roll out of this scheme.</p>
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	<p>Equality and Good Relations: Screening will be carried out prior of commencement of the Scheme.</p>
	<p>Rural Needs Implications: Screening will be carried out prior of commencement of the Scheme.</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	<p>That Members note the contents of this report and approve the recommendations to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocate 10% match funding from Council Capital Reserves to the COVID Small Settlements Regeneration Programme of approximately £309,000 – subject to approval of funding from DfC. • Permit the officer team to progress the appointment of an ICT team to work up design details for project deliverables.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	N/A