

<b>Report on</b>	1) Dungannon Regeneration Partnership Proposal 2) Sponsorship Request from DIGG 3) Cookstown & Magherafelt Promotional Materials 4) Creative Shops Network 5) Mid Ulster Business Awards 6) Magherafelt Town Centre Forum 7) Coalisland Public Realm 8) Establishment of Coalisland Town Centre Forum 9) Cookstown Town Centre Forum 10) NILGA/Ofcom Digital Growth Event 11) ICBAN (Irish Central Border Area Network)- Brexit Focus Group Sessions 12) Mid Ulster Engineering Event – ‘Facing the Future’ 13) EU Settlement Scheme 14) Meet the Buyer Event – NI Fire & Rescue Service
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Thursday 14 June 2018
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Fiona McKeown, Head of Economic Development

<b>Is this report restricted for confidential business?</b>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
If ‘Yes’, confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

<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	<b>Dungannon Regeneration Partnership Proposal</b> Dungannon Regeneration Partnership (DRP) Ltd. was set up by Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council in 2000 to promote and encourage the revitalisation, regeneration and development of Dungannon town. DRP has been highlighted as an example of best practice in ‘partnership working’ by Department for Communities (DfC) and has won two awards from Association of Town and City Management (ATCM) for best practice projects.
2.2	<b>Sponsorship Request from DIGG</b> Sponsorship request received from DIGG Childrenswear dated 17 April 2018 to hold a Charity event in aid of “Cash for Kids”. The event will be similar to a Trade Fair showcasing products and activities from businesses across the District.
2.3	<b>Cookstown &amp; Magherafelt Promotional Materials</b> In 2016, Mid Ulster District Council commissioned a Positioning Study, of which a key outcome was identified to review and refresh the existing brands of Cookstown and Magherafelt.
2.4	<b>Creative Shops Network</b> The Creative Shops Programme is launching its second three year programme. The programme is run by Big Telly Theatre Company and funded by Esme Fairburn Foundation and Arts Council of Northern Ireland.

2.5	<p><b>Mid Ulster Business Awards</b> Historically, Mid Ulster District Council has been a principal sponsor of the Mid Ulster Business Awards. Since 2012 the Business Awards have highlighted and rewarded those companies, large and small, which have prospered over the previous 12 months.</p>
2.6	<p><b>Magherafelt Town Centre Forum</b> Magherafelt Town Centre Forum was re-established in January 2017. The Forum meets on a quarterly basis to act in an advisory capacity, playing a fundamental role in the development and delivery of key town centre initiatives in Magherafelt.</p>
2.7	<p><b>Coalisland Public Realm</b> A design team has been appointed for the £2.75M redevelopment of Coalisland town centre. The scheme will include works to The Square, Main Street, Lineside, Dungannon Road, Stewartstown Road, Barrack Street, Barrack Square, Station Rd and Washingbay Road. The overarching aim of the project is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Create a safe, high-quality pedestrian-friendly environment;</li> <li>▪ Revitalise and reinvigorate the town to help encourage more visitors and shoppers into the town centre;</li> <li>▪ Be accessible to pedestrians and vehicles;</li> <li>▪ Have free flowing traffic and retain most on-street car parking.</li> </ul> <p>The works will include the provision of new high quality natural stone paving, street furniture, tree planting, signage, lighting and drainage and will be developed in compliance and co-operation with the Department for Infrastructure and to current DDA standards.</p>
2.8	<p><b>Establishment of Coalisland Town Centre Forum</b> One of the actions from the Coalisland Public realm consultations was the establishment of a local Forum. This would allow Council to work in partnership with agencies, businesses, community and voluntary groups to ensure Coalisland can achieve its full potential.</p>
2.9	<p><b>Cookstown Town Centre Forum</b> 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>
2.10	<p><b>NILGA/Ofcom Digital Growth Event</b> A joint NILGA/Ofcom Broadband Event titled “Digital Growth – Our Future Economy” was held on Tuesday 24 April 2018 in Mossley Mill, Newtownabbey. The event had key speakers from Ofcom Northern Ireland and Scotland, Department for Economy (Responsible for Broadband provision in NI), Department for Communications, Media &amp; Sport (DCMS) at Westminster, ROI Government Department responsible for Broadband, and Broadband Providers such as BT, Virgin &amp; B4B.</p>
2.11	<p><b>ICBAN (Irish Central Border Area Network) - Brexit Focus Group Sessions</b> ICBAN organised several Brexit Focus Group sessions, facilitated by Dr. Katy Hayward of Queen’s University Belfast. An MUDC officer attended on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2018 in the Market Place Theatre &amp; Arts Centre, Armagh. The Focus Groups sessions were promoted to all those who expressed an interest through the recent ICBAN online surveys. The aim of the Focus Group sessions was to further discuss the positive and negative impacts of Brexit on the Central Border Region, and was targeted at people who work and/or live in the Region.</p>

