

<b>Report on</b>	Mid Ulster Rural Development Partnership
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Fiona McKeown
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Eamon Gallogly

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To update members on progress with the interim rural development strategy for Mid Ulster.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	<p>Mid Ulster Rural Development Partnership has been allocated £10.16m for the roll out of a local rural development strategy for Mid Ulster funded under the 2014-2020 NI Rural Development Programme.</p> <p>The Schemes within the local rural strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rural Business Investment Scheme</li> <li>• Rural Services Scheme</li> <li>• Village Renewal</li> <li>• Rural Broadband; and</li> <li>• LAG Co-operation</li> </ul> <p>Further detail on these Schemes is available on the LAG website <a href="http://www.midulsterrdp.org">www.midulsterrdp.org</a></p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p>Members are asked to note progress on the roll out of the strategy schemes as follows:</p> <p><b>Rural Business Investment Scheme (RBIS)</b> To date 38 businesses have been approved for funding under this Scheme to the value of £810,591. The job creation target from these projects is 84. Twenty three projects have completed to date drawing down £477,747 in grant aid.</p> <p>A further 19 projects are currently under assessment seeking grant aid to the sum of £434,490.</p>

The next call for applications under this Scheme is planned to open in November of this year with mandatory funding workshops scheduled for October as below:

	9.30 am	6.30 pm
<b>Monday 9th Oct</b>	Magherafelt Council Offices	Cookstown Leisure Centre
<b>Wednesday 11th Oct</b>	Cornmill Coalisland	Quinns Corner Dungannon
<b>Monday 16th Oct</b>	Cookstown Leisure Centre	Cornmill Coalisland
<b>Wednesday 18th Oct</b>	Quinns Corner Dungannon	Magherafelt Council Offices

Workshops dates will be advertised on the LAG website [www.midulsterrdp.org](http://www.midulsterrdp.org), through social media channels and local papers.

The LAG has now increased the level of funding available under this Scheme to £90,000 for existing small businesses and £50,000 for existing micro businesses. Full detail of the Rural Business Investment Scheme is available on the LAG website. Members are encouraged to forward these details to interested businesses.

#### **Rural Basic Services Scheme**

12 applications were received from the first call for capital support under this scheme seeking grant aid of £1.7m.

To date:

- 11 applications have been brought to the LAG with 9 approved for grant aid totalling £1,434,771 which are:
  - Tobin Youth Centre (Moortown) Ltd
  - Knocknagin Hall Committee
  - Rock St Patrick GAC
  - Workspace (Draperstown) Ltd
  - Moortown St Malachy GAC
  - Clonoe Rural Development Agency Ltd
  - Lissan Hall Committee Ltd
  - Carntogher Community Association
  - Cavanakeeran Community Association

There is an issue with planning permissions on the last remaining project, Moneyneena and District Development Initiative which will be discussed at the September LAG meeting.

	<p>There will be a second call for capital support under the Rural Services Scheme. It would be envisaged that mandatory workshops will be organised for December 17. An exact opening and closing date will be agreed by the LAG. Full planning permission approval, evidence of match funding sources, cost comparisons (obtained through a procurement process) and preparation of a project business plan are all pre-requisites to making an application to the Rural Services Scheme. Maximum grant levels for this call are to be agreed by the LAG.</p> <p><b>17/18 Spend target</b>  The LAG's spend target for 17/18 is £1.23m. Spend achieved to date in claims paid and pending is £216,810. The majority of spend for 17/18 will come from the Rural Business Investment Scheme and Village Renewal (£403,000). Due to the timing of calls most of this spend is profiled for the third and fourth quarters of 17/18.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<p><b><u>Financial &amp; Human Resources Implications</u></b></p> <p>Financial: N/A</p> <p>Human: N/A</p>
<b>4.2</b>	<p><b><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></b></p> <p>N/A</p>
<b>4.3</b>	<p><b><u>Risk Management Implications</u></b></p> <p>N/A</p>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	Members are asked to note progress outlined above.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	N/A