<p>2.12</p> <p>2.13</p> <p>2.14</p>	<p><b>Mid Ulster Engineering Event -‘Facing the Future’</b>  In September 2017, the Council’s economic development section commissioned the South West College InnoTech Centre to deliver the ‘Mid Ulster Engineering Innovation Programme 2017/18’ to provide one-to-one specialist innovation support to 18 engineering businesses to develop new products, processes and services. As part of the Programme, The InnoTechn Centre is required to deliver a high profile seminar, open to all manufacturing /engineering business in Mid Ulster to explore a current issue affecting the sector.</p> <p><b>EU Settlement Scheme</b>  In December 2017 the UK government reached an agreement with the European Union on citizens’ rights. This agreement is to protect EU citizens rights after the UK leaves the EU and enables EU citizens to continue to live their life as they do now. It also covers their family members.</p> <p><b>Meet the Buyer Event - NI Fire &amp; Rescue Service</b>  MUDC in conjunction with Henry Brothers have organised a Meet the Buyer event on Monday 25 June 2018 in the Glenavon House Hotel from 12noon -7pm. Henry Brothers are the appointed company who were awarded the construction of the new Northern Ireland Fire &amp; Rescue Services Learning &amp; Development Centre at Desertcreat, Cookstown.</p>
<p><b>3.0</b></p>	<p><b>Main Report</b></p>
<p>3.1</p> <p>3.2</p>	<p><b>Dungannon Regeneration Partnership Proposal</b>  Dungannon Regeneration Partnership (DRP) previously submitted a proposal to Council (Appendix 1) seeking part funding to support the costs of employing a Town Centre Development Manager in Dungannon over the next 2 years (as detailed below) focusing primarily on reducing the high levels of dereliction in the town. The proposal specifically requests the following funding from Council;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 1 - £31,500</li> <li>• Year 2 - £31,500</li> </ul> <p>Members previously agreed the proposal in principal at the Development Committee meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> March 2018, with the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The amount of Council funding to be determined by the existing economic development budget availability for 2018/19.</li> <li>• The amount of funding the Department of Communities (DFC) will contribute towards the project</li> </ul> <p>Whilst there are significant pressures already placed upon Council’s economic development budget, it is felt this pilot project could offer significant results as documented in DRP’s project proposal. Therefore, it is recommended that Council contribute £30,000 per annum towards this project for a period of 2 years. This recommendation is based on partner funding from Department for Communities (minimum of £30,000 per annum), Dungannon Enterprise Centre (£10,000 per annum), and Dungannon Traders Association (£10,000 per annum).</p> <p><b>Sponsorship Request from DIGG</b>  A request for sponsorship was received from DIGG Childrenswear (Appendix 2) to support a charity event which will take place on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018.</p> <p>Mid Ulster District Council supported this event last year with a contribution of £2,000 which had approx 1500 people in attendance and raised £6000 for Cash for Kids.</p>

The event organisers aim to showcase a minimum of 25 businesses from across the district that specialise in baby and toddler products and activities. The total request for sponsorship this year is £4,000. The request does not outline any additional event features or attendance figures, and therefore, it is recommended Council fund this event to the value of £2,000, the same as last year.

**3.3 Cookstown & Magherafelt Promotional Materials**

Both Cookstown and Magherafelt new town centre brands have been agreed and some initial merchandise has been purchased to promote the brands, such as branded shopping bags and street banners.

It is now an opportune time to heighten awareness and reinforce the new town brands and hence officers seek approval to tender for a suitable organisation to design, print, supply and deliver a range of branded products and materials for Cookstown & Magherafelt town centres. The branded products and materials will assist in promoting Cookstown and Magherafelt's refreshed brands throughout the year to different target groups, such as businesses, schools, community sector, etc, all tightly managed through a brand implementation plan.

**3.4 Creative Shops Network**

Creative Shops Network is a three year programme of creative residencies that take place in empty shops in towns or villages in Northern Ireland. The aim is to engage communities in creative activity and practices and increase access to the arts. It also aims to breathe life into vacant shops and energise high streets. There are a limited number of residencies across the 3 year programme. These residencies can run once a year, for either one, two or three years.

The project involves engaging an artistic director to take over a vacant shop for 8 weeks, or for shorter periods – 4 weeks or 2 weeks. During that time, the artist meets local people, groups, passers-by, local traders, school children. They develop creative projects specifically for that community. They may bring in other artists to make things happen. Officers have been working with the Magherafelt Craft Collective over the last few months to develop the craft sector and there is interest from this group to develop a Creative Shops Project in Magherafelt in the run up to Christmas.

**3.5 Mid Ulster Business Awards**

Council is in receipt of information from Johnston Press (Appendix 3) relating to sponsorship opportunities at the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Mid-Ulster Business Awards, organised by the Mid-Ulster Mail & Tyrone Times in November 2018, at the Glenavon House Hotel, Cookstown. Sponsorship costs are as follows;

Sponsorships Available:

Principal Sponsor £7000+vat  
Associate Sponsor £3750+vat  
Category Sponsor £1750+vat

Due to limited budgets and other events in the pipeline to support local businesses, it is recommended that Council do not fund the Mid Ulster Business Awards this year.

**3.6 Magherafelt Town Centre Forum**

The minutes of Magherafelt Town Centre Forum Meeting held on Monday 19 February 2018 are attached at Appendix 4.

**3.7 Coalisland Public Realm**  
 Two public information update meetings were held with stakeholders on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> May. A further meeting was held with Department for Infrastructure Roads (DfI) on 10<sup>th</sup> May to discuss design Concept proposals. The next step in the process will be submission of the economic appraisal to the Department of Communities.

**3.8 Establishment of Coalisland Town Centre Forum**  
 It is proposed that Coalisland Town Centre Forum is established, using the same methodology for the establishment of other Town Centre Forums / Partnerships already operating in Cookstown, Dungannon, Magherafelt and Maghera. It is proposed the Forum will meet on a quarterly basis to act in an advisory capacity, playing a fundamental role in the development and delivery of key town centre initiatives.

A draft Terms of Reference for Coalisland Town Centre Forum is included at Appendix 5 detailing its proposed purpose, membership, etc.

**3.9 Cookstown Town Centre Forum**  
 Minutes of Cookstown Town Centre Forum meeting held on Tuesday 20 February 2018 are attached at Appendix 6.

**3.10 NILGA/Ofcom Digital Growth Event**  
 This joint NILGA/Ofcom Broadband Event titled “Digital Growth – Our Future Economy” was held on Tuesday 24 April 2018 in Mossley Mill, Newtownabbey. It was an informative event with key speakers focusing on looking forward in the provision of broadband especially with regards to Fibre to the Premise (FTTP). It was apparent that Fibre to the Cabinet is in the past and FTTP is the future however all speakers expressed the view that 100% full coverage with FTTP will be almost impossible to achieve.

Ofcom informed us that there will a new broadband Universal Service Obligation (USO) and from by Mid-2020 and everyone who requests it will be entitled to access speeds of at least 10 Mbit/s internet service. This news is very relevant to MUDC, the second worst broadband service in NI (see table below)

**Unable to receive 10 Mbit/s or less**

Local Authority	% of premises	No. of premises
Mid Ulster District Council	14.9%	7900

Most importantly at the event the Department for the Economy (DfE) informed us that they have begun “*preparation work*” for consulting on the new £150m investment agreed under the confidence and supply agreement. DfE are going to undertake a “*programme of engagement with political and industry stakeholders*” to discuss how best to invest the **£150m** of additional funding (potentially worth c. £300m after match funding with councils/private investors etc.).

It is expected that a new **Open Market Review (OMR)** will also need to be conducted in order to confirm precisely which areas are most in need of intervention. Therefore it will be critical that all stakeholders lobby vigorously to DfE for Mid Ulster to receive significant investment. Slides from the event are contained on Appendices 7.1 and 7.2.

**3.11 ICBAN (Irish Central Border Area Network) - Brexit Focus Group Sessions**  
 Earlier in the year ICBAN had conducted an online survey regarding Brexit. There were 583 respondents from the border region and 163 of these gave their details as being interested in the Focus Group sessions. There were Focus Group sessions planned for

Enniskillen, Armagh and Ballyshannon. There was also a separate focus group arrangement for young people from the border region.

There were 10 places available at each session, and the intention was to enable a focused discussion facilitated by Dr Katy Hayward and Mirjam de Jong of Queen's University Belfast. The discussion centred on the type of questions raised in the online survey, enabling a more detailed focus on the issues and the solutions to the challenges that are being presented. The aim of the Focus Group was to further discuss (anonymously) the positive and negative impacts of Brexit on the Central Border Region. It is intended that the outworking's of the discussions will be collated and forwarded to office of the EU's chief Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier. A report will be forwarded in the future.

### 3.12 **Mid Ulster Engineering Event – 'Facing the Future'**

In recognition of the importance of emerging new technologies and the future opportunities they offer the manufacturing/engineering sector, the event theme was agreed as 'Facing the Future'. Its objective will be to provide an insight to local businesses into how they should be considering embracing technologies such as digital fabrication, advanced robotics and automation to help their business productivity and growth.

The keynote speaker is renowned manufacturing expert Peter Marsh, former Financial Times Manufacturing Editor and author of "The New Industrial Revolution" who will outline how the sector is being transformed by automation revolution and will also provide an insight into how businesses of all sizes can exploit new technologies.

Businesses will also hear from a senior representative from the UK's High Value Manufacturing Catapult Centre, which is home to some of the most advanced manufacturing equipment in the world and is recognised as a global expert in 21<sup>st</sup> century manufacturing.

To provide a local perspective, expert panellists from some leading Mid Ulster businesses be present to explain how they are driving forward digital advances to increase efficiency and stimulate growth. The event will take place as follows:

**Date:** Tuesday 19 June

**Time:** 10am – 1pm (finishing with light lunch)

**Venue:** Burnavon Theatre, Cookstown

Those interested in attending MUST register by contacting Clodagh O'Neill at South West College on 028 8225 5223 or registering online at [www.bit.ly/MU-Future](http://www.bit.ly/MU-Future)

### 3.13 **EU Settlement Scheme**

NILGA has provided further information on the event, as requested at the last Development Committee Meeting. They have advised that in order to secure EU citizens rights post Brexit, migrants will need to go through an application process which will confirm their status in the UK for as long as they want to stay. A process is about to begin to get everyone through in good time. Applications will be open for at least 2 years after the UK leaves the EU.

Mid Ulster District Council has been asked to host an information event for migrants. The benefits to the council area of hosting an information event for migrants on the operation of the EU Settlement Scheme would be :

- Promotion of the Council as a civic leader

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Being proactive in addressing concerns which have been raised by communities and business</li> <li>• Providing factual information to a community that feels threatened and isolated.</li> <li>• Better engagement with migrant communities</li> </ul> <p>To date, support is being provided to the business community and there is no specific support for migrant communities. By providing an information event the Council could show leadership and be seen as a welcoming place for migrants, where migrants are supported and their contribution to civic life and the economy are valued.</p> <p>NILGA has advised that there is evidence of migrants leaving the MUDC area and NI generally, for example, of 1200 Hungarians in the MUDC area, 400 left in the last year. This has the potential to become a major problem for employers. Mid Ulster's unemployment benefit claim rate is one of the lowest in Northern Ireland, so therefore with a strong demand for migrant labour, and a low availability of unemployed, the area would suffer a disproportionately high impact if access to labour were to become a problem.</p> <p>The event would include factual information on the roll out of the EU Settlement Scheme. Migrants would be able to receive factual information, ask questions in an open forum and engage with support groups (like CAB) that they may not have come into contact with before. The event would also offer an opportunity for employers to engage with the Home Office to understand what role they can play to support migrants in their applications to the scheme. It is hoped that by providing factual information, the migrants can easily understand what documentation they will have to provide to support their application and that they will feel less uneasy about their future in Northern Ireland.</p> <p><b>3.14 Meet the Buyer Event - NI Fire &amp; Rescue Service</b>  MUDC in conjunction with Henry Brothers are organising a Meet the Buyer event on Monday 25 June 2018 in the Glenavon House Hotel, Cookstown from 12noon -7pm. This relates to the construction of the new Northern Ireland Fire &amp; Rescue Services Learning &amp; Development Centre at Desertcreat. This event will provide local companies with an opportunity to introduce themselves to the buyers (Henry Brothers) and express an interest in forming part of the supply chain for this major contract, valued at approximately £4m.</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:  <b>Dungannon Regeneration Partnership Proposal</b>  £30,000 per annum (for 2 years) identified within existing budget</p> <p><b>Sponsorship Request from DIGG</b>  Recommended to support to the value of £2,000 from existing economic development budget.</p> <p><b>Cookstown &amp; Magherafelt Promotional Materials</b>  At least £30,000 for merchandise from existing economic development budget.</p> <p><b>Creative Shops Network</b>  Contribution of up to £4,000.</p>

	Human: Officer time.
	Risk Management:
<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>
	Members are asked to consider;
5.1	<b>Dungannon Regeneration Partnership Proposal</b> Recommendation that Council contribute £30,000 per annum towards this project for a period of 2 years, provided partner funding is forthcoming from Department for Communities (minimum of £30,000 per annum), Dungannon Enterprise Centre (£10,000 per annum), and Dungannon Traders Association (£10,000 per annum).
5.2	<b>Sponsorship Request from DIGG</b> Recommendation to provide sponsorship of £2,000 towards the event, the same as last year.
5.3	<b>Cookstown &amp; Magherafelt Promotional Materials</b> Recommendation to approve procurement via tender for a range of branded merchandise to promote Cookstown and Magherafelt revised town brands.
5.4	<b>Creative Shops Network</b> To seek permission to investigate the potential to develop Creative Shops Project in Magherafelt and if it proves a viable proposition, to fund the project up to £4,000.
5.5	<b>Mid Ulster Business Awards</b> Recommendation not to financially support the Mid Ulster Business Awards this year.
5.6	<b>Magherafelt Town Centre Forum</b> Recommendation to note minutes of Magherafelt Town Centre Forum on 19 February 2018.
5.7	<b>Coalisland Public Ream</b> Recommendation to note progress
5.8	<b>Establishment of Coalisland Town Centre Forum</b> Recommendation to approve the establishment of Coalisland Town Centre Forum as per Terms of Reference.
5.9	<b>Cookstown Town Centre Forum</b> Recommendation to note minutes of Cookstown Town Centre Forum on 20 February 2018.
5.10	<b>NILGA/Ofcom Digital Growth Event</b> Recommendation to note event



<p>5.11</p> <p>5.12</p> <p>5.13</p> <p>5.14</p>	<p><b>ICBAN (Irish Central Border Area Network)- Brexit Focus Group Sessions</b> Recommendation to note event</p> <p><b>Mid Ulster Engineering Event – ‘Facing the Future’</b> Recommendation to note event</p> <p><b>EU Settlement Scheme</b> Members to consider if they wish to host an event related to the EU Settlement Scheme for migrant workers and have an engagement session with businesses.</p> <p><b>Meet the Buyer Event - NI Fire &amp; Rescue Service</b> Recommendation to note event.</p>
<p><b>6.0</b></p>	<p><b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b></p>
	<p>Appendix 1: Dungannon Regeneration Partnership Proposal</p> <p>Appendix 2: Sponsorship Request from DIGG</p> <p>Appendix 3: Mid Ulster Business Awards Sponsorship Proposal</p> <p>Appendix 4: Minutes of Magherafelt Town Centre Forum Meeting 19 February 2018.</p> <p>Appendix 5: Draft Terms of Reference for Coalisland Town Centre Forum</p> <p>Appendix 6: Minutes of Cookstown Town Centre Forum Meeting 20 February 2018.</p> <p>Appendix 7.1- NILGA/Ofcom “Digital Growth – Our Future Economy” – Part 1 Slides</p> <p>Appendix 7.2 – NILGA/Ofcom “Digital Growth – Our Future Economy” – Part 2 Slides</p